

PROJECTS SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT PROTECTION

World Environment Day takes place every year on 5 June. It is the United Nations' flagship day for promoting worldwide awareness and action for the environment.

On this occasion, Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme publishes a Projects' Story-collection underlining the role of EU funds (ERDF) in supporting of the protection of natural heritage, of habitat and protected areas, with a focus on preserving and restoring biodiversity in the extensive Programme cross-border area of the Adriatic basin.

1/3

of all freshwater flow into Mediterranean comes through the Adriatic Sea

7000

Adriatic Sea species, of which many rare, endemic or endangered.

2/3

of commercially important species are overfished

Our projects are developing initiatives and concrete actions to maintain and restore the marine and coastal areas' ecosystem and environmental heritage, building joint solutions starting from the shared resources.

Together we save our planet better. With Interreg we can!

800 KM Adriatic Sea stretching north-south

200 KM Adriatic Sea stretching west-east

138600 KM² Adriatic Sea surface

5 PROJECT STORIES

DORY

Capitalization actions for aDriatic marine enviroNment pRotection and ecosYstem based management

Project has implemented actions for protecting commercial species (cuttlefish) nursery areas and improving biodiversity through the testing & adoption of fish stock restoration measures. Ecologically sustainable farming materials and methods have been tested to reduce ecological impact of mussel aquaculture.

CREW

Coordinated Wetland management in Italy-Croatia cross border region

Human economic activities, especially, cause a negative outputs that damage the delicate environment of the lagoon. The project promotes a multilevel governance tool called 'Wetland Contract', aimed at achieving global effects on the ecosystems of the coastal wetlands of the Adriatic Sea and on the related socio-economic aspects, overcoming the fragmentation that often jeopardize their integrity, development and conservation

SUSHI DROP

SUstainable fiSHeries with DRONES data Processing

Project is testing the underwater drones equipped with sensors to monitor the environmental status and estimate the fish abundance indices in marine areas characterized by rocky reefs and deep waters, in which classical fish samplings procedures are ineffective or inapplicable. The information collected is the basis to propose protection measures for the considered ecosystem, as the proposal of new protected areas or new Natura2000 sites

SASPAS

Safe Anchoring and Seagrass Protection in the Adriatic Sea

Project emphasis is on marine flowering plants vulnerability, especially Posidonia oceanica and testing of safe anchorage systems for seagrasses in Adriatic area. The activities are carried out in 3 national & regional natural parks. In the Kornati National park was implemented the first P. oceanica pilot transplantation with great success. These results represent a good starting point for development of an integrated management system for seagrasses in Adriatic area

ECOSS

Ecological observing System in the Adriatic Sea: oceanographic observations for biodiversity

ECOLOGICAL observing system in the Adriatic Sea, in short ECOAdS, is the main outcome of the project aimed at integrating ecological variables and oceanographic research and monitoring with Natura 2000 conservation strategies to come across the requirements set out in Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats and Birds Directive and EUSAIR Action Plan. Building on the open science principles, the observing system integrates different datasets into a new data infrastructure, providing also a set of tools and services to allow selection, analysis, visualization and reuse of integrated biological, ecological and oceanographic data.