

Mauremys rivulata - conservation of the umbrella species of the
Mediterranean wetlands in Dubrovnik - Neretva County



/LIFE21-NAT-HR-
LIFE for Mauremys
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Objectives

To improve the conservation status of the Balkan Terrapin (*Mauremys rivulata*) in Croatia:

1. Restore the habitats and address the threats to the Balkan Terrapin population in four Natura 2000 sites
2. Reinforce the Balkan Terrapin population in Croatia through breeding programme
3. Raise public awareness about the protection of the Balkan Terrapin as an umbrella species for the Mediterranean freshwater habitats

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LIFE
for
Mauremys



Speed presentations – ARC Platform Meeting – 22nd May – Santander, Spain



Mauremys rivulata:

*unfavorable-bad (U2) – HR, unfavorable – inadequate (U1) – Mediterranean
Habitat directive Annex II, IV*



II. ARC and Invasive Species

Planned Project IAS related Results

1. Detecting and dealing with invasives

1. *Herpestes auropunctatus*
2. *Ameiurus melas*
3. *Oncorhynchus mykiss*
4. (invasive carp)
5. (*Callinectes sapidus*)

2. Eradication + control:

1. *Paspalum distichum*
2. *Trachemys* sp.
3. *Gambusia* sp.

Highlights: Sustainability of interventions – disseminating best practice

- New type of **by-catch free, turtle friendly fyke net opening** – free industrial design
- **The pond keeper program**



Direct mortality

IAS eradication tools

Freshwater and brackish IAS



III. ARC and Land Management

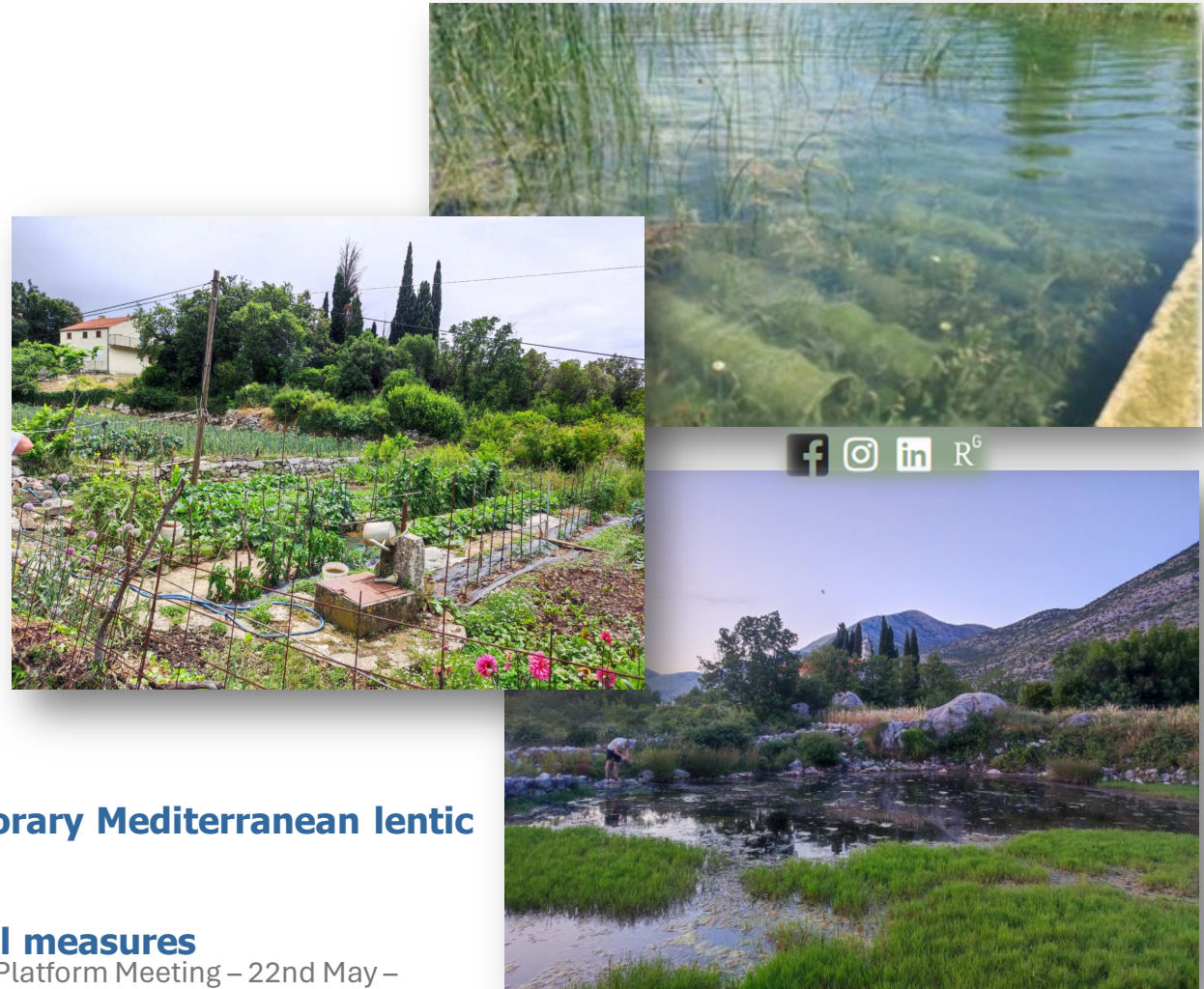
Planned Project Habitat related Results

1. Habitat restoration: small karstic ponds are desiccated by IAS, eutrophication, earthquakes, connectivity
2. Private landowners in Natura2000 – crucial for private ponds and nesting sites
3. Public perceptions about the turtle is diverse
4. Controlling / eliminating threats: *Sus scrofa*, *overgrowth*, *agrotechnical measures*
5. High nature value farming impacting
 1. nesting sites
 2. habitat connectivity,
 3. IAS control,
 4. water management ...

Highlights:

- First **long-term private land agreement** signed in Croatia
- **Turtle friendly agriculture guidelines for landowners**
- **Guidelines for restoring and managing small and temporary Mediterranean lentic and lotic water**
- Working with municipalities on **ordinances on agrotechnical measures**

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IV. Policy and Finance for ARC in Europe

Resulting challenges and opportunities

1. **Common fisheries policy for freshwater fisheries** - > Reduced IAS and unregulated fisheries
2. Establishing legal protection – species designated in Natura SDF forms
3. **Trapping tools for IAS removal in freshwater systems – bycatch free?**
 - specific tools safe for non-targeted species required
4. **Agrotechnical ordinances** up to local government?

Lessons Learnt

- Strict legislative – **harmonisation required in supervision, new tolls as well:**
 - Water guards, nature protection guards and freshwater fisheries guards, field supervision with the authorized county officials
- Controlling freshwater IAS - Trapping tools are illegal in freshwater fishing; technical specification of mesh size **and the number and size of the entrances**

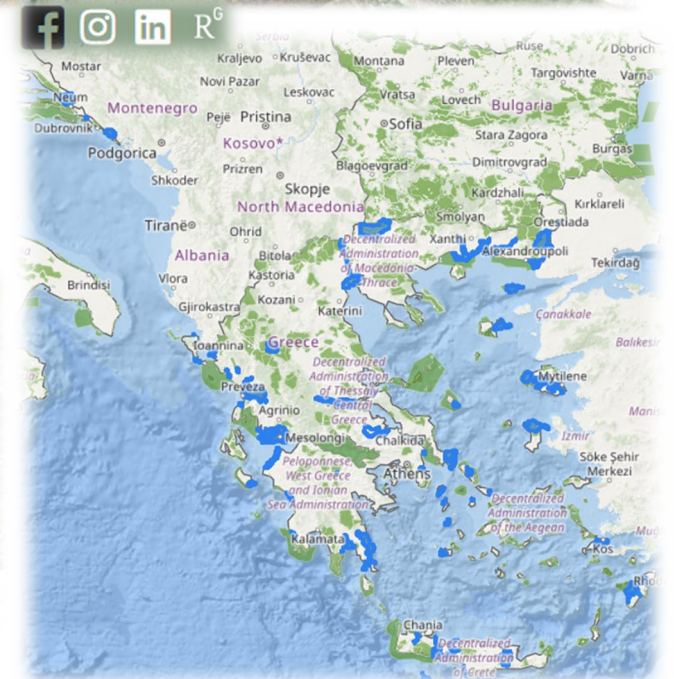


Key Messages to Share

Tips and procedures to transfer

... in the next Mauremys project

- Viable options for protected areas:
 - Selective fishing tools in IAS control
- Stakeholder engagement
 - Warning system: Pond keeper program
- Long term private land agreements



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