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

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
- (~€2-3 million/year drawdown)

Donations/Project Funds
Mission:
“Conserving nature for a sustainable future through long-term partnerships and financing”

Vision:
“Transboundary conservation areas are reconnected and sustained as important biodiversity hotspots where people live and work in harmony with nature”
PONT Protected Areas Grant Programme:

Funding priorities (PONT Strategic Framework – pillar 1; some limitations on what can be funded due to PONT Charter & ESMS (exclusion list))

✓ Co-finance max. 50% operational costs legally mandated PA Management Authorities in line with existing Management Plan & organisational development
✓ Update Management Plan with own staff (based on public participation & good governance)
✓ Financing of recurrent activities existing Management Plan until new one in place and approved
✓ < 20,000 Euro/item
✓ Co-finance (new) PA staff positions (recruitment according to good practice standards)
✓ Per diems & travel costs
✓ PONT templates & Grants Manual (incl. ESMS)
✓ Planning & 1-3 years grants (only one grant per PA at any given time)
✓ Annual PA plans & budgets
✓ Internal / External verification
PONT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTOR (NGO/Institutes)

Grant Programme:

Funding priorities (PONT Strategic Framework – pillar 2; some limitations on what we can fund due to PONT Charter & ESMS (exclusion list))

Requirements/eligibility criteria:

- Tax registered legal entity
- Proven track record (3 years)/ strategy in PONT Focus Region
- Pre-screening eligible grantees (local/national) by national consultants
- Identified gaps/needs/topics addressed via calls for proposals
- Locally-based/local presence for call for proposals local NGOs
- Co-finance by PONT max. 75% (NGOs) - 50% (state-financed)

Max 20,000 Euro/item
- Co-financing (new) staff positions (recruitment according to good practice standards)
- Per diems & travel costs
- 1-3 years grants (only one grant per EA for WPOA & KSAA-Eco at any given time)
- PONT templates & Grants Manual (incl. ESMS)
- Internal / External verification
Current Grantees

1st Call for Proposals: Involvement and beneficiation of local people in PA management

Pre-selected Environmental Actors: PrespaNet partners and H10

1st joint (PONT-CEPF) Call for Proposals: IUCN Red List assessments and EU Natura 2000

2nd joint (PONT-CEPF) Call for Proposals: Capacity development and watershed management
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 NGOs or local offices national 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 partnerships between EAs and PAs
Achievements and lessons learned

• EAs through 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 updated Management Plans
Thank you!