

Working Group Terms of Reference

DEVELOPMENT OF A **PILOT ACTION PLAN FOR A HABITAT TYPE OF COMMUNITY INTEREST** IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this proposal is to elaborate an Action plan for a habitat type of Community interest in the Mediterranean region that works as a trial experience and prototype for other habitat types in this biogeographical region. The habitat type selected for this exercise is **2110** Embryonic shifting dunes. It has been chosen because it is a habitat type present in all Member States of the Mediterranean region, although other dune systems will also be considered and addressed.

This action plan aims to guide the necessary measures to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of the habitat type at the scale of the biogeographical region.

The proposal is conceptually and operationally framed within the workshops for the harmonisation of procedures for the monitoring, assessment and conservation of habitat types of Community interest in the Mediterranean region, held between 2019 and 2021, and specifically a result from Workshop #5, which focused on the establishment of the basic contents of action plans for habitat types at the biogeographic region level.

2. DUTIES

The Working Group will discuss and work together in the elaboration of the pilot Action plan. In particular, they are expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Gathering and analysing the information needed for the elaboration of the pilot Action plan.
- Taking part in the workshops and meetings that will be organised for the discussion of the pilot action plan contents and its elaboration. (About 5 meetings are expected to be held by February'24).
- Elaborating and reviewing the pilot Action plan contents.
- Identifying information gaps and other aspects needed for the elaboration of a full Action plan.
- Taking part in the potential elaboration of a further Project proposal, which might be submitted in the future to European funding project calls,

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with the objective of elaborating a full action plan for the selected habitat type.

3. WORKING GROUP STRUCTURE

The working group will consist of:

- Scientific coordinators: **Javier Gracia** and **Irene Delgado** (University of Cadiz).
- Technical coordinators: **Concha Olmeda** and **Juan Carlos Simón** (ATECMA).
- Group management and technical support: **Tragsatec**.
- Scientific experts in the habitat type selected, if possible, appointed by the national Natura 2000 focal point (this might include experts in flora, fauna and geomorphology in the Mediterranean region). Ideally, one expert of each Member State in the European Mediterranean region.
- **Representatives from each Member State**, with a technical/management background and knowledge/experience about Habitat Directive implementation and management of Natura 2000 sites, ideally designated by their national Natura 2000 focal points.

Also, in order to get advice on specific issues, other people may be invited to participate in some meetings on an *ad-hoc* basis:

- **Experts on specific topics that must be addressed by the group** (e.g. pressures and threats, favourable reference values, etc.).
- **Experts participating in one of the other working groups** of this initiative.

4. WORK PROGRESS

4.1. Way of working

- Sharing and reviewing documents through an online working platform
- Replying to questionnaires that will be sent by the coordination team in order to collect information from each Member State.
- Attending regular online meetings and workshop to address and discuss the main relevant topics for the elaboration of the action plan.

4.2. Language of working

English

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4.3. Schedule

| | | 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2024 | |
|--|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AGU | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB |
| WORKING GROUP MED #1 ('ACTION PLAN FOR A HCI) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Elaboration of the Working Group Terms of References. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Constitution for the Working Group, drafting of work programme and calendar | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Compilation and analysis of available information and data. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Identification of information gaps and future needs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Elaboration of a pilot Action plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a | Identification and characterisation of the habitat type, distribution and ecological requirements. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b | Analysis of conservation status and trends: Available information, knowledge gaps and needs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c | Pressures and threats analysis: Available information, knowledge gaps and needs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| d | Definition of objectives: at biogeographic region level, national level and protected site level (inside/outside Natura 2000). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e | Definition of the measures necessary to achieve the proposed objectives, in order to maintain or restore the selected habitat type into a favourable conservation status. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| f | Definition of tools that should be implemented, support measures and sources of funding. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Preparation of a project proposal that covers the identified needs and that can be submitted to European funding calls. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

