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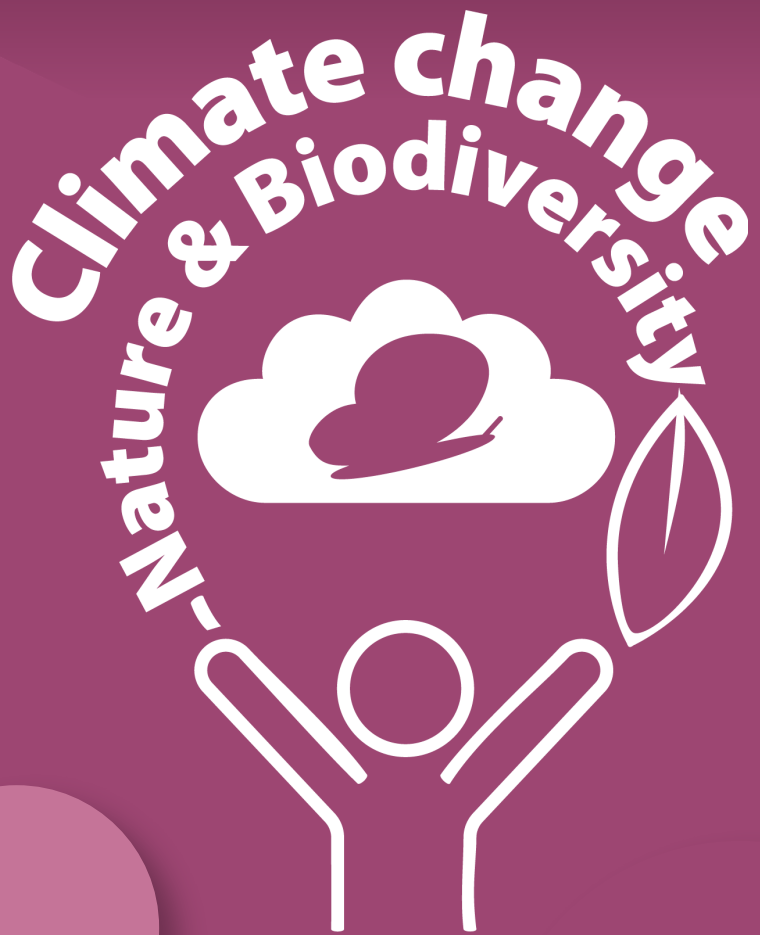
ORIENTATION PAPER

MED CLUSTER

Climate Change Adaptation Nature and Biodiversity



by Community4Tourism

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1. Introduction and explanation of the topic covered by the MED Cluster Climate Change and Nature and Biodiversity

This cluster combines the focus of Two Special Objectives - SO 2.4 and SO 2.7. As the Cluster expert Jeremy Smith explained in his intro at the Rome meeting, since climate change is a biodiversity, social and ecological challenge at the same time, the merging of the two clusters makes a lot of sense as we have to break out of silos in order to tackle the challenge.

SO 2.4: "Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches" addresses the following:

- foster sustainable tourism models which ensure the protection of the environment;
- answer the central issue of accelerating warming for the future of Mediterranean regions;
- urge environmental protection in view of both the pressure of human activities and climate change;
- enhance ecosystem-based approaches in order to prevent disasters and improve resilience;
- improve the prevention and mitigation of risks;
- promote the importance of energy transition in the context of climate change;
- tackle the climate change effects on health;
- involve citizens in the greener transition of living areas with high touristic assets.

S.O 2.7: "Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution" addresses the following:

- consolidate the connection of natural ecosystems with high touristic assets at transnational level;
- ensure ecological corridors to boost and preserve biodiversity;
- reinforce sustainable, efficient management and strong protection of protected areas;
- work beyond protected areas to address pollution, overfishing and climate change;
- improve restoration of ecosystems at land and sea degraded by tourism activities;
- promote adequate conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity in touristic areas;
- support the vision of biodiversity conservation as an economic and social value.

This integrated approach across the two objectives can offer catalytic potential through collaboration with different partners, and in so doing embody the purpose that these clusters set out to achieve. Even in the first meetings, these synergies were visible, with representatives of the different projects sharing ideas from their own experience that could be useful to people working on other projects.

2. State of the art from the International, European, and Mediterranean perspective

In the following section, a brief description of the topic of innovation has been developed taking into consideration different governance scales.

2.1 Background

Home to over half a billion people, the Mediterranean is the world's main tourist destination, with more than 400 million international arrivals in 2019. Some of Europe's key destinations are found here, with coastal and maritime tourism constituting a major source of income for many Mediterranean countries.

Climate change and the loss of biodiversity put all this at risk. The region is a biodiversity hotspot, with a higher rate of endemism among species than anywhere else. Yet as a climate change hotspot as well, the region is warming 20% faster than the global average. There are long-running droughts, increasing wildfires, rivers drying up just as floods are worsening, and sea level rise is expected to exceed one meter by 2100. Thousands have already died from the heat, with temperatures expected to be above the threshold for human comfort by mid-century or earlier.

Yet by 2050, the demand for water is predicted to soar to two or three times what it is now. Poor developments threaten biodiversity and resilience along the coastlines. And the farms and vineyards for which the region is equally famed are struggling to irrigate their crops. Food security and the livelihoods of millions are being jeopardized. The future of tourism in the region is under threat, notably coastal zones which have to overcome coastal risks (marine submersion and erosion, harmful algal blooms, etc.).

Tourism globally is responsible for between 8-11% emissions. It also significantly impacts socio-ecosystems, particularly in coastal areas like the Mediterranean basin, which are experiencing rapid and extended urbanization in addition to large seasonal population flows. Aviation, boats and cars are heavy Greenhouse Gas emitters, along with tourism accommodations and infrastructure construction, water use and waste.

The transition towards a sustainable and regenerative model is therefore essential for the Mediterranean tourism sector. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approaches are crucial tools that integrate environmental, social, and economic considerations to guide coastal and marine development and management, coordinating diverse stakeholders and balancing competing interests, to mitigate and adapt in front of negative impacts while promoting resilience and ecosystem health. Both ICZM and MSP require strong governance, stakeholder engagement, and adequate resources. As urbanization intensifies in the Mediterranean basin, there's a pressing need for integrated approaches that prioritize sustainability, climate change resilience, and the well-being of both people and ecosystems.

2.2: Status Quo: International, European and Mediterranean perspective

Action on climate change and biodiversity are guided by a set of interlinked frameworks and commitments, starting at the global level and then becoming ever more locally and sectorally specific. In the context of tourism - as elsewhere - much of the work on climate or biodiversity overlaps, since reducing climate impacts protects biodiversity, and securing biodiversity strengthens resilience against the impacts of climate change while nature based solutions such as the threatened Posidonia oceanica can play a key role in drawing down greenhouse gasses.

The following frameworks, plans and agreements together govern action on climate and biodiversity at various levels, and depending upon the specific context of the Regional Authority or DMO, will have differing degrees of relevance.

2.2.1: International Context

The Paris Agreement
The Paris Agreement, an international climate change treaty, was adopted in December 2015 by 196 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its primary objective is to enhance the global response to climate change by limiting the century's temperature rise to below 2°C, with efforts to further restrict it to 1.5°C. To achieve this, carbon dioxide emissions must decrease by approximately 45% by 2030 and reach Net Zero by 2050, as outlined in the UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2018.

The SDGs
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 global goals set by the United Nations

to address social, economic, and environmental issues by 2030. Tourism features prominently in various SDGs as both a contributor to sustainable development and a sector requiring sustainable management. SDG 8 stresses decent work and economic growth, emphasizing sustainable tourism's role in job creation, local culture promotion, and community well-being (Target 8.9). SDG 12 underscores responsible consumption and production, urging sustainable tourism practices that foster local economies and cultures (Target 12.b). Although SDG 14 focuses on marine conservation, tourism's impact on coastal development and marine ecosystems is highlighted. Similarly, SDG 15 emphasizes land conservation, with tourism affecting terrestrial biodiversity. Sustainable tourism aligns with SDG 11's call for resilient cities (Target 11.4), and addresses climate concerns (SDG 13) and infrastructure needs (SDG 9), underscoring its vital role in broader sustainable development endeavors.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is an international agreement aimed at succeeding the Aichi Targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It represents a collaborative effort between the host cities of COP15 (Kunming, China) and COP16 (Montreal, Canada) to establish ambitious and measurable goals for biodiversity conservation post-2020. The framework emphasizes addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring equitable sharing of benefits. It serves as a roadmap for national and global action, integrating biodiversity conservation efforts with broader sustainable development agendas, with a focus on tangible outcomes and implementation strategies.

2.2.2: European Context

The European Green Deal

The European Green Deal is a comprehensive policy initiative launched by the European Commission to transform the European Union into a climate-neutral and sustainable economy by 2050. It encompasses a wide range of measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, promoting renewable energy sources, and preserving biodiversity. The Green Deal aims to foster economic growth while ensuring a just transition for affected regions and sectors. It includes initiatives to promote clean technologies, sustainable agriculture, circular economy practices, and biodiversity conservation. The Green Deal represents the EU's commitment to leading global efforts in combating climate change and achieving sustainable development.

Fit for 55
Fit for 55 refers to the EU's target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. The Fit for 55 package is a set of proposals to revise and update EU legislation and to put in place new initiatives with the aim of ensuring that EU policies are into line with the climate goals agreed by the Council and the European Parliament.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
The European Biodiversity Strategy is a comprehensive framework established by the European Union to halt biodiversity loss by 2030. The strategy sets ambitious targets, including increasing the coverage of protected areas, restoring degraded habitats, and reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers. It also emphasizes the integration of biodiversity considerations into various policy sectors that interact with tourism, such as agriculture, fisheries, and urban planning.

2.2.3: National Context

Nationally Determined Contributions
Launched in 2015 as part of the Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) provide a common framework for countries to accelerate climate action in both adaptation and mitigation. So far 169 Parties have submitted an NDC. Reading a country's NDC provides a clear picture of the challenges faced, and the objectives for decarbonisation that a plan should look to support.

National Adaptation Plans
Launched by the UNFCCC in 2010, the purpose of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) is to focus on long term adaptation and resilience, in particular for countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. While around 70 countries (mostly emerging economies in Latin America and Africa) now have NAPs, only two are from European countries: Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

2.2.4: Mediterranean Context:

The Mediterranean Action Plan
The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)—Barcelona Convention System, closely related to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), works with national Contracting Parties and 7 Regional Activity Center (RAC) partners to fulfill the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast that underpins sustainable development in the region.

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was officially adopted during the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean in 2016. Since its adoption, the MSSD has served as a guiding framework for sustainable development efforts in the Mediterranean region, providing a common vision and set of objectives (with 28 specific indicators and related flagships) for governments, stakeholders, and international organizations working to address the region's environmental, social, and economic challenges.

2.2.5: Regional/City Context:

C40 Cities Initiative
C40 is a global network of mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis. From the Mediterranean, Barcelona, Rome, Athens and Tel Aviv are members.

EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is an initiative supported by the European Commission bringing together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens. By joining the initiative, they voluntarily commit to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. Over 8000 **local plans related to climate and energy can be accessed here.**

2.2.6: Tourism sectoral context:

The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism
The Glasgow Declaration was launched in November 2021 at the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. The text of the declaration and its promises was drafted by UN Tourism and partners The Travel Foundation, UNEP, VisitScotland, and Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency. Many other organisations and experts also contributed.

300 founder signatories (including CPMR and NECSTouR) committed to each create a Climate Action Plan explaining how their organizations would align with the global need to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and achieve Net Zero as soon as possible before 2050. Since then, the number of signatories has grown to almost 900, coming from different tourism sectors all over the world and several European DMOs and regional authorities. All have made the same commitment to create a Climate Action Plan (CAP) focussed on five pathways for action: Measure,

Decarbonize, Regenerate, Collaborate, and Finance. Signatories commit to reporting on progress each year towards an overall goal of reducing tourism's emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching Net Zero as quickly as possible before 2050.

In January 2024, UN Tourism published the **Glasgow Declaration Implementation Report 2023 – Advancing Climate Action**, the first analysis of all tourism Climate Action Plans published to date under the declaration's framework. Some 250+ CAPs were analysed, with the report summarising best practices across all pathways, providing guidance on decarbonisation and regeneration, and proposing areas for future development and collaboration.

Transition Pathway for Tourism

On 10 March 2020, the Commission adopted a new industrial strategy. The aim was to help EU industry lead the green and digital transformations and to boost the EU's global competitiveness and open strategic autonomy. This first transition pathway describes the measures and outputs needed to accelerate the green and digital transitions and improve the resilience of the tourism ecosystem.

The transition towards a sustainable and regenerative model is therefore essential for the Mediterranean tourism sector. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approaches are crucial tools that integrate environmental, social, and economic considerations to guide coastal and marine development and management, coordinating diverse stakeholders and balancing competing interests, to mitigate and adapt in front of negative impacts while promoting resilience and ecosystem health. Both ICZM and MSP require strong governance, stakeholder engagement, and adequate resources. As urbanization intensifies in the Mediterranean basin, there's a pressing need for integrated approaches that prioritize sustainability, climate change resilience, and the well-being of both people and ecosystems.

3. The projects' approach

The following projects are the first thematic projects approved by the Interreg Euro-MED 21-27 programme, under the Sustainable Tourism Mission and more specifically, tackling the Specific Objective 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches and 2.7 Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution. For this reason, they have been allocated in the MED Climate Change Adaptation and Nature and Biodiversity. More projects will join the cluster as new calls are resolved.

COOL NOONS

The COOL NOONS project aims to address the issue of urban tourism in Mediterranean cities. Five pilot cities (Budva, Dubrovnik, Lisbon, Marseille, Bologna) will test solutions to improve the offer of activities for both tourists and inhabitants during the hottest hours of the day. Some of the solutions to be tested have already demonstrated their effectiveness (in contexts not linked with tourism), such as revegetation, water equipment or light-coloured urban surfaces. Other new solutions will emerge from the creativity of the first "users" of the cities, i.e. the residents and tourists. The solutions tested will also be cross-evaluated in order to clarify their potential for replication in the Mediterranean region.

HERIT ADAPT - HERItage and territory resilience through sustainable Tourism, climate change ADAPtation and ciTizen engagement

The HERIT ADAPT project aims to create a territorial working group in order to co-design a data-driven Sustainable Tourism model for the territories involved in the project. The project deals mainly with UNESCO sites but also less-known monuments in internal and mountain areas. Thanks to a co-creative approach to understanding what is missing, they will create sustainable and resilient strategies. Interdisciplinary working groups will be set up to start the dialogue with people dealing with environmental preservation and people in charge of the preservation of those monuments. The main deliverables will include:

- 1. Feasibility study to understand challenges
- 2. Creation of a sustainable tourism model
- 3. Sustainable tourism strategies Involving adaptation, mitigation and climate neutrality
- 4. Portfolio of tech and IT tools and solutions to be installed in the pilot monuments.

NaTour4CChange - Governing sustainable tourism in territories with high environmental value: reconnecting tourism and nature for addressing the climate crisis with an ecosystem-based approach

The NaTour4CChange project is aimed at supporting regional policymakers and destinations to develop a new approach to lead climate mitigation and adaptation using ecosystem-based approaches. The project will:

- 1. Test solutions for increasing the resilience of identified coastal regions and destinations.
- 2. Set common methods to allow participating regions to assess their tourism-related climate adaptation and mitigation priorities, and implement climate actions via plans and strategies, supported by cooperative governance.
- 3. Deliver tourism climate action plans for coastal destinations, focusing on climate adaptation, where Nature-based Solutions will be tested to ensure their feasibility and transferability
- 4. Promote cross-fertilization to draw lessons, best practices and policy recommendations

MED-GIAHS - Mediterranean GIAHS sites network to promote sustainable agricultural tourism

A GIAHS or a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) is an agricultural ecosystem inhabited by communities that live in an intricate relationship with their territory. This evolving site is a resilient system characterised by remarkable agrobiodiversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures and landscapes, sustainably managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest people in ways that contribute to their livelihoods and food security. The objective of the project is to create a network of MED-GIAHS sites that have valuable agricultural, landscape, cultural, and natural heritage and resilient ecosystems but, however, face serious threats (climate change, globalisation, low competitiveness, depopulation, loss of biodiversity and ancestral knowledge).

Supporting Output from the Community4Tourism Project

Blueprint for DMOs and Regional Authorities to develop Climate Action Plans

based in the region have a significant role in driving climate action. First of all, they are by their nature bound to remain where they are, regardless of how much worse climate change becomes (whereas a business can refocus its strategies elsewhere). Yet this same deep connection to their loca-

tion and its people means they are also more likely to have an understanding of the context and opportunities for meaningful action. Therefore, the C4T project aims to provide clear and adaptable guidance to Mediterranean Tourism Regional Authorities and DMOs on how to develop a strategy for acting on climate, inspiring and enabling actions supporting adaptation to changing conditions and the reduction of emissions from tourism. It does this by providing the essential guidance necessary to create a Climate Action Plan. A draft of the Blueprint will be presented and discussed in Rome, following which a capacity building process will be delivered during the second half of 2024.

ICZM/MSP Processes Best Practices Manual for Planning Sustainable Tourism Activities in the Mediterranean

CPMR-IMC, Plan Bleu and the University of Tirana are leading the development of a best practices manual to help Mediterranean destinations navigate the implications of the ICZM Protocol and the EU MSP Directive to plan tourism activities in a more integrated and sustainable way. The manual integrates 10 recent practices and innovative approaches already implemented or tested across different geographical scales from local to national scales. The idea is to establish best practices “selection criteria” (relevance, level of sustainability, level of applicability, level of transferability, level of stakeholder engagement, etc.) which will allow their identification while keeping a geographical balance between Mediterranean shores, different socio-economic contexts and tourism activities. The manual also introduces and fosters various practices including management tools, ecosystem-based management, institutional cooperation, data gathering and monitoring tools, spatial planning, etc. A French translation (and possibly other languages) will be provided, and a capacity-building workshop will be organized.

4. Main challenges and topics for discussion identified

All of the projects have reported a range of different challenges that they are likely to face. These are grouped below as bullet points under a series of four thematic questions, designed to structure a useful and collaborative discussion in Rome.
In addition, under each of the four thematic questions are listed the most relevant aspects of the two Special Objectives that frame the opening of this Orientation Paper, so as to make explicit how addressing the challenges faced by the projects can support delivery of the Special Objectives.
While this classification has been designed to facilitate a constructive discussion, it should also be appreciated that the nature of tourism, biodiversity and climate change means many challenges are overlapping, and could have been grouped differently.

4.1: How should we consider external factors that influence and define our work on tourism's climate and biodiversity action?

4.1a: Challenges from the projects

- "Adaptation and mitigation of cultural heritage sites to develop nature-based solutions is forbidden."*HERIT ADAPT*
- "Adapting and renewing tourism offer according to new holiday patterns." *COOL NOONS*
- "Challenges motivating leaderships and stakeholders to make commitment to engaging on climate action." *BLUEPRINT*

4.1b: Key criteria from the Two Special Objectives - SO 2.4 and SO 2.7

Of Particular Relevance to Climate Change Adaptation:

- answer the central issue of accelerating warming for the future of Mediterranean regions;
- urge environmental protection in view of both the pressure of human activities and climate change;
- improve the prevention and mitigation of risks;
- promote the importance of energy transition in the context of climate change;
- tackle the climate change effects on health.

Of Particular Relevance to Nature and Biodiversity:

- work beyond protected areas to address pollution, overfishing and climate change.

4.1c: Ideas from Rome Meeting for further exploration (with source of suggestion in brackets)

- implement digitalization to monitor real-time changes caused by climate change and overtourism; develop solutions to mitigate impact on sites (HERIT ADAPT);
- involve the private sector in addressing challenges; ensure companies feel engaged in the process (ETOA);
- address gaps in awareness, particularly regarding Integrated Coastal Zone Management (DIBA);
- facilitate knowledge exchange among departments and stakeholders to effectively target issues related to nature conservation (IUCN);
- incorporate climate change into tourism strategies at academic and policy levels to address challenges of overtourism and inadequate infrastructure (Tirana);
- focus on adaptation, provide concrete outcomes, and collaborate with stakeholders using design thinking to address climate-related challenges in tourism (COOL NOONS);
- engage tourism actors in designing sustainable offers to promote tourism as a solution to climate change; foster collaboration among producers, farmers, and SMEs (MED GIAHS);
- recognize the importance of balancing mitigation and adaptation efforts in tourism; consider the scale of impact on biodiversity and climate change at destination level (Global Footprint Network);
- highlight the significance of biodiversity for tourism destinations (IUCN).

4.2: How do we rethink and redesign tourism in light of climate and biodiversity emergencies?

4.2a: Challenges from the Projects

- “Fostering creativity and “out of the box” ideas on adaptation solutions” - *COOL NOONS*
- “Continuing and improvement of the systems through the development sustainable tourism activities, generating richness in the territories and reducing the risk of depopulation” - *MED-GIAHS*
- “The lack of integration of digital tools in smart sustainable destination management schemes prevent to face overtourism and climate change adaptation through nature-based solutions” - *HERIT ADAPT*
- “How to ensure the financial resources, expertise, knowledge to create climate action plans” - *BLUEPRINT*
- “Develop collaborations and build on best practice to avoid constantly reinventing wheel” - *BLUEPRINT*
- “Lack of “best practices” for southern mediterranean countries” - *ICZM/MSP manual*

4.2b: Key criteria from the Two Special Objectives - SO 2.4 and SO 2.7

Of Particular Relevance to Climate Change Adaptation;

- foster sustainable tourism models which ensure the protection of the environment;
- promote the importance of energy transition in the context of climate change;
- involve citizens in the greener transition of living areas with high touristic assets;

Of Particular Relevance to Nature and Biodiversity;

- ensure ecological corridors to boost and preserve biodiversity;
- reinforce sustainable, efficient management and strong protection of protected areas;
- improve restoration of ecosystems at land and sea degraded by tourism activities.

4.2c: Ideas from Rome Meeting for further exploration (with source of suggestion in brackets)

- advocate for integration and cross-cutting approaches in tourism planning (IUCN);
- strengthen relationships with various departments beyond natural parks and mobility to build livable destinations (DIBA);
- involve decision-makers from cities and DMOs in project dialogue to adapt to changing market dynamics (IUCN);
- address the challenge of international mobility in tourism redesign efforts; promote dialogue between Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) and other departments (Global Footprint Network);
- propose de-politicizing tourism strategy to improve relations between DMOs and governments; advocate for long-term planning based on market realities and honest acknowledgment of obstacles (ETOA);
- redesign tourism governance by involving all relevant departments; prioritize strategies to convince people and measure tourism flows; initiate projects integrating conservation and sustainability (Andalusia);
- utilize tourism as a tool to raise awareness of biodiversity in less-known destinations; engage local communities in biodiversity preservation efforts through tourism development (CISP);
- emphasize integration across spatial, temporal, and sectoral dimensions in tourism planning; foster cooperation from local to national levels (UTH).

4.3: How do we ensure necessary and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders required to support action?

4.3a: Challenges from the Projects

- "Involving local communities" - *COOL NOONS*
- "Raising awareness on climate changes, specifically in urban areas" - *COOL NOONS*
- "Knowledge about the role of and risks to heritage in the context of climate change and relevant tourism implications is not adequate, mandating new awareness raising approaches, utilizing flagship heritage for education" - *HERIT ADAPT*
- "Lack of integrated policies on tourism development and ecosystem-based governance of tourism destinations." - *NaTour4CChange*
- "Appreciation of responsibility for acting on climate" - *BLUEPRINT*

4.3b: Key criteria from the Two Special Objectives - SO 2.4 and SO 2.7

Of Particular Relevance to Climate Change Adaptation:

- involve citizens in the greener transition of living areas with high touristic assets.

Of Particular Relevance to Nature and Biodiversity:

- consolidate the connection of natural ecosystems with high touristic assets at transnational level;
- support the vision of biodiversity conservation as an economic and social value.

4.3c: Ideas from Rome Meeting for further exploration (with source of suggestion in brackets)

- establish cooperation among regional and city councils to address flight mobility challenges (Travel Foundation);
- replicate co-design approach from previous project to develop tourism strategy related to agricultural systems and experiences (MED GIAHS);
- create forum for tourism sustainability professionals to foster open dialogue and collaboration across departments; initiate CAPs in relevant departments to align with Glasgow Declaration (Andalusia);
- engage stakeholders through experiential learning; organize design-thinking workshops to raise awareness and generate feasible ideas; prioritize initiatives based on available budget (IUCN);
- encourage DMOs to prioritize solutions over new additions; evaluate the

added value of new initiatives compared to existing successful strategies (University of Toulon);
- consider supply chain costs and feasibility when transitioning to low-carbon mobility; leverage interdisciplinary knowledge for destination management; prioritize resident consultation to prevent negative market impacts (ETOA).

4.4: How do we ensure our projects deliver meaningful impact?

4.4a: Challenges from the Projects

- "Maintaining the availability of natural resources (water and soil) in a sustainable way" - *MED-GIAHS*
- "Preserving the landscapes, knowledge, culture and heritage" - *MED-GIAHS*
- "Sectoral segmentation and lack of interdisciplinary dialogue prevent to assess the scale of feasible interventions to enhance climate-neutrality, avoiding maladaptation at the same time." - *HERIT ADAPT*
- "Lack of testing and implementation of innovative approaches, where nature is used to improve the resilience of tourism assets" - *NaTour4CChange*
- "Mandate both inside organisation and also at destination/ community level for delivering action" - *BLUEPRINT*
- "Lack of resulting metrics on positive or negative impacts on related tourism activities" - *ICZM/MSP manual*
- "Difficulties in best practices assessment" - *ICZM/MSP manual*

4.4b: Key criteria from the Two Special Objectives - SO 2.4 and SO 2.7

Of Particular Relevance to Climate Change Adaptation:

- foster sustainable tourism models which ensure the protection of the environment;
- involve citizens in the greener transition of living areas with high touristic assets.

Of Particular Relevance to Nature and Biodiversity:

- reinforce sustainable, efficient management and strong protection of protected areas;
- support the vision of biodiversity conservation as an economic and social value.

4.4c: Following the presentations of the deliverables in Rome, a discussion was had about how to support the partners. The following points were proposed

- identify methodologies based on best practices for adaptation to various destinations; provide training targeting informed policy-makers (Andalusia);
- explore connection between Climate Action Plans (CAPs) and methodology implementation for destinations; consider suggestions for integration (Andalusia);
- establish support desk to assist with training and capacity-building efforts; involve stakeholders in the engagement process to ensure implementation (CISP);
- integrate transversal topics into discussions and initiatives to ensure comprehensive planning and action (IUCN);
- facilitate sustainable tourism panel discussions and knowledge transfer on governance and project implementation; leverage previous project experiences and develop sustainable tourism leadership summits (Lazio D4T);
- utilize the Mediterranean platform to access tools and connect with other implementers; integrate relevant tools into the platform for broader accessibility (UTH).

5. Key documents

Background reading from the C4T Projects' Deliverables

Blueprint for DMOs and Regional Authorities to develop Climate Action Plans (previously attached)

ICZM/MSP Processes Best Practices Manual for Planning Sustainable Tourism Activities in the Mediterranean (selection criteria)

Background reading to have a further context on issues relating to the cluster

Climate And Environmental Change In The Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation And Risks For The Future (2020)
The report assesses the best available scientific knowledge on climate and environmental change and associated risks in the Mediterranean Basin in order to render it accessible to policymakers, stakeholders and citizens.

Climate Change Impact On The Tourism Sector In The Southern Mediterranean (2018)
This study assesses the effects of climate change on the tourism sector across the southern Mediterranean countries and evaluates relevant policy measures addressing these challenges for the region.

First Scientific Report On Climate And Environmental Change In The Mediterranean (2021)
Report urges that policies for the sustainable development of Mediterranean countries are urgently needed to mitigate these risks and consider adaptation options, but policy-makers lacked adequate information.
Governance As A Tool For Sustainable And Responsible Tourism In The Mediterranean Region (2019)
Policy factsheet on sustainable tourism governance in the Mediterranean area linked to existing local,national and supranational governance tools and mechanisms.

Recommendations On Managing Tourism Carrying Capacity And Climate Change Resilience - mainstreaming plans (2022)
This report provides recommendations towards better management of the sustainable development of tourism, of the tourism carrying capacity and climate change resilience for tourism destinations.

Risks associated to climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region (2019)
A preliminary assessment of risk associated to climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC).

Sustainable Tourism In The Mediterranean: State Of Play And Strategic Directions (2020)
Strategic Directions for Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean to be implemented by regional, national and local policymakers and stakeholders under the following shared vision.

The Mediterranean Sea We Want (2021)
Paper presents major gaps and challenges for implementing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) in the Mediterranean region.

Tourism As A Strategic Driver For Inclusive, Responsible And Sustainable Growth In The Mediterranean Region (2019)
Report for policymakers and decision-makers to understand not only the benefits brought by tourism but also the threats and risks that come with it if it is not environmentally and socially sustainable over the long term.

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This document has been developed in the framework of the Thematic Community Project of the Sustainable Tourism Mission of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme 21-27 (Community4Tourism project) and its activity of the Mediterranean Clusters.

The Mediterranean Clusters are the main project's proposal for the support of the transferring of practices and results to other actors and territories, and their integration into local, regional, national and European policies and strategies, covering the 4 main topics that the Sustainable Tourism Mission integrates: innovation, circular economy, climate change and nature & biodiversity.

This document is the Orientation Paper for the MED Cluster Climate Change Adaptation and Nature and Biodiversity and aims to serve as a basis to launch the discussion and set the main priorities for the activities of each cluster in the coming years. It also integrates the main discussions and key challenges identified by the members of the cluster during the 1st Annual Meeting of the Clusters, organised in Rome (April 11, 2024).

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