

THE PROJECT

LIFE CALLIOPE is a project co-funded by the European Union under the LIFE + Program to protect and improve coastal and marine environments.

These environments are threatened by unsustainable human activities that damage the biodiversity of dunes, sandy and rocky bottoms. For their preservation, it is therefore necessary to adopt good practices that allow preserving the natural heritage and the beauty of coastal landscapes.

Duration: 5 years (2018 - 2023)



LOCATION

The project is implemented in two areas of intervention:

Italy: Abruzzo coast (4,070 total hectares)

Cyprus: Northwestern coasts (1,750 total hectares)



OBJECTIVES

Planning and monitoring



- improve the local ecological network of coastal and marine habitats;

- implement, in the Abruzzo region, the network of Natura 2000 protected areas, including the areas of Punta dell'Acquabella-Foce del Fiume Moro (pSIC), Ripari di Giobbe-Parco delle Dune (pSIC), and extending the Punta Aderci- Punta Penna (ZSC) towards the sea;

- contribute, in Cyprus, to the periodic monitoring and updating of the Natura 2000 network on the Periochi Polis - Gialia site;

- improve the effectiveness of management and monitoring, through the preparation of a Geographic Information System on a WebGIS platform in three languages (ITA-CYP-ENG).

Recovery and enhancement of habitats



- place wooden walkways to be used to reach the beaches, so as to reduce the impact caused by the trampling spread in these environments;

- restore dune vegetation through the planting of about 10,400 young plants;

- restore 1 hectare of Mediterranean maquis, eradicating the alien species *Acacia saligna* in Cyprus;

- protect the biodiversity of seacliffs and submerged grasslands, regulating access and delimiting the area with light buoys for signaling, in Italy;

Awareness and information



- involve local students in environmental education activities;

- increase the environmental awareness of residents and tourists, through awareness-raising and information interventions.

WHY PROTECT COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

The protection and restoration of dune, sandy and reef ecosystems has enormous importance, since they represent reservoirs of plant and animal biodiversity.

The project aims to counteract some human activities that alter coastal and marine habitats and their native species.

In particular:

- the widespread trampling and degradation of dune habitats;
- the removal of vegetation;
- the destruction of the reefs by poaching (for example illegal fishery);
- anchoring on seagrass meadows, by nautical tourism;
- the presence and spread of "alien" plant species, which replace the local species, damaging the ecosystem.



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CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE COASTAL DUNE AND MARINE SEABEDS
OF THE ABRUZZO COAST IN ITALY
AND OF THE WESTERN NORTH COAST OF CYPRUS
LIFE17 NAT/IT/000565 CALLIOPE

