



ECOPOTENTIAL

Informing management of
protected areas through
Earth Observation

In order to improve ecosystem benefits and functions in the face of increasing anthropogenic pressures, effective monitoring and modeling of the state and trends in ecosystem conditions and services is needed.

This could be done through using existing and upcoming Earth Observation and field monitoring data.

CONTEXT

ECOPOTENTIAL is a **European-funded H2020 project coordinated by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR)**. It focuses its activities on twenty internationally recognized protected areas worldwide, including the Camargue Biosphere Reserve (France).

ECOPOTENTIAL considers cross-scale geosphere-biosphere interactions at regional to continental scales, addressing long-term and large-scale environmental and ecological challenges.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to deliver products of Earth Observation data to understand and monitor changes to ecosystems and support the effective management of these Protected Areas. It addresses the entire chain of ecosystem services, by:

- Developing data services, with special emphasis on Copernicus services.
- Building the capacity of managers of protected areas to use remote sensing data.
- Estimating the spatial distribution of current and future ecosystem services and benefits.

EUROPEAN ECOPOTENTIAL PROJECT PILOT SITES

The ECOPOTENTIAL project focuses its activities on a targeted set of internationally recognized protected areas in Europe, European Territories and beyond, including mountain, arid and semi-arid, coastal and marine ecosystems, integrating Earth Observations from remote sensing and field measurements, data analysis.

TARGETED OUTPUTS

- **Making the best use of Earth Observations** by generating and providing innovative products, integrating remote sensing with in situ data, which provide information on the state of and changes in selected ecosystems.
- **Improving the management of benefits from protected areas** by focusing on a set of ecosystem services provided by protected areas and developing scenarios as well as strategies to enhance them towards the future. Extensions to regions outside protected areas are addressed.
- **Enhancing protected area management:** The information that is co-developed with site managers in ECO POTENTIAL will be used to develop management options and strategies for protected areas.
- **Creating new opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)** across Europe: ECO POTENTIAL's activities will help SMEs to link Earth Observation data with the needs of protected area management, creating new opportunities in the field of monitoring and application of Earth Observations to the study, conservation and management of ecosystems.
- **GEO Common Infrastructure (GCI)/ Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Virtual Laboratory Platform:** ECO POTENTIAL provides a Virtual Laboratory Platform for the data, products, services, models and information generated by the project, as a contribution to the community of practice of GEO/GEOSS

Duration: 2015 - 2019

More information: www.ecopotential-project.eu

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PARTNERS

The ECO POTENTIAL consortium consists of 47 partners, including research institutions, universities, environmental agencies, international institutions, and SMEs.

Find them here: <http://www.ecopotential-project.eu/partners.html>

ECOPOTENTIAL Project Sites

