“If we combine employment creation with environmental protection, we can create specific job profiles that contribute to the future of Protected Areas.”

David Ruiz Mateos - young inhabitant of Sierra de Grazalema Nature Park, Spain.

Highlights of IMPACT Project

IMPACT is an interregional cooperation project aimed at improving policy instruments for the promotion of sustainable development in European Protected Areas and enhancing the livelihoods of local communities around them.

www.interregeurope.eu/impact
Productive Sector

- Creation of “Showcase gardens” demonstrating the region’s vegetable heritage in collaboration with B&B operators.
- CucinAcost0 - Cooking lessons on wild edible plants for young cookery apprentices.
- Gradual replacement of commercial fisheries with angling services to reduce environmental impact and increase revenues of local fishermen.

Tourism Sector

- Sharing of “nature sports” experiences with tourism and healthcare professionals.
- Transiberiana d’Italia - The epic railroad along Italian Appennines runs again into the green heart of Italy.
- Paths and ICT apps for self-guiding tours in UNESCO Biosphere Reserve “Alto Molise”.

Governance & Communication

- Conflict resolution between Protected Areas managers and a local community through a third party (an NGO).
- Model of public collaboration with local entrepreneurs for visitor centers management to ensure public services delivery.
- Awareness campaign among local population and school children to promote a characteristic natural asset: the reintroduced European bison.

Protected Areas have proven to be a stimulus for green jobs creation, thus preventing current rural abandonment, in sectors such as forestry, organic farming and handmade crafts.

Nowadays, the development of tourism and outdoor sports business in Protected Areas offers opportunities, especially for young people, to strengthen the local economy.

New management models need to follow a more participative approach, as compared with conventional models, with the involvement of local stakeholders to guarantee the long-term success of the Protected Areas.

PROJECT MILESTONES

Kick-off Meeting, Sevilla (ES) Interregional Meeting, Klaipeda (LT) Interregional Meeting, Hațeg (RO) Final Conference, Brussels (BE)

Interregional Meeting, Isernia (IT) Interregional Meeting, Lille (FR) Interregional Meeting, Málaga (ES)