



COASTRUST

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Newsletter

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The first in-person meeting of the *COASTRUST* partnership took place in Seville, Spain, on October 15-16. The event, organized by the Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces alongside *SUBMON*, aimed to share a unified methodology for guiding local actions in the project's pilot areas. This methodology focuses on *coastal stewardship*, a collaborative approach that seeks to conserve the Mediterranean coast's natural, cultural, and landscape values through voluntary agreements among local actors.

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FAMP has presented in Nijar, Andalusia, Spain COASTRUST project on sustainable coastal management. In collaboration with Nijar Town Council, we promote coastal stewardship and biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean. A Local Action Group has been set up to develop a coastal management strategy, together with local, regional and national administrations, business associations, sectoral agencies, NGOs and civil society. The event included capacity building on coastal stewardship, with case studies of stewardship agreements. We provided participants with tools and knowledge to protect our coastline in a sustainable way.

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On December 19, DUNEA held a presentation of the COASTRUST project to local stakeholders from the Neretva Valley. The presentation was attended by representatives of various sectors, including regional and local administration and self-government units, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders.

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The Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FAMP) showcased the COASTRUST project at the second edition of the International Fair for Natural Areas - AIRE, held in Cordoba, Spain on December 10. The event, promoted by the Ministry of Sustainability and Environment of the Andalusian Regional Government, the Provincial Council of Cordoba, and the Cordoba City Council, served as a platform to highlight the role of parks and natural areas. It gathered professionals, suppliers, and destinations in the sector, fostering initiatives for conservation, local development, and green entrepreneurship.

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The first-ever Natural Heritage Mission Summer School took place at the Marine Biology Station in Piran, Slovenia, with Nature Trust - FEE Malta participating as a partner in the COASTRUST project. The theme of the school, "Our Mediterranean ecosystems' health is in danger. Time to restore it!" focused on wetland restoration and coincided with the passing of the new Nature Restoration Law (NRL).

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The Natural Heritage Mission held first in person meeting with the 13 Thematic Projects on June 26-27, 2024, in Rovinj, Croatia, hosted by the Marine Institute. The event brought together lead partners, communication managers, and stakeholders from the thematic projects, as well as partners from the Governance projects, to foster collaboration and strategic planning.

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The **2nd Natural Heritage Institutional Dialogue** was hosted by the **IUCN-Med** on November 28–29, 2024, in Málaga, Spain. This annual event brought together experts, policymakers, and organizations to strengthen conservation efforts across the Mediterranean.

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