PONT Grants Programme

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Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)

- Private, independent grant-making foundation under German Law
- Transboundary conservation trust fund for long term funding of conservation measures by Protected Areas, Municipalities, NGOs and research institutes
- PONT is not an implementing agency
- Co-funding, create synergies/partnerships & avoid overlap
- Lobby for political commitment and government funding
Conservation Trust Fund

Long Term Capital - built to last: Endowment

PONT - Charitable Trust

Specific Focus - Public Private Partnership

Endowment Fund (MAVA + KfW + donor X)
- Capital invested in perpetuity
- Investment income to finance grants & activities

Sinking Fund (MAVA + KfW)
- Total amount disbursed over 10-20 years until sinks to zero
- (~€1.5 million/year drawdown)

Donations/Project Funds
Vision:
“The transboundary Prespa-Ohrid ecoregion is sustained as one of the world’s most important biodiversity hotspots where people live and work in harmony with nature”

Mission:
“Conserving nature for a sustainable future in the Prespa-Ohrid ecoregion through long-term partnerships and financing”
1. Co-finance max. 50% operational costs legally mandated PA Authorities in line with Management Plan & organisational development
2. < 20,000 Euro/item
3. Co-finance (new) staff positions
4. Per diems & travel costs
5. PONT templates & Grants Manual
6. Planning & 1-3 years grants (only one grant per PA authority at any given time)
7. Annual PA plans & budgets
8. Internal / External verification
1. Funding priorities ([www.pont.org](http://www.pont.org)) including transboundary cooperation; specialised conservation actions; NTFPs; nature-based tourism; organisational development
2. Tax registered legal entity and locally-based or local presence (pre-selected grantees through feasibility study/gaps via call for proposals)
3. Proven track record / strategy Prespa-Ohrid Ecoregion
4. Co-finance by PONT max. 75-50%
5. <20,000 Euro/item
6. Co-financing of (new) staff positions
7. Per diems & travel costs
8. Planning & 1-3 year grants (only one grant per EA at any given time)
9. PONT templates & Grants Manual
10. Internal / External verification
Current Grantees
Achievements and lessons learned

- PAs operationalised the PA Management Plans and increasingly implement recurrent conservation actions with their own staff.
- PAs hire young and often local specialists and use local people as temporary workers.
- Local offices PrespaNet NGOs result in improved cooperation PAs, municipalities and local people.
- NGOs work more programmatic and implement conservation and restoration activities after initial surveys and transboundary wetland/habitat mapping.
- Establishment of five formal partnerships (MoUs) between EAs and PAs and other public bodies such as universities.
Achievements and lessons learned

• EAs through two open calls for proposals address the development of nature-based tourism and the cultivation of Non Timber Forest Products for the benefit of local people

• Galicica National Park in North Macedonia has changed from self-financing through the production of firewood into a more sustainable financing model based on sustainable tourism and co-financing by PONT. The park now focuses on nature conservation, environmental education and sustainable tourism instead of forestry.

• Integration of *Natura 2000* elements in the new Management Plan of Pelister National Park and the new draft Management Plans of Galicica National Park and Prespa Lake Monument of Nature
Thank you!