

Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean

DEMO 1 and 2

 Greece

Non-conventional water loops on North-South Aegean islands, Greece & Industrial symbiosis through smart water management in Central Greece



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.

- Use the monitoring and evaluation of existing NbS pilots and newly implemented NbS as examples of monitoring and evaluation practices to inform a broader climate action monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Use the data collected from the monitoring and evaluation of the NbS demo to create an evidence base and inform the replication of the demo in other islands. Collect data from other public organisations to create a more updated and inter-disciplinary evidence base for climate pressures and climate awareness of the region.
- Employ digital technologies for data collection to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the demos in the region. Support changes to the procurement mechanism for the formulation of the Regional Climate Adaptation Plans (PeSPKA) to strengthen climate planning.

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.

- **Demo 1 (Northern and Southern Aegean Region):** Identify, invite and collaborate with intermediary actors of the region to ensure more inclusive participation and a co-creation of a narrative of mission for climate resilience with nature-based solutions.
- Map all relevant stakeholders and networks to identify ways to collaborate and cooperate with them, plan for win-win situations and create diverse dialogue spaces to ensure open participation and engagement.
- **Demo 2 (Central Greece):** Convene private sector stakeholders to share insights from the multiple co-benefits of the NbS demonstrator and to co-create a narrative for the industrial community about climate adaptation. Initiate an e-governance platform approach where strategic action plans are shared in draft versions for e-consultation in an open and meaningful way with the public.



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.

- **Northern and Southern Aegean Region (Demo 1):** Shift the narratives and messages of information campaigns to benefits of NbS instead of the threats of climate change. Create institutional spaces where knowledge is shared with citizens and communities in a simpler, careful and caring way avoiding technocratic language and jargon.

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.

- **Northern and Southern Aegean Region (Demo 1):** Differentiate engagement and participation of experts from those with the community so as to allow for more meaningful and genuine participation of both target groups. Differentiate how NbS benefits are communicated to target group to allow for capturing "hearts and minds" and connect to the different place identities. Collaborate and engage with different discipline experts beyond engineers to create a more engaging understanding of place and people dimensions of the NbS benefits.
- Champion values that are already embedded in the socio-cultural landscapes.
- Make it place and site specific by focusing less on raising awareness, and more on leveraging the specificities of the location and land use.

How can Greece be a catalyst for climate change adaptation and resilience?



Greece can serve as a lighthouse example of water conservation across the Mediterranean through the use of constructed wetlands and collaborations with existing industrial businesses in the area. The use of digital twins is an innovative addition to Nature-based Solutions that creates adaptative communities of practice.

NbS solutions that successfully engage community members in mainland Greece and restore landscapes on islands have the possibility of spreading across the Aegan. This transformative potential can create systems of water circularity and conservation in areas that have been affected by drought for many years.

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