



Climate change: yes, we care!

CHANGE WE CARE

Climate challenges on coastal and transitional changing areas: Weaving a Cross-Adriatic Response




PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project intends to explore climate risks faced by coastal and transition areas contributing to a better understanding of the impact of climate variability and change on water regimes, salt intrusion, tourism, biodiversity and agro-ecosystems affecting the cooperation area. The main aim is to define a paradigm for transferring successful methods of analysis, development and implementation of adaptation measures from five pilot sites to other systems facing similar problems at the cross-border scale and to deliver integrated, ecosystem-based and shared planning options, coupled with adaptation measures to decision makers and coastal communities.

PARTNERSHIP



PILOT SITE OVERVIEW

NAME	NERETVA RIVER DELTA
Country	Croatia
Responsible Partner	Public Institution for Management of Protected Natural Areas of Dubronik-Neretva County (PIDNC)
Reference Map	
General description	The river delta comprises the largest and the most valuable wetlands of the eastern Adriatic coast. The area is a significant resting and wintering place for migratory species and it provides many valuable ecological services.

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TOTAL BUDGET: € 2,700,780.00



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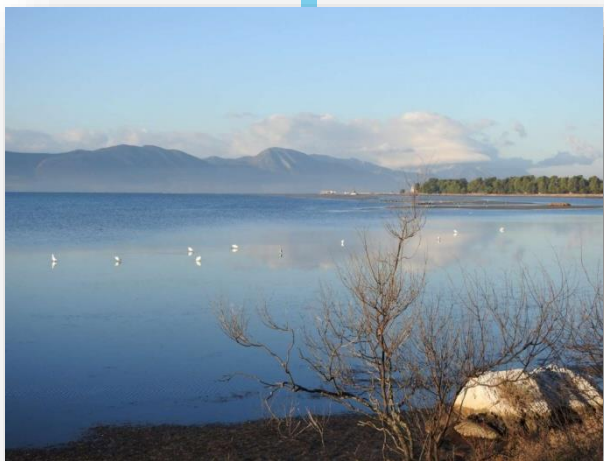
GEOMORPHOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

The Neretva River originates in the mountains of Herzegovina and it flows into a delta covering a surface of 20 000 ha, which is surrounded with karst hills rich with underground water supplining numerous springs, streams and lakes. The delta is characterised by wide lagoons, sandflats, saltmarshes and agricultural lands. It is a Natura 2000 site and internationally important areas for birds, where at least 313 registered bird species are present. Moreover it is an exceptionally important habitat for breeding many fish species.



MAIN PROBLEMS TO BE TACKLED & OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE

The area is suffering a number of issues related to climate change such sea water intrusion, reduced fresh water inflow, settlement of invasive species and loss of habitat suitable for agriculture and fishery. Moreover, modifications on freshwater and sediment transport regimes and loss of ichthyofauna are taking place due to hydropower systems construction and illegal land reclamation/fishing, respectively. For these reasons there is an urgent need to activate measures for balancing the territorial development request with the necessary protection of natural resources and sensitive ecosystems.



ACTIVITIES TO CARRY OUT & STAKEHOLDER TO BE INVOLVED

The Project intends to develop adaptive measures to effectively oppose salt water intrusion without obstructing fish migration, to preserve not only the wetland habitats and biodiversity but also important activities such as agriculture and fishery. These activities will be carried out in collaboration with Hrvatske vode, Dubrovnik Neretva County, Municipality of Slivno, Municipality of Zažablje, Municipality of Kula Norinska, City of Ploče, City of Metković, City of Opuzen, University of Split Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy.

