

FACT-SHEET

SO 13 NATURE PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY



Interreg
AUSTRIA – HUNGARY



Co-funded by
the European Union

The aim of this specific objective is to preserve and restore biodiversity in sensitive areas as well as to improve the cross-border connectivity of protected areas, biotopes and related ecosystem services also as an essential contribution to climate mitigation.

Types of project partners

- public and
- public equivalent organisations

Main target groups

- the population in the programme area directly benefitting from improved green infrastructure and induced ecosystem services and reduced pollution
- public and private institutions in all sectors directly benefitting from improved green infrastructure and induced ecosystem services and reduced pollution for example in the field of agriculture, forestry, tourism and water management
- public and private institutions in the programme area for example in the fields of nature protection, forestry, education, hunting, tourism, transport, water management or regional development, material management or green economy by being involved in the actions or taking up solutions, such as
 - local, regional or national public authorities, including EGTCs
 - sectoral agencies such as local or regional development agencies, National Park Directorates, environmental associations or energy agencies
 - service providers for infrastructure and/or (public) services such as transport providers
 - interest groups including NGOs such as nature parks
 - institutions for higher education and research
 - education and training organisations including kindergarten
 - economic development institutions

Output indicators Output-Indikatoren

- Organisations cooperating across borders
- Strategies and action plans jointly developed
- Jointly developed solutions
- Participations in joint actions across borders

Result indicators

- Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion
- Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
- Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
- Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion



Types of actions and indicative activities

3.1. Data collection and research as well as (interdisciplinary) know how exchange to gain better knowledge about the region's ecological status and threats

- jointly developing synchronised methods for monitoring and surveys or setting up joint data bases for example on invasive or migratory species or the impact of actions taken
- citizen science activities (bird watching etc.)
- research and know-how exchange in the field of circular economy and green technology
- workshops, conferences, field trips or other forms of (digital) know-how exchange
 - among research institutions, public and private institutions in the field of nature conservation and local and regional authorities to gain knowledge about local and regional biodiversity and the status of protected areas or subjects of protection (e.g. endangered plants, animals or biotopes) in the cross-border region
 - between sectoral stakeholders, research institutions and decision makers in order to learn best available technologies e.g. in reducing ammonia emission or GHG emission
 - between the management of nature parks, national parks and other protected areas of the programme area ("nature park academy network")
 - improving capabilities and skills on biodiversity and reducing pollution of all relevant stakeholders, such as municipalities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, transport, education, water management, regional planning and local SMEs, also by implementing enhanced and innovative digital tools

3.2 Developing strategies and action plans to enable a positive development of nature and biodiversity in the cross-border region

- (interdisciplinary) strategies on the conservation and valorisation of special habitats ("protecting by using") for example meadow orchards or addressing the preservation of autochthonous plant varieties and livestock breeds (agrobiodiversity)
- strategies addressing the joint management of cross-border nature parks or establishing common goals in managing sensitive areas, for example grasslands
- action plans for developing model regions of the circular economy and bioeconomy
- strategies on awareness raising measures on biodiversity, green infrastructure or reducing pollution

3.3 Implementing actions including small scale investments that contribute to protecting nature or reducing pollution

- creating, improving or restoring valuable habitats for animal and plant species, for example meadows, orchards, ponds or sandy areas, establishing green infrastructure for example community gardens or green walls, establishing small elements enhancing biodiversity, for example stone walls, piles of dead wood or bushes
- developing business models to exploit the market potential for maintaining and improving ecosystem services and green infrastructure
- pilot projects in the field of circular economy and green technology
- technological digitalisation models oriented towards sustainable development and resource awareness
- actions integrating the topic of sustainability in the education system, including vocational training
- developing tool boxes with measures for local business and communities aiming at adapting material management towards circular economy
- implementing actions contributing to the implementation of the Updated Bioeconomy Strategy and the European Green Deal

3.4 Awareness raising activities on the need of nature protection and reducing pollution at local and regional level

- improving the knowledge and level of acceptance on environmental issues, for example by guided tours or other informal training events (like summer schools, camps, urban or private gardening events etc.), or using digital means and social media
- information events such as exhibitions or field trips on the role of traditional cultivation techniques and knowledge in preserving biodiversity