PONT Grants Programme

info@pont.org - www.pont.org

Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)

- Private, independent foundation under German Law
- Transboundary conservation trust fund for collaboration and long term funding of conservation by existing Protected Areas, Municipalities, NGOs and research institutes
- Initiatives proposed and implemented by local organisations, having a vested interest in the outcomes, are co-financed by PONT
- Co-funding, create synergies/partnerships & avoid overlap
- Lobby for political commitment and government funding

Conservation Trust Fund

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**
- ❖ **(~€2-3 million/year drawdown)**

Donations/Project Funds

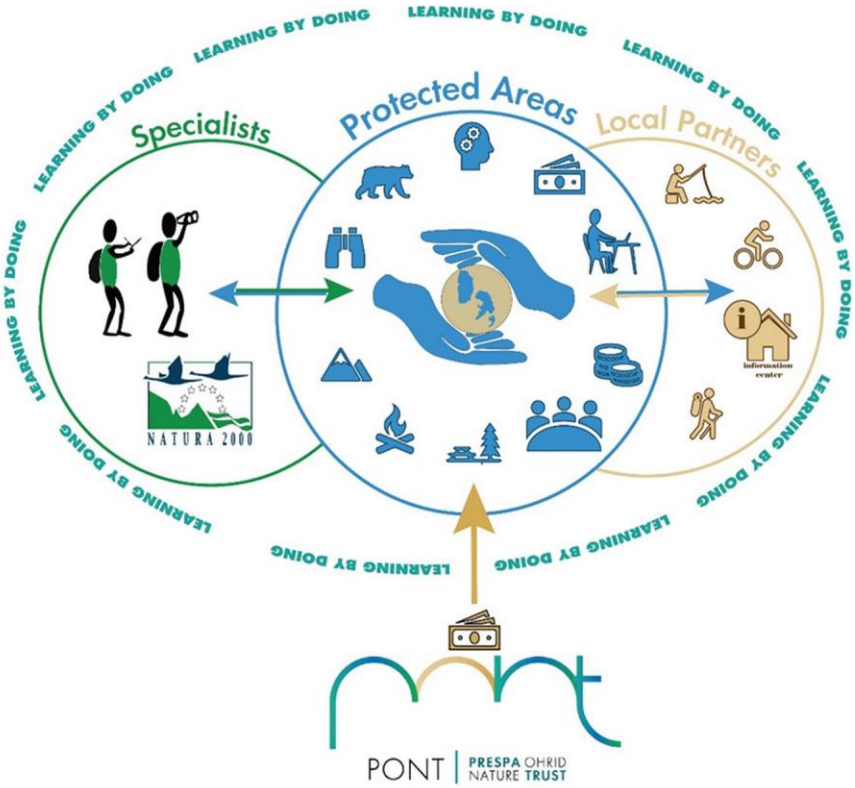
Vision:

"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"

PONT Protected Areas Grant Programme:



- ✓ Co-finance max. 50% operational costs legally mandated PA Authorities in line with Management Plan & organisational development
- ✓ < 20,000 Euro/item
- ✓ Co-finance (new) staff positions
- ✓ Per diems & travel costs

- ✓ PONT templates & Grants Manual
- ✓ Planning & 1-3 years grants (only one grant per PA authority at any given time)
- ✓ Annual PA plans & budgets
- ✓ Internal / External verification

PONT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTOR (NGO/Institutes) Grant Programme:

Funding priorities (www.pont.org); transboundary cooperation; specialised conservation actions; Non Timber Forest Products; nature-based tourism; organisational development

National Organisations

PSI Hydrobiological Institute, Ohrid

PPNEA

MACEDONIAN ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

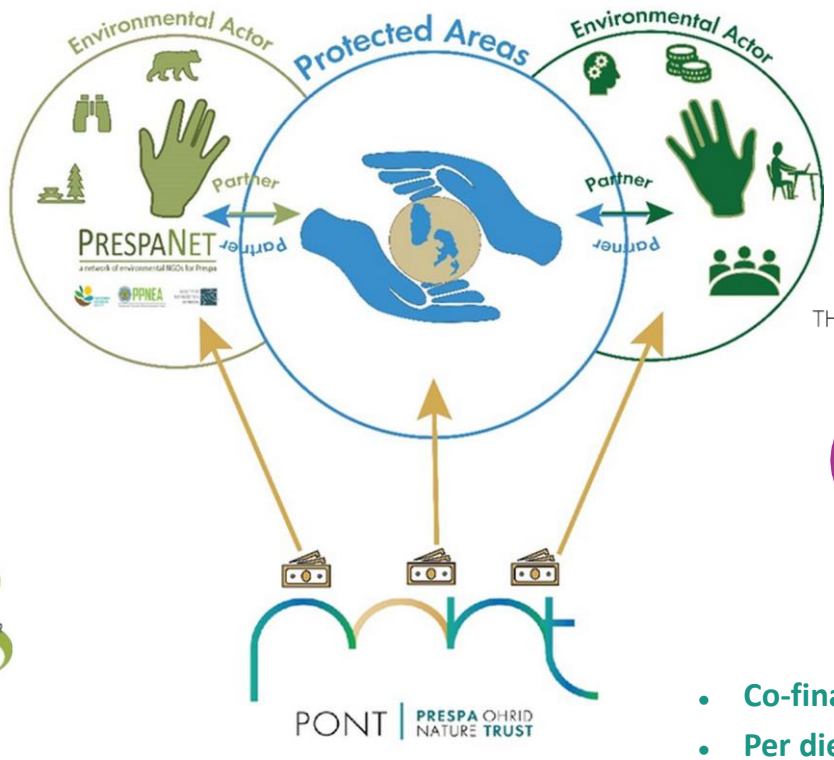
Eko-svest

ACEG ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

CNVP

PSEDA - ILIRIA

BFSD BALKAN FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Local Organisations

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PRESPA

CCCC

explorer

AGRI EN

ALPINE CLUB PATAGONIA OHRID

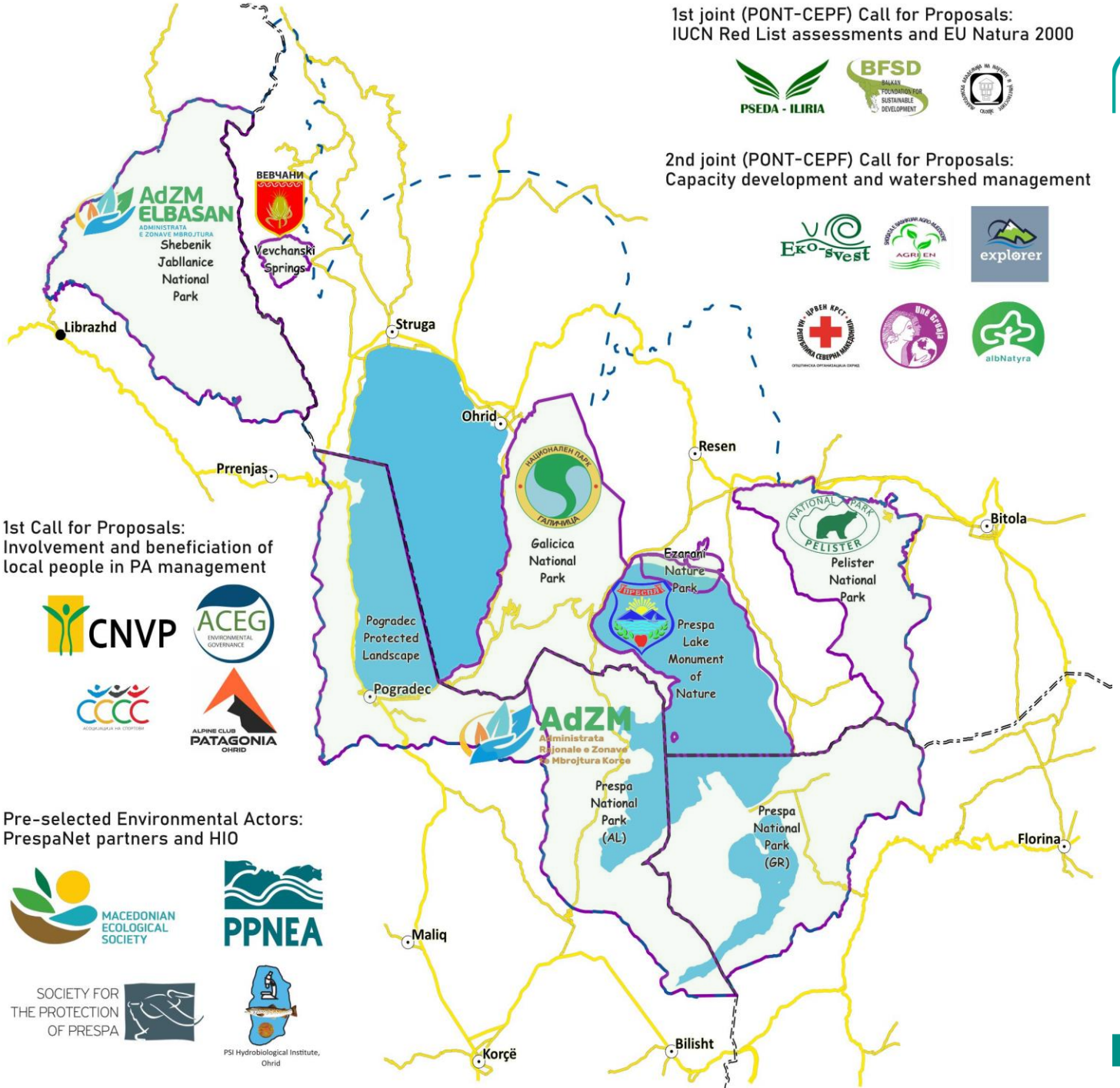
albNatyra

Requirements/eligibility criteria:

- Tax registered legal entity and locally-based or local presence
- (pre-selected grantees through feasibility study/gaps via call for proposals)
- Proven track record / strategy in PONT Focus Region
- Co-finance by PONT max. 75-50% and max 20,000 Euro/item

- Co-financing of (new) staff positions
- Per diems & travel costs
- Planning & 1-3 year grants (only one grant per EA at any given time)
- PONT templates & Grants Manual
- 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 formal partnerships (MoUs) between EAs and PAs and other public bodies such as universities

Achievements and lessons learned

- EAs through open calls for proposals address the development of nature-based tourism, the cultivation of Non Timber Forest Products, capacity development, watershed management, and plant conservation (for the benefit of local people and the protected areas).
- 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 Galicica National Park and the draft Management Plan of Prespa Lake Monument of Nature

Thank you!