

Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean

DEMO 9

📍 Cyprus

Gardens of the future in the heart of Nicosia city, Cyprus.



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 exploring community-driven and flexible ways in which gardens can be developed in post-war abandoned sites, where experimentation and data-monitoring could co-occur and serve as an example for future NbS in a divided Nicosia.
- Continue filling policy and implementation gaps through experimentation within the food-energy-water nexus. Future policies should integrate the data, lessons from successes, and opportunities into new regional policies.

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.

- Record social innovations and their co-benefits so that policymakers and practitioners across the EU can replicate them and understand the role of community participation in NbS. Find long-term funding and enact policy changes that center communities.
- Map the communities of practice to strengthen and mainstream current adaptation practices then introduce emergent 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.

- Extend current climate change adaptation and NbS narratives to war-torn, and conflict-affected communities.
- Create opportunities for communities to learn about the more technical and scientific aspects of an NbS and understand how these interventions work. Understanding how NBS work can increase the uptake and co-creation of new NbS in the future.
- Utilize narratives of resilience that connect people to the landscape.

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.

- Extend the flexible design of the gardens to include NbS in the Pedieos River or the Green Line through new and extant transboundary collaborations.
- Scale up the current gardens of the future model to selected sites, but stress that these emerging gardens will change depending on the context. Not every garden will provide the same social services, place-based belonging, or adapt to the same climatic hazards. NbS should be connected to each other and address different hazards in tandem, in order to transform the landscape by bringing nature into cities.

How can your demo be a catalyst for climate resilience?



The Gardens of the Future and other public gardens in Nicosia serve as a piloting site for a circular water system on the island of Cyprus, which is prone to droughts. The Gardens of the Future are a site that provides food, belonging, and healing for surrounding communities. This site of innovation provides insights into how emerging NbS sites can co-create with communities, implement an adaptive design, and utilize climate change adaptation strategies as a tool for social justice.

The gardens are advancing NbS technologies and social innovation in a post-war neighborhood, despite ongoing conflict and numerous crises including the migratory pressures and intense droughts that affect the island. Serving as an example of innovation, peace, and diverse climate-change adaptations, Demo 9 exemplifies how NbS are not only socio-ecological systems, but also serve as places for peace among contexts of political unrest. Other conflict-torn neighborhoods, communities, and countries can co-create NbS that prepare communities for climate change and launch them towards imaginaries of peace.

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