

TSG 3 Strategic Project Implementation

ASOSCoP – Transnational Contingency plan in the event of accidents at sea

Adriatic-Ionian Regional Contingency Plan for the Emergency Oil Spills in the Adriatic Sea. The contingency plan could prevent the possibility of a natural disaster in cases of oil spills and other similar calamities. The project concept was developed within the Environmental Quality pillar of the European Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Regional Strategy EUSAIR.

Work plan and activities of the project idea

Preparation Phase:

- Analysis of existing contingency plans for marine oil pollution incidents in the Adriatic Sea.
- Mapping of international and national cultural attractions and events.
- Preparation of data sheets for selected attractions and events.

Development of Sub-Regional Contingency Plan:

- Updating and amending the existing Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the Northern Adriatic.
- Integration of lessons learned from the RAMOGEPOL Plan.
- Expansion of the plan to include other Adriatic countries.

Establishment of Mutual Assistance Mechanism:

- Creation of a mechanism for mutual assistance among competent national authorities of Adriatic and Ionian countries.
- Coordination and integration of activities related to prevention and response to marine pollution incidents.

Partnership Development:

- Collaboration with potential partners from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Serbia, and Greece.
- Involvement of relevant institutions, ministries, and organizations.

Expected results of the project include:

1. Enhanced protection of natural habitats, ecosystems, and biodiversity in the Adriatic-Ionian region through a comprehensive Contingency Plan.
2. Improved prevention and reduction of risks and impacts from marine oil pollution incidents.
3. Establishment of a unified and harmonized methodological framework for mutual assistance and cooperation.
4. Strengthened capacity for prevention, preparedness, and response to marine pollution incidents.
5. Increased awareness of pollution prevention and the importance of sustainable practices.
6. Standard operational procedures and defined roles for stakeholders in case of oil spills.
7. Contribution to the implementation of the priority action on pollution of the sea and the objectives of Pillar 1 and Pillar 4 of EUSAIR.
8. Technical and financial feasibility of the project based on agreements with EUSAIR countries.

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3MPS - Monitoring and management of marine protected species

The general objective of the project "Monitoring and management of marine protected species" (3MPS) is to address threats to biodiversity in the Adriatic-Ionian region, particularly the deterioration of water quality and the impact of marine litter on marine species. The project aims to establish networks for the protection, monitoring, and care of marine protected species, with a focus on sea turtles and cetaceans. It also aims to improve knowledge on the impacts of marine litter, including microplastics, and develop regional management measures to combat these impacts.

Work plan and activities of the project idea

In the preparation phase, conferences and meetings will be organized to examine existing activities and assess the willingness of EUSAIR countries to participate in the project. These discussions will also focus on legal bases, governance, and technical aspects to ensure a smooth implementation process.

The project's work plan includes the establishment of a monitoring network to track marine litter and assess its impact on threatened species. Through monitoring activities and comprehensive analyses, the project will provide valuable insights into the level of impact and develop methodology guidance for future assessments. Furthermore, regional management measures will be defined to combat the adverse effects of marine litter on marine biodiversity. Concrete proposals for marine litter disposal and prevention will be formulated, and efforts will be made to regulate marine litter management by establishing a common framework and necessary infrastructure in ports.

Expected results of the project include:

The expected results of the project are diverse and significant. They include the implementation of concrete measures for marine litter disposal and prevention, the establishment of a monitoring network for assessing its impact on threatened species, and the adoption of regional management measures to safeguard marine biodiversity. Additionally, the project will contribute to the improvement of water quality by reducing marine pollution, including microplastics. By addressing priority actions related to coastal and marine biodiversity and pollution, the project aligns with the objectives of the EUSAIR region. It also fosters enhanced cooperation and networking among EUSAIR countries, strengthening their collective efforts in protecting marine species.

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PET HAB ECO - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems.

PET HAB ECO aims to establish and develop green corridors in the Adriatic-Ionian region to improve the quality of life and protect natural habitats. The project is currently in the preparation phase, where potential partners are being identified, and the project activities and budget are being developed.

By focusing on ecological connectivity and the harmonious coexistence of humans and wildlife, the project aims to protect and enhance natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems. It will prioritize the establishment of green corridors that connect blue and green infrastructure and promote the resilience of large carnivore populations.

Work plan and activities of the project idea

The work plan includes activities such as enlarging and improving ecological networks, conducting joint research on large carnivores, and developing models for sustainable tourism. By strengthening national and transnational networks, the project will contribute to the conservation and restoration of large carnivore populations. It will also develop tools to measure the connectivity and effectiveness of green corridors and promote conflict management strategies.

The project aligns with the priority actions of protecting and restoring transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity in the Adriatic-Ionian region. It supports the development of joint management plans for habitats and ecosystems, as well as the protection and restoration of wetlands and karst fields relevant to the Adriatic Flyway.

Furthermore, the project has relevance to other pillars of the EUSAIR, such as blue growth, connecting the region, and sustainable tourism. It fosters collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and promotes the application of an ecosystem-based approach to address environmental challenges.

The PET HAB ECO project complies with the broad criteria of the EUSAIR by addressing well-substantiated needs expressed by countries and stakeholders, demonstrating a transnational scope, and building on existing initiatives and networks. It also aligns with the guiding principles of Pillar 3, emphasizing the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach and transnational cooperation.

Expected results of the project include:

The project is expected to have a macro-regional impact by enhancing the connectivity of ecological networks, improving the conservation of large carnivore populations, and promoting sustainable tourism practices. The budget for the project is estimated to be 2-3 million euros, with specific allocations to be determined for management and coordination, communication, infrastructure and equipment, and waste management.

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ICZM&MSP – Sustainable development of the coastal and maritime zones

The general objective of the project is to combine ICZM and MSP as inclusive and complementary governance instruments to promote sustainable development, protect the environment, and manage natural and cultural assets. The project aims to balance environmental protection with socio-economic development while addressing the increasing pressures of human activities and environmental changes.

Work plan and activities of the project idea

The project proposes the following work plan and activities:

WP 1: Defining Gaps and Identifying Conflicts

- Mapping and assessment of marine and coastal knowledge
- Identification of socio-economic activities and environmental issues
- Identification of conflicts and proposal of sustainable options for action
- Outcome: List of identified gaps, conflicts, and sustainable options for action

WP 2: Adoption of National Strategies on ICZM

- Facilitation of the adoption of ICZM national strategies, including consideration of MSP and the UNEP/MAP Common Regional Framework on ICZM
- Outcome: Methodologies and tools for the adoption of ICZM national strategies, case studies for testing ICZM and MSP on different scales

The expected results of the project include:

- Adoption of National Strategies for ICZM and cross-border maritime spatial plans.
- Bridging gaps in marine and coastal knowledge.
- Resolving conflicts and proposing sustainable options for action.
- Implementation of ICZM and MSP on various geographical/administrative levels.
- Improved nature protection and coastal defense.
- Enhancement of economic activities and networks of coastal protected areas.
- Improved prevention and management of risks.

These results aim to promote sustainable growth, protect the environment, and enhance the management of the AI region's coastal and marine resources. By integrating ICZM and MSP principles, the project seeks to achieve a balanced approach that benefits both the present and future generations.