

# OUTPUT FACT SHEET

## Pilot actions (including investment, if applicable)

Version 2

Project index number and acronym	CE926
Lead partner	Emilia-Romagna Region - Protected Areas, Forestry and Mountains Development Department (PP01)
Output number and title	O.T2.2-9 -Ente di Gestione Emilia Centrale (Emilia Romagna Region - Italy)
Investment number and title (if applicable)	
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	Federparchi - The Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves (Europarc Italy) (PP07)
Project website	<a href="https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/CEETO.html">https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/CEETO.html</a>
Delivery date	11/2019

Summary description of the pilot action (including investment, if applicable) explaining its experimental nature and demonstration character

The two pilot areas have different characteristics and criticalities and, therefore, the monitoring activities implemented in the two pilot actions have provided for different approaches and systems.

In the pilot area of the lake Santo, the aims of the monitoring activities concerned:



- the promotion of sustainable forms of accessibility instead of the car,
- the acquisition of a better knowledge of the characteristics, choices and degree of awareness of visitors about the specific nature of the holy lake of Modena,
- the ability to make visitors responsible for their own behaviour within the Park through adequate information on the correct rules of conduct.

The monitoring of tourist influxes to Lake Santo was therefore carried out by collecting and analyzing data on the number of parking meter tickets and the number of people using alternative routes to reach the area of Lake Santo or data on the use of the shuttle service and kilometers of routes connected to the network of trails in the Valley of the Tagliole through the compilation of sample questionnaires for tourists in visitor centers.



In the pilot area of the Salse di Nirano, the aims of the monitoring activities concerned:

- making visitors responsible for their own behaviour in the Salse di Nirano area, by providing them with adequate information on the correct rules of conduct,
- the protection and conservation of the local environment and landscape.

In order to protect and preserve this unique and delicate area, its habitats and landscape in the best possible way, it was first necessary to collect as much information and objective data on the current level of use and the behaviour of visitors in the field as possible. The collected data can be used in order to sensitize visitors and tourists and to stimulate correct styles and behaviours, inducing them to a responsible fruition of the reserve areas, and in particular area A, the most significant and delicate one.

### NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level)

NUTS region involved is ITH54.

The Ente di Gestione per i Parchi e la Biodiversità “Emilia Centrale” is a Public Authority recently established by Emilia Romagna Region to manage protected areas of the Modena and Reggio Emilia provinces. The Pilot Area of Lago Santo Modenese is in the Alto Appennino Modenese Regional Park and is at the foot of the steep north eastern slope of Monte Giovo with a perimeter of 1,5 kilometers and a depth of about 20 meters. Santo Lake is the largest of the Frignano park and has glacial origins.

The Pilot Area of the Salse di Nirano Nature Reserve is entirely within the municipal territory of Fiorano Modenese, not far from Maranello, in the Province of Modena.

**Investment costs (EUR), if applicable**

N.A

**Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable)**

In both pilot actions, the overall evidence gathered through these monitoring systems constitutes the basis for the implementation of the activities foreseen in the five-year Action Plan.



The data acquired at Lake Santo modenese will be used to replicate and improve the initiative experimented in the summer period in collaboration with the Municipality of Pievepelago. Through the monitoring system implemented, it was possible to:

- Encourage sustainable forms of accessibility instead of the car
- Acquire a better knowledge of the characteristics, choices and degree of awareness of visitors regarding the specific nature of Lake santo area,
- Make visitors responsible for their own behaviour in the Park, through adequate information on the correct rules of conduct



The data acquired at the Salse di Nirano allow us to identify the weakest points of the fence system and statistically more used by the intruders. It will be possible to study a suitable signage that tries to dissuade intrusion actions and then monitor, with the same toll of VCA, if the number of intrusions or the points of intuition are reduced or changed. In general, the impact of strategic priority to protection in our PA for sustainable and responsible tourism activities is territorial supervision and control activities management.

### Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders.

For the area of Lake Santo in Modena, it is strategic to share the results of the monitoring with all the local stakeholders who have played an active role in the experimentation, i.e. the Municipality, in order to understand how to implement in a more structured way the actions experienced in the coming years and make them consolidated over time. The promotion of alternative accessibility systems should have significant impact on the reduction of private motor vehicles that travel to the parking lot of Lake Santo.

The idea is to replicate and improve the initiative experimented in the summer period in collaboration with all stakeholders and in particular with the Municipality of Pievepelago.

For the area of Salse di Nirano, it is essential to understand if possible and where to replicate the experimentation of the VCA NEMOS system (Nature rEserve MOnitoring System) as a data acquisition system on the use and possible threats that a protected area may incur.

### Lessons learned and added value of transnational cooperation of the pilot action implementation (including investment, if applicable)

In the pilot area of Lake Santo in Modena, through the monitoring system implemented, an attempt was made to:

- Encouraging sustainable forms of accessibility instead of the car;
- To acquire a better knowledge of the characteristics, choices and degree of awareness of visitors regarding the specific nature of Lake Santo Modenese;
- To make visitors responsible for their own behaviour within the Park, through adequate information on the correct rules of conduct.

The promotion of alternative accessibility systems should have a significant impact on the reduction of private motor vehicles that travel the road to the parking lot of Lake Santo.

In the pilot area of Salse di Nirano, the monitoring has allowed, thanks to the heatmaps, to identify the weakest points of the fence system and statistically more used by the intruders. It will be possible to study a suitable signage that tries to dissuade intrusion actions and then monitor, with the same tool of VCA, if the number of intrusions or the points of intuition are reduced or changed. In the area of Salse di Nirano, instead, the tested monitoring system can be replicated in other protected areas aimed at the conservation of habitats in relation to the control activity of the territory.

Contribution to/ compliance with:

- relevant regulatory requirements
- sustainable development - environmental effects. In case of risk of negative effects, mitigation measures introduced
- horizontal principles such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination

The aim is to give continuity to the Pilot Action in the: the Area of Lake Santo (the largest lake in the Park) experimented this summer, concentrating on one of the most delicate and frequented areas of the Park will be to monitor and manage the important tourist flows that invade the area, especially during the summer weekends, managing the traffic and proposing "alternative ways" to reach the lake and the shelters. We want to give continuity to the activation of the following experimental services to improve accessibility to Lake Santo:

- free shuttle bus to the route from the parking lot of Casa Mordini to Lake Santo;
- use of the Casa Mordini car park (70 parking spaces) and possibility of reaching Lake Santo by shuttle bus or through the open footpath (journey time of about 1 hour);
- promotion of the use of e-bikes

In order to improve the reception and the tourist information of the information points of Pievepelago and Lago Santo, the presence of the visitor centres and information points has been strengthened, increasing the number of days open to the public during the summer period, with particular reference to the month of August.



In order to give continuity to the pilot Action experimented within the Interreg CEETO project referred to zone A of the Natural Reserve of the Salse di Nirano, aimed at a remote control of "risk behaviours" by tourists and at a more conscious and respectful use of places, the NEMOS - Nature rEserve MOnitoring System - Video Content Analysis (VCA) experimental system will continue to record access and use data.

The system is composed of 3 cameras connected to a processing unit equipped with Artificial Intelligence to monitor and document the main factors of threat to the Nature Reserve of the Salse di Nirano to support possible defense actions. The system detects the transits of vehicles and people along the access road to Zone A (integral protection zone) and acquires the most data on any episodes of overcoming physical barriers and invasion of Zone A by both people and animals resulting from poor or incorrect use. The innovative VCA system was installed in the area of Salse di Nirano at the beginning of July 2019.

At the same time, a targeted surveillance activity of the Authority will be intensified on the basis of the survey found.



The main challenge faced by the Emilia Central Parks Authority is the adherence to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism undertaken in April of this year. As part of the process of applying for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, the Emilia Centrale Parks Authority considers the 2 Pilots tested through the CEETO Project to be strategic both from the point of view of tourism and conservation of the territory.

Both pilot actions have provided actions for the development of sustainable tourism providing for collaboration between all stakeholders to develop a common strategy and an action plan based on a thorough analysis of the local situation.



The importance of continuous improvement in our PA for sustainable and responsible tourism development is given by the definition of an environmental certification system (EMAS) and the dissemination and promotion of the Emilia Central Parks Quality brand to agro-food companies.

#### References to relevant deliverables (e.g. pilot action report, studies), investment factsheet and web-links

If applicable, additional documentation, pictures or images to be provided as annex

- D.T2.2.3 Sustainable Tourism Action Plan Ente di Gestione Parchi Emilia Centrale
- D.T2.4.3. Report on monitoring workplan implementation - Ente di Gestione Parchi Emilia Centrale
- D.T2.5.1. Pilot Action final Report - Ente di Gestione Parchi Emilia Centrale

All information about the CEETO project are available on the official homepage of the CEETO project: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/CEETO.html>

Some additional information in italian about the CEETO project can be found on a subpage of the Ente di Gestione Emilia Centrale webpage: <http://www.parchiemiliacentrale.it/pagina.php?id=154>

General information about the Ente di Gestione Emilia Centrale can be found on the website: <http://www.parchiemiliacentrale.it/>