



#### Partner Involved:



#### Local actors and stakeholders to be involved:

- Local Municipalities
- Park Authority
- Tourism operators and enterprises
- Environment associations
- Agricultural and Fisheries enterprises
- Category associations
- Citizen committees
- Chamber of commerce

#### Main objectives of the pilot

The pilot aims to involve local stakeholders in the consciousness and reduction of tourism-related impacts on natural systems such as dunes erosion, waste management, water pollution, disturbance on the ecosystem and agriculture-related issues. With the development of sustainable tourism, it will be possible to mitigate the environmental impact of beach tourism, distributing the tourist presence throughout the year and supporting the local economy and employment.

ITALY



## Pilot Area 3: Circeo National Park and UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve



The Pilot Area 3 (PA3), corresponding to the Circeo National Park and Unesco-Mab Biosphere Reserve area, is located in the west coast of central Italy overlooking the Tyrrhenian sea. The site extends along the southern coast of Lazio Region between Anzio and Terracina. The Circeo National Park is one of the oldest protected natural areas in Italy and was established in 1934; it covers an area of about 8,900 hectares while the UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve extends over an area of about 25,000 hectares.

The zone is a protected natural area where different but essential environments coexist, creating a perfect ecosystem. It is characterized by the presence of the biggest Tyrrhenian Forest in Italy, by 25 km of beach and dunes and by 3 km of rocky cliffs of the Circeo Promontory.

The area includes the Municipalities of Latina, Ponza, Sabaudia and San Felice Circeo and is characterized by industrial agriculture, with many greenhouses and breeding farms; by two touristic and fish harbours, hosting 300 and 50 boats each, by aquaculture, fishing and industrial activities.

However, the natural environment has maintained a good quality, and the area is an important local tourism destination,

strengthened by the proximity to Rome. The sea-water quality is good, in fact, it receives annually the Blue Flag, while the zone suffers mainly from coastal erosion and rivers pollution due to industrial and agricultural discharge. Also, coastal dune is one of the most fragile environments to be protected from the strong impact of tourism.

Tourism is characterized by a very strong seasonality; the tourist season is limited to spring and summer months while in the low season there are very few tourists and open facilities. Moreover, the area is under a very strict regulatory framework, because of the National Park, and in the past 20 years several different experiences of local stakeholders' participation were started, but not all of them had success and some were refused by local people. In the area, there were strong conflicts about environment and resources use, with fights between local enterprises and the Park Agency. Park Authority developed a park plan for the sustainable development of the area and is under evaluation by Lazio Region.

This pilot area aims to develop an Action Plan, compliant with MSP-ICZM principles, for sustainable tourism development especially in the field of sand beach activities and eco-tourism development. Innovative solutions will be adopted to integrate the development of economic activities and ecosystems protection. Main themes to be developed: beaches, dunes and marinas management (energy, water and waste); ecotourism development; transport management; coastal erosion and fishing.

A sustainable approach is essential to meet economic, social and environmental needs combining the reduction of uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources with environmental protection and providing wealth for local communities.



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MORE INFORMATION:

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