



Terrestrial and Freshwater ecosystem restoration in the Mediterranean

Policy Recommendations

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REGION OF CRETE



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



Montenegro
Ministry of Ecology,
Spatial Planning and Urbanism

Interreg
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International policy frameworks on Restoration



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GBF Target 2

“**Restore at least 30%** of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems by 2030”

EU Nature Restoration Regulation

“**Restore at least 30%** of habitats in poor condition by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 90% by 2050”

EU Ocean Pact

“Protecting and **Restoring** Ocean Health”

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2026 - 2035

Objective 2: “Improve the health, productivity, **restoration** and resilience of the marine and coastal **ecosystems**.”



Overview of the NHM thematics vs GBF

Area-based conservation

TARGET 1
TARGET 3

Climate change adaptation at local level

TARGET 8
TARGET 12

Evaluating the Socio-Economic Importance of Biodiversity

TARGET 14
TARGET 15
TARGET 18
TARGET 19

Ecosystem Restoration and Nature-based Solutions

TARGET 2
TARGET 11

Transversal targets: T.21/22 & 23



Building the policy recommendations

NHM Webinar

Identifying the policy issues

Building a first draft based on Policy Insights from 4 targeted NHM projects on Forests and Wetlands restoration

Annual Institutional Dialogue

Building the recommendations

Consolidation of the recommendations, gathering feedback from representatives from both shores of the Med

MedTalks

From Policy to Action

Gathering solutions and tools from practitioners across the Med to uptake the recommendations

→ 2026 and beyond → Dissemination across Policy events around the Med



Presentation of the 10 policy recommendations

Integrated planning

01

Develop an integrated Source-to-Sea governance framework tailored to Mediterranean contexts,

embedding multilevel governance and macroregional and transboundary coordination.

02

Integrate restoration into science-based spatial planning

to prioritize areas to be restored, monitor progress and coordinate knowledge pathways among all actors to scale up nature-based solutions and bridge the science-policy gap.

03

Recognise the key role of wetlands and forests in increasing the resilience of the Mediterranean at the climate/biodiversity nexus,

by fully integrating their biodiversity values and ecosystem services into land-use planning, agricultural policies, urban development, biodiversity and climate strategies.



Presentation of the 10 policy recommendations

Inclusive & participatory governance

04

Empower local communities by promoting co-management models

That transform citizens from beneficiaries into active stewards including the provision of local jobs and livelihood diversification opportunities.

05

Promote inclusive, fair, and equitable participation across all stages of the restoration process,

Empowering underrepresented and vulnerable communities and groups, ensuring an intergenerational perspective.



Presentation of the 10 policy recommendations

Innovation, financing & knowledge systems

06

Develop innovative financing and compliance mechanisms to ensure long-term sustainability of restoration efforts,

engaging both public and private actors.

07

Develop and promote appropriate user-friendly technologies, to advance restoration efforts,

thereby improving prioritisation, decision-making, and climate resilience.

08

Develop an ambitious research, training, and innovation agenda

that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge co-creation, supports long-term monitoring, open source data and effective technology transfer.



Presentation of the 10 policy recommendations

Transboundary governance and peacebuilding

09

Preserve and restore natural resources to strengthen transboundary cooperation,

build trust between groups, and reduce the risk of conflict over shared resources.

Rebuilding Trust in Policy Making

10

Strengthen accountability and transparency

in policy processes in line with agreed conventions and legal frameworks by ensuring that decision-makers are accountable for their actions to their constituents.



From Policy to Action



Integrated Governance

Ecosystem-based coordination across landscapes and sectors



Inclusive Participation

Community-led stewardship and co-design of restoration plans



Innovation & Financing

Advanced technologies and sustainable funding mechanisms



Capacity Building

Training programmes and knowledge exchange platforms



Examples of territorial solutions and tools

- **Integrated governance**
 - Wetlands Contracts
 - Stewardship agreements
- **Inclusive participation**
 - Participatory methodologies : Democracy Labs, Scenario workshops & adaptation pathways
- **Innovation and Financing**
 - Nature credits, PES
 - Geospatial and digital monitoring systems : FERM 8
- **Capacity building**
 - Interreg Euro-Med Academy
 - Knowledge exchange platforms



Interactive exercise

Get ready!



Where are you connecting from?



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What is the organization you represent (name & type of organization)?



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Policy focus





What local solutions can help translate these policy recommendations into concrete restoration action?





How can these policy recommendations be operationalized in your country/region?



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Cooperation in the Mediterranean

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What opportunities exist for joint actions or pilot transfers across the Mediterranean?





How can Interreg Euro-MED projects engage more local authorities, SMEs, and NGOs from the Maghreb and Machrek regions?



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Visibility and capitalization





What communication channels or partnerships could enhance visibility of such policy work?



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How can this work be made more accessible and actionable for policymakers in your regions?



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Future priorities





Which challenge for the Mediterranean could be considered reached in 2026?





What are the most pressing governance challenges or capacity gaps to address in your region/country?



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Thank you!

For further information, please contact: natural-heritage@interreg-euro-med.eu



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