

Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean

Cross cutting recommendations for all Mediterranean case studies of CARDIMED

What are Traps?

From our analysis across all the case studies, we identified four patterns of interconnected barriers to nature-based solutions mainstreaming that are recognized in all case studies.

How can we Overcome or Steer clear from traps?

Identified good practices in the making that explicate how to overcome the different traps.

TRAP 01

Weak(ening) Evidence

Represents how risk aversion of regional and local governments' practice is reinforced by limited epistemological inclusivity, and a weak evidence basis for drawing climate policy and planning measures that results in slow or stalled policy implementation.

- Strengthen the evidence with more interdisciplinary collaborations in your area to help formulate more integrative climate measures (increases evidence base).
- Design monitoring & evaluation frameworks to be holistic, participatory, integrative and to be part of climate strategy. Use the data collected from demo's as part of the evidence for climate solutions, and as part of an adaptive climate change policy cycle.

TRAP 02

Community as a challenge

Refers to the situation where there is an avoidance of public officers engaging with communities and citizens that reinforces a lack of participatory planning and preference for consultations, which fuels distrust of public institutions from local communities and a transactional attitude toward engagement and participation from the communities.

- Allow for time and institutional space to meaningfully engage with communities for climate planning which has continuity outside of project cycles.
- Work together with intermediary actors to ensure diverse and inclusive participation in the planning and implementation of climate change plans.

TRAP 03

Excluding Narratives of Climate Change and Nature-based Solutions

Refers to the ways Nature-based Solutions have been advocated and/or communicated alongside climate change action create excluding narratives, with technocratic language/terms that disengages community and blocks buy-in.

- Allow community/governmental actors to develop different narratives for climate resilience and Nature-based Solutions.
- Create new narratives of climate action and Nature-based Solutions that connect histories and cultures of place (locally rooted) from past, present and future.
- Embed lessons learnt from the Nature-based Solutions demo planning practices, and into the lexicon of project processes from different departments.

TRAP 04

Ambivalence in place - Nature-based Solutions as simultaneously soft and hard solutions

This trap captures the portraying of nature-based solutions as "soft" (desirable and easy to advocate for) and "hard" (technocratic and difficult to communicate about) simultaneously that creates a stalemate in how they are translated across urban agendas especially those on urban regeneration/planning.

- Support awareness of NbS projects beyond a technical audience by adding and curating the information, panels, using QR codes, or urban walking/bike tours connecting to the place of the NbS. Plan events in spaces with NbS to support active use of the sites.
- Go beyond dividing cultural and natural landscapes that are shaped by NbS. Highlight the values that are represented in a more integrative understanding of NbS, which amplifies socio-cultural placemaking, practices and meanings.