

CLIMANATRES

Newsletter #2 is out!

The second issue of the CLIMANATRES project newsletter has been published. At the end of this project period, we summarized the most important activities and results from recent months. In this issue, you can read about progress in data collection and mapping methods, project meetings, and stakeholder workshops held in Croatia and Serbia. Stay tuned for more updates in the next editions.

A shared approach to data and mapping

One of the main achievements of this period was the development of a common approach to data collection and interpretation across all partner countries. This work builds on earlier workshops, trainings, and active discussions among project partners.

As a result, **we achieved three deliverables**:

- succesfull stakeholder workshops,
- a shared system for classifying habitats,
- and a practical guide for field mapping.

The framework we developed assures that data collected in different countries can be compared and used together in climate models.

Habitat classification made consistent

A key challenge was that habitat categories are often interpreted differently across countries. To address this, partners agreed to use the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) classification.

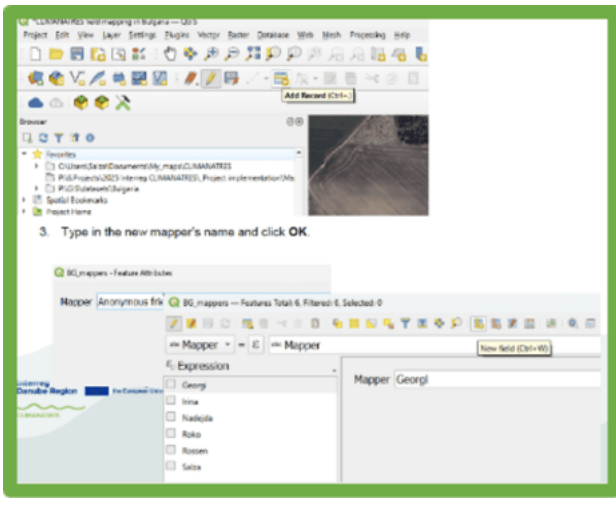
EUNIS was selected because it:

- is widely used across Europe,
- is closely linked to plant communities,
- and is practical for field mapping.

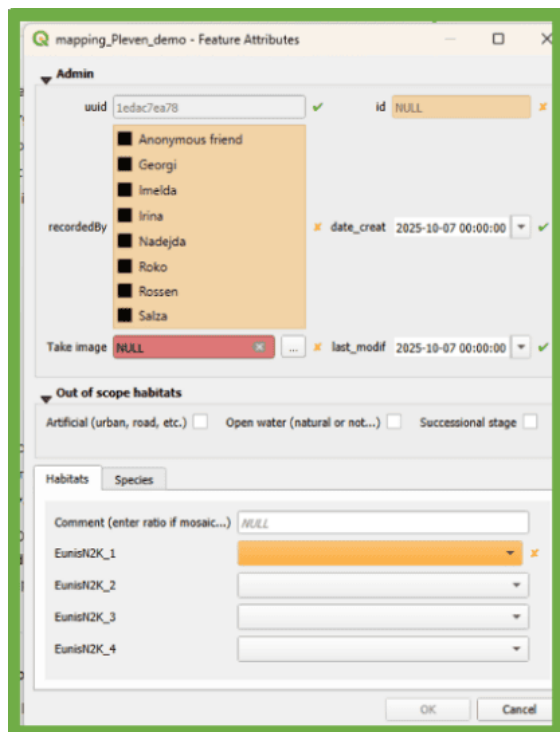
To improve consistency, some habitat categories were simplified or merged where differences were not ecologically significant.

Clear guidelines for field data collection

The project also developed a mapping guide to support fieldwork. Vegetation is mapped in 1 × 1 km areas to ensure full coverage and reliable data for modelling. Field mapping is expected to record currently observed vegetation only, to avoid confusion with past, future, or assumed potential states. Natural and semi-natural habitats are expected to be mapped in detail, while other land cover types are recorded more generally.



Satellite imagery can support field decisions, but observations must always be verified on site. Overall, the approach harmonizes scientific robustness, practical feasibility, and safety to ensure the reliable vegetation data enters the modelling phase.



What else has been done?



We developed the base spatial grid system (lattice) for the collection of vegetation data and prepared true colour remote sensing background layers.



As a preparation for background data collection, various climate data sources were considered and the spatial unit grid has been adjusted to match the most likely source for climate data, the Chelsa database.



- overview maps to find the right areas quickly
- seasonal satellite images
- clear supporting information for users





Defined the main project area across six countries, focusing on regions where climate impacts on nature can be best studied.

Engaging stakeholders across the region

Stakeholder input serves a key role in the project, that is why we launched the Stakeholder Questionnaire titled **"Climate Change and Land-Use Impacts on Habitat Suitability"**. Aimed at experts and practitioners in nature conservation, forestry, spatial planning, research, and decision-making, the questionnaire collected valuable insights on local and regional climate impacts, user needs, and practical requirements for decision-support tools. We received a strong response, with 91 completed surveys from all six countries in the project area.



"Synthesis of Challenges Encountered by Local Nature Conservation Actors" Workshop

Complementing the questionnaire a workshop held in Rakitje, Croatia, brought together around 40 participants to discuss actual challenges in nature conservation to share experiences and discuss practical challenges in implementing climate-smart conservation.



These activities highlighted the need for practical, user-friendly tools and confirmed that local knowledge is essential for effective climate adaptation.



Second Project Partners & Steering Committee Meeting held in Zaslavica, Serbia

In March 2026, project partners met in Zaslavica, Serbia, for the second Project Partners and Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting focused on reviewing progress, aligning activities, and planning the following steps. It also included a first-year overview of achievements and updates from all partners.

Alongside this, a workshop on climate change projections helped participants better understand how climate models can support conservation planning. The session included expert presentations, hands-on discussions, and a demonstration of the project's WebGIS tool.



Looking ahead...

With the foundations now in place, the project is moving forward to the next phase. This will include more intensive **field data collection**, further development of **models and maps**, and the creation of **tools to support** climate-resilient nature conservation across the Danube region.



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Legal disclaimer

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