

*Exploring new models to balance exploitation and conservation of protected areas*

## Welcome!

This bi-annual newsletter is dedicated to sharing news, events and updates from IMPACT project. Enjoy reading!

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### Partners overview



#### Molise Region, Italy.

Molise is a region in southern Italy with 311,406 inhabitants. With its 4438 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the second smallest region in Italy after the Valle d'Aosta. Its surface is divided almost equally between mountainous areas, 55.3% of the territory, and hilly areas, 44.7 % of the territory.

The mountainous zone extends between the Abruzzese Apennines and the Samnite Apennines. The climate is Mediterranean, especially along the coast, with cool and rainy winters and hot summers. On the coast the climate is milder; however, as one proceeds towards the interior it becomes cooler and temperatures drop significantly.

In Molise there are 7 Protected Areas distributed into 3 categories: 1 National Park, 4 Natural Reserves (3 State and 1 Regional) and 2 Oasis. The total area covered by these protected areas accounts for about 1.7% of the region. From 2010, the Molise Region has set up other two Regional Natural Reserves that will be included in the next official list of protected areas.

Among these, of particular importance are the State Nature Reserves of Pesche and those of Collemeluccio and Montedimezzo, which are recognized by UNESCO as Biosphere Reserves in the context of "Man and Biosphere" International Programme (MAB reserves).

The Molise Region has the institutional competence to determine the correct management of the natural heritage and promotes the conservation of natural heritage within its territory through the new Regional Operational Programme (ROP) 2014-2020, financed by ERDF, specifically axis 5, namely the thematic objective "Safeguard the environment and promote efficient use of resources".

The protected areas that will be the focus of the Action plan of the Regione Molise within the IMPACT project are:



### The MAB Reserve "Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto Molise"

The MAB Reserve "Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto Molise" is one of the first UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserve in Italy, that was established already in 1971 and enlarged in 2004. Like all other Biosphere Reserves it has three types of areas: Core,

Buffer and Transition/Cooperation areas.

[Discover the park](#)



### The Natural Reserve "Guardiaregia - Campochiaro"

The Regional Natural Reserve "Guardiaregia - Campochiaro" is managed by a series of public and private partners that share the objectives of conservation, among which Molise Region, Municipalities, WWF Oasis, Cooperativa La Ramegna and WWF Volunteers.

[Discover the park](#)

### MAB - Man and Biosphere Reserve

MABs or Biosphere reserves are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. The main governing body is the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme and it is elected by the UNESCO. Their status is internationally recognised.

Biosphere reserves have three interrelated zones that aim to fulfil three complementary and mutually reinforcing functions:

The core area(s) comprises a strictly protected ecosystem that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.

The buffer zone surrounds or adjoins the core areas, and is used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.

The transition area is the part of the reserve where the greatest activity is allowed, fostering economic and human development that is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable.

## Interview



### Nicolina del Bianco

*Director of service protection and enhancement of the mountain and forests, biodiversity and sustainable development. Molise Region, Italy.*

**Q: Why has the Regione Molise decided to promote this project?**

**NdB:** The Regional Operational Programme ERDF/ESF 2014-2020 foresees some specific objectives aimed to the protection, exploitation and enhancement of areas of natural attraction of strategic importance (protected terrestrial and marine areas, protected landscapes) that will reinforce and promote the territorial development...

[Read the whole interview](#)

## IMPACT work in progress

**Good practices identified by IMPACT partners:**



### Olivares vivos "Each olive tree with its owl"

Regional Government of Andalusia, Spain.



### Shifting dune management on the Curonian Spit, a coastal UNESCO World Heritage landscape

EUCC Baltic Office, Lithuania.



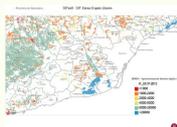
**Co-operative "La Ramegna" Small Social Cooperative of Guardiaregia (CB)**  
Molise Region



**Landscape monitoring in two transboundary parks from Romania and Serbia: Iron Gates Nature Park and Djerdap National Park**  
INCDT, Romania.



**Promoting open spaces in a forest park as a means of increasing biodiversity**  
EUROPARC Federation, Collserola natural park.



**SITXELL "Incorporation of the ecological values of natural spaces to urban and land planning**  
EUROPARC Federation, Barcelona Provincial Council.



**The Vitoria-Gasteiz Green Belt: actions for the conservation of biodiversity**  
EUROPARC Federation, Anillo verde de Vitoria-Gasteiz.



**Pond management for the conservation of amphibians in Collserola Natural Park**  
EUROPARC Federation, Collserola natural park.

## IMPACT events

### **IMPACT at EUROPARC Conference 2017**

Last September 6th, EUROPARC Conference 2017 opened its doors in Portugal, in the Magic Mountains territory, to over 300 protected area professionals from all over Europe.

Under the theme "New Voices, New Visions, New Values" the Conference was an opportunity to debate the questions that modern society is raising about its core values. IMPACT Interreg Europe was present at the Conference, and organized a dedicated **Speakers Corner** on the topic "Open dialogue: where are the limits of socio-economic development in protected areas". Furthermore, a dedicated stall in the Conference's Market Place was held to promote the project.

### **IMPACT project present at Littoral 2017 Conference**

EUCC Baltic Office Director, gave a presentation at the Littoral 2017 conference, which took place in Liverpool 4 to 7 September, 2017.

Littoral 2017 is an international meeting of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers dedicated to coastal and maritime conservation and management having the longest tradition in Europe among such kind of events.

### **Stakeholders meetings in Andalusia, Spain**

From June 15th to July 3rd, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Regional Government of Andalusia convened and held meetings in different natural spaces in Andalusian region .

In addition to the Ministry staff, directors of several Natural Parks and personnel from different organisations attended to these meetings. The aforementioned organisations included local business development centres, rural development groups, the Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia and the Councils of Tourism and Culture.

## **Interregional meeting in Molise Region**

The meeting was organised along 3 days, from Wednesday 7th June to Friday 9th, and included an exchange of good practices on protected areas, an interregional event to know from first hand conservation policies and practical examples from Molise Region, a **Round table** with IMPACT stakeholders on limits of sustainable development in protected areas and two study visits:

The MAB Reserve "Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto Molise

The Natural Reserve "Guardiaregia - Campochiaro" Check out the pictures of the meeting in our **photo-gallery**.

## **Related news**

### **UNESCO MAB Young Scientists Awards: helping young people help the planet**

Since 1989 MAB has been providing young researchers each year with awards of up to US\$ 5,000 in support of their research on ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity.

The deadline for submission of application forms for the 2018 MAB Young Scientists Awards is 15 December 2017.

## **About IMPACT Interreg Europe project**

Innovative Models for Protected Areas: exChange and Transfer, or simply IMPACT, is an interregional cooperation project developed with the support of the EU European Regional Development Fund. Its objective is to introduce new management models in protected areas to promote socioeconomic activities that are respectful with nature.

During a four years process, the following six partners will be sharing best practices, designing Sustainable Development Plans for their respective protected areas and implementing them:

- Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain), as the Lead Partner.
- EUROPARC Federation (Germany), as the Advisory partner.
- EUCC Baltic office (Lithuania).
- Molise region (Italy).
- National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism (Romania).
- Espaces Naturels Régionaux (France).

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