



Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) status report

The Consortium:



Ministarstvo poljoprivrede,
šumarstva i vodoprivrede HNŽ



Project Information	
Project Acronym	NaTour4CChange
Project Full Title	Governing sustainable tourism in territories with high environmental value: reconnecting tourism and nature for addressing the climate crisis with an ecosystem-based approach
Project Priority	#2: A Greener Med
Project Mission	#4 Enhancing Sustainable Tourism
Specific Objective	#2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches
Type of Project	Thematic Project
Contract No	Euro-MED0200735
Start date	1 January 2024
Duration	33 months

Deliverable Information	
Deliverable no	2.2.1
Deliverable title	Regional Coordination Unit status report
Contractual date of delivery	June 2024
Actual date of delivery	September 2024
Type of deliverable	External
Nature of deliverable	Report
Work Package	2
Activities	2.2 Establishment of the "Regional Coordination Unit" for Climate Action in Tourism
Partner responsible	CPMR



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Version	Date	Contributors
1	13/09/2024	CPMR
2	27/08/2024	CPMR, HSPN, PLAN BLEU, IFT, IUCN, NATURA JADERA
3	30/09/2024	CPMR, HSPN



Project Overview

The Mediterranean region is one of the most vulnerable hotspots in the current biodiversity and climate crises, warming 20% faster than the global average and being the second biodiversity hotspot in the world. The increase of severe climate events are also likely to influence the choice of destinations and time to travel for its over 510 million inhabitants. The effects of climate change will put additional pressure on already strained ecosystems and vulnerable economies and societies, with tourism being one of the most affected economic sectors.

The recent Transition Pathway for Tourism and the Glasgow Declaration are building a global momentum for Climate Action in Tourism, but policymakers and destinations need support to better develop efficient climate mitigation and adaptation policies using ecosystem-based approaches and improved multi-level governance structures, including robust planning and ensure the long-term engagement of the private sector and citizens. Indeed, ecosystem-based management is considered a good practice to effectively deal with these threats as it considers the different stakeholders and factors affecting ecosystems and the mechanisms involved, in order to find solutions.

NaTour4CChange builds on and capitalises on successful experiences at the Mediterranean and global level to test solutions for increasing the resilience of coastal destinations in the Mediterranean. The project will aim to set common methods to allow participating regions to assess their tourism-related climate adaptation and mitigation priorities, and take climate action via plans and strategies, supported by cooperative governance.

In coastal destinations, cross-sector teams will deliver specific tourism climate Action Plans, focusing on climate adaptation, where Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will be tested to ensure their feasibility. At the same time, innovative destination marketing and communication approaches will engage private stakeholders, visitors, and residents in climate action.

The project will also ensure cross-fertilisation among participating regions and destinations, to achieve common methods and to compare the different tested plans and solutions, leading to lessons, best practices, and policy.



Glossary

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate measures to prevent or minimise the damage they may cause, or to take advantage of the opportunities that may arise.

Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) means making the impacts of climate change less severe by reducing the sources of emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere or by improving the storage of these gases.

Ecosystem Services (ES) are the benefits that an ecosystem brings to society and that improve people's health, economy, and quality of life.

Ecosystem-based Approaches (EbA) focus on managing biodiversity and ecological systems in a holistic way to maintain and enhance ecosystem services benefits and functions.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) encompasses all actions that rely on ecosystems and the services they provide to respond to various societal challenges such as climate change, food security, resource management, or disaster risk.



1. INTRODUCTION

The 5 partners testing activities at a regional level, supported by the CPMR, will create/foster a formally established inter-departmental coordination unit, henceforth referred to as “Regional Coordination Unit (RCU)”, including at least the tourism and environment /climate change departments, to define an integrated “Regional Tourism Climate Strategy/Plan” in a joint and collaborative manner.

The RCU will also select -using the common criteria developed in Work Package 1- and supervise the pilot site(s) that will be involved in the testing activities at destination level (Work Package 3). The RCU should meet regularly and prove that the main departments related to climate action are involved.



2. PROCESS FOR SETTING THE RCU AT PROJECT LEVEL

1. Brief presentation of the RCUs' objective at the following meetings:
 - a. 2 February 2024 – Pre-kick-off meeting
 - b. 5 March 2024 – Kick-off meeting
2. Preparation of a document providing a context, expected tasks and main responsibilities for the RCUs (see annex section, Annex A).
3. Preparation of a template for the engagement letter, to be adapted in each region (see annex section, Annex B).
4. Each region decides how to establish the RCU, but they are encouraged to do it through a letter of commitment (or similar), to provide continuity beyond the end of the project.
5. Follow-up on the establishment of Regional Coordination Units in each region at subsequent monthly meetings and bilaterally.



3. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISMS ISSUED BY 5 PILOT REGIONS

3.1. ANDALUCIA

Departments involved

- Secretary General for Tourism
- Secretary General for Environment, Climate Change and Blue Economy
- Directorate General for Natural Protected Areas
- The Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park's Directorate
- Climate Change Office

Pilot site selected (linked to activity 2.3 and following activity 3.1 criteria)

- Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park

Meetings organised in the framework of the RCU composition

- March 2024: Official establishment of the RCU

Internal organization of the RCU

The reference person of the RCU will animate the members and will keep them informed about all relevant issues for the purpose of the unit.

The main communication tool will be the e-mail, but ad-hoc meetings will be organized to address specific topics such as the development of the Climate Action Strategy and to ensure a fluid communication with the pilot destination.

Letters of commitment or other relevant information

- Available in the annex section (Annex C)

3.2. JADRANSKA HRVATSKA (ZADAR COUNTY)

Departments involved

- NATURA-JADERA
- Zadar County
- Tourism Board of Zadar County
- University of Zadar
- Institute For Tourism

Pilot site selected (linked to activity 2.3 and following activity 3.1 criteria)

- Island Dugi otok (Municipality of Sali)

Meetings organised in the framework of the RCU composition

- From March to June 2024, bilateral exchanges were done to identify departments and organizations to be part of the RCU.



- 30 September 2024: 1st RCU meeting

Internal organization of the RCU

Members of the RCU will be encouraged to actively participate in the development of the Regional Climate Action Strategy related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, with the aim of identifying additional stakeholders (institutions) and publications (either already published or under development, not limited to those related to climate and the environment).

A questionnaire is also being prepared for RCU members, which will provide information on the primary climate variables, hazards, and impacts that cause the greatest challenges in Zadar County. Additionally, RCU members will use the questionnaire to indicate which measures they consider most appropriate for addressing these challenges (technical/infrastructural, managerial, political, educational, behavioral, and R&I-related measures). Based on the outcomes of the meetings and the questionnaire, the RCU will compile the responses, guidelines, information, data, and documents for drafting the Strategy.

Meetings will be held at least twice a year, or more frequently if needed. The pilot site will keep the unit informed about its activities during the meetings or after significant activities have been completed.

Letters of commitment or other relevant information

- Available in the annex section (Annex D)

3.3. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Departments involved

- Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management
- The Environmental Protection Fund
- Agency for Watershed of the Adriatic Sea
- University of Mostar - Faculty of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Educational Sciences

Pilot site selected (linked to activity 2.3 and following activity 3.1 criteria)

- Nature Park Hutovo Blato (municipalities of Čapljina and Stolac) and the municipality of Neum

Meetings organised in the framework of the RCU composition

- From March to June 2024: Bilateral exchanges
- 1 October 2024: 1st meeting to present to all the involved departments the activities that will be done to develop the Strategy.

Internal organization of the RCU

The RCU will be responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of the Regional Tourism Climate Strategy. The main communication tool will be e-



mail, but ad-hoc meetings will be organized when necessary. The RCU will be constantly in contact with the pilot site coordinator.

Letters of commitment or other relevant information

- Available in the annex section (Annex E)

3.4. SARDINIA

Departments involved

- Environmental Department (Environmental Sustainability and CC Service)
- Environmental Department (Nature Conservation Service)
- Tourism, Commerce and Handicrafts Department (Programming and Business Funding Services)
- Public Works Department (Transportation Infrastructure and Road Safety Service, Water and Hydrogeological Works Service)
- Regional Agency of the Hydrographic District of Sardinia
- Local Governments Department (State Property Service and Landscape and Urban Planning Service)
- Transport Department (Service for Infrastructure, Strategic Planning and Transportation Investment)
- Agriculture Department (Agri-environmental Rural Territory and Infrastructure Service)

Pilot site selected (linked to activity 2.3 and following activity 3.1 criteria)

- Marine Protected Area of Capo Carbonara (Municipality of Villasimius)

Meetings organised in the framework of the RCU composition.

- From March to June 2024: bilateral exchanges
- 12 June 2024: 1st meeting with the Marine Protected Area of Capo Carbonara (Municipality of Villasimius)

Internal organization of the RCU

The RCU will be responsible for contributing to the development of the Regional Climate Action Strategy for the tourism sector, ensuring alignment with the [Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#). The Unit will hold bimonthly meetings, during which each member will present their sectoral input and collaborate in defining a comprehensive vision.

The Villasimius pilot will be an opportunity to test and validate Nature-based Solutions (NbS), with the intention of replicating the lessons learned to other pilot areas in the future. The RCU will bring thematic expertise to facilitate the development of the Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Letters of commitment or other relevant information

- In process



3.5. CRETE

Departments involved:

- Directorate or Development Regional Unity of Lassithi
- Department of Tourism Regional Unity of Lassithi
- Department of Environment & Water Economics Regional Unity of Lassithi

- Department of Civil Protection Regional Unity of Lassithi

Pilot site selected (linked to activity 2.3 and following activity 3.1 criteria)

- Ori Zakrou and Koufonisi Island

Meetings organised in the framework of the RCU composition

- From March to June 2024: Bilateral exchange

Internal organization of the RCU

The reference person will be responsible for informing all RCU members about the updates, organise relevant meetings (online or in person) and coordinate with the pilot destination. The main communication tool will be the email.

Letters of commitment or other relevant information

- Available in the annex section (Annex F)

Annexes

Annex A. Document providing a context, expected tasks and main responsibilities for the RCUs

Annex B. Engagement letter template

Annex C. Andalusia engagement letter

Annex D. Zadar County engagement letter

Annex E. Bosnia and Herzegovina engagement letter

Annex F. Crete engagement letter

Activity 2.2: Setting a Regional Coordination Unit (CU) for Climate Action in Tourism

<p>Context of the Coordination Unit</p> <p>What is it and why is it important?</p>	<p>The "Coordination Unit" is an interdepartmental unit composed of, at least, public servants from tourism and environment/conservation /climate change departments responsible for monitoring and developing the Regional Tourism Climate Plan and Strategy.</p> <p>The formal establishment of the Coordination Unit in each region is one of the most relevant components of the project to define an integrated Regional Tourism Climate Strategy and Plan and articulate it in a collaborative manner.</p> <p>Each "Coordination Unit" should be formally established, by each Regional Administration, by the end of June 2024 (Project Application Form deadline).</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p><i>(1) The strategy/plan won't be just related to the project. It aims to provide a framework to support the ongoing climate action works at regional level (e.g., give a more tourism-relevant approach, detailing or updating a plan or strategy, carry out concrete actions, etc.).</i></p> <p><i>(2) All regions must report about the process since a deliverable will be prepared (D.2.2.1), gathering a summary description of the 5 coordination mechanisms issued by 5 pilot regions.</i></p>
<p>Coordination Unit tasks and responsibilities</p> <p>What is it expected from this Unit?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the engagement of all (or most) tourism, CC-related, conservation departments in the Unit, at least for the duration of the project, but ideally also beyond the end of the project, to coordinate the Climate Change Action Plan implementation. • Identify a reference person within the Coordination Unit who will follow, report, and coordinate the work of the Unit. • Meet regularly and share the main outputs of the meetings (minutes, pictures, results...) with the CUs of the other Regions and NaTour4CChange project partners. • Work together with the NaTour4CChange project partners to develop a Regional Tourism Climate Strategy/Plan, based on the methodologies/frameworks developed within the project. • Take into account and capitalize on the results of the different project activities to develop the Strategy and Plan. • Map institutional gaps that may be encountered during the process, aiming to address them and improve regional

	<p>administration processes so that the Regional Tourism Climate Strategy/Plan can be smoothly implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select and supervise the pilot site involved in the testing activities at destination level (WP3). The selection will be done by the Regional Project Partner using the common criteria set by the project partnership• Make sure to appoint a "pilot destination coordinator" (an organization, not a physical person) to facilitate the process and make it smoother - preferably a DMO.• Participate in events (online /in person) when necessary, to share experiences, good practices, exchange of ideas...• Ensure that work is done in an integrated manner to improve tourism climate policy and governance, to adapt and mitigate climate change in (coastal) tourism destinations.• Contribute to the development of policy recommendations in the framework of the project so that it can be replicated in other regions.
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Monitoring file [HERE](#)

As part of the NaTour4CChange project, co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme, a **Coordination Unit** for **Climate Action in Tourism** in each region will be set up.

The Coordination Unit will be composed of, at least, tourism and environment/conservation/climate change departments and will be responsible for defining, developing, and monitoring the **Regional Tourism Climate Plan/Strategy**

Note: The strategy/plan will not be just related to the project. It aims at providing a framework to support the ongoing climate action works at regional level (e.g., give a more tourism-relevant approach, detailing or updating a plan or strategy, carry out concrete actions, etc.).

I, [XXX], [job title XXX] in the region of [XXX], have been appointed as facilitator within the Coordination Unit. I commit myself to follow, report and coordinate the work of the Unit and liaise with the NaTour4CChange project, according to the tasks and responsibilities expected for the Coordination Unit that has been sent to me in advance. The list of specific tasks is annexed to this letter.

Date:

Signature:



REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

As part of the NaTour4CChange project, co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Program, a Coordination Unit for in each region will be set up. The Coordination Unit is an interdepartmental working group that composed of, at least, tourism and environment/conservation/climate change departments, and will be responsible for defining, developing, and monitoring the Regional Tourism Climate Plan/Strategy¹.

To that aim, we, the undersigned JUAN CARLOS LUCENA NAVARRO as Coordinator for Economic Management and Tourism Planning of the Secretary General for Tourism; and ELENA ORTEGA DÍAZ as Coordinator of the Analysis, Planning and Promotion of Sustainability of the Secretary General for Environment, Climate Change and Blue Economy, confirm the intention to establish the **Regional Coordination Unit for Climate Action in Tourism**, in the framework of the NaTour4CChange project.

The main objectives of the Unit are to ensure the engagement of the relevant tourism and climate change-related stakeholders in the region, and to coordinate the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan/Strategy for Tourism. The specific objectives are:

- Identify a **reference person** within the Coordination Unit who will follow, report, and coordinate the work of the Unit.
- Meet regularly and share the main outputs of the meetings (minutes, pictures, results...) with the CUs of the other Regions and NaTour4CChange project partners.
- Work together with the NaTour4CChange project partners to develop a **Regional Tourism Climate Strategy/Plan**, based on the methodologies/frameworks developed within the project.
- Take into account and **capitalize** on the results of the different project activities to develop the Strategy and Plan.
- **Map institutional gaps** that may be encountered during the process, aiming to address them and improve regional administration processes so that the Regional Tourism Climate Strategy and Plan can be smoothly implemented.
- Select and supervise the pilot site involved in the testing activities at destination level (WP3). The selection will be done by the Regional Project Partner using the common criteria set by the project partnership.
- Appoint a "pilot destination coordinator", (an organization, not a physical person) to facilitate the process and make it smoother. In the case of Andalusia, the Park's directorate will act as coordinator.

¹ The strategy/plan won't be just related to the project. It aims to provide a framework to support the ongoing climate action works at regional level (e.g., give a more tourism-relevant approach, detailing or updating a plan or strategy, carry out concrete actions, etc.).

FIRMADO POR	ELENA ORTEGA DIAZ		22/03/2024	PÁGINA 1/2
	JUAN CARLOS LUCENA NAVARRO			
VERIFICACIÓN	Pk2jmUBG622PWE9CNUMCZG78PGT4FL	https://ws050.juntadeandalucia.es/verificarFirma		



- Participate in events (online /in person) when necessary, to share experiences, good practices, exchange of ideas...
- Ensure that work is done in an **integrated manner** to improve tourism climate policy and governance, to adapt and mitigate climate change in (coastal) tourism destinations.
- Contribute to the development of **policy recommendations** in the framework of the project so that it can be replicated in other regions.

As **reference person** within the Coordination Unit we appoint JOSE FRANCISCO BENITEZ SANTOS, EU Projects Advisor and Coordinator of NaTour4CChange on behalf of the project partner. The main tasks to carry out by the reference person are:

- Report and coordinate the work of the Unit and liaise with the NaTour4CChange project, according to the tasks and responsibilities expected for the Coordination Unit.

According to the common criteria established by the project², the pilot site selected to develop the testing activities at destination level in WP3 “Destination resilience”, is the **Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park**. The main activities to carry out will be:

- Climate action planning
- Testing/assessment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
- Implementation of marketing and communication actions
- The creation of a “**Tourism Climate Action Taskforce**”, that will bring together all the main public and private stakeholders at local level that are crucial for climate action planning in tourism

Seville, (digital signature and date)

JUAN CARLOS LUCENA NAVARRO
Coordinator for Economic Management and Tourism Planning
of the Secretary General for Tourism

ELENA ORTEGA DÍAZ
Coordinator of the Analysis, Planning and
Promotion of Sustainability of the Secretary
General for Environment, Climate Change and
Blue Economy

² Deliverable 3.1.2. COMMON CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PILOT SITE DESTINATION

FIRMADO POR	ELENA ORTEGA DIAZ		22/03/2024	PÁGINA 2/2
	JUAN CARLOS LUCENA NAVARRO			
VERIFICACIÓN	Pk2jmUBG622PWE9CNUMCZG78PGT4FL	https://ws050.juntadeandalucia.es/verificarFirma		

REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT FOR CLIMATE ACTION for region Zadar county, Croatia Engagement letter

As part of the NaTour4CChange project, co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Program, a Coordination Unit for in each region will be set up. The Coordination Unit is an interdepartmental working group that composed of, at least, tourism and environment/conservation/climate change departments, and will be responsible for defining, developing, and monitoring the Regional Tourism Climate Plan/Strategy¹.

To that aim, we, the undersigned dr.sc. Mira Zovko, research associate, Institute for tourism and Nives Rogoznica, Consultant for the preparation and implementation of projects, NATURA-JADERA public institution for management of protected areas in the County of Zadar confirm the intention to establish the Regional Coordination Unit for Climate Action in Tourism, in the framework of the NaTour4CChange project, for region Zadar county, Croatia.

The main objectives of the Unit are to ensure the engagement of the relevant tourism and climate change-related stakeholders in the region, and to coordinate the drafting of the Climate Change Action Plan/Strategy for Tourism.

The specific objectives are:

- Identify a reference person within the Coordination Unit who will follow, report, and coordinate the work of the Unit.
- Meet regularly and share the main outputs of the meetings (minutes, pictures, results...) with the CUs of the other Regions and NaTour4CChange project partners.
- Work together with the NaTour4CChange project partners to develop a Regional Tourism Climate Strategy/Plan, based on the methodologies/frameworks developed within the project.
- Take into account and capitalize on the results of the different project activities to develop the Strategy and Plan.
- Map institutional gaps that may be encountered during the process, aiming to address them and advocate improvements of the-regional administration processes so that the Regional Tourism Climate Strategy and Plan taken into consideration for implementation
- Supervise the pilot site involved in the testing activities at destination level (WP3). The selection is done by the Regional Project Partner using the common criteria set by the project partnership.
- Coordinate with the "pilot destination coordinator", (an organization, not a physical person) to facilitate the process and make it smoother. In the case of Zadar county, NATURA-JADERA is acting as the coordinator.
- Participate in events (online /in person) when necessary, to share experiences, good practices, exchange of ideas...
- Ensure that work is done in an integrated manner to improve tourism climate policy and governance, to adapt and mitigate climate change in (coastal) tourism destinations.
- Contribute to the development of policy recommendations in the framework of the project so that it can be replicated in other regions.

¹ The strategy/plan won't be just related to the project. It aims to provide a framework to support the ongoing climate action works at regional level (e.g., give a more tourism-relevant approach, detailing or updating a plan or strategy, carry out concrete actions, etc.).

As reference person within the Coordination Unit we appoint dr.sc. Mira Zovko, research associate, Institute for tourism on behalf of the project lead partner. The main tasks to carry out by the reference person are:

- Report and coordinate the work of the Unit and liaise with the NaTour4CChange project, according to the tasks and responsibilities expected for the Coordination Unit.

According to the common criteria established by the project², the pilot site selected to develop the testing activities at destination level in WP3 "Destination resilience", is the **island of Dugi otok (Municipality of Sali, Croatia)**.

The main activities to carry out will be:

- Climate action planning
- testing/assessment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
- Drafting and advocating marketing and communication actions
- The creation of a "Tourism Climate Action Taskforce", that will bring together all the main public and private stakeholders at local level that are crucial for climate
- action planning in tourism

Institute for tourism:

NATURA-JADERA public institution

dr.sc. Mira Zovko

Nives Rogoznica



² Deliverable 3.1.2. Common criteria for the selection of pilot site destination

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT” FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN TOURISM

I

As part of NaTour4CChange project, co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Program, the undersigned Mario Jurica as Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management of HNC, confirms intention to establish the Regional Coordination Unit for Climate Action in Tourism (hereinafter referred to as “Coordination Unit”) which will be responsible for defining, developing and monitoring the Regional Tourism Climate Plan/Strategy¹.

The Coordination Unit will be an interdepartmental unit composed of:

1. Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection of HNC;
2. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management of HNC;
3. The Environmental Protection Fund of HNC;
4. Agency for watershed of the Adriatic sea;
5. Tourist Board of HNC;
6. Faculty of natural sciences, mathematics and educational sciences, University of Mostar.

As reference person within the Coordination Unit, we appoint dr.sc. Svjetlana Stanić-Koštroman.

II

The main objectives of the Coordination Unit are to ensure the engagement of the relevant tourism and climate change-related stakeholders in the region, and to coordinate the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan/Strategy for Tourism.

The specific objectives are:

- Meet regularly and share the main outputs of the meetings (minutes, picture, results) with the CUs of the other Regions and NaTour4CChange project partners;
- Work together with the NaTour4CChange project partners to develop a Regional Tourism Climate Action Strategy/Plan, based on the methodologies/framework developed within the project;

¹ The strategy/plan won't be just related to the project. It aims to provide a framework to support the ongoing climate action works at regional level (e.g. give more tourism-relevant approach, detailing or updating a plan or strategy, carry out concrete actions, etc.).

- Take into the account and capitalize on the results of the different project activities to develop a Strategy and Plan;
- Map institutional gaps that may be encountered during the process, aiming to address them and improve regional administration processes so that Regional Tourism Climate Strategy and Plan can be implemented smoothly;
- Supervise the pilot site involved in the testing activities at the destination level (WP3). Regional Project Partner selected the pilot site using the common criteria set by the project partnership;
- Coordinate with Public Enterprise “Nature Park Hutovo Blato” - pilot destination coordinator;
- Participate in events (online/in person) when necessary, to share experiences, good practices, exchange of ideas;
- Ensure that the work is done in integrated way to improve tourism climate policy and governance, to adapt and mitigate climate change in (coastal) tourism destinations;
- Contribute to the development of policy recommendations in the framework of the project so that it can be replicated in other regions.

The main tasks to carry out by the reference person are:

- Report and coordinate the work of the Coordination Unit and liaise with the NaTour4CChange project, according the task and responsibilities expected for the Coordination Unit.

III

According to the common criteria established by the project², the pilot site selected to develop the testing activities at destination level in the framework of WP3 “Destination resilience”, is the Nature Park Hutovo Blato.

The main activities to be carried out:

- Climate action planning;
- Testing/assessment of Nature-based Solution;
- Implementation of marketing and communication action;
- The creation of the “Tourism Climate Action Taskforce”, that will bring together all the main public and private stakeholders at local level that are crucial for climate action planning in tourism.

Position: Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management of HNC

Name and Surname: Mario Jurica

Signature:  _____

² Deliverable 3.1.2, Common criteria for the selection of pilot site destination



REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

As part of the NaTour4CChange project, co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Program, a Coordination Unit for in each region will be set up. The Coordination Unit is an interdepartmental working group that composed of, at least, tourism and environment/conservation/climate change departments, and will be responsible for defining, developing, and monitoring the Regional Tourism Climate Plan/Strategy¹.

To that aim, the undersigned **STAVROS ARNAOUTAKIS as Governor of the REGION of CRETE GREECE**, confirms the intention to establish the **Regional Coordination Unit for Climate Action in Tourism**, in the framework of the **NaTour4CChange** project.

The Coordination Unit will consist of the:

1. **Directorate of Development Regional Unity of Lasithi**
2. **Department of Tourism Regional Unity of Lasithi**
3. **Department of Environment & Water Economics of Regional Unity of Lasithi**
4. **Department of Civil Protection of Regional Unity of Lasithi**

The main objectives of the Unit are to ensure the engagement of the relevant tourism and climate change-related stakeholders in the region, and to coordinate the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan/Strategy for Tourism.

The specific objectives are:

- Identify a reference person within the Coordination Unit who will follow, report, and coordinate the work of the Unit.
- Meet regularly and share the main outputs of the meetings (minutes, pictures, results) with the CUs of the other Regions and NaTour4CChange project partners.
- Work together with the NaTour4CChange project partners to develop a Regional Tourism Climate Strategy/Plan, based on the methodologies/frameworks developed within the project.
- Consider and capitalize on the results of the different project activities to develop the Strategy and Plan.
- **Identify institutional gaps that may arise during the process with the aim of addressing them and improving regional governance processes so that the Regional strategy and tourism climate plan can be implemented smoothly.**
- Select and supervise the pilot site involved in the testing activities at the pilot site (WP3). The selection will be done by the Regional Project Partner based on the common criteria defined by the project partnership
- Appoint a "pilot destination coordinator", (an organization, not a physical person) to make the process and make it smoother. In the case of Crete, the MUNICIPALITY of SITIA will act as coordinator. Participate in events (online /in person) when necessary to share experiences, good practices, exchange of ideas.

¹ The strategy/plan won't be just related to the project. It aims to provide a framework to support the ongoing climate action works at regional level (e.g., give a more tourism-relevant approach, detailing or updating a plan or strategy, carry out concrete actions, etc.).



- Ensure that work is done in an integrated way to improve tourism climate policy and governance, to adapt and mitigate climate change in (coastal) tourism destinations.
- Contribute to the development of policy recommendations in the framework of the project so that it can be replicated in other regions.

As reference person within the Coordination Unit, we appoint **ZACHAROULA PAPAPOPOULOU**, Project Manager of the NaTour4CChange on behalf of the project partner.

The main tasks to carry out by the reference person are:

- Report and coordinate the work of the Unit and liaise with the NaTour4CChange project, according to the tasks and responsibilities expected for the Coordination Unit.

According to the common criteria of the project², ORI ZARKOU and KOUFONISI ISLAND was selected as a pilot site for the development of test activities at destination level in “the framework of WP3 "Destination resilience". The main activities to be carried out are:

- ✓ Climate action planning
- ✓ Testing/assessment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
- ✓ Implementation of marketing and communication action
- ✓ The creation of a “Tourism Climate Action Taskforce”, that will bring together all the main public and private stakeholders at local level that are crucial for climate action planning in tourism.

The Governor of the Region of Crete

Stavros Arnaoutakis

