

## PONT Strategic Framework for Environmental Actors in the Wider Ohrid Area<sup>1</sup>

<b>Vision of the Wider Ohrid Area</b>	Ecosystems of the Wider Ohrid Area are resilient, restored and adequately protected through effective and equitable governance for the benefit of people and nature alike
<b>Mission of PONT</b>	Conserving nature for a sustainable future in the Prespa-Ohrid ecoregion through long-term partnerships and financing

Strategic Objective	Objective	Priority Activities to be Supported by PONT <sup>2</sup>	Indicators
<b>GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>Strategic Objective 1: Promote the application of best practices and approaches to ensure equitable and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources in the Wider Ohrid Area</b>	Objective 1.1: Effective and equitable governance of protected areas enhances the ecological, economic, and social benefits they provide	1.1.1. Raise awareness among civil society and stakeholders of the role and purpose of the defined protected area governance structures and mechanisms (e.g., Management Committees, Stakeholder and Scientific Councils, Environment Fora, transboundary bodies, etc.).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Trends in METT Q22: “Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?”; baseline value to be established.</li> <li>2 Trends in METT Q24: “Do local communities, resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?”; baseline value to be established.</li> </ol>
		1.1.2. Foster the active engagement of stakeholders to broaden social support for protected areas and thus improve protected area management.	
		1.1.3. Assist local communities and stakeholders to organise themselves and provide information and technical support to participate in decision-making regarding protected areas.	
		1.1.4. Support and facilitate the active participation of women, youth, vulnerable people (elderly, disabled etc.), and local communities in governance of protected areas at site and transboundary levels.	

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Actors (EAs) include non-governmental organizations, municipalities, scientific or academic institutions. The PONT support to Protected Areas will be based on valid management plans with a focus on operational costs for key functions of the protected area, in line with the principles and rules set out in the PONT Grants Manual.

<sup>2</sup> The numbering of the Priority Actions does not imply ranking/ordering by priority.

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		1.1.5. Promote learning and cross-fertilization of experience and encourage innovative governance arrangement for protected areas at site and transboundary levels.	
		1.1.6. Promote the establishment of processes and mechanisms to get feedback and identify, hear, and resolve complaints and disputes related to the governance or management of the protected areas.	
	Objective 1.2: Protected areas are managed effectively to protect the values for which they were established and achieve their specific goals and objectives	1.2.1 Facilitate meaningful and effective participation of stakeholders in adaptive management of protected areas.	3 Trends in METT Q26: “Are management activities monitored against performance?”; baseline value to be established.
		1.2.2 Facilitate meaningful and effective participation of stakeholders in participatory management effectiveness assessments of protected areas (e.g., using METT).	4 Trends in METT Q7a: “The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan”; baseline value to be established.
		1.2.3 Support Environmental Actors to engage in advocacy and outreach for the benefit of protected areas.	5 Trends in METT Q21: “Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?”; baseline value to be established.
		1.2.4 Encourage feed-back from civil society groups and the media on protected area management performance.	
		1.2.5 Help address communication gaps between local communities and stakeholders and protected area managers.	
		1.2.6 Help communicate and build understanding and acceptance among societal actors of the types and levels of permitted activities in the protected areas.	
		1.2.7 Harness the skill and enthusiasm of volunteers through citizen science, and other programs to carry out needed management activities.	
		1.2.8 Facilitate information sharing between Environmental Actors regarding protected area management at site and transboundary level.	

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		<p>1.2.9 Build capacity among civil society organization for effective participation in Environmental and Social Impact Assessment procedures.</p> <p>1.2.10 Promote the implementation of <i>Natura 2000</i> requirements for the sites within the Wider Ohrid Area.</p> <p>1.2.11 Foster partnerships with CSOs and local community members to monitor and patrol protected areas.</p> <p>1.2.12 Support Environmental Actors in monitoring the implementation of obligations and requirements from the international agreements regarding the protected areas in the Wider Ohrid Area.</p> <p>1.2.13 Help Environmental Actors improve organizational capacity and technical skills on nature protection issues.</p>	
<p><b>UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Objective 2: The major biodiversity values and associated ecosystem services in the Wider Ohrid Area are resilient, restored and maintained in the long-term</b></p>	<p>Objective 2.1: The major natural values in the Wider Ohrid Area and associated ecosystem services are clearly identified and understood, including the threats they face.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Support long-term partnerships between protected area authorities and Environmental Actors in environmental monitoring.</p> <p>2.1.2 Support Environmental actors' contribution in identifying, understanding, and documenting the location, extent, and severity of threats to major values of protected areas.</p> <p>2.1.3 Support Environmental actors in complementing the monitoring efforts by protected area authorities and research institutes.</p> <p>2.1.4 Support participatory monitoring by local volunteers and community groups to complement monitoring efforts by protected area authorities, research institutes and environmental actors.</p> <p>2.1.5 Support the development of capacity and skills for citizen science data recording and reporting threats to major values of protected areas.</p> <p>2.1.6 Increase the awareness among social actors of values and benefits of protected area and the threats they face.</p>	<p>6 Trends in Advanced METT Additional Question 1: "Is the protected area consciously managed to adapt to climate change?"; baseline value to be established.</p> <p>7 Trends in Advanced METT Additional Question 2: "Are the threats to the main values of the protected area identified, classified and addressed?"; baseline value to be established.</p> <p>8 Trends in METT Q30: "What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?"; baseline value to be established.</p> <p>9 Trends in METT Q30a: "The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring. Baseline value to be established."</p>

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		2.1.7 Support Environmental Actors to complement environmental education efforts by protected area authorities.	
		2.1.8 Support Environmental Actors' contribution assessing, understanding, documenting, and mitigating impacts of climate change on the major values of protected areas.	
		2.1.9 Support the promotion and awareness raising about World Heritage natural values and the associated cultural values in the Wider Ohrid Area.	
	Objective 2.2: Targeted conservation actions lead to the recovery of species as well as restoration and resilience of habitats and ecosystems	2.2.1 Support Environmental Actors' contribution to complement species and habitat restoration efforts by protected area authorities.	10 Trends in METT Q30b: "Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values"; baseline value to be established.
		2.2.2 Support Environmental Actors in undertaking ecological restoration actions around protected areas.	11 Trends in Advanced METT Additional Question 3: "Has the status of key indicator species changed over the last 5 years?"; baseline value to be established.
		2.2.3 Support Environmental Actors in improving ecological connectivity among protected areas at local and transboundary levels.	12 Trends in Advanced METT Additional Question 3: "Has the status of habitats changed over the last 5 years?"; baseline value to be established.
		2.2.4 Support the involvement of local communities and stakeholders in active management and habitat restoration in protected areas and ecological corridors.	
<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>	Objective 3.1: Natural resource uses around no-take zones are compatible with and support the attainment of the conservation goals and objectives of the protected areas	3.1.1 Promote traditional resource uses that are compatible with and contribute to conservation objectives in protected areas.	13 Trends in METT Q25: "Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g., income, employment, payment for environmental services?"; baseline value to be established.
<b>Strategic Objective 3: Sustainable uses of natural resources in the Wider Ohrid Area are compatible with protected area management goals and objectives</b>		3.1.2 Support Environmental actors in contributing to better understanding of the social and economic benefits as well as restrictions associated with protected area management.	
		3.1.3 Support Environmental actors in measuring the flow of benefits from protected areas to different stakeholders.	
	Objective 3.2: The nature and level of	3.2.1 Promote the establishment of long-term partnerships between Environmental Actors and	14 Trends in METT Q27: "Are visitor facilities adequate?"; baseline value to be established.

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	<p>tourism and visitor activities are consistent with the primary conservation objectives of the protected areas</p>	<p>protected area authorities to improve tourism and visitor management in protected area.</p> <p>3.2.2 Develop the capacity of local communities to deliver tourism services and ensure that adequate business modelling has been completed before investments.</p> <p>3.2.3 Support community-based provision of tourism services that is market related.</p> <p>3.2.4 Promote recreational activities in protected areas that help meet community needs and address larger societal goals related to human health and well-being.</p> <p>3.2.5 Support community-based projects for visitor safety and rescue.</p> <p>3.2.6 Support Environmental Actors in complementing the efforts of protected area authorities on visitor impact monitoring.</p>	<p>15 Trends in METT Q28: “Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?”; baseline value to be established.</p> <p>16 Trends in METT Q28: “If fees (i.e., entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?”; baseline value to be established.</p>