

**Interreg - IPA CBC**

Italy - Albania - Montenegro



LASPEH



**TRANSNATIONAL  
JOINT STRATEGY (TJS)**

**DELIVERABLE T1.1.1**

**LASPEH PROJECT  
"LOW ADRIATIC SPECIES AND  
HABITAT"**





# TRANSNATIONAL JOINT STRATEGY

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## LOW ADRIATIC SPECIES AND HABITAT

*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

The LASPEH "Low Adriatic Species and Habitat" project was financed by the first call for ordinary projects of the INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY - ALBANIA - MONTENEGRO 2014/2020 Cross-border Cooperation Program, under priority axis 3, specific objective 3.1.

Starting from the decrease in biological diversity (number, variety and variability of living organisms) affects not only the natural environment, but also our economic and social objectives, the priority of the LASPEH Project is preserving biodiversity through a cross-border strategy.

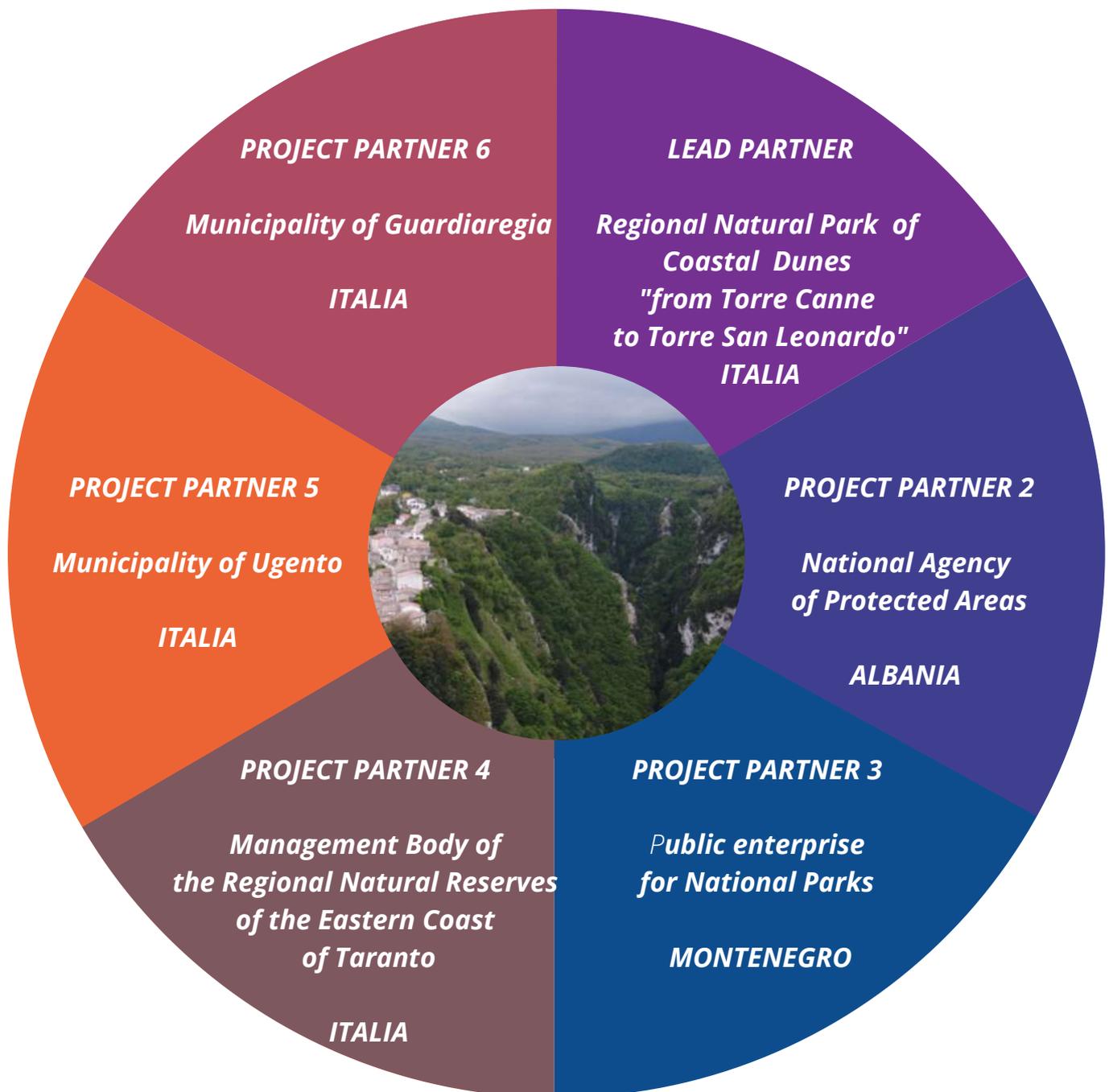
Therefore, it is important to maintain and strengthen ecosystems by giving them space and developing all their functions to react flexibly to climate change and effects on the population. For these reasons, four partners made up of parks and protected areas in Italy (three located in Puglia and one in Molise) and both national agencies for the management of the national parks of

Albania and Montenegro have decided to implement a common strategic tools for the promotion and protection of biodiversity through the drafting of management plans for some habitats and cross-border species. The three species and the pilot areas connected to them are: tetrao urogallus (Mali Tomorrit National Park / Albania), botaurus stellaris (Management Body of the Oriented Regional Natural Reserves of the Eastern Tarantino Coast / Puglia) and aythya nyroca (Regional Natural Park " Coast of Ugento " / Puglia); the three habitats (the pilot areas connected to them) are: Pseudo - steppe with herbs and annuals of Thero - Brachypodietea (Regional Natural Park "coastal dunes of Torre Canne in Torre San Leonardo" / Puglia), Tilio - Acerlon woods of slopes, boulders and ravines (WWF Oasis Forests of Guardiaregia-Campochiaro / Molise) and Macedonian pinus peed (Lovcen National Park / Montenegro).



## 2. PROJECT PARTNERS

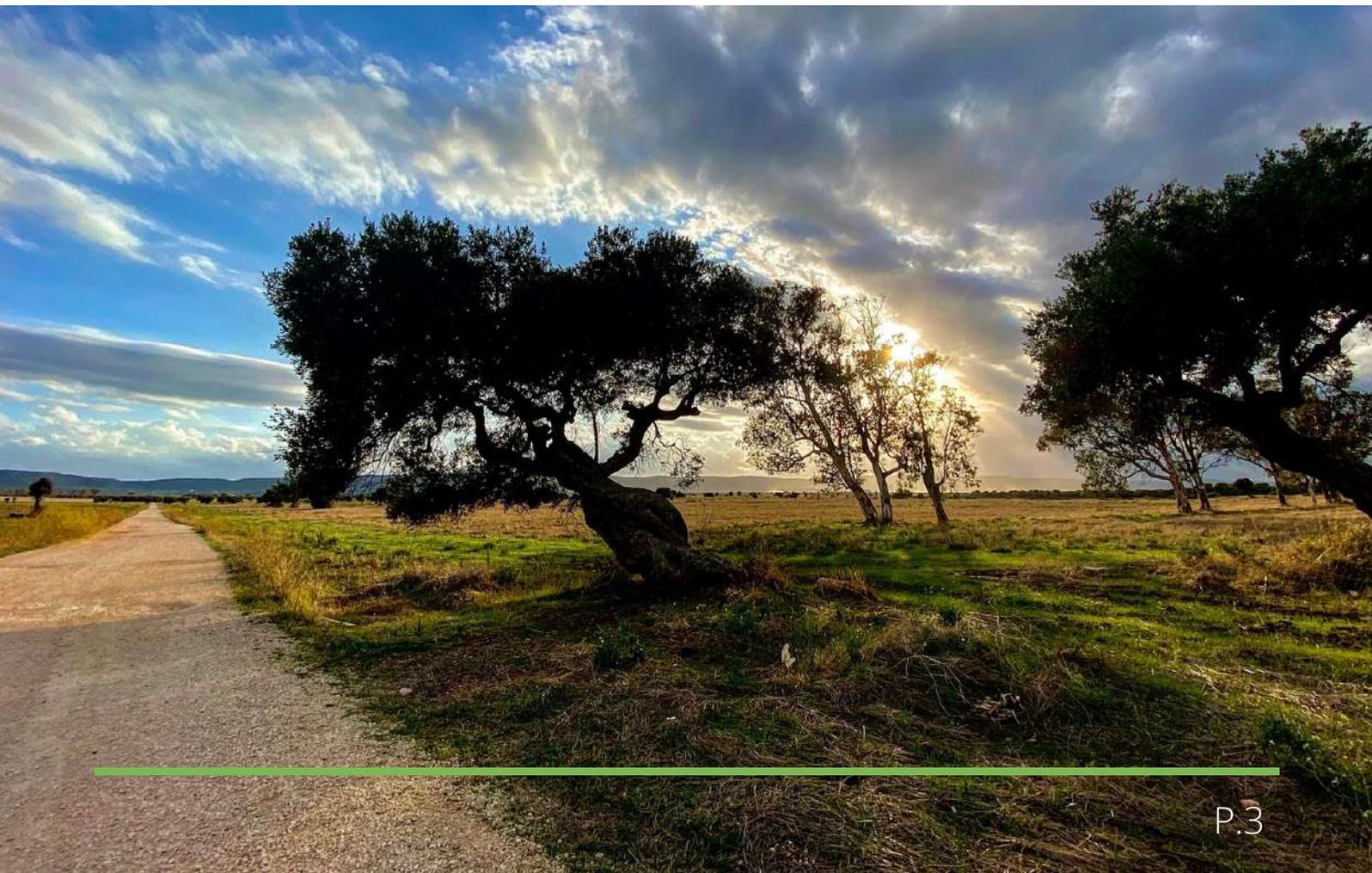
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## LP: REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF COASTAL DUNES "FROM TORRE CANNE TO TORRE SAN LEONARDO" - ITALIA

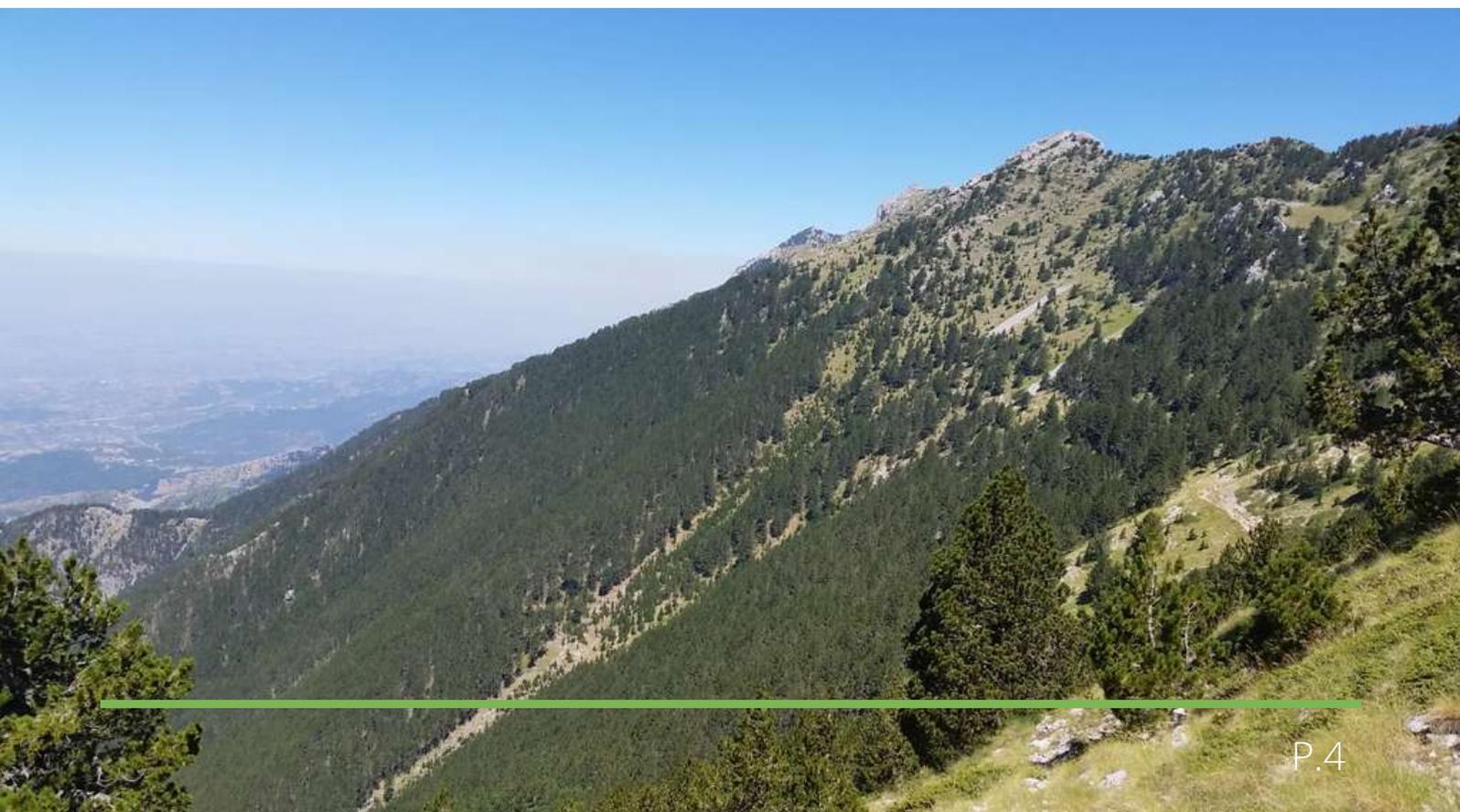
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The Provisional management consortium of Regional Natural Park »Coastal Dunes from Torre Canne to Torre San Leonardo« is a management body of protected area whose primary purpose is to promote a sustainable development model, while helping to enhance the quality of life of the whole community. The Regional Natural Park of Coastal Dunes occupies approximately 1.100 acres of the territories of Ostuni and Fasano, 8 km of which are along the coastline while the remaining part stretches inland towards the agricultural areas occupied by centuries-old olive groves. According to the Regional Law n. 31 of 2006, the Regional Park includes a Site of Community Importance (SCI) called "Litorale Brindisino" (Brindisi Coast) under the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC), which is part of the European network "Natura 2000". The park is accessible, and offers didactic and observation huts for birds, environmental education activities and cultural events, (such as theater in nature). The Park of Coastal Dunes has heavily focused on conservation and valorization of species (flora and fauna) in its territory also through several founded projects, for this reason the competence and experiences of LP result relevant according to the Project aims.



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NAPA activities cover the whole of Albania territory, through the network of protected areas approved till now and other that will be proclaimed in the future. The established system of protected areas consists primarily in 15 national parks; several managed natural reserves, marine protected areas and protected landscapes that shelter the greatest natural and biodiversity values of the country. This large network is being complemented with 12 Regional Administration of Protected Areas. RAPA staff is involved and responsible for management and monitoring of protected areas under each RAPA administration, especially the rangers equip as the key element for monitoring process. The approval of the new law on protected areas and future completion of the legal framework related to PAs will support effective management and provide a better situation for law enforcement and monitoring of activities from rangers. The project is in line with strategic program of NAPA to transform protected areas in Albania, in territories for the conservation and protection of nature and biodiversity, promoting a multitude of other values (tourism / recreational, cultural, gastronomic, aesthetic, health, spiritual etc.), by supporting the sustainable development and with a positive impact in local communities. The project meets the objectives of the management plan of Tomorri mountain National Park, to increase the protection and preservation of biodiversity and different types of habitats.



## PP3: PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FOR NATIONAL PARKS OF MONTENEGRO

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The Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro, established in 1993 in Podgorica, is managing of the five Montenegrin National Parks (Durmitor, Biogradska gora, Lovcen, Skadar Lake and Prokletije). This is realized through protection, improvement, promotion and sustainable use of natural and landscape values of national parks. Public enterprise takes care and implements measures from five year Management Programs and one year Management Plans. Our associates for improvement and development in National Parks have 20 years of experience and are capable to participate in improvement of learning more sophisticated methodologies for collecting data and dissemination of results of Project. Also, there is department for education and marketing which is dealing with rising ecological awareness in local communities. All new findings will be mainstreamed in Management programs of Protected Areas which will improve management system in PAs. NPCG participates in the development of plans and programs of management of national parks and monitoring their implementation; monitors the state of the ecosystem and determine the causes of their changes; monitor the state of flora and fauna of NP and propose measures for their protection, promotion and valorization.



## PP4: MANAGEMENT BODY OF THE REGIONAL NATURAL RESERVES OF THE EASTERN COAST OF TARANTO

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The Regional Nature Reserves of the Eastern Coast of Taranto, with an extension of about 1,100 hectares, are born with the L.R. n. 24 of 23 December 2002 along the splendid coastal strip and in the immediate hinterland of the territory of Manduria, in the province of Taranto in Puglia. This vast area is a natural treasure chest to be discovered surrounded by the scents of the thick Mediterranean Maquis, among the shadows of majestic oak trees, vast marshes and high dunes where nature beats its own rhythms to the beat of the wings of the Pink Flamingos, of the Knights of Italy and the slow swimming of marsh turtles. A huge natural heritage divided into:- The Cuturi and Rosamarina woods, which show the pride of the solemn oak trees, witnesses of an important history;- The Salina Monaci, an ancient site for collecting sea salt that enchants for the Pink reflections of the sunsets and the colors of the Mediterranean Maquis alternating with the seasons;- The Palude del Conte, with its white beaches;- The Foce del Fiume Chidro, with its resurgences and its archaeological sites, enchantment of the divers; The protected area has, by a few years, its operational headquarters in the Casa del Parco - Marina Farm, forge of all the activities of tourism, cultural and educational promotion and logistics site for forest firefighting, with the collaboration of ARIF Puglia. Inside there is a naturalistic information point and a training room equipped for educational workshops and environmental education sessions. From its tower, once upon a time it was observed the arrival from the Saracen enemy while today it is rejoined with the nature, surround by a wonderful panorama. The naturalistic activities proposed by the Reserve are cycle excursions, trekking, bird watching, snorkeling, boat excursions always accompanied by tastings of typical products.



## PP5: MUNICIPALITY OF UGENTO

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Municipality of Ugento is the management body of the Natural Regional Park "Litorale di Ugento" set up by L.R. 13/28 May 2007. It covers 1,600 hectares and is characterized by a high variety of natural environments. The purposes of the Park are promotion of a sustainable development model that does not damage the environment and natural resources, creation of opportunities for economic growth and sustainable development, protection and enhancement of the landscape, natural, architectural historian. Located in the lower Salento, the Regional Natural Park "Litorale di Ugento" preserves in its perimeter various types of habitats of considerable conservation interest such as the coast, the dune and dunal system, the basins and the Mediterranean maquis. The territory shows the typical features of remediation interventions with the presence of canals and basins surrounded by dense riparian vegetation that benefit from the constant availability of water characterizes the landscape. The presence of these particular ecological conditions means that during the whole period of the year many species of waterfowl alternate and not including many of conservation interest including the Moretta tabaccata, target species of the project. Therefore monitoring of these species requires verification of the consistency of the habitats present within the park area. The importance of the basins is also underlined by the fact that they are part of the IWC International Waterflow Census project, an international monitoring programme conducted by ISPRA.



## PP6: MUNICIPALITY OF GUARDIAREGIA

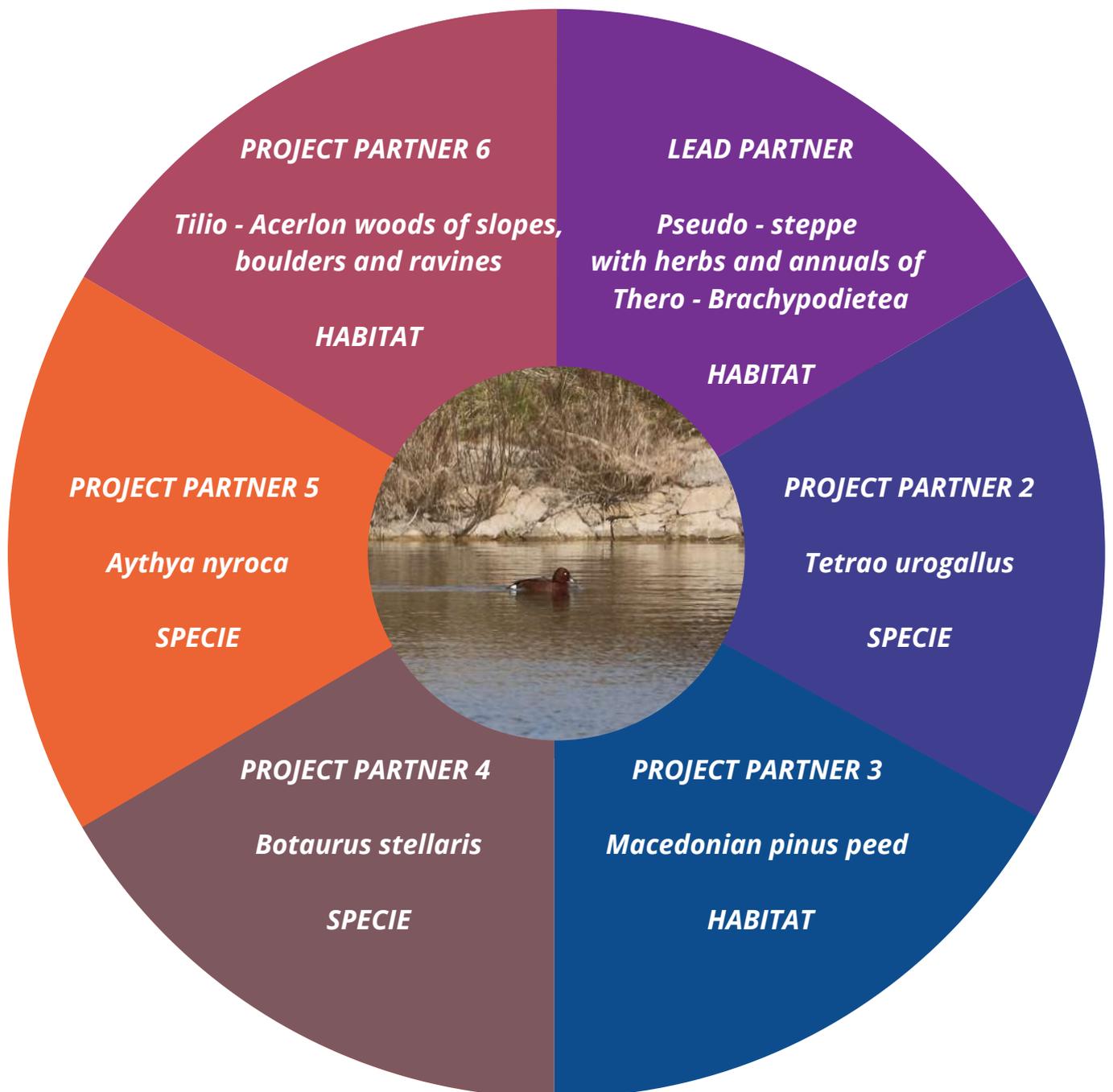
*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

The Municipality of Guardiaregia has expertise and experience in the management and implementation of interventions in its territory concerning the protection and enhancement of the environment in order to prevent the degeneration of the territory. The interventions were made through structural funds of past and ongoing programming periods (Rural Development Programme and ERDF Operational Regional Programme). The organization is typical of a municipality, and as local public authority is structured in several offices, that carry out administrative and technical activities as well as development actions for the improvement of its territory, and the Municipality also coordinates the activities related to the management of municipal services. As regards the Protected area named "Natural Regional Reserve - WWF Oasis", it represents a success case of cooperation among local public authorities, academic bodies and national associations, considering that the birth and growth of the oasis have been achieved through the engagement of the two municipal administrations of Guardiaregia and Campochiaro, the scientific support of the Department of Environmental Sciences of the Molise University, and with the strong work of the volunteers of WWF Molise. The municipality participates in the definition of co-ordinated interventions promoted by Molise Region by participating in Working Tables and Service Conferences.



## 2. PILOT AREAS AND HABITAT AND SPECIES SELECTED

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## LP: PSEUDO - STEPPE WITH HERBS AND ANNUALS OF THERO - BRACHYPODIETEA

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The areas of the Park characterized by the presence of this habitat are mainly the extensive arable land and pasture areas present on the fossil dunes and in the blades.

The Mediterranean pseudo-steppe is a herbaceous vegetation similar to the Euro-Asian steppes but, unlike these latter, develops in a Mediterranean climate, on arid and stony soils. It is the result of the combined action of natural climatic and soil conditions and those resulting from the millennial human activities of fire, pasture and forest cutting. Distinctive elements of the pseudo-steppe environment are in particular the hemi-cryptophytic plants, such as the graminaceae and the geophytes, characterized by underground resistance. Among the grasses there are the *Hyparrhenia hirta* and the *Stipa eriocalis* (called Fairy Flax), this latter being an endemic species of central and southern Italy. Geophytes include numerous spring-flowering wild orchids belonging to the genera *Ophrys*, *Neotinea*, *Anacamptis* and *Serapias*. In particular, the *Serapias apulica* is a species of remarkable conservation importance for its Apulian endemism and can be found along the fossil dunes of the Dune Costiere Park. The Mediterranean pseudo-steppe grasses are threatened with extinction because of the abandonment of the pasture, which generates natural conditions for the climax stage of the Mediterranean maquis and, for this reason, are priority conservation species at Community level. A useful intervention for the conservation of pseudo-steppe is the maintenance of controlled pasture.



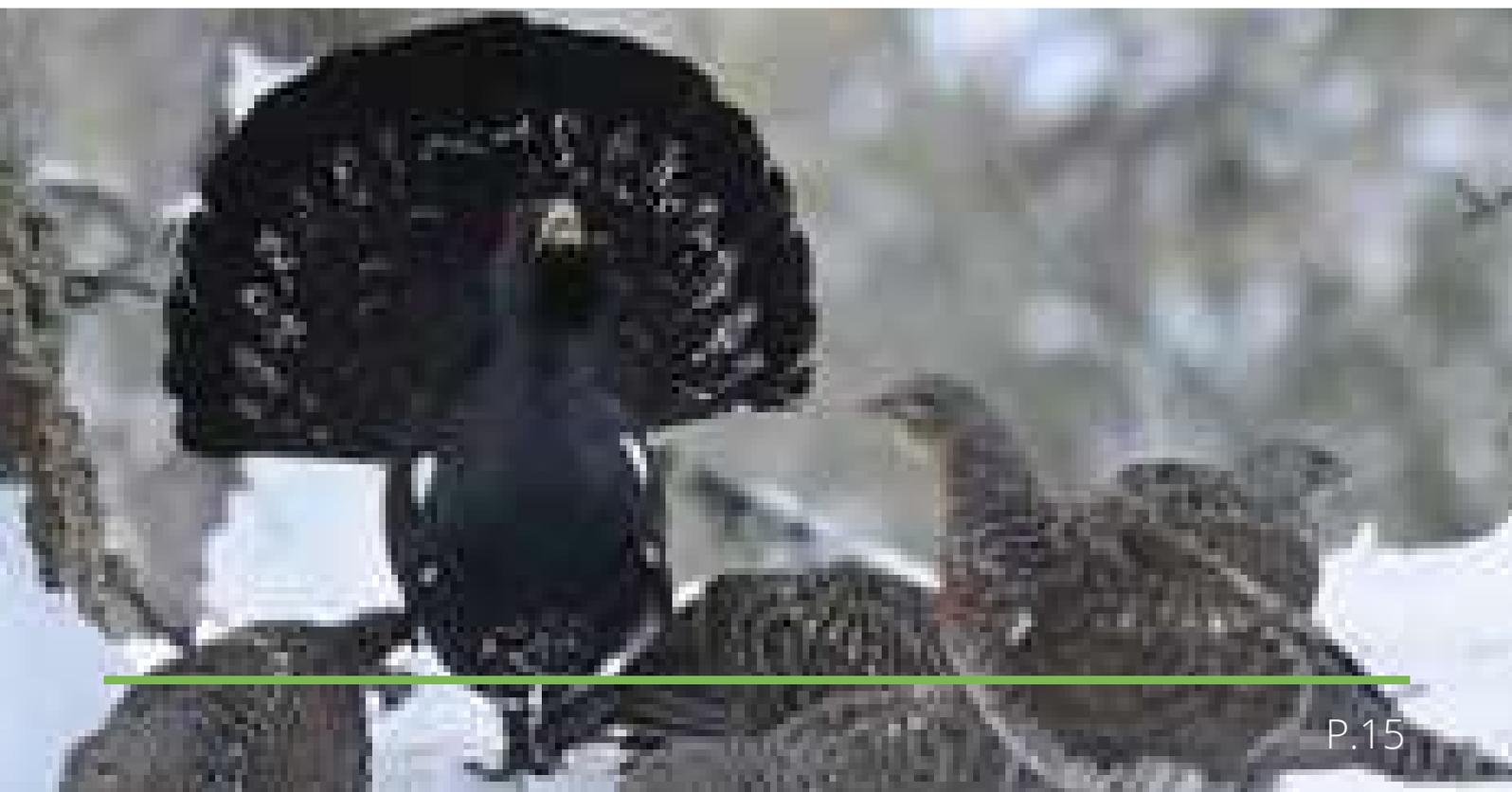
## PP2: TETRAO UROGALLUS

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Tomori is a mountain in the east of the city of Berat in Albania. Tomori is the most impressive mountain in South Albania. With its highest peak of 2416 meters, it rises alone in a neighboring plain to rival it and thus possesses the view from all the horizon points.

Wild turkey (TetraoUrogallus) is a species that is included in Appendix 5 & 6 of DCM No. 31, dated 20.01.2016 on "Adoption of the Strategic Policy Document for the Protection of Biodiversity", included in the Red List of Endangered Birds and by explaining the risk category, according to IUCN, it belongs to a group called "CR" which means Critical Risk, so the species is in imminent danger of extinction in nature.

In the areas where Tetrao Urogallus is found, we can see that vegetation is quite good. This is because these areas are areas where vegetation has naturally regenerated quite naturally. We also notice that vegetation in some other areas is damaged by various natural reasons as well as by the fires that have affected this area in years. In these areas there is also the need for some artificial afforestation in order to regenerate vegetation as well. This area is distinguished by the high number of visitors. In these areas of Tomorri Mountain, both domestic and foreign tourists traverse the crossing paths that are short and medium in length but allow you to see the nature and the beauty of the area. The local population is very careful and protects the park from possible threats. These people maintain a historic tradition that includes mountain, they live with it.



### PP3: MACEDONIAN PINUS PEED

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National Park Lovćen is divided into several protection zones: the zone of the first protection level (reserve) in the area of National Park, the existing space plan has allocated three special reserves. These are forest areas which occupy 829.50 hectares.; the zone of strict protection and the zone with special protection mode (in this zone felling of trees, thorns, breaks of ground flora, removal of shrubs, digging and any construction interventions in space are forbidden), and also the contact zone of Park (the zone of protection of the third level (liberal protection) the rest of the National Park represents the zone with the mode of liberal protection. In this zone, there are different requirements of individuals and citizens to fulfill their needs.

The forest reserve, which stands out because of its importance, is the reserve of the sub-endemic Bosnian pine. Bosnian pine is a tree up to 35 m high, with a crossbar up to 2 m high. The treetop is oval-pyramidal or pyramidal. The tree is strong, often at the bottom of the form of bent saber. The branches are in the right whorls. The bark is smooth, whitish in youth, while in old age it becomes ashy brown and cracks characteristically on clearly bounded tiles. The root is highly developed, with numerous powerful branches that penetrate deeply into cracks of the rocks. Buds up to 2 cm long, without resin. Needles are two in the branch, along the perimeter they are like testers, with length from 6 to 9 cm and a width of about 1.5 cm, dark green, hard, sharp, and concentrated at the tip of the twigs in the form of compacted staves. Cones are ovoid, 5-8 cm long, 2-3. 5 cm wide, green in youth, later brown. It is propagated by seed. The seeds are elliptical, about 7 mm long, freckled, with about 25 mm long winglets covering the seeds. Seeds ripen in late September or early October of the second year.



## PP4: BOTAURUS STELLARIS

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The habitats of the Reserves suitable for Bittern are present at the "Salina dei Monaci" and the "Palude del Conte", two wetlands with a mainly coastal development that surround the town of Torre Colimena.

The *Botaurus Stellaris* is a large bird belonging to the Ardeidae family (herons). The species is widely distributed globally, but in Western Europe it has a fragmented and localized distribution, with one of its most important populations located in the Po Valley. BirdLife International has indicated the conservation status of the Bittern as "vulnerable" - SPEC 3 a species whose global population is not concentrated in Europe, but which in Europe has an unfavorable conservation status. The Bittern population is in sharp decline mainly due to its dependence on reed habitats. The overall population of the Bittern declined sharply during the twentieth century and, in the event of a failure to reverse the trend, could definitively become extinct in many European countries. The maintenance and restoration of reed habitats and associated wetlands are interventions of primary importance for the protection of this species.

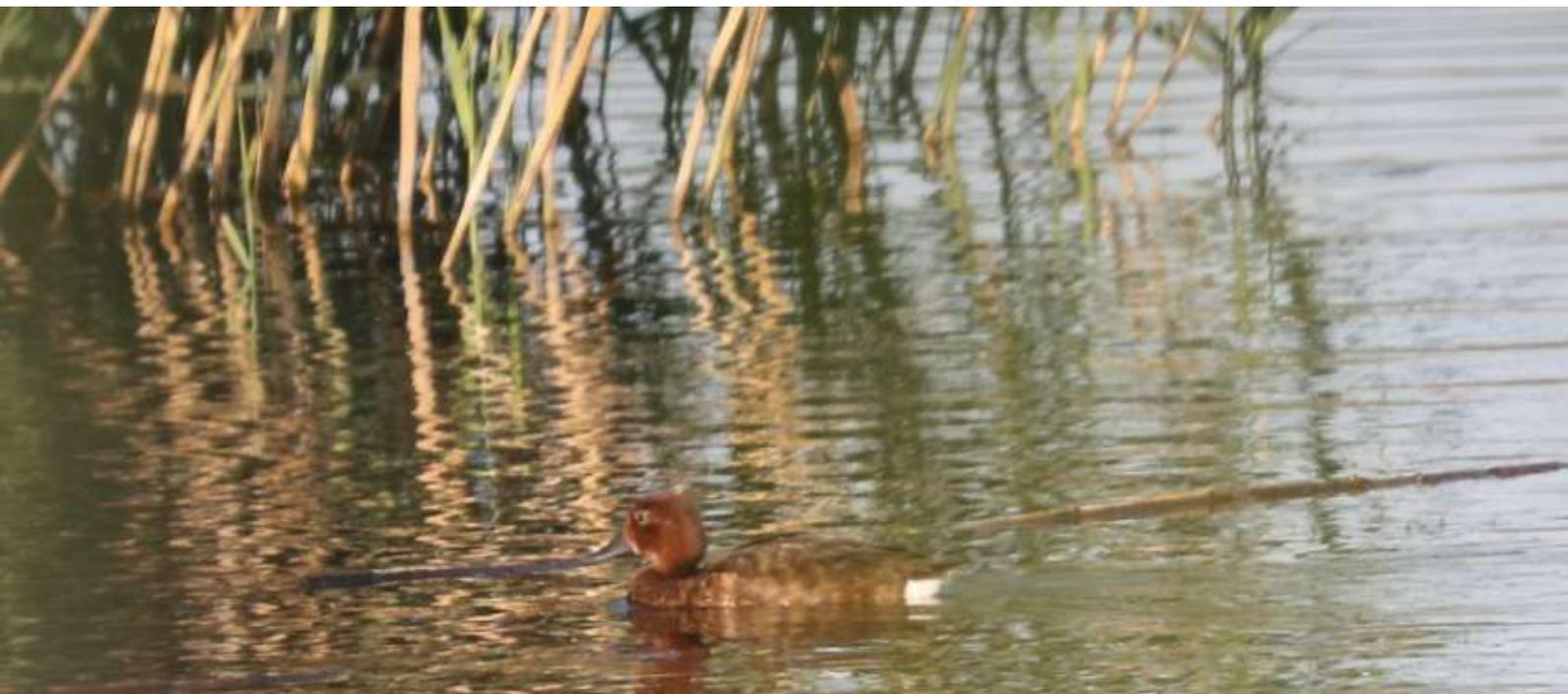


## PP5: AYTHYA NYROCA

*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

In the Regional Natural Park "Litorale di Ugento" and in the "Litorale di Ugento" SCI, the Ferruginous duck finds shelter in the habitats that characterize the artificial basins and canals managed by the "Consorzio di bonifica Ugento e Li Foggi". The Ugento basins are artificial and are created to reclaim the surrounding areas. They arise in a coastal area called "Palude dei Giunchi" and "Lacco Della Marina". The areas surrounding the basins, remnants of the marshy environments of the past, are partly occupied by hygrophilous and halo-hygrophilous vegetation, depending on the degree of salinity of the soils.

The Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) is a species with a Palearctic distribution. The reproductive area is characterized by a fragmented distribution and extends from western Europe to China and western Mongolia; some isolated populations are found further south, including Morocco, where nesting was first ascertained in 1997 (Green and El Hamazoui, 1998) and northern Pakistan. The Ferruginous Duck is a migratory species even if it is believed that some nesting populations in southern parts of the area can be residents. The wintering distribution area is between Europe and western Africa in the west and southeast Asia in the east, and in the latitudinal sense between sub-Saharan Africa and central Europe (Robinson and Hughes, 2006). The minimum estimate of the world population is 100,000 individuals (Robinson and Hughes, 2006).



## PP6: TILIO - ACERLON WOODS OF SLOPES, BOULDERS AND RAVINES

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The WWF Natural Oasis of Guardiaregia - Campochiaro, is located entirely in the territory of the municipalities of Guardiaregia and Campochiaro on the eastern side of the imposing Massif of Matese, from 550 m s. l. m. di Santa Maria ad Nives until 1823 m s. l. m. di Monte Mutria. The strong difference in altitude is a fundamental aspect of this territory which, together with the geo-morphological characteristics of the gorge and mountain areas, helps to identify two natural environments that because of their diversity make the visit to the entire protected area really interesting. Inside the oasis there is a fracture that gave rise to the Quirino Gorge, deepened more and more by the erosion of limestone and shaped over time by the impetuous flow of meteoric water . The Oasis consists of two distinct areas: the area of the gorges of the Quirino Torrent, of 128 hectares, located close to the village and characterized by a long, narrow and deep incision between the town and the heights of the Capraio and Torretta mountains and the area of Monte Mutria, 928 hectares, entirely covered by a dense beech forest, and characterized by several gullies, including the most spectacular, the Cusano gully. In the Natural Oasis of Guardiaregia-Campochiaro you can find different types of vegetation. In particular, there are two priority habitats in the Bioitaly and Habitat Community research projects, the "Tilio-Acerion Valley forests" of the Quirino Creek Gorges and the "Taxus baccata and Ilex aquifolium beech forests" of Monte Mutria and Montagna di Campochiaro.



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PROJECT PARTNERS

€ 504.490,10

Project Co-financed by IPA II funded



## 3. VISION AND MISSION

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*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

### Our Vision

The strategy aims to implement and consolidate a transnational collaborative process between the partners involved in the management of habitats and species at risk of extinction, capable of being transferable and sustainable in the long term.

### Our Mission

To realize this vision, a common methodology will be adopted articulated on various levels, including scientific (Conservation Plan of Species or Habitats), participatory (stakeholder engagement and awareness campaigns) and planning (Implementation of concrete actions). The key element of this strategy is planning through the involvement of stakeholders and awareness campaigns to bring the community closer to the defense of habitats and species at risk.

## 4. CROSS-BORDER MANAGEMENT TOOLS

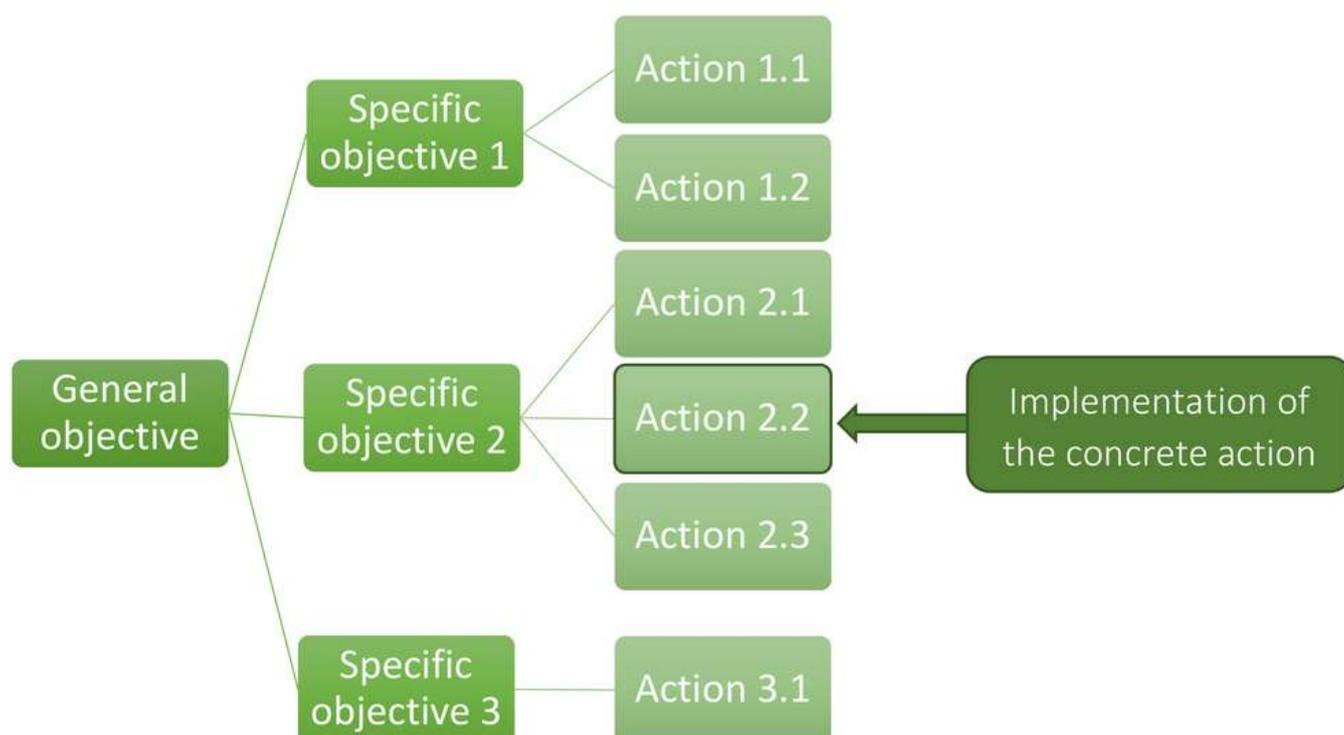
*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

The aim of this document is to identify a coherent methodology and structure for the development of plans for the protection of specific habitats or target species of each territorial context, with the aim of defining strategies, objectives, actions and activities relevant to their protection and conservation.

Despite the variety of the typology of the project partners (Municipality, Park Agencies, National Agencies) as well as the heterogeneity of the territorial contexts and the species and habitats covered by the different Conservation Plans, a common methodological path can be identified for a better definition of the most suitable conservation strategies to be implemented through an integrated set of actions adapted to the specific local context.

The Laspeh project also, bearing in mind the budget constraints available for the project itself, it is proposed not only to draw up a common transnational strategy and to draw up a Conservation Plan for each target habitat/species within the Natura 2000 areas concerned, but also to implement the first concrete pilot actions.

The Conservation Plans should therefore be understood as coherently coordinated action plans and part of an integrated strategy.



At the moment, however, there are no complete written recommendations in the FFH guidelines for drawing up action plans, so there is no standardised and coherent manual for action plans. Therefore, the "Transnational Joint Strategy" takes the form of a "planning guide tool" developed jointly by the project partners, with an approach that inter alia introduces the problem of the protection of habitat or species on a transnational scale, and which, once verified on the ground by the project partners, can be further developed in the future with a view to transnational ecological network. In order to be able to define a concrete common instrument for the drafting of the different Conservation Plans, as a first step, a common methodological approach was shared among all the project partners, on the basis of which a draft Plan structure was drawn up jointly, which was then refined, completed and validated in the workshops involving stakeholders and experts.

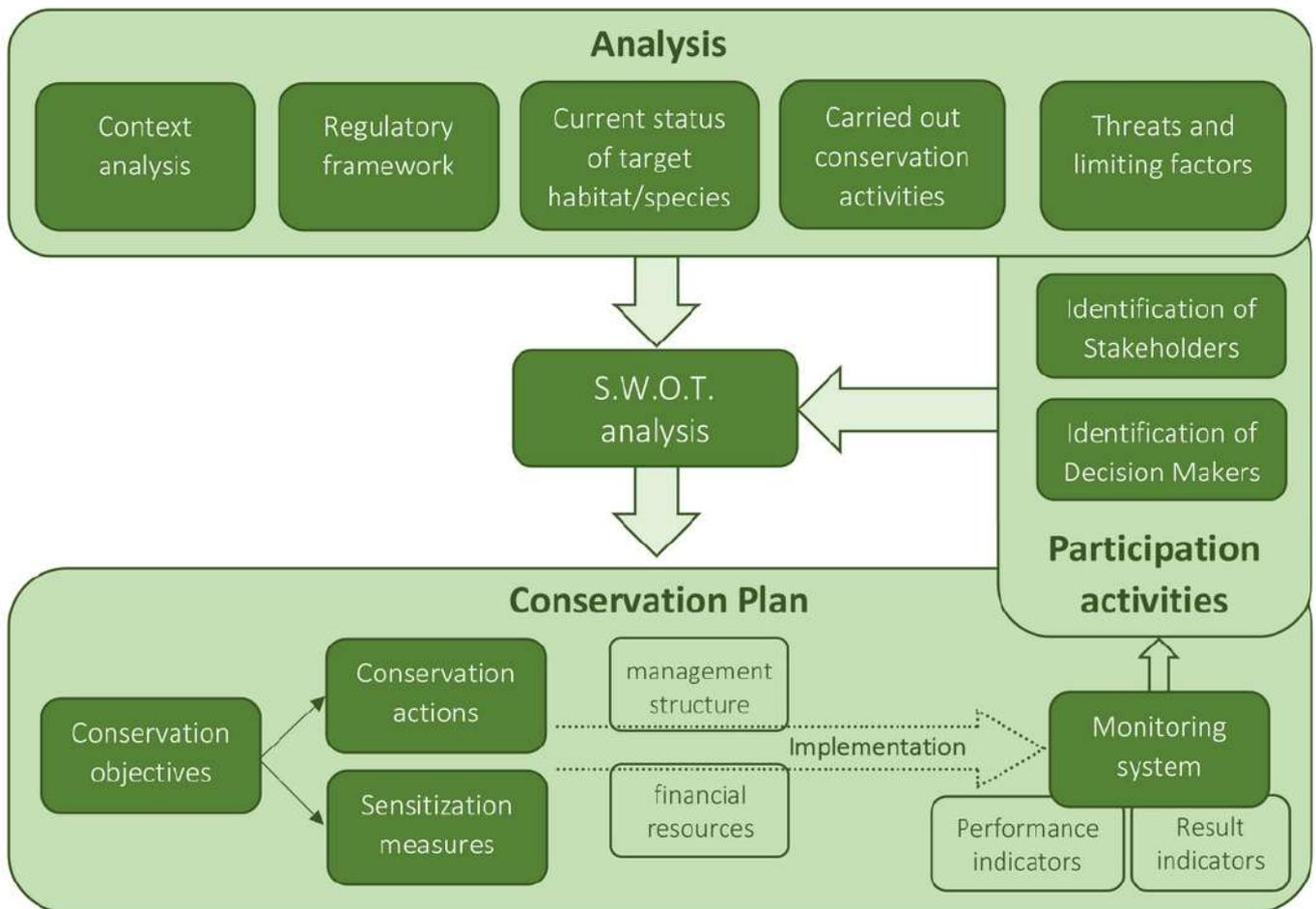
#### 4.1 Guidelines for a methodological approach

The conservation plans will have, as already specified, the aim of identifying a strategy for the protection and conservation of the habitat/target species for each specific Natura 2000 site of the project, based on a series of integrated actions aimed at the achievement of specific conservation objectives, the results of which should be monitored to assess their real effectiveness and possibly reshape the conservation plan itself.

Therefore, conservation plans should be designed as dynamic plans that are regularly and continuously updated on the basis of both monitoring of the state of implementation of the actions envisaged, and the effectiveness of actions on the conservation status of target habitats/species.



The conservation plans should therefore be based on an in-depth analysis phase through which a complete picture not only of the current status of the target habitats/species, but also of the reference territorial context and the dynamics in place, not only in relation to the ecological dimension, but also to the socio-economic dimension that determines dynamics that have an impact on the target habitats/species. It will therefore be appropriate to involve, through participation activities, all stakeholders (decision makers and stakeholders) whose activities have direct or indirect effects on the conservation and status of the target habitats/species, both in order to broaden their knowledge of conservation issues, and to empower them through involvement in the implementation of direct or indirect actions aimed at the protection and conservation of the target habitats/species. Therefore, The synthesis activity for the identification of threats and opportunities through the SWOT analysis should be carried out through the involvement of all identified actors.



The integrated strategy that will be developed from the analysis of existing gaps, threats and opportunities highlighted and shared with the local partnership, may be articulated in direct conservation actions on the target habitats/species, but also in activities that may indirectly benefit the protection and conservation of target habitats/species, as well as specific awareness-raising measures directed at the local community. For an effective implementation of the actions provided for in the Plan, it will be necessary to identify not only the estimated costs of implementing each individual action, but also the possible sources of funding, as well as the management structure and the entities responsible for the implementation of the actions. Both the state of progress of the implementation of the Plan and the real effectiveness of the actions carried out will have to be monitored through the performance and result indicators identified by the monitoring system to be provided in the Plan itself.

## 4.2 Guidelines for the structuring of the conservation plans

The following structuring of the conservation plans reflects the methodological approach that the project partners have jointly agreed to adopt for the elaboration of the Habitat Conservation Plans/Target Species Project within the related Nature Sites 2000.

**1. Introduction:** in order to define the framework within which the Conservation Plan is inserted, it will be necessary to explain at the introductory level what are the objectives and characteristics of the Laspeh project within which the Plan is drawn up, and briefly describe the habitat/species of interest covered by the Plan, its current conservation status and the overall objective of the Plan.

**2. Regulatory framework:** following a complete survey and list of regulatory sources (International conventions, European Directives, national Legislation, local Regulations and any management plans) which identify specific protection rules or rules for the protection of the habitat or species whose protection is the subject of the Conservation Plan, it will be necessary to draw up a summary framework of the rules identified and the relevant regulatory references.

**3. Context Analysis:** important for the definition of actions that are appropriate to the effective protection of the habitats or target species covered by the Plan within the specific Natura 2000 site considered, will be a comprehensive analysis (geological, pedological, phytoclimatic, land use, consistency and status of habitats and species present, with special reference to those of Community interest and included in national or regional red lists) the territorial context within which the Plan will be implemented. The analysis will be carried out through a survey of existing analytical sources, supplemented by appropriate updates and surveys in the field, possibly collecting and/or elaborating also the cartographic data collected within a geodatabase.

**4. Biology and status of the species or habitat:** In order to determine a sound conservation strategy and properly calibrate the actions involved, it is unavoidable to have a complete knowledge of the specific species or habitat covered by the Conservation Plan. In particular, as regards habitats, the biological and ecological characteristics of the specific habitat under consideration (typology, bioinventory, dominant plant associations, biogeographical distribution, conservation status) should be described. If it is relevant for the conservation of the target habitat, it will be necessary to analyse the characteristics and also the status of habitats and related species. As for the species, they should be described in addition to the biological and ecological characteristics of the specific species (taxonomy, phenology, biogeographical distribution, life cycle and reproductive biology) as well as population, distribution and status within the reference site, including requirements and characteristics of the reference habitats. In both cases, it would also be appropriate to identify gaps in the complete knowledge of the target habitat/species at the specific site in question, in order to plan appropriate study and monitoring actions.

It is important to specify that analyses and assessment of the conservation status of the specific target habitat or species will also be essential in order to have available the data necessary for monitoring the assessment of the effectiveness of the actions undertaken and therefore it will be appropriate to organize the data collected in a database possibly also georeferenced for the management of spatial information.

**5. Carried out or in progress conservation measures:** through the recognition of all the programmes, plans or projects planned for the specific area of interest, it will be possible to identify conservation measures and planned actions, already implemented or being implemented in order to have a complete picture of the state of the art within which to insert the integrated strategy of the conservation plan. It will therefore, where possible due to the presence of appropriate monitoring data, carry out a critical analysis of the measures already implemented in order to be able to make any upgrades or corrections through the implementation of possible additional protection actions to be included within the conservation plans. In addition to the plans and programmes and specific projects for the conservation of the habitat or the species concerned, it will also be appropriate to analyse all those plans or projects that may have an influence on the status of the target habitats/species.

**6. Analysis of threats and limiting factors for restocking (for species) or conservation (for habitat):** a first general identification of the threats or limiting factors for the target habitats/species (Transformation of habitat use, Abandonment of the habitat, Scarcity and irregular availability of resources, Evolution of plant communities and invasive alien species, Absence of ecological connections), may be carried out from the consultation of directives, manuals, guidelines drawn up at Community, national and programme level. Within the specific context of the plan, on a local scale, it would then be necessary to identify or deepen the specific threats and pressures existing on the target habitats/species and related to the specific territory, either through the analysis of any management plans of the Natura 2000 site concerned or also through further studies or tools for the protection and conservation of existing species and habitats/targets at project area level, or through appropriate analysis activities. The threats and pressures thus identified should then be listed according to an assessment of their priority according to a "critical", "high", "medium", "low", "unknown" scale in order to establish a priority intervention in the strategy of conservation plans.

**7. Identification of Decision Makers and Stakeholders directly involved in the management of the habitat/species and SWOT analysis:** for each specific context, all actors directly involved in habitat management (decision makers) or whose activities may have a direct or indirect impact on the protection of the target species or habitat (stakeholders) should be identified. For each of the identified actors the role will have to be identified and described according to which modalities their activities have a direct or indirect influence on the habitat or the considered species. Based on analyses carried out (context, threats, conservation measures planned or in place, legal and institutional frameworks for managing Natura 2000 sites, management and organizational structure, ecological

dimension, socio-economic dimension), attraverso lo strumento dell'analisi SWOT andrebbero identificati in maniera partecipata con tutti gli attori coinvolti i gap sui quali intervenire con le azioni del Piano per una più efficace protezione e conservazione degli habitat/specie target. Un effettivo coinvolgimento non solo dei decision makers, ma anche degli stakeholders individuati, è di grande importanza per poter efficacemente svolgere al contempo una azione di sensibilizzazione rispetto alle problematiche della tutela degli habitat/specie target, sia per un coinvolgimento più diretto nella attuazione di azioni anche indirette che possono avere effetti positivi sulla loro conservazione.) A seconda del contesto e della tipologia di attore potranno essere individuate le forme e le metodologie più efficaci per il loro coinvolgimento (interviste, questionari, incontri di partecipazione con sessioni plenarie e sessioni tematiche, percorsi partecipati di planning for real, redazione di manifestazione di interesse e protocolli di intesa, etc.).

**8. Definition of general and specific objectives ensuring conservation of habitat/species in the short, medium and long periods:** a partire dall'analisi delle minacce opportunità della analisi SWOT, definire gli obiettivi generali e specifici che garantiscano la conservazione dell'habitat nel breve, medio e lungo termine

**9. Identification of a Plan of integrated actions for the correct protection and management of habitats / species:** once the general and specific objectives for the protection of the species/habitats have been defined, identify a series of actions to achieve the specific objective (interventions for extension and improvement of habitat, incentives for compatible anthropic practices in agricultural, tourism and residential place), also through educational programs, elaboration of specific interventions (regulations, active interventions, incentives for sustainable companies that have as a business enterprise the environmental sustainability and the protection of the habitat / species) for each action identified, the implementing entity and further actors involved, as well as the necessary financial resources, should be identified.

**10. Information and sensitization measures for Stakeholder and the local population:** Within the Plan it is necessary to identify specific awareness-raising information actions From the identification of stakeholders and decision makers identification of the most appropriate forms of information and awareness-raising (generalized or specific for each target.

**11. Evaluation of impact of the Action Plan for the correct protection and management of the habitats / species:** The starting point for a correct assessment of the impacts of the Action Plan will be based on two systematic approaches, one on the analysis of the results through a monitoring plan to define the results achieved, and the other on the flexibility of the Plan through the evaluation over time of the strengths and actions and strategies to be improved, through continuous dialogue with stakeholders involved in the plan.

the activity of the phase of analysis of the results will be carried out of the Agency in collaboration with the stakeholders directly involved in the management of the habitat, with the task to examine in depth the results achieved, while the modification of the plan of actions of mitigation and conservation of the habitat will be appraised with all the stakeholder and the decision makers involved in the plan of actions.

**12. Identification of human and financial resources which will be included into the project through partnerships with public and private authorities:** The possibility of concretely implementing the Conservation Plan obviously depends on the financial resources available. The management of Natura 2000 sites depends in most cases on a mix of public funding and other sources of funding. In order to ensure the economic sustainability of the Conservation Plan and to be able to plan the implementation of the necessary actions foreseen therein, it will be necessary, for each action of each specific objective, identify the financial resources needed for their implementation.

Both at regional and national level and at EU level, there is a significant amount of funding available for nature protection that is accessible through various grants and funding programmes. By means of a survey of the available financial sources, it will also be useful to identify for each action which possible sources of funding may be available for the implementation of the actions. The Laspeh project will allow the implementation through its budget of only one or some of the concrete actions provided for in the conservation plans for each project area, but also, based on the results achieved, the partners will be able to develop protocols of understanding between themselves in order to capitalize the results of the project (Laspeh2) for the update and the implementation of the plans and the realization of further concrete actions.

**13. Monitoring Plan for checking the effectiveness of actions:** In order to assess the real effectiveness of the strategy undertaken with the conservation plan as well as the state of implementation of its actions, it would be necessary to provide within the conservation plans a monitoring system identifying a set of process indicators for the evaluation of the implementation of the plan actions.

**14. Conclusions:** It will be appropriate to indicate in the conclusions of the Conservation Plan, in the light of the possible results of protection actions at local level, what the future development of the strategy of the conservation plan, which has also been identified with a view to developing a transnational ecological network, may be.

## 5. MONITORING SYSTEM ADOPTED

*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

The monitoring system adopted is based on two main measures: the implementation of the actions selected by each project partner and included in its Conservation Plan and the identification of cross-border indicators to be adopted for the implementation of this strategy. In detail, the cross-border indicators that will be used are:

- Monitoring;
- To increase the % surface of protected areas;
- To promote Cross-Border Cooperation.

In fact, with a view to future participation in future programmes, the partners of the LASPEH project, in addition to the implementation of other actions selected and included in the conservation plan of each partner, joint cross-border actions between all partners will be implemented. In this first phase, the study of the current status of each habitat or species selected, the relationship with stakeholders and decision makers for the choice of actions and the communication and sharing of the plan was decisive.

INDICATORS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Monitoring	Monitoring the conservation status of habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % population of the species</li> <li>• % habitat area</li> </ul>
To Increase the % surface of protect areas	To increase surfaces of the protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % protected areas</li> </ul>
To promote Cross-Border cooperation	To increase cross-border cooperation project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % cross-border cooperation initiatives</li> </ul>

## 6. CONCLUSION

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*A Transnational Joint Strategy (TJS) for the better management of common target species and habitats for species selected by the PPs*

The strategy is based on an elaboration of tools, useful to analyse a complete framework of the current state of the habitat and species selected, the stakeholders involved and the actions to implement. All of these aspects determine dynamics that have effects on the nature 2000 sites involved in the project.

Through awareness activities, many public and private bodies (decision makers and stakeholders) whose activities have direct or indirect effects on the N2K sites were involved, both in order to broaden their knowledge regarding the problems of the sector, and to make them responsible through involvement in the planning of direct or indirect actions aimed at a sustainable conservation of the habitats and species.

The elaboration of these common methodological guidelines for the preparation of the conservation plans of the target habitats / species of the project on N2K sites represents the start of a long-term conservation and protection process of the habitats and species identified, based on the actions developed by each partner in their Conservation Plan in collaboration with the stakeholders involved.

Furthermore, this strategy aims at the cross-border adoption of monitoring indicators, as indicated, aimed at improving the analysis of the context and the conservation status of habitats and species at the cross-border level.

We thank you for your  
ongoing support of our  
project

## Credits

**Responsible Partner:** Regional Natural Park of  
"Coastal Dunes from Torre Canne to Torre San  
Leonardo"

**Project Partne contribution:**

- PP2 National Agency of Protected Areas of  
Albania
- PP3 Public enterprise for National Parks of  
Montenegro
- PP4 Management Body of the Regional Natural  
Reserves of the Eastern Coast of Taranto
- PP5 Municipality of Ugento
- PP6 Municipality of Guardiaregia

