



Natural heritage

Interreg Euro-MED



Co-funded by the European Union



Annual Institutional Dialogue event Piran (Slovenia), 23 & 24 November 2023

Key Takeaways

WORKING GROUPS



WG1 Area-based conservation

WG1 will work on the basis of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) - Targets 1 & 3. The WG will also address the EU biodiversity strategy as well as the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity and the Post 2020 SAP BIO.

The WG1 will focus on:

- Spatial planning and intersectorial integration of conservation principles
- Protected areas and OECMs networks: effectiveness, coverage and representativity
- Regional assessment of species/ecosystems and their distribution

Points for consideration:

- increase knowledge on the subject matter at all levels of governance;
- provide material, information, ideas, contacts and expertise to implement capacity building actions, to reward good practices and to communicate with resources that already exist;
- act as platform to reward good practices and promote good work;
- advocate for inclusive rather than only participatory management.



WG2 Climate Change (CC) adaptation and mitigation

WG2 will work on the basis of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) - Targets 8 & 12 - and in line with the work of MedECC (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change) and IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

The WG2, focusing on the health of natural ecosystems, as well as blue and green urban spaces, will:

- Identify challenges and impacts in relation to CC
- Explore available measures and solutions
- Identify constraints and barriers for their implementation

Points for consideration

- Build capacity for the public sector;
- Apply innovative collaboration models (governance for adaptation);
- Apply a holistic approach, i.e. to consider the WEF Nexus interlinkages;
- Streamline different policy levels, understanding local decision making is key to ensure international, national and regional policies to be implemented;
- Include a socio-economic dimension and promote funding opportunities.

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WG3

Evaluating the socio-economic value of biodiversity

WG3 will work on the basis of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) - Targets 14,15,18,19 - and various frameworks, such as the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity and the Post 2020 SAP BIO.

The WG3 will focus on:

- Valuing ecosystem services and products
- Understanding industry and stakeholder values applied to spatial economics
- Providing alternative scenarios for conservation considering economic values

Points for consideration

- Consider the relation between the biophysical realm and economics;
- Understand the different functions and values of biodiversity;
- Different missions have different target groups;
- Attract the attention of policy makers, create and maintain long-term commitment;
- Integrate natural heritage conservation and restoration into ordinary and strategic decision making.



WG4

Ecosystem restoration and Nature-based Solutions

WG4 will support the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) - Targets 2 and 11, as well as the Nature Restoration Law, seeking to restore healthy ecosystems in Europe.

The WG4 will focus on:

- Collecting and promoting restoration best practices and NbS Identifying barriers to the upscaling of restoration in the Mediterranean and how to overcome these
- Identifying degraded ecosystems in need of restoration in the Mediterranean and potential NbS for implementation, addressing trade-offs, land/sea-use conflicts, socio-economic factors, and impacts on local communities

Points for consideration

- Consider several ecosystems to address within the WG (wetlands, seagrass ecosystems, forests, rivers), as well as threats (ranging from sea level rise, agricultural pollution, to wildfires and urban runoff);
- Make sure the level of understanding of what restoration is and what we mean by it is balanced among the WG members and stakeholders;
- Build a community of practice that shares information and knowledge on restoration issues;
- Engage with national authorities and support them in preparing their National Restoration Plans;
- Assess the needs and the implementation measures that can be put in place to achieve national and international goals related to restoration.

AMPLIFICATION ROOM

The transfer of successful solutions will take place within the Mission's Amplification Room, a space open to a variety of stakeholders related to the environment. During a dedicated session, we focused on transferring potential and relevant indicators to consider in this process.



Economic

- Cost of implementation
- Time & human resources



Juridical/Legislative

- EU/non-EU legislative framework
- Agreements, MoUs (e.g., Stewardship agreements)
- Action Plans and concrete Regulation adopted



Political & Social

- Acceptability
- Engagement of key players
- Social accountability
- Enhancement of existing networks
- Lifelong learning
- Tailored and accessible information for decision makers



Technical

- Availability of examples and (successful) case studies
- Fragmentation of knowledge
- Capacity of technicians/Expertise is not enough
- Accessibility of research



Other challenges & stressors

- Trade-off between CC mitigation & adaptation
- Level of changes needed for implementation



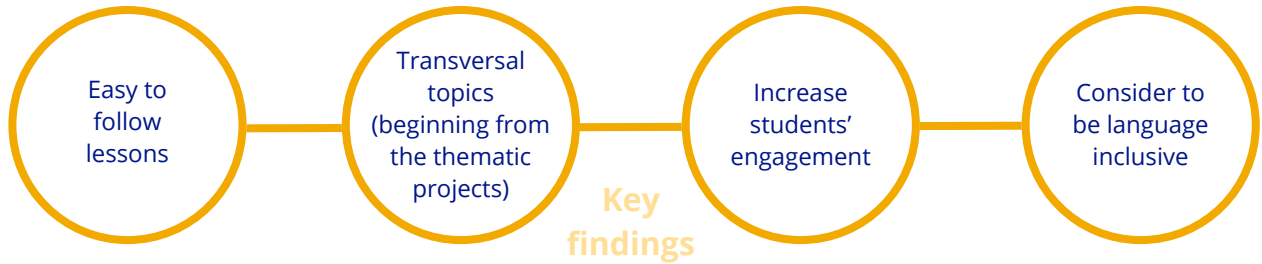
Natural Heritage conservation

- Feasibility of monitoring (quantification of impact) and solidity of indicators



WORKSHOP

Co-creating the new Interreg Euro-MED Academy
Workshop with the Natural Heritage Mission Associated Partners



PROPOSED CURRICULA



Droughts



Fires



Floods



Wetlands



Marine Protected Areas



Water management



Sea level rise



Adaptation to CC

Ways to engage to the activity:

- Be a teacher/tutor
- Be part of the designing team
- Provide educational content
- Give us feedback
- Or just be a student!

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Coastal Erosion

For 2023, our "SOLVE the CHALLENGE" awareness campaign focused on coastal erosion.



For 5 months, we raised awareness about this challenge through podcasts, infographics, quizzes, and testimonials released on social media and our website.

During the Institutional Dialogue event, a brainstorming on our next year's campaign topic took place. Wetlands, plastic litter, wildfires, floods, water scarcity and marine protection were among the ideas shared.

Stay tuned for our next "SOLVE the CHALLENGE" activity!

FORUM

Natural Heritage Mission Forum

Join our forum [here!](#)

