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ACTION PLAN OF CATALONIA

Policy instrument PI 6 from Catalan ERDF Operational Programme

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MAIN POLICY INSTRUMENT

Priority investment (PI) 6 from Catalan ERDF Operational Programme 2014-20 (OP): Protecting environment and promoting resource efficiency

This PI has two relevant Strategic Objectives (OE) for biodiversity related projects:

- ❖ **OE 6.3.2. Protection, development and promotion of natural areas, particularly those of tourist interest.** This OE allows to finance actions aimed at enhancing biodiversity or promoting the environment, mainly linked to socio-economic development and tourism.
- ❖ **OE 6.4.1. Management, protection and maintenance promotion of the land, natural spaces and their biodiversity, in particular the protected ones, including measures to mitigate the problems of erosion, salinization, desertification, deforestation and low level of organic matter on the ground.** This is the main OE that allows to promote actions to conserve biodiversity, ecosystem services and the creation of green infrastructure beyond tourist purposes.

OTHER POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Natural Heritage Strategy of Catalonia 2030

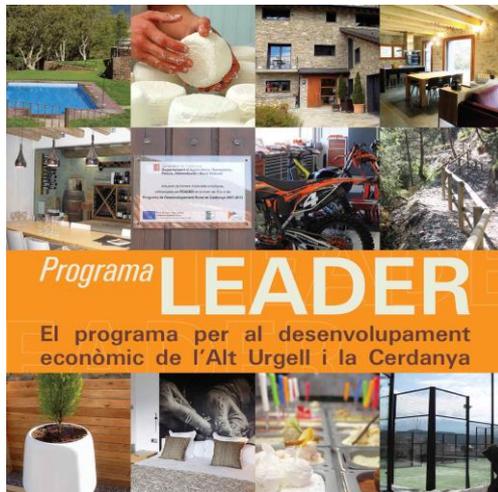
- ❖ The Strategy is the framework document which will guide the Government of Catalonia's nature conservation work until 2030.
- ❖ The aim is to monitor the degradation of natural heritage and biodiversity loss in Catalonia, while guaranteeing its sustainable use and ensuring the provision of the ecosystem services on which Catalan society depend.
- ❖ The approval of this new policy instrument is a crucial step to increase the number of actions which can be funded by Axis 6 of the ERDF Catalan Operational Programme



OTHER POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Other European funds used in Catalonia (EARDF & EMFF)

- ❖ Most of the actions proposed for the improvement of the Catalan ERDF Operational Programme can be also applied to other European funds



OBJECTIVES OF ACTION PLAN

The specific objectives of the Action Plan in Catalonia are:

- 1. Prioritize and manage the ERDF funds properly in order to favor nature conservation policies in Catalonia.**
- 2. Design the future Natural Heritage Observatory according to...**
 - needs and legal mandate of Land and Sustainability Department
 - needs identified by Catalan LSG throughout the workshops
 - lessons learned from other European regions

The Observatory is the main proposed instrument to meet the needs and address difficulties associated with the use of biodiversity information detected in Catalonia.

ACTIONS THAT WILL BE CARRIED OUT

There are **two types of actions** regarding FUNDS & INFORMATION

FUND1. Influence on the new OP 2021-2027 of the ERDF to facilitate and increase the financing of biodiversity related projects

FUND2. Increase the involvement of Land and Sustainability Department (DTES) in the definition and execution of the ERDF to make a better use of this fund in terms of biodiversity

FUND3. Create an advisory office for potential users of European structural funds to raise and execute biodiversity conservation projects

FUND4. Carry out a global monitoring of the use of European funds for biodiversity conservation projects

ACTIONS THAT WILL BE CARRIED OUT

INFO1. Include the creation of the **Observatory of the Natural Heritage of Catalonia as a priority line** within the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy of Catalonia (hereafter as **EPNCAT2030**)



INFO2. Establish a **common work plan among strategic projects of biodiversity information generation** to meet the challenges of the EPNCAT2030 and the future Observatory

INFO3. **Create the Observatory of the Natural Heritage of Catalonia**, set up the technical office and develop a 5-year vision plan that will program its activity

INFO4. Create, nourish and update a **platform for biodiversity information** and make it available to society

INFO5. Establish a **common research agenda** between public administrations, universities and research centers in the field of biodiversity and geodiversity

INFO6. **Bring existing biodiversity information closer to its potential users** with the aim of using it for natural environment planning and management

GOOD PRACTICES IDENTIFIED IN THE PROJECT THAT WILL BE USED IN ACTION PLAN



Nature Information System of the Basque Country (Spain)

Inspire how to structure information, ensure interoperability and information flows (action INFO4)



Field Studies Council (UK)

Demonstrate success in training programs, which may be replicable in Catalonia



Life Belgian Nature Integrated Project (Belgium)

Show how an information monitoring system may help to meet administration's needs (action INFO2)



NBN Atlas (UK)

Show how to bring biodiversity data within everyone's reach (action INFO6)



NatAgriWal (Belgium)

Contribute to define an advisory office for potential users of EU funds (action FUND3)

ISSUES TO DISCUSS

- ❖ **Should the new Observatory evaluate public biodiversity policies, for example, the EPNCAT2030? Or should just be focussed on assessing the state of natural heritage?**
- ❖ Taking account that there are already several (partial) biodiversity information platforms, **does it make sense to create a new one that acts as a single repository?** If so, what type of information should it contain (processed or analysed information, for example)?
- ❖ **In what ways can the new ERDF OP be improved to make it easier and increase the financing of biodiversity projects?** Which indicators using biodiversity information can be suitable to help ERDF managers to select and monitor projects related to natural heritage conservation?
- ❖ **If a new advisory system for potential users of the structural European funds was created (likewise NatAgriWal), should it has a single head office or better take advantage of territorial offices of other agencies?** In the framework of the ERDF fund, does it make sense to advise small private users?



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Thank you!



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