

Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean

DEMO 8

Türkiye

Indigenous production landscapes in Izmir, Türkiye.



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.

- Inform policymakers of the challenges, opportunities, and benefits of NbS so that there is stronger institutional backing for future projects.
- Build on existing monitoring efforts to collect evidence on the impact of the Nature-based Solutions in addressing the food-energy-water nexus. The data collected can provide important insights into how other Mediterranean cities can better integrate the relationship between water use, wildfire, and biodiversity.
- Continue supporting changes to protect local biodiversity and encourage the removal of invasive species without creating more institutional barriers.

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.

- Document community participation and co-creation efforts on the ground, to influence funding for future community-based NbS in the region.
- Develop strategies to collaborate with public health officials to better understand social and health co-benefits generated by the NbS.



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.

- Continue participatory interventions such as invitations for workshops, council meetings, and festivals that empower people to adapt to climate change. Existing participatory activities (including nature puzzles, QR codes, and bird-watching areas) create opportunities for the local population to participate in the implementation of NbS.
- Provide accessible information through community events to children and families; and to neighbouring communities that employ traditional and Indigenous understandings of NbS.

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.

- Consider community concerns and mitigate expected side-effects of NbS before construction begins, to generate support for future projects.
- Collect cultural narratives and values to anchor communities' meaning and senses of place in the process of NbS planning.

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



As Izmir transitions towards a sponge city, communities should be prepared for the multiple changes and disruptions expected to occur. Demo 8 has the potential to pilot a wetland restoration project thus supporting indigenous and local practices and connecting a fragmented coastline to a wider network of NbS. Demo 8 is leading the way for other coastal cities in the Mediterranean by supporting a local economy and other ways of knowing in climate change adaptation schemes. Creating a future for people and restoring landscapes are mutually beneficial goals and NbS can serve as a catalyst in this process.

Demo 8 can show how historically marginalised rural communities, who could be displaced by rapid urbanisation, have a place in urban planning and an important role to play in conservation efforts. In this demo, policy stakeholders work across different sectors to simultaneously conserve biodiversity and protect local and traditional practices.

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