



Working Group 'Area-based Conservation'

Natural Heritage Mission - Introductory webinar

26 April 2024, Online



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Who Are We?

Area-based
Conservation



Working Group leader:



Working Group co-leaders:



Montenegro
Ministry of Ecology,
Spatial Planning and Urbanism



Association
of parks in
Bulgaria



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Scope

Area-based
Conservation



Address **Target 1** (Spatial Planning) and **Target 3** (Area-based Conservation) of the new **Global Biodiversity Framework**

Tackle key issues concerning **Protected Areas (PAs)** and **Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)** and inform conservation strategies

POLICY AND ADVOCACY



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GBF - Target 1

Target 1: Spatial Planning

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, **integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management** processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.



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GBF - Target 3

Target 3: Area-based Conservation

Ensure and enable that by 2030 **at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed** through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.



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Goals and Expectations



Convention on
Biological Diversity

- **Working Group focus:** Area-based Conservation
- **Policies targeted by the Working Group:**
 - **GLOBAL:** Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) - Target 1 & Target 3
 - **EU:** EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU Maritime Spatial Planning
 - **MED:** Post-2020 SAPBIO, Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap



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Principles to Be Followed

- All **GBF targets** are somehow **interlinked**. Discussions should ensure **integration**
- Many **policies** not directly related to this Working Group enter in **contradiction with its goals** (i.e. urban development) and should be monitored as well
- **Harmonisation of policies** should be a goal of the Working Group discussions at **Mediterranean** scale, and at the **various levels of governance** (i.e. country vs. cities)
- **Multilevel governance**, specially the local context, should be also taken into account
- Most of the time, the **problem** lays on **implementation of policies**



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Themes to Be Followed (I)

- **Spatial planning and intersectorial integration of conservation principles:** conservation principles and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as roles within spatial planning should also be considered
- **Protected areas and OECM networks:** extension, representation and coherence of protection for important ecosystems/species. Connectivity, particularly in the marine domain. Transboundary connectivity for marine and terrestrial ecosystems



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Themes to Be Followed? (II)

- **Regional assessment of species/ecosystems and their distribution for marine and terrestrial domains:** taking into account declining habitats
- **Assess the effectiveness of existing protected areas:** evaluating their conservation outcomes and management practices to identify improvement opportunities
- **Examine opportunities and constraints for expanding PAs and OECMs** in the region, including expectations of the High Ambition Coalition (HAC)



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What Should We Do?

- **Increase knowledge** on the subject matter at all levels of governance.
 - Materials/approach should be target-specific (national vs regional vs city, etc.).
- **Provide material, information, ideas, contacts, speakers and expertise** to implement capacity building actions and to communicate with resources that already exist.
- **Act as a platform to reward good practices and promote good work:** taking into account declining habitats



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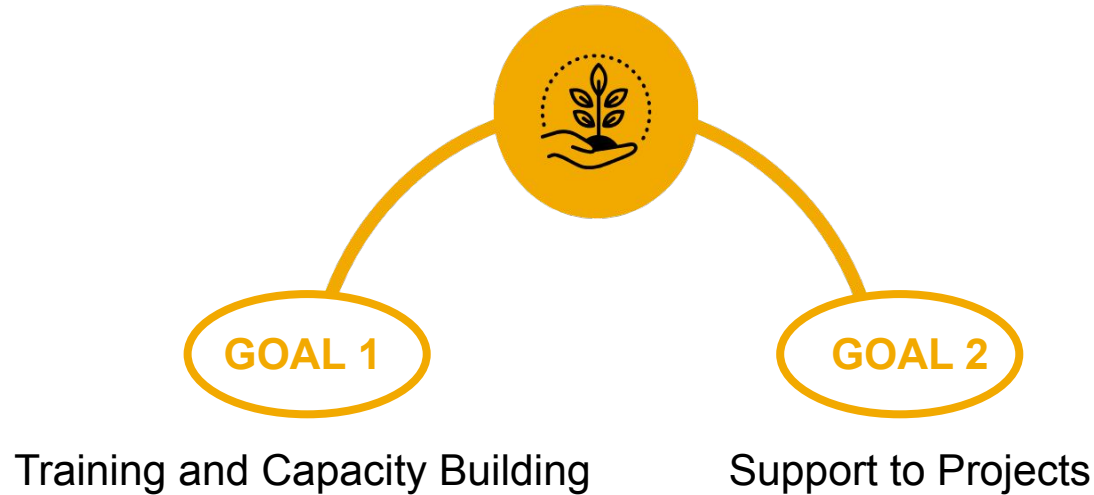
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Working Group Goals

Area-based Conservation



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GOAL 1: Training and Capacity Building

Opportunities for training and capacity building:

- Yearly **webinars** and institutional **dialogues**
- Establishing an **information repository**
- Conducting **Interreg Euro-MED Academy** trainings
- Creating a Working Group **mailing list and newsletter**



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GOAL 2: Projects Support

1. How can we assist Thematic Projects in **achieving your policy/advocacy work**?
2. What do you **expect** from us?



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Thematic Projects Policy Goals

- **StrategyMedFor:** adoption of the Strategy for Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Forests (SSMMF)
- **GreenList4MMPAs:** adoption of the adapted standard by IUCN
- **MPA4Change:** Promote the transformation of MPA4Change toolkits of solutions into effective public policies in line with the EU/MED strategies via a bottom-up approach.



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Achieving Policy Outcomes

Understanding Thematic Projects' expectations to assist them in achieving their policy outcomes:

- Connecting with **key stakeholders**
- Position their work at **policy events**: COP, CBD, UfM, EU gatherings
- Drafting **yearly policy paper** as WG



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2nd Online Webinar

- **WHEN:** October 2024
- **WHERE:** Online
- **WHAT:** Restoration

- Explore the overlap between **Targets 2 and 3** of the Global Biodiversity Framework
- Discuss the **EU Restoration Law, EU pledges, adoption at Med level**
- How do our projects support restoration?

GOAL: come up with a position about restoration as Working Group on Area-based Conservation



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In-person Meeting

DATES: 28 - 29 November 2024

LOCATION: Málaga, Spain

Day 1 (28 Nov): Institutional Dialogue - Marine & coastal restoration

- Morning:
 - Keynote on state of the art
 - Policy-oriented roundtable
 - Action-oriented roundtable (potential TPs & APs)
- Afternoon: Spanish focus

Day 2 (29 Nov): Internal meeting of the Natural Heritage Mission

- Working Group meeting



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Next Steps

2nd Online WGs Meeting | October 2024 → capacity building on restoration topic

2nd Institutional Dialogue and WGs Meeting (In-person) | 28-29 November 2024, Malaga (Spain)

- Day 1 - Institutional Dialogue (marine and coastal restoration)
- Day 2 - Mission for Natural Heritage internal meeting + Working Groups meeting

→ **Send factsheet for final validation**



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Thank You

natural-heritage@interreg-euro-med.eu

carla.danelutti@iucn.org

lucia.prieto@iucn.org

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