
Workshop to Present Draft Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation to Climate Change in
Different Coastal Typologies

April, 24-25 April 2024

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 adopted by the 22nd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Slovenia, 2023), PAP/RAC organized the Workshop to Present Draft Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation to Climate Change in Different Coastal Typologies held on 24th and 25th April 2024 in Rome, Italy.

The main objectives of the meeting were to (i) present coastal typologies; (ii) make introduction to Nature-based Solutions (NbS); (iii) present good practices of nature-based solutions; and (iv) discuss the finalisation and possible uses of the Guidelines.

Attendance

1. The meeting was attended by participants from 14 Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Türkiye, as well as one representative from INFO/RAC.
2. Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was present as the organizer. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Opening of the Meeting and Organizational Matters (Agenda Items 1 and 2)

3. The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. on 24 April 2024 by Mr. Marko Prem, PAP/RAC Deputy Director, who welcomed the participants and introduced the background and objectives of the meeting. Ms. Željka Skaričić PAP/RAC Director a.i. welcomed the participants and underlined the importance of this activity for the Centre. She invited the meeting to contribute to discussions so the Guidelines could be finalised and disseminated at a wider scale. The PAP/RAC National Focal Point from Italy Mr. Giordano Giorgi also welcomed the participants on behalf of the host country and stressed the importance of NbS for the adaptation to climate change which is a challenge for the whole Mediterranean region. He also mentioned several initiatives of his country related to this topic.
4. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Prem who introduced the agenda that was adopted by the meeting.

Presentation of coastal typologies (Agenda item 1)

5. Mr. Gonzalo Malvarez, PAP/RAC consultant, introduced the proposed coastal typology for the Guidelines, highlighting its correlation with the level of coastal artificialization (artificial, semi-artificial, semi-natural and transitional coasts, along with natural coasts). During the presentation, he referenced various examples from across the Mediterranean region, emphasizing that the concept of interventions is deeply integrated in human history. He stressed that understanding the functioning of the ecosystems is a key for NbS for climate change, as well as their resilience that changes through time due to human interventions and due to processes like the climate change.

6. During the subsequent discussion, participants agreed with the approach and emphasized different aspects related to the presented material. One remark referred to the point, that human involvement is not always detrimental. The other pointed out that the Guidelines could also be relevant for inland watercourses as well as for the entire watersheds. A few participants expressed that the legislation in their respective countries only acknowledges two types of coasts, whereas the proposal in these Guidelines outlines five types. During a discussion, a question arose regarding the correlation between the Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Ms. Skaricic, replied that NbS could serve as a valuable instrument for addressing the associated concerns of coastal protection outlined in the Protocol on ICZM.

Introduction to nature-based solutions in the context of adaptation to climate change (Agenda item 2)

7. Under this Agenda Item, Mr. Igor Belamarić, PAP/RAC consultant delivered a presentation outlining the Guidelines' content. He provided an overview of the contributors and their respective contributions, as well as the key concepts within the covered topics.
8. The discussion particularly focused on Table 1, which serves as a summary for the entire Guidelines. In the discussion it was suggested to add explanatory text to the table as well as to expand it a bit so to refer to the coastal typology and make it visually more appealing.
9. Other participants' comments referred to points such as: establishing a balance in descriptions of specific ecosystems, it was suggested to emphasize more strongly the role of Posidonia meadows and to tailor NbS specifically to coastal types. Additionally, it was suggested to consider different levels of intervention, such as from strategic planning, spatial planning, sectoral planning and alike. It was explained that administrative responsibilities differ from country to country as it depends on institutional arrangements and that the Guidelines is only a tool that will assist all that deal with coastal management. Also, it was suggested that it would be important to highlight examples that cannot be considered an NbS.

Presentation of good practices of nature-based solutions found in the Mediterranean Region (Agenda item 3)

10. Mr. Belamarić outlined the effective utilization of NbS prevalent in the Mediterranean Region, highlighting one example from each Mediterranean country.
11. In the discussion, it was suggested that the icons from the Table 1 of the document could be used to provide a better overview of the implemented NbS within each example. Also, it was suggested to expand the text on each case so more information is available. Additionally, the Guidelines should include examples of small-scale interventions such as those provided in projects like AdriAadapt.
12. Some representatives emphasized that for some countries there existed other interesting examples that could be included in the report and they proposed to provide examples that would illustrate the use of NbS in the coastal areas of these countries. The logic for selection, as explained by the consultant, was to cover the diversity of as many as

possible NbS options in these four coastal typologies. However, if other examples exist they would be welcome and considered for inclusion in the Guidelines.

13. A discussion on cost-benefit analysis for different NbS and valuation of ecosystem services took place; however, it was concluded that this may be risky as each location is unique and figures could be misleading. Such an analysis would be useful only in the case of some small-scale interventions, such as the replantation of Posidonia. In Italy there is an ongoing project on Posidonia replantation and some more information could be provided by the Italian representative who is also the manager of this project.

Finalisation and possible uses of the Guidelines (Agenda Item 4)

14. Mr. Prem started the meeting with a brief overview of the main conclusions from the previous day and continued with the introduction regarding the finalisation of the Guidelines and their possible uses. He encouraged participants to contribute with their experience on the promotion and dissemination of the Guidelines.
15. A rich discussion has developed around different ideas, such as: to make available links between the chapters/topics in the online version so to be as user friendly as possible; to include an interactive map for navigation between the examples; if possible, to make links to more information at primary source for some examples; to use the Guidelines for awareness raising purposes; to promote the Guidelines via social media and have some regular posts as reminders; to promote it through meetings, webinars and training courses such as MedOpen or PAP/RAC; to count on National Focal Points to disseminate the Guidelines with other Ministries and sectors at national and local levels and in particular to spatial/urban planners, including its publication at the relevant web sites; and to translate it to other languages in addition to English and French.
16. Mr. Malvarez proposed the creation of a scientific article based on Table 1 and existing information from the text of the Guidelines. This article would stimulate discussion within the scientific community and enhance the visibility of the Guidelines themselves. The participants' reaction was affirmative.
17. Other comments were related to creating user-friendly links directly to the examples of good practice, as well as adding additional examples. A question was also raised regarding the establishment of links with inland/watershed and open sea NbS. It was proposed to use the UNEP definition for NbS instead of the IUCN one or to redefine it for this publication. Also, it was suggested to include keywords and a summary in the publication. Most deficiencies were noted in the chapter on erosion; therefore, it was proposed to supplement the article on this topic in the Guidelines. When it comes to the use of material for NbS, it was underlined that local techniques and material should be used.

Any other business (Agenda item 7)

18. Under this agenda item no additional topics have been proposed and discussed.

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting (Agenda Item 8)

19. Based on the presentation and discussion of all agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a) The meeting welcomed draft Guidelines, endorsed its content and proposed some recommendations on how to improve it.
- b) The case studies will be updated and completed, focusing on various aspects such as coastal type, predominant ecosystem, and other ecosystems.
- c) Efforts will be made to include local-scale examples of NbS, particularly those already mentioned during the AdriAdapt project.
- d) Draft Guidelines will be shared in Word format for participants to provide comments directly in the text. The deadline for the submission comments is set at 10 May. Participants are also invited to contribute with additional information and examples to further enrich the document.

Closure of the meeting (Agenda item 9)

- 20. The Chair thanked the participants for their valuable contributions and closed the meeting at 12.30 on 25 April 2024.

Annex I List of participants**REPRESENTATIVES OF CONTRACTING PARTIES**

ALBANIA	Ms. Jula Selmani Ministry of Tourism and Environment
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Ms. Sabina Hadžiahmetović Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS)
CROATIA	Ms. Lidija Škec Institute for Spatial Development
CYPRUS	Ms. Yiota Lazarou Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
EGYPT	Ms. Samar Ossamy Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
ISRAEL	Ms. Hend Halaby Ministry of Environmental Protection
ITALY	Mr. Giordano Giorgi Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)
LIBYA	Mr. Almunji Saed Adrees Alsamh Environment General Authority
MALTA	Ms. Tania Micallef Darmanin Planning Authority
MOROCCO	Ms. Mounia Hamdaoui Service du Littoral Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable
SLOVENIA	Mr. Sašo Šantl Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

SPAIN	Ms. Isabel Flores Montoya Ministry for Ecological Transition
TUNISIA	Ms. Raja Abdelmalek L'Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL)
TÜRKİYE	Mr. Emrah Soylemez Ministry of Environment Urbanisation and Climate Change Directorate General of Spatial Planning

Other participants

Mr. Gonzalo Malvarez	PAP/RAC consultant; Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville
Mr. Igor Belamarić	PAP/RAC consultant; Arenaria, Split
Ms. Željka Škaričić	PAP/RAC
Mr. Marko Prem	PAP/RAC
Ms. Lada Jakelić	PAP/RAC
Ms. Francesca Catini	INFO/RAC

Annex II Meeting agenda

Wednesday, 24 April 2024

9:30 – 10:00 **Registration of participants**

10:00 – 10:15 **Opening and Welcome**

Session 1: Coastal typologies

10:15– 11:15 **Presentation of coastal typologies**
Q&A and comments

11:15 – 11:45 **Coffee break**

Session 2: Nature-based solutions

11:45 – 12:45 **Introduction to nature-based solutions in the context of adaptation to climate change**
Q&A and comments

12:45 – 14:30	Lunch break
	<i>Session 3: Good practices</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Presentation of good practices of nature-based solutions found in the Mediterranean Region
	Q&A and comments
16:00 – 16:30	Wrap up of the day
Thursday, 25 April 2024	
	<i>Session 4: Next steps</i>
9:30-11:00	Short introduction regarding: a) Finalisation of the Guidelines b) Possible uses of the Guidelines
	Q&A and comments
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	Session 5: Conclusions and closure
