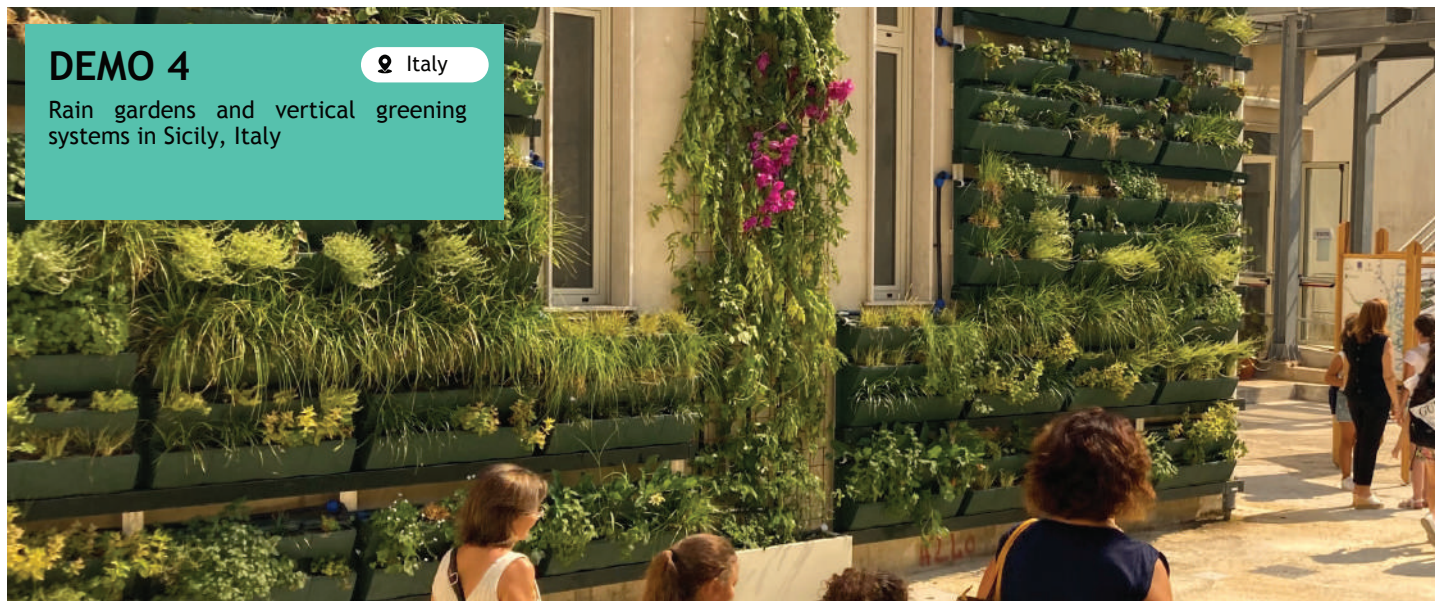


Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean

DEMO 4

📍 Italy

Rain gardens and vertical greening systems in Sicily, Italy



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.

- Ensure that the lessons learned from the NbS demo are captured and communicated to improve future projects (for example, by consulting an ecologist to support species selection). Work to increase transparency of governance processes, communicating the barriers and challenges present - and how they impact projects.
- Run workshops with stakeholders and community groups to explore innovative ways to address specific challenges, while highlighting the bigger-picture challenges (such as flood risk).

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.

- Support innovative and iterative ways to engage with the community using the city as a background for imagining different scenarios for NbS in Sicily's future (for example, by incorporating digital tools for community participation).
- Build on the strong government-to-community linkage fostered in the "Consulta Comunale del Verde" within Catania to expand this approach as a best practice across the region of Sicily.
- Develop comprehensive communication plans to guide the dissemination of projects. These should manage expectations, and foster trust in NbS and in the projects. These plans should promote the multiple benefits of NbS while also addressing common misconceptions, such as that a small-scale NbS intervention would solve systemic challenges.



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.

- Support awareness campaigns at different levels: Reach different audiences through classrooms, in traffic near the roundabout site, and in different educational contexts to foster an understanding of nature in the city.

- Explain how NbS are implemented and operated through project tours in Catania and Ferla. Encourage technical experts to learn about the process of designing and developing NbS projects through the preparation of technical guidelines or the delivery of training workshops, including site visits.

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.

- Disseminate information about water sensitive urban design, encouraging implementation broadly for stormwater management by building synergies between projects to address flooding at scale. Highlight the fact that NbS projects as place-based small interventions will not fully mitigate risk, and a systemic catchment-wide approach is needed to achieve significant flood risk reduction.
- Support multi-disciplinary collaborations between stakeholders working on conventional infrastructure and NbS projects, fostering exchange of knowledge in the planning and design stages and countering design processes restricted by institutional silos.
- Incorporate lessons about unsealing soils from Demo 5 (Marseille) where possible, to increase permeability of hard surfaces in Sicily and support flood risk reduction while delivering additional co-benefits such as aesthetic and wellbeing projects.

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



The region faces extreme challenges of water scarcity and urban heat, but shows innovation and tenacity in cross border collaboration (as demonstrated through past INTERREG projects, such as NAWAMED and GiFluid). These collaborations are further strengthened by local intermediaries fostering partnerships within the projects. One of the key strengths demonstrated in Sicily is the awareness raised through highly visible projects, particularly the Green wall of Ferla. Innovative communication tools help share the importance of addressing water scarcity. In Catania, a triangular partnership for the SuDS project (private sector represented by IRIDRA, academia represented by the university of Catania, and the public sector represented by the municipality of Catania) has enriched the project and streamlined delivery in a highly complex and visible site.

In Sicily, the project has found ways to overcome the constraints of the formal governance and legislative frameworks, illustrating how creativity can facilitate the implementation of NbS. The knowledge of how to think flexibly, and with others to deliver projects is incredibly valuable, and an aspect to document and share within and beyond CARDIMED.

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