



REPORT ON PILLAR 3

State of play and work ahead

Technical Meeting of EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators
Brussels, Belgium, 15th March 2023



„ASOSCOPI“ TSG 3 EUSAIR FLAGSHIP IMPLEMENTED BY THE NAMIRS PROJECT: The North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response System



Meeting among EUSAIR Potential partners on 16/03/2023 to expand the project to the South Adriatic in Ionian Sea! Within Interreg ADRION 21-27 ne calls.

Workshop EUSAIR TSG3 within the BiH EUSAIR Presidency

TSG3 Workshop on the preparation of the Action Plan for biodiversity and marine protection with special reference to the possible establishment of a protected area in the part of the Adriatic Sea belonging to BiH

21. february 2023, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina

- establishment of marine protected areas in the part of the Adriatic Sea belonging to Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Action Plan for Biodiversity and marine protection
- presentation of good practices

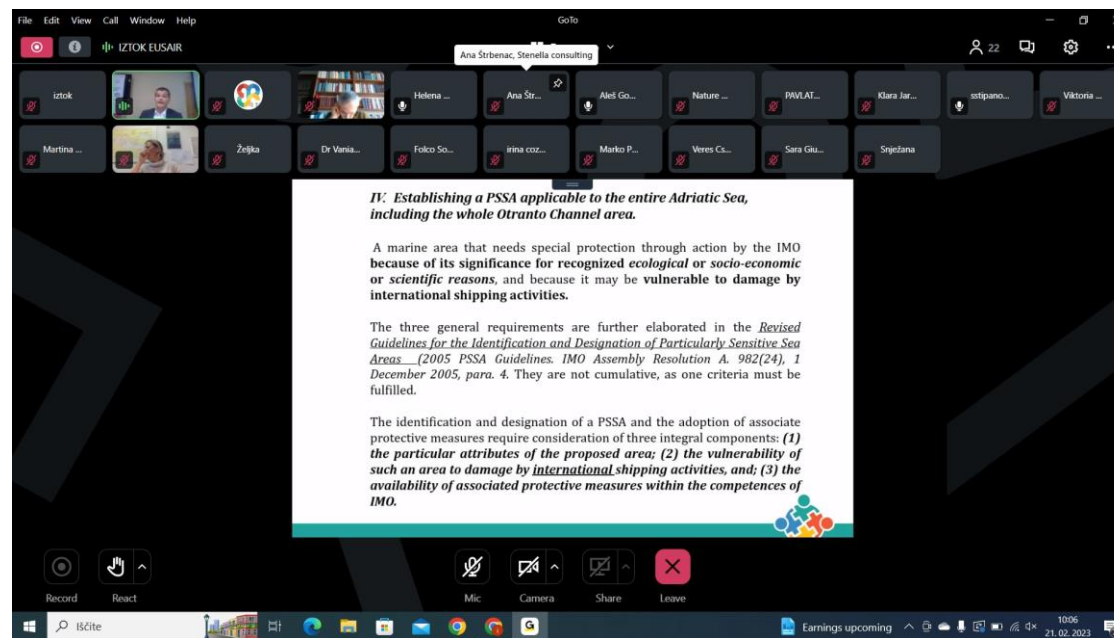
Legal basis for the establishment and further development of marine (water) protected areas, with a particular reference to BiH

Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) and its importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina



KEY OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The plans within BIH to protect its coast and maritime waters in **co-operation with neighbour Croatia should be supported at all levels in BIH.**
2. The participants encourage BIH to **ratify the most important protocols to the Barcelona conventions (ICZM)**
3. The participants **supports the preparation of the Action plan** (based on conclusions of TSG 3 parallel session at 7th EUSAIR forum in Tirana) for the achivment of Biodiversty strategy goal 2030 and BIH will provide full support to implment the activities forseen.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface with a grid of participants and a central slide. The slide content is as follows:

IV. Establishing a PSSA applicable to the entire Adriatic Sea, including the whole Otranto Channel area.

A marine area that needs special protection through action by the IMO because of its **significance for recognized ecological or socio-economic or scientific reasons**, and because it may be **vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities**.

The three general requirements are further elaborated in the *Revised Guidelines for the Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas* (2005 PSSA Guidelines, IMO Assembly Resolution A. 982(24), 1 December 2005, para. 4. They are not cumulative, as one criteria must be fulfilled.

The identification and designation of a PSSA and the adoption of associate protective measures require consideration of three integral components: **(1) the particular attributes of the proposed area; (2) the vulnerability of such an area to damage by international shipping activities, and; (3) the availability of associated protective measures within the competences of IMO.**



CONCEPT OF THE ACTION PLAN

1. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE MPAs AND NETWORKS OF MPAs (AND OECMS) WITHIN EUSAIR MEMBER STATES, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE UPGRADING AND/OR EXPANSION
2. POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF AVAILABLE LEGAL BASES IN IDENTIFIED MARINE AREAS (EBSS, SPAMIs, ACCOBAMS..)
3. To identify steps or propose forms of management and control, within designated forms of cross-border cooperation.

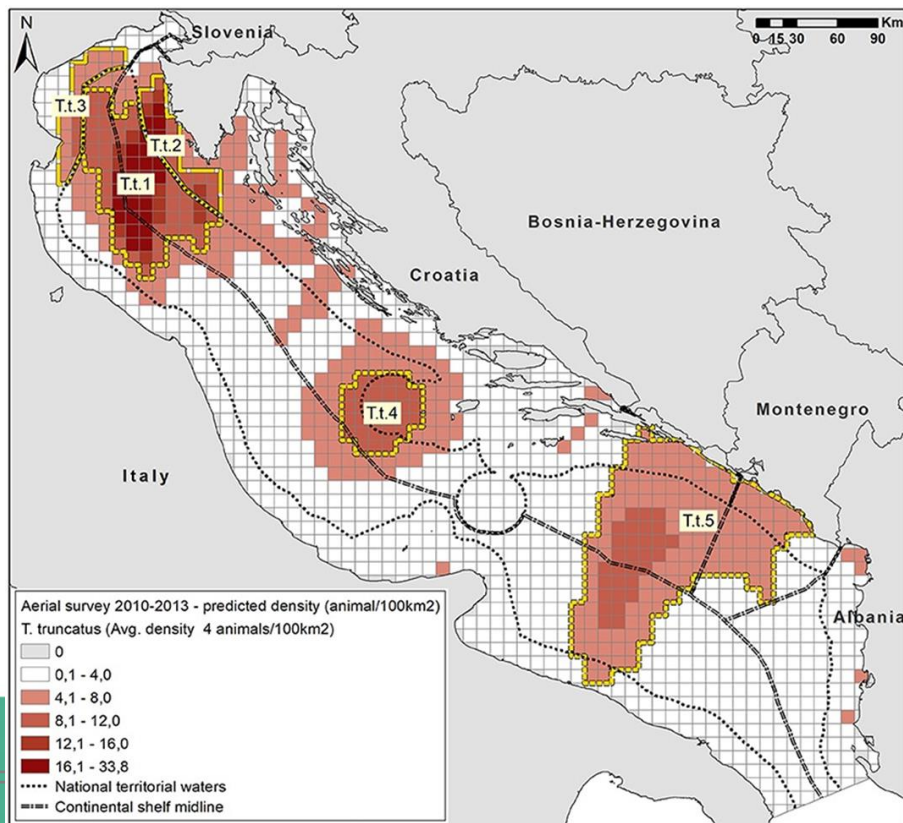
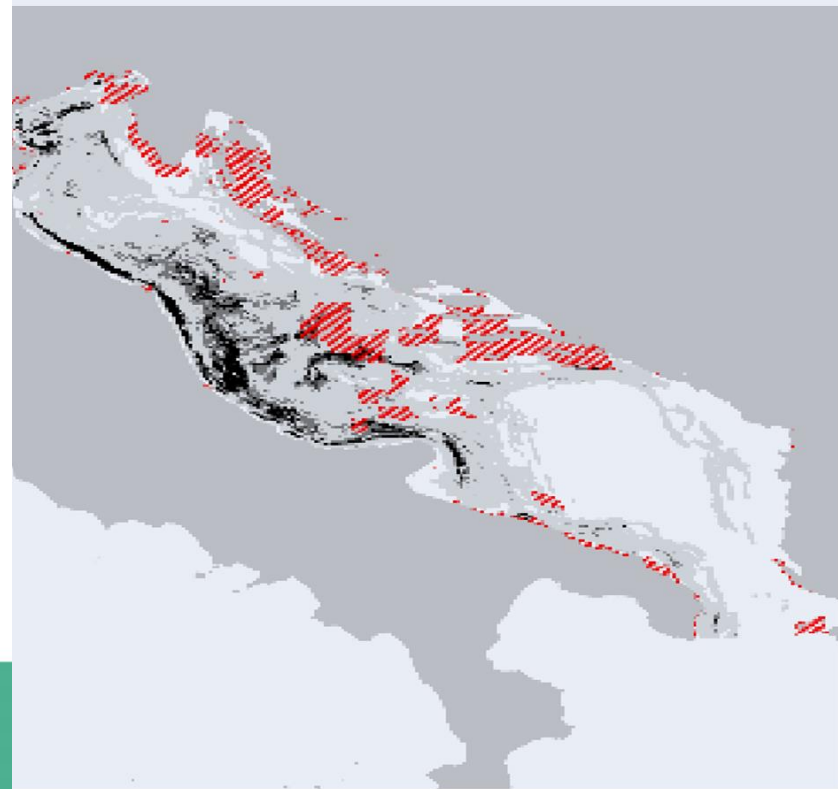


FIGURE 39 Proposed MPA network in the Adriatic



TSG moving from ideas to action

flagships, interpillar coopreation, Facility point Contrubution

- **PET HAB ECO developed by the University of Belgrade-** presentation of the final project proposal on the next TSG3 meeting in Bologna, 28th March 2023
- Development of the *Joint inter-pillar project TSG 3 and TSG 1: a project on MSP&ICZM – Using high quality Research to strengthen Dialogue and Institutional Capacities for effective implementation of inclusive and sustainable growth in the AIR.* Ongoing project proposal will be presented at the next TSG3 meeting in Bologna, 28th March 2023

Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems to improve the resilience of large carnivores' populations at transnational level

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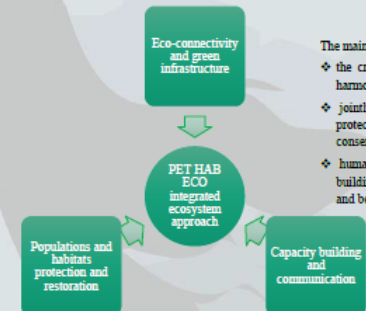
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The overall goal of EUSAIR pillar 3 „Environmental Quality“ is to address the issue of environmental quality as it relates to marine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems in the region. In this context, the overall objective of the Flagship „Protection and Enhancement of Natural Terrestrial Habitats and Ecosystems“ (acronym PET HAB ECO) is to improve the resilience of large carnivore populations (LC) populations on a transnational scale in an area characterized by human-dominated or fragmented ecosystems in the face of environmental threats and risks, including those arising from the impacts of climate change. The flagship aims to implement activities to establish and develop green corridors that are essential in the AI region for improving the quality of life and protecting natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems of large carnivores for a more harmonious coexistence with humans.

This paper presents an attempt to develop EUSAIR flagship activities PET HAB ECO related to conservation and restoration of large carnivore populations, transboundary synchronization of large carnivore management, raising public awareness of these unique species, restoring ecosystems in which they play a key role, and protecting their fragile habitats.

Target species are key ecosystem species, so other components of biodiversity will also benefit from their conservation. Carnivores are critical to ecosystem regulation and maintenance. In fact, they play a disproportionately larger role in ecosystem health maintenance than would be expected based on their numbers. In addition, large carnivores impact the resilience of the entire ecosystem. Therefore, conservation of LC is an important consideration that should be taken into account when planning actions to improve the provision of ecosystem services or to improve the quality, accessibility, and connectivity of green infrastructure in AIR.



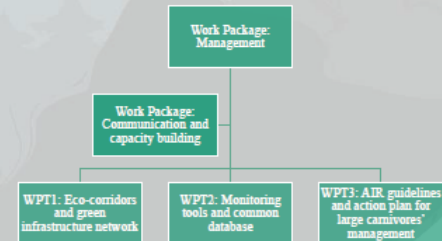
The main expected outcomes are

- ❖ the creation of a database on large carnivore populations and their habitats through standardized and harmonized monitoring procedures for large carnivores;
- ❖ jointly developed regional guidelines and action plans for large carnivore management, monitoring and protection that will prevent habitat fragmentation and ensure ecological connectivity, leading to improved conservation status of populations and habitats;
- ❖ human-large carnivore conflicts are addressed in a timely manner and significantly minimized (capacity building in communities and institutions, improved exchange and implementation of expertise, knowledge and best practices).

PET HAB ECO address the challenges associated with monitoring LC (AIR). Through activities, new knowledge will be gained about the behaviour of LC, their habitats, population ecology, conservation, climate change adaptation, and management. Wherever possible, multiple forms of knowledge will be used, and a broad public will be involved in data collection.

PET HAB ECO aims to expand and improve a network of large carnivore eco-corridors, and to develop tools and guidelines for GI interventions and recommendations for forest habitat expansion.

To improve dialogue in conflict situations, PET HAB ECO will promote a participatory process to develop guidelines and action plans for LC management in AIR.



¹ EC, (2014), COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS concerning the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, COM(2014) 357 final, Brussels, 17.6.2014.

TSG3 – ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STRATEGIC PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Title of the flagship/masterplan	Acronym	State Of Art
Towards the long-term in-situ conservation, sustainable fisheries and improving the marine environments in the Adriatic-Ionian region«	COSFI-MAR	External expert engaged
Botanical Gardens as Biodiversity Shelters and Nurseries	Bio-Shelters	Under development – preparation activities for the engagement of external expert
Renewal of the adaptation of coppice forests in a drastically changing environment	FOREST READAPT	Under development – preparation activities for the engagement of external expert
Secure diversity through a holistic approach for the most threatened Mediterranean conifer ecosystems: combining genetic, physiology, biodiversity indexes, germination and restoration	SEC-DIV-CONIFERS	Under development
Empowering MPAs across the Adriatic-Ionian region	EMAAIR	Under development, not yet approved by TSG

WORK AHEAD - Plan for 2023

- April 2023: *Round table on the potentials of EUSAIR countries for the establishment and improvement of the Circular Economy system*
- April 2023: *A workshop on the development of a Contingency Plan for the middle and southern part of the Adriatic Sea*
- **Further involvement with the MCSD and Barcelona Convention**
- Involvement of Youth - local and international events for Coastal planning
- 28 March- next TSG3 meeting:



Topic of TSG 3 parallel session at **the 7th EUSAIR Forum** will be approved at the next TSG 3 meeting on 28th March in Bologna, Proposal:

„Promoting climate change adaptation with the ICZM&MSP approach and disaster risk prevention in the EUSAIR (terrestrial and sea)“



WORK AHEAD - Plan for 2023 – BARCELONA CONVENTION SINERGYES

- THE TSG3 achievements are appreciated by the EC and the **UN/MAP Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention.**
- Workshop 31 May - 1 June 2023 Interreg Med "Transboundary Governance in the SAIS-EBSA and contingent regions. From the identification of an area to biodiversity conservation" in Dubrovnik. **TSG 3 EUSAIR was recognized as the most important carrier for more effective MPA in the Adriatic and Ionian ecoregions.**
- It is about creating synergies between subregional activities (EUSAIR process) for more effective implementation of the **Acquis communautaire** - was also well received by the organizers (UNEP, France) of the jubilee 20th session of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (Marseille, June 14-15, 2023).
- Only five days later - **20-21. In June 2023, the session of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention will follow in Slovenia.** "Governments of the Mediterranean", which is chaired by Turkey (reason: implementation of COP 22, Antalya, 2021).
- In December 2023 in Porotorož, at the opening of COP 23, **Turkey will hand over the presidency of the Barcelona Convention to Slovenia.**



AOB

1. TSG3 Pillar coordinators support the conclusions of the *Evaluation of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)* prepared by Greece partners:

- Facility Point structure, does not need any revolution but only a careful upgrade of the existing as it is stated on page 10: **»The governing structure is considered adequate to accommodate the needs of this new phase of the Strategy on the condition of careful improvements based on the work done so far and the accumulated experience.«** This is related also to the next structure of Facility Point project. **We need an evolution, not revolution!**

2. TSG3 Pillar coordinators consider that is necessary to supplement the document *Towards the Revision Of the Eusair Action Plan - Background Document* with the Matrix, prepared by TSG 3, for the greening of all pillars.

- The matrix was adopted by the decision of the Governing Board of EUSAIR at the 8th session (agenda item 8), Podgorica, 3-4 October 2018: **»TSGs are encouraged and advised by GB to use the Matrix (prepared by TSG 3) when working on projects to ensure EUSAIR (inter-pillar and inter-sectorial) added value.«**

TSG3 members reached the following conclusion at the 17th meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 3 – Environmental Quality under the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) 23 - 24 November 2022 in Sarajevo (BIH):

„The members discussed the topics of the Action plan revisions and made some proposals and comments. They agreed that the TSG3 recommends to the GB to make a Strategic environmental assessment of the Action Plan, based on TSG3 matrix, before the approval of the Action Plan.“



AOB

3. Proposal to discuss the topic of on-line presence at the GB meeting in times when the force major is not officially declared any more:

- we are in favor to align the interreg ADRION solution to have the meeting full on-line or full in presence (alternatively). The Hybrid option is not cost effective, additional coordination needed and do not contribute to the networking and does not put the participants in the same position at the discussion.
- We have to align this issue in the Rules of procedure, which are approved at the GB level.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Mitja Bricelj. PhD, TSG3 co-coordinator, Republic of Slovenia

Senad Oprašić. PhD, TSG3 co-coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Iztok Škerlič, EUSAIR FP project partner, Slovenia

Municipality of Izola, project partner EUSAIR Facility Point
Implementing structure of the project partner

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