



Annual Institutional Dialogue

‘Policy Paper and Advocacy Plan on marine and coastal restoration’

Natural Heritage Mission

29 November 2024



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**Annual
Institutional
Dialogue**



Structure of the session

- 1. Presentation of the structure and general content of the Policy Paper**
- 2. Overview of the Advocacy plan for the dissemination of the Policy Paper**
- 3. Work in 4 Thematic Groups**



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1. Presentation of the structure and general content of the Policy Paper



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Drafting process

**D4N
NRL Webinar**
8 October



Summary with key findings and results



DRAFT V.1
27 November



Annual Institutional Dialogue
29 November

1. Challenges
2. Recommendations to support implementation
3. Role of sub-national stakeholders
4. Integration policies & frameworks



V.2 VF!

1. Revision of the document
2. Incorporate projects
3. Advocacy and dissemination



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General structure and Contents

- **TITLE:**

Mission for Natural Heritage (M4N)

POLICY PAPER

“Supporting the implementation of Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Nature Restoration Law in the Mediterranean”

DRAFT V.1 (27/11/24)



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General structure and Contents

1) Context and objectives [1 page]

- What is the Mission for Natural Heritage (M4N)
- Aim: Provide actionable recommendations for the implementation of Target 2 GBF and NRL, bridge the ambition of high-level policy with on-the-ground action
- Focus in Mediterranean coastal and marine areas
- Role of Thematic Projects as a source of best practices, knowledge and solutions
- Brief context on the NRL
- Call to action for urgent and ambitious efforts to bring Target 2 GBF and NRL to life in the Mediterranean



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General structure and Contents

2) Nature restoration in Mediterranean coastal and marine areas [1 page]

- Biodiversity hotspot - pressures - why restoration matters
- Significance of the NRL for Mediterranean ecosystem recovery

Add references to other related policy documents from partners and Thematic Projects to complement them



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General structure and Contents

3) Implementation challenges of Target 2 of the GBF and the NRL [2 pages]

- Resistance from certain sectors and key stakeholders
- Lack of awareness and acceptance of the general public
- Institutional and technical capacity
- Tight deadlines for implementation
- Governance and institutional gaps
- Tenure and ownership issues
- Legislative and financial constraints
- Data and knowledge gaps
- Long-term sustainability of restored ecosystems
- Impacts of climate change, urbanisation and water restrictions



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General structure and Contents

4) Recommendations for the implementation of Target 2 of the GBF and the NRL [3-4 pages]

- How the Mission can contribute to effective implementation
- The role of sub-national stakeholders for effective implementation

- **Actionable recommendations (I):**

- *Cross-sectoral collaboration*
- *Collaborative governance*
- *Stakeholder engagement*
- *Prioritisation of areas based on greatest potential impact*
- *Data-driven insights*
- *Scientific data to inform restoration efforts, track progress and evaluate impact*
- *Policy analysis to identify existing gaps in restoration frameworks*

Group recommendations according to targets (EU, national, regional, sub-national authorities) and sectors (governments, civil society, NGOs, academia,...)



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General structure and Contents

- **Actionable recommendations (II):**
 - *Guidelines for area-based management*
 - *Community involvement, awareness campaigns, leveraging citizen science*
 - *Reliable monitoring systems*
 - *New financial mechanisms (taxes, payments for ecosystem services,...)*
 - *Best practices repositories*
 - *Local stewardship agreements, contractual frameworks*
 - *Promote sustainable agricultural and fishing practices*



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General structure and Contents

- **Best practices and innovative solutions from the Mission's projects**
 - *Examples of impactful restoration projects*
 - *Nature-based Solutions examples and standards*
 - *Innovative evaluation methods for ecosystem services*
 - *Examples of citizen science projects*
 - *Systems for long-term monitoring*
 - *Indicators of impact, clear metrics and performance standards*
 - *Tools and frameworks for effective governance*
 - *Environmental contracts*
 - *Knowledge-sharing platforms*
 - *Pilot projects*
- **Potential synergies with existing policy and legislative frameworks**



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General structure and Contents

5) Roadmap for the future [1 page]

- Importance of nature restoration in the context of climate change
- Call for urgent and ambitious action to implement the NRL in the region
- Vision for a resilient and thriving Mediterranean coastal and marine environment



ANNEX 1 - Nature restoration in the context of the global triple crises [1 page]

ANNEX 2 - Key objectives of the Nature Restoration Law and links with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework [2 pages]



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2. Advocacy and dissemination plans for the document



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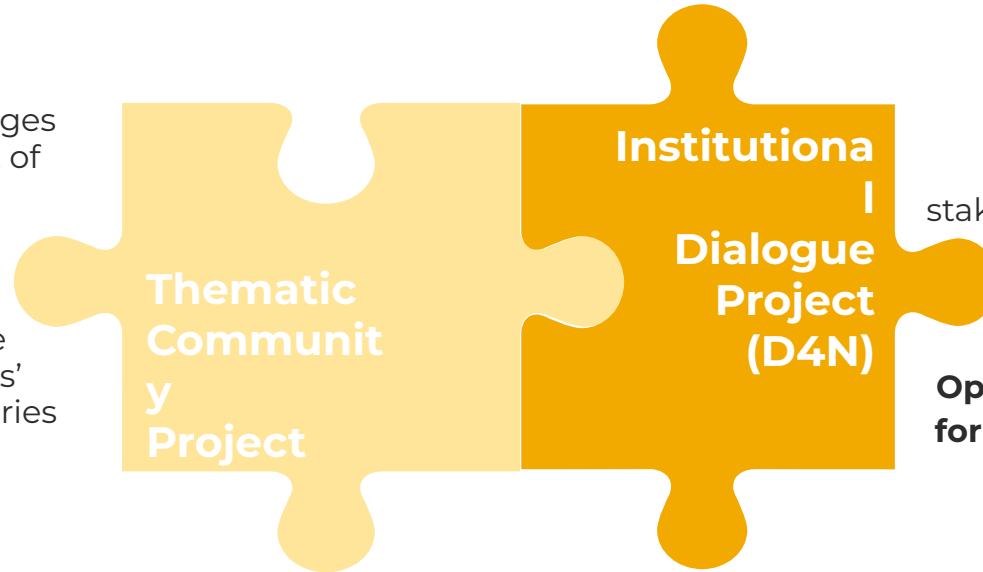
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Two Governance Projects

Facilitates the exchanges and the development of synergies between Thematic Projects.

Supports the effective transfer of the projects' results to other territories or stakeholders.



Supports the effective cooperation of all stakeholders concerned by the Programme.

Optimises the conditions for streamlining projects' message into policies.

16 Project Partners + 67 Associated Partners across 20 countries



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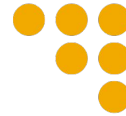
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The Natural Heritage Community



-  Community4Nature
-  Dialogue4Nature
-  Other Key Stakeholders
-  Associated Partners
-  Thematic Projects



13 PROJECTS

have got the green light and are funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme in the Natural Heritage area!
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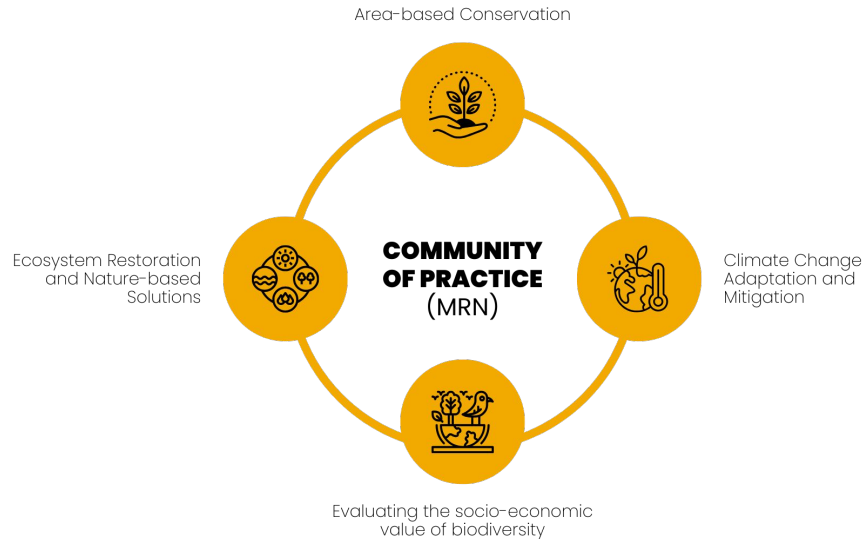


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Our Thematic Working Groups



4 working groups for networking, capacity building and producing knowledge

Training and capacity building

Support to projects



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Yearly Policy and Advocacy Support

- **2 online webinars** per year offering capacity-building and encouraging knowledge sharing
- **1 in-person event** per year dealing with a specific policy issue related to the current policy agenda



Policy paper

Sharing the views from the Natural Heritage Community on a specific topic (this year, **restoration**), that is **aligned with strategic policy discussion, with working group focus and with thematic projects**

To be positioned at key Mediterranean, European and international events



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Proposed advocacy goals of the policy document

- Influencing major policy frameworks at regional level;
- Identify gaps in policy and funding;
- Analyze trends and future perspectives;
- Give visibility to Interreg EuroMED project's outcomes



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Signatories and supporters

- Co-signed by key stakeholders from the **Mission4Nature partnership**, including associated partners, experts from the four thematic working groups, and high-level representatives from the Interreg Euro-MED thematic projects.
- Additional endorsements will be sought from **influential NGOs, academic institutions, and regional bodies** that focus on biodiversity and nature conservation.
- Target signatories include **EU-level institutions, UfM, Mediterranean government representatives**, and other key players involved in biodiversity restoration initiatives.



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Proposed advocacy activities

- Align **community communication efforts and campaigns** with the outcomes of the Policy document
- Prepare **key messages and talking points** to be shared by the whole mission
- **Meetings and conferences:** present the outcomes during key events and specific bilateral meetings



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Target events for 2024/2025

EVENT	WHEN	ATTENDEES	ACTION
UFM Env Group meeting	Dec 2024	IUCN Med	Present the policy document outcomes to the audience
UN Ocean Conference 2025	June 2025	IUCN, MedCities, Plan Bleu, Marine Institute	Understand the role of Interreg Euro-MED and if any parallel activities are envisioned. If not, submit a proposal for a side event.
IUCN World Conservation Congress	October 2025	IUCN Med	Submit a proposal for a side event when opening. Need to liaise with IUCN Members



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Target events for 2024/2025

EVENT	WHEN	ATTENDEES	ACTION
BCN Convention 50 years celebration	Nov. 2025	Whole Mission	Organize next IDP ?? organize side event
MedCities General Assembly	Nov 2025	MedCities members	Present the document for institutional endorsement
UNEP/MAP COP24, Egypt	December 2025	Plan Bleu	Present the document in the strategic documents produced by CARs, maybe submit a side event to present the advocacy work from the Mission



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Plans for 2025

- Advocacy activities for the ongoing Policy document on Coastal and marine restoration

- In parallel, WGs will work on a new topic:

RESTORATION OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS



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Questions for the WGs for the Advocacy plan

- Do you agree with the advocacy goals proposed ? Which are the most relevant? Is there anything missing?
- Do you agree with the proposed signatories and endorsement process? Any suggestions?
- Do you agree with the advocacy actions proposed ? Which are the most relevant? Is there anything missing?
- Do you have any suggestions as regards additional Target events we should consider?
- Do you agree with the approach for 2025 and the topic?



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3. Work in Groups



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