

Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean

DEMO 5

📍 France

Micro-forests and unsealed soils in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur



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.

- Continue to foster collaboration between private sector, public sector and academic communities in order to share out to different community groups beyond technical experts and stakeholders.
- Continue to work on developing governance mechanisms for mainstreaming NbS such as updating procurement processes at a local, municipal and regional level to include specific criteria for NbS in tenders and contracts.
- Build capacity on NbS project delivery with the relevant teams (including public works, environment, urban design and landscape architecture professionals) by undertaking site visits and technical training sessions.

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.

- Establish a forum for community engagement with public authorities, inspired by the "Consulta Comunale del Verde" at the municipality of Catania (Demo 4) beyond project-based engagement.
- Establish a volunteering project to encourage the development of new projects in private land and to enable citizens participation in the creation of NbS.
- Engage with different communities, age groups and users using innovative approaches embedding artistic and creative practices (such as those employed by Demo 6, Aragon) including ballet, theatre, forest-bathing walks. These practices are important because they offer opportunities to pay special attention to underrepresented groups.



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.

- Draw upon partnerships (including the collaboration with the university of Aix Marseille) to support action research in collecting local data, and communicating to the public in an accessible manner.
- Use existing platforms to disseminate this information (such as Urban Nature Atlas), and encourage all projects to contribute information to these knowledge sharing platforms.
- Explore digital mapping tools to connect across the region, allowing urban exploration and knowledge sharing to occur. In doing so, NbS projects and ideas for future works can be combined on one digital platform.
- Organise awareness campaigns at different levels both in classrooms and in other educational contexts to foster an understanding of nature in the city. Prioritise the use of tools that already exist.

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.

- Enhance visibility of NbS projects through the region, metropolitan and local areas, using these projects to support the forthcoming French national plan on climate adaptation, and incorporate reporting on projects to platforms that already exist (including the "Plus fraîche ma ville" and the "Urban Nature Atlas").
- Create awareness of NbS projects beyond a technical audience through simple, clear approaches that are tactile and accessible, for example by inviting the public to engage with maps and place-based knowledge (activities can include encouraging people to touch different kinds of rocks and to learn plant species names on site). This can complement approaches like information panels and QR codes.
- Support placemaking projects by incorporating wayfinding components leading to NbS projects and the NbS guidebook.

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



Marseille is tackling the challenge of land ownership and use with strong collaboration to embed NbS on different types of sites, from an educational site where experimental NbS can be embedded into educational curricula, to a highly-urbanised complex site with a range of stakeholders. For this reason, it provides a clear example of how projects implementing NbS can navigate complexity in a multidisciplinary manner. The adaptive policy-making process and project implementation strategy, as well as the creativity and commitment, can serve as an example of a best-practice approach to explore beyond Marseille. Strengthening procurement and tendering processes to embed NbS and continuing to build awareness are critical to the policy recommendations outlined.

There is strong potential for Marseille to support other Demo partners to explore dynamic, creative, multi-sectoral policy making and implementation to support climate change adaptation and resilience. This process can also serve as an opportunity to reflect back on the lessons learnt and experiences.

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