

**IMPACT PROJECT**  
**“Innovative Models for Protected Area exChange and  
Transfer”**

**ACTION PLAN**  
**of Project Partner 1 (LP)**  
**Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia.**  
**Regional Government of Andalucía.**

**June 2018**



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**INTRODUCTION**

This Action Plan is a document providing detail on how the lessons learnt from the IMPACT Project “*Innovative Models for Protected Area exChange and Transfer*” will be exploited in order to improve the policy instrument addressed in Andalusia Region.

Andalusia has implemented 23 Sustainable Development Plans (SDP) at an earlier stage, which are no longer operational because current socio-economic situation and challenges are very different. It is necessary to carry out a further appropriate diagnosis and planning. The exchange of experience within the IMPACT project have helped to introduce new ideas, approaches and methodologies into protected areas management and exploitation strategies.

The Action Plan of the IMPACT program will be executed, which will consist in applying to our SDP improvements observed in the first phase of the project.

The Action Plan will consist of developing a new model of Sustainable Development Plan that incorporates what has been learned in good practices and that has materialized in the aforementioned lessons learned.

Considering this stage we have defined three actions:

ACTION 1: Resolution of conflicts between the management of the Protected Spaces and local communities.

ACTION 2: Evaluation of carrying capacity for visitors management.

ACTION 3: Integration of the local community for economic development and conservation in a space.

**Part I – General information**

Project: Innovative Models for Protected Area exChange and Transfer. IMPACT

Partner organisation: LP or P1- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia. Regional Government of Andalucía.

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**Part II – Policy context**

The Action Plan aims to impact:      X Investment for Growth and Jobs programme  
                                                           X European Territorial Cooperation programme  
                                                           Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: ERDF 2014-2020

The ERDF Regional Operational Programme Andalucía 2014-2020 final goal is to raise the numbers at work up to 3,000,000 people. Other intermediate targets in a range of policy areas (economy, environment and spatial planning, social and institutional) will contribute to attain that goal.

Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”. Investment Priority 6.4 “protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure”. And specifically, the strategic line of action 6.9 “Investments to implement actions to minimise threats to protected areas and biodiversity preservation, particularly Natura 2000 Network”.

Those actions include preparation, implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Plans (SDP) which are considered as the main planning tool for protected areas. They aim at setting out the strategic guidelines for sustainable economic growth and green employment creation as a result of exploitation of protected areas resources.



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**Part III – Details of the actions envisaged**

**ACTION 1: Resolution of conflicts between the management of the Protected Spaces and local communities**

**1. The background**

This model have seen in Lithuania. It had been presented by the Baltic Office of the Coastal and Maritime European Union partner (Project Partner 5) EUCC Baltic Office.

This good practice presented in the project is going to contribute to the improvement of the processes of implementation, communication and acceptance among the local population of a figure of protection of natural spaces.

This partner has presented a conflict resolution model in which park authority has a formal role as a mediating agency before reaching judicial conflict.

Regarding to the SDPs, once the information on the ecological, social and economic aspects of the protected area is collected, it is presented to the different participation bodies to enrich its content.

The SDPs also have their own deliberation and decision bodies, and they include figures such as the Governing Board of the Park. Within these are the working groups and participation forums, in which entrepreneurs participate, delegates from different organs of the regional government and local corporations.

Thanks to the lesson learned in this aspect, the possibility of raising conflicts will be incorporated before the manage of natural areas, which will develop a mediation body, minimizing the conflicts that reach the judicial scope.

**2. Actions**

2.1. Advice for the elaboration of the conflict resolution model for protected natural spaces, according to the learnt methodology in which new deliberation tools are included.

2.2. Development and creation of the appropriate organism composed of a group of experts in this type of conflicts, in the different conservation, legal, urban and economic disciplines.

**Deliverable:** Constitution of the conflict resolution body with its composition and protocol with rules of operation.

**3. Players involved**

Staff of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia, Regional Government of Andalusia and external experts in conflicts ( conservation, legal, urban and economic disciplines).

Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia, Regional Government of Andalusia.

**4. Timeframe**

Action 1.	Resolution of conflicts between the management of the Protected Spaces and local communities	Apr-Jun 18	Jul-Sep 18	Oct-Dec 18	Jan-Mar 19	Apr-Jun 19	Jul-Sep 19	Oct-Dec 19
Subaction 1.1	Advice for the elaboration of the conflict resolution model for protected natural spaces.		X	X				
Subaction 1.2	Development and creation of the appropriate organism composed of a group of experts in this type of conflicts.			X	X	X	X	X
Deliverable 1.1.	Constitution of the conflict resolution body with its composition and protocol with rules of operation.							X

**5. Costs (if relevant):**

Staff cost, difficult to estimate

**6. Funding sources (if relevant):**

ERDF Regional Operational Programme for Andalusia 2014-2020. Specific Objective OE.6.4.1. Measure A1641085M4.



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**ACTION 2: Evaluation of carrying capacity for visitors management.**

**1. The background**

To know about the impact of tourism on species and habitats in all protected areas, is one of the most important things to do a proper management.

This case has been presented by partner number 4, National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism of Romania (National Institute for R & D in Tourism), and presents a methodology to assess the effects of tourism on the natural heritage and on the economic and social environment, into the Strategy Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Danube Delta. Through this methodology, it diagnoses the adequate load of tourists that can support a certain natural space (a path, a landscape) without compromising its value. The Regional Government of Andalusia has not yet carried out studies of this type and considers that they can add value to their SDPs, to mark the limits for sustainable tourism, although it has verified the existence of overload of tourism in certain spaces and / or times, as well as the negative effects on the environment and the real risk, both for the ecosystem and for the visitors themselves (evacuation in case of fires or emergencies for example).

One of the main services provided by natural spaces are those related to cultural, recreational and relaxation activities. But the excessive use of these services can result in the deterioration of the natural space, with damage to flora, fauna and even geodiversity. These excesses would result in the loss of other services, such as those derived from biodiversity, in addition to the long-term deterioration itself. Noise and other types of pollution can affect the flora and fauna when the number of visitors and users is excessive.

This action aims to determine the limits of the use of these services -especially tourism- that exceed the limits of sustainability.

Just like in the Romanian study, the study does not offer to generate a quantifiable and comparable numeric value for the carrying capacity, within the interim geographic space. The approach presented in the study creates a framework for the carrying capacity concept and generates a long-term instrument. Therefore, the current situation will be able to be defined by a set of indicators at moment "0" and an annual monitoring process will create the opportunity to understand the tendencies and evolution of various indicators which reflect a certain state of facts in the field. This threefold assessment (based on the three key components ecological, local socio-economical and users/visitors) will be the foundation of future analyses, which in turn may generate management decisions.

**2. Actions**

2.1. Metodological review of visitor capacity assessment models in protected areas. Search of new technologies and selection the spaces for the study - SDPs.

2.2. Selection and compilation of variables needed for the study according to the selected model (number of visitors, infrastructures of public use, biodiversity, geodiversity, etc.), and selection a set of specific indicators that could be correlated to the carrying capacity that will be able to be used to monitor the impact of the tourism.

2.3. Test the selected methodology for the diagnosis and monitoring the tourism carrying capacity in a protected natural space.

2.4. Preliminary diagnosis of load capacity in a protected natural space.

**Deliverables:**

A final report will include the preliminary diagnosis of the load capacity for the protected natural spaces selected and form the basis for the development of the future tool that will be used to monitor the tourism carrying capacity of landscapes or infrastructures of public use in Andalusia, with the aim to preserve the biodiversity and the socioeconomic environment. Likewise, will be set specific recommendations and measures that can be performed for an adequate carrying capacity management in the study areas.



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**3. Players involved**

Staff of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia, Regional Government of Andalusia.

Natural Parks managers, Regional Government of Andalusia.

Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia, Regional Government of Andalusia.

Tourism sector, Stakeholders.

**4. Timeframe**

Action 2	Evaluation of carrying capacity for visitors management	Apr-Jun 18	Jul-Sep 18	Oct-Dec 18	Jan-Mar 19	Apr-Jun 19	Jul-Sep 19	Oct-Dec 19
Subaction 2.1	Metodological review and Selection the spaces for the study (SDP).		X	X				
Subaction 2.2	Selection of variables needed for the study and a set of specific indicators correlated to the carrying capacity.			X	X			
Subaction 2.3	Test the selected methodology for the diagnosis and monitoring the tourism carrying capacity in protected natural spaces.				X	X	X	X
Subaction 2.4	Preliminary diagnosis of load capacity in protected natural spaces.					X	X	X
Deliberable 2.1.	<i>A final Report will include the basis for the development of the future tool to monitor the carrying capacity, and the establishment of recommendations and measures for an adequate management in the study areas</i>							X

**5. Costs (if relevant):**

Staff cost, difficult to estimate

**6. Funding sources (if relevant):**

ERDF Regional Operational Programme for Andalusia 2014-2020. Specific Objective OE.6.4.1. Measure A1641085M4.

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**ACTION 3: Integration of the local community for economic development and conservation in a space.**

**1. The background**

This model of good practice starting from an idea provided by Lithuanian Partner, EUCC Baltic Office of the Coastal and Maritime for the Integration of the local community for economic development and conservation in a space, which consists of integrating local entrepreneurs in the development of sustainable development strategies. In this case, within the criteria of the SDP; It is possible to achieve a strategy with greater involvement and participation based on dialogue, joint work and governance.

The Sustainable Development Plans already have, as with the processes of deliberation and decision, with their own tools for dissemination and communication.

Despite the fact that a long way has gone by in this aspect, and the current SDP already contain dissemination and participation actions, there are always misgivings among the local communities regarding the protection figures, since they see in them potential restrictions for the development of their own business or leisure activities. With the right tools you can provide the complete information, and eliminate existing misgivings and oppositions.

Currently, these plans are communicated to interested parties at various times, and their final version is even published in The Official Gazette of the Junta de Andalucía.

The aim is to apply a greater concept of "Governance", understood as the decision-making process on a common problem involving the institutions and with the participation of all those involved.

The qualitative jump consists of reaching the last of the following levels of participation in the SDP elaboration:

- The plan is known by the interested parties.
- Stakeholders can give their opinion.
- The opinion of the interested parties is taken into account.
- The plan is prepared with the participation of the parties (from the first phases).

What is intended with this action is to involve the interested parties in the first moments of the definition of the SDP, with a double intention:

- Count on the contributions before the decisions are made.
- Make the interested parties feel part of the final decision.

**2. Actions**

2.1. Greater formalization of communication and participation processes. When constituting organs or when carrying out processes of taking or distributing information, it will be done through formal and public processes.

2.2. Use of new tools, especially with information technologies

- Participation in social networks.
- On-line meetings.
- Use of digital certificates to make decisions.

**Deliverables:**

- The new SDP carried out within this project will contain a new participatory process protocol, which will reinforce the existing one.
- The final product will be a series of enriched plans and the immediate deliverables will be the appearance of new sections in said plans, the holding of meetings and information sessions and the creation of profiles in social networks and their functioning.



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**3. Players involved**

- Staff of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia, Regional Government of Andalusia.
- Natural Parks managers, Regional Government of Andalusia.
- Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia, Regional Government of Andalusia.
- Local Communities.
- Tourism sector, Stakeholders.
- Research and educational community.
- Companies, entrepreneurs and NGOs.

**4. Timeframe**

Action 3	Integration of the local community for economic development and conservation in a space	Apr-Jun 18	Jul-Sep 18	Oct-Dec 18	Jan-Mar 19	Apr-Jun 19	Jul-Sep 19	Oct-Dec 19
Subaction 3.1	Formalization of communication and participation processes.	X	X					
Subaction 3.2	Use of new tools, especially with information technologies (Participation in social networks, online meetings, etc).			X	X	X	X	X
Deliberable 3.1.	A final report will include the new/launched participatory process, which will reinforce the existing one for SDP.							X

**5. Costs (if relevant):**

Staff cost, difficult to estimate

**6. Funding sources (if relevant):**

ERDF Regional Operational Programme for Andalusia 2014-2020. Specific Objective OE.6.4.1. Measure A1641085M4.

**NOTE:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stamp of the organisation (if available):** \_\_\_\_\_



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