

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASIC CONTENT OF ACTION PLANS AT BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGION LEVEL FOR HABITAT TYPES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore all habitat types and species of Community interest at a favourable conservation status.

To contribute to this objective, the European Commission has recently supported the elaboration and implementation of Action Plans for two habitat types. These Action Plans aim to guide the actions required to maintain and restore the habitat types at a favourable conservation status across its range in the EU.

This Workshop will address the issue at the level of the Mediterranean region. It will promote the discussion and elaboration of an appropriate methodology to develop Habitat Action Plans on a biogeographical region scale.

Based on available experience with the elaboration of action plans for protected species and habitats, the basic approach for the elaboration of an Action Plan can be already outlined. It should consider the following main elements: (i) the diagnosis of the conservation status and trends of the habitat type concerned, (ii) the most relevant pressures and threats that may affect its conservation status, and (iii) the necessary measures for the maintenance or recovery of the favourable status.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop aims to develop a methodology for the elaboration of action plans for habitat types of Community interest at the biogeographical region level, focusing on the Mediterranean region. This methodology could however be applicable to any biogeographical region across the EU.

The main targets of this first Mediterranean Workshop on Habitat Action Plans are as follows:

- To set out the detailed content of an Action Plan to maintain and restore to favourable conservation status a habitat type on the biogeographic region scale.

- To discuss and design the methodology for the elaboration of action plans for habitat types of Community interest.
- To test the main steps and proposed methods for the elaboration of a Habitat Action Plan on a selected and characteristic habitat type of the Mediterranean region, i.e. 9320 *Olea* and *Ceratonia* forests.
- To discuss the best approaches and a roadmap for the elaboration of habitat action plans in the Mediterranean region.

3. METHODOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

3.1. Program outline

The programme will include:

- (i) a session with a series of presentations to share experiences and focus the problem;
- (ii) four sessions to discuss and elaborate the main contents, the methodology and key steps to elaborate a habitat action plan on a biogeographical region scale, including as a practical exercise the testing and application of the proposed methods on a selected habitat type, based on information available at EU level and collected from the Member States;
- (iii) a session to finalise the main contents and key steps in the methodology for the compilation of a habitat action plan;
- (iv) a final session to discuss the most suitable approaches to promote the compilation and implementation of habitat action plans in the Mediterranean Region.

These sessions will be held on three consecutive days.

3.2. Case study

A habitat type characteristic of the Mediterranean region has been selected to test and apply the methods that will be elaborated during the workshop for the elaboration of a habitat action plan: 9320 *Olea* and *Ceratonia* forests.

Available information at EU level and from the Member States will be used in the workshop to test and apply on this particular habitat type the key steps and methods proposed. This should allow validating the methods and detecting possible difficulties, further needs, etc.

3.3. Working language

English

3.4. Venue

On line

3.5. Dates

November 4th-6th, 2020. Morning sessions

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Contents and methodology for the elaboration of a habitat action plan in the Mediterranean region.
- Next steps and a possible roadmap to promote the elaboration and implementation of habitat action plans in the Mediterranean Region.

5. EXPECTED ATTENDEES

- 1 (or more) expert(s) from each EU Member State of the Mediterranean biogeographical region, representing the national Authority responsible for implementing the Habitats Directive.
- 1 (or more) representative(s) of the European Commission.
- 1 coordinator, 1 facilitator and 1 rapporteur of the Workshop.
- Additional experts from Mediterranean Member States, when appropriate.