



Qualitative Assessment for CS4- Impact of NATMed Actions on Economic and Social Development

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This project is part of the PRIMA Programme supported
by the European union (Grant Agreement No 2221)

PROJECT DETAILS

Project acronym	NATMed
Project title	Nature-based Solutions on existing infrastructures for resilient Water Management in the Mediterranean
Programme	PRIMA
Starting date	01.04.2023
Duration	36 months
Grant Agreement No	2221

REPORT DETAILS

Report title	Qualitative Assessment- Impact of NATMed Actions on Economic and Social Development
Lead beneficiary	DEM
Author(s)	Beril Alpagut (DEM), Buse Araç (DEM)
Due date	24/04/2026
Actual submission date	24/04/2026
Type of deliverable	Report
Dissemination level	Public

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BACKGROUND: ABOUT NATMED PROJECT

The aim of this project is to develop, implement and validate a set of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), combined into Full Water-Cycle – NbS (FWC-NbS), integrated into existing grey or natural water infrastructures and based on specific phases of the water cycle, for optimizing the provision of water-related and water-dependent Ecosystem Services, empowering stakeholders and local communities at the Mediterranean Region. NATMed will demonstrate the effect of different FWC-NbS on five case studies in Spain, Greece, Italy, Türkiye and Algeria.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the qualitative assessment of the impacts of NATMed actions on economic and social development in Case Study 4: Bozcaada, developed in connection with Deliverable D3.3 (Case Study Assessment). The analysis focuses on selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 44 and 49), examining how project activities have influenced local awareness, stakeholder engagement, well-being, and community perceptions through a qualitative lens.

The findings indicate that NATMed actions have contributed positively to strengthening environmental awareness, fostering participatory processes, and enhancing stakeholder satisfaction. Educational activities, co-design workshops, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms played a key role in increasing community involvement and supporting knowledge exchange. These processes have also reinforced a strong sense of place and community attachment, while contributing to the co-creation of locally relevant Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

At the same time, the assessment highlights areas requiring further attention, particularly in relation to awareness of environmental policies and access to certain services affecting overall well-being. Despite these challenges, the overall perception of the project remains highly positive, with stakeholders reporting high levels of satisfaction and increased awareness of environmental issues.

Overall, the qualitative assessment confirms that NATMed actions in Bozcaada have generated meaningful social impacts by enhancing awareness, strengthening participation, and supporting community-driven approaches. These findings underline the importance of integrating participatory and awareness-raising components into NbS implementation to achieve sustainable and socially embedded outcomes.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
CS	Case Study
D	Deliverable
EU	European Union
FWC-NbS	Full Water-Cycle Nature-based Solutions
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
M	Month
MedCoP	Mediterranean Community of Practice
NATMed	Nature-based Solutions on existing infrastructures for resilient Water Management in the Mediterranean
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
T	Task
WP	Work Package
WS	Workshop

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context and Scope of the Assessment

This report presents the qualitative assessment of the impacts generated by the NATMed project in Case Study 4: Bozcaada, with a specific focus on economic and social development dimensions. The assessment is directly linked to Deliverable D3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Case Study Assessment of the NATMed project and contributes to evaluating how project activities have influenced local communities beyond quantitative performance indicators.

Within this context, the report focuses on a selected set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), namely KPI 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 44 and 49, which are particularly relevant for capturing social and economic impacts. These KPIs address aspects such as well-being, place attachment, awareness, stakeholder engagement, educational activities, and satisfaction with project outcomes. By analysing these indicators through a qualitative lens, the report aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how NATMed actions have contributed to local development processes.

The scope of this report is limited to the Bozcaada case study and reflects findings derived from project-specific activities implemented during the project lifecycle. It complements the overall D3.3 deliverable by offering a focused interpretation of selected KPIs, highlighting their relevance in understanding the broader societal impact of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and participatory approaches.

1.1. Overview of Assessment Approach

The qualitative assessment is based primarily on data collected through structured surveys conducted at two stages of the project (baseline and final), allowing for a comparative analysis of changes over time. These surveys targeted local residents and stakeholders and included questions related to environmental awareness, well-being, place attachment, and perceptions of project impacts.

In addition to surveys, qualitative insights were gathered through participatory activities such as workshops, co-design sessions, webinars, and stakeholder meetings. These activities provided valuable input on stakeholder perspectives, levels of engagement, and satisfaction with project processes and outcomes.

The assessment approach integrates both perception-based data (e.g. Likert-scale responses) and participatory feedback, enabling a comprehensive evaluation of social impacts. Rather than focusing solely on numerical changes,

the analysis emphasises trends, patterns, and interpretations that reflect how NATMed actions have contributed to awareness raising, community engagement and the co-creation of solutions.

Overall, this approach allows for a nuanced understanding of the project's impact in Bozcaada, linking quantitative indicators with qualitative insights to assess the effectiveness of NATMed interventions in supporting local economic and social development.

2. QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

2.1. KPI32. Number of complied best practices on FWC-NbS for sustainable water management from other projects

This parameter was evaluated within the framework of Task 5.1 (Replication Plans) and Task 5.4 (Clustering and Networking Plans), with the aim of identifying, exchanging, and evaluating best practices in sustainable water management and exploring their replication potential. At the baseline stage, the value of this parameter was zero, as no prior assessment or structured engagement with international projects had been conducted.

To address this gap, a structured knowledge exchange process was implemented, targeting at least ten international initiatives from key networks such as the Union for the Mediterranean, UN Sustainable Development Network, Global Wastewater Initiative, DesertNet International, European Citizen Science Association, and NetworkNature. This process combined different formats of engagement to ensure both in-depth and wide-reaching exchange:

- **Coaching sessions (3 sessions):** bilateral exchanges with three external projects, focusing on technical feasibility, governance models, and operational challenges
- **Public webinars (3 events):** involving five international projects presenting their implementation processes, results, and lessons learned
- **Workshops (2 sessions):** engaging eight projects in interactive discussions on transferability and practical applicability of solutions

Through these activities, knowledge exchange was successfully established with more than ten international projects, enabling the identification and compilation of best practices aligned with the IUCN Global Standard and their inclusion in the FWC-NbS catalogue. This process also enhanced awareness and provided a comparative understanding of different NbS approaches.

As a result, multiple best practices were assessed in terms of their applicability to Bozcaada. Among these, four implementations were identified as having strong replication potential, based on their compatibility with local environmental conditions, scalability, and expected effectiveness in supporting sustainable water management.

Overall, the parameter demonstrates a significant progression from a baseline of zero to a structured portfolio of validated and transferable solutions. The clustering and networking activities proved instrumental in facilitating knowledge transfer, fostering synergies, and supporting the adaptation of proven NbS approaches to the local context.

2.2. KPI 33. Place attachment: Place identity or “sense of place”

This KPI focuses on place attachment, specifically the sense of identity and belonging residents feel towards their local environment and community. This parameter was assessed through surveys conducted at two stages of the project (baseline and final), using the question “*feeling part of the place/community*” as a key indicator. The collected data were analysed qualitatively, allowing for an interpretation of residents’ perceptions and emotional connection to Bozcaada.

According to the baseline survey results, residents of Bozcaada demonstrate a strong positive attachment to their town, with an average score of **4.5 out of 5**. This high level of connection reflects a deep sense of belonging, with respondents particularly valuing local cultural traditions, the tranquillity of the environment, and the quality of interpersonal relationships within the community.

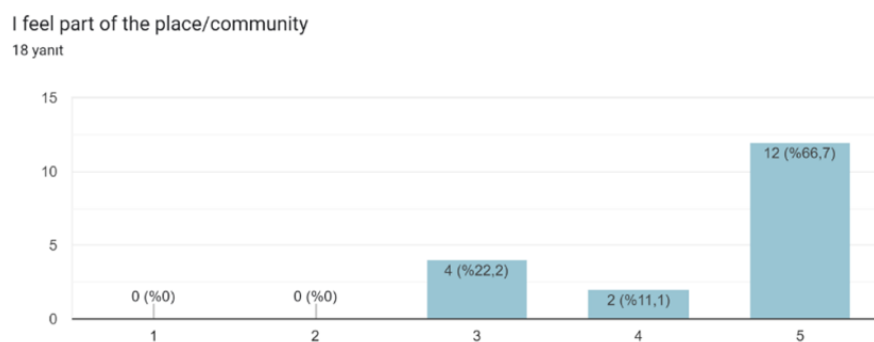


Figure 1. Baseline Survey Results for Place Attachment

The final survey was conducted towards the end of the project, allowing for a comparative assessment of changes over time.

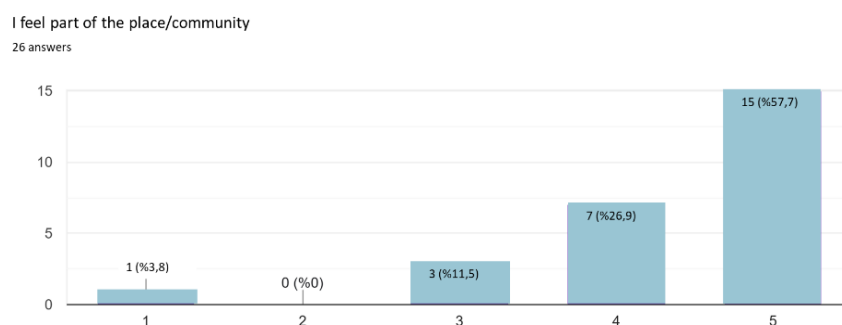


Figure 2. Final Survey Results for Place Attachment

Based on the final survey results, residents continue to demonstrate a strong positive connection to their town and community, with an average score of **4.35 out of 5**, indicating a consistently high level of attachment. Although this value is slightly lower than the baseline average, it still reflects a very positive overall perception. It is also important to note that the number of respondents increased from 18 in the baseline survey to 26 in the final survey, providing a broader and more diverse representation of residents' views.

In terms of perceived impact, all respondents expressed favourable views of the island, identifying it as a source of municipal pride and a defining element of their personal and collective identity. The slight decrease in the average score may be attributed to the increased sample size and the inclusion of more diverse perspectives. Nevertheless, the consistently high scores highlight the enduring importance of Bozcaada's social, cultural, and environmental values for its residents.

Overall, the results indicate that place attachment in Bozcaada remains very strong, demonstrating the resilience of community identity and the continued significance of local values despite minor variations in perception over time.

2.3. KPI34. General wellbeing and happiness, comfort perception

This KPI evaluates general well-being, happiness, and comfort perception among residents, focusing on various quality-of-life aspects. This parameter was assessed through surveys conducted at two stages of the project (baseline and final), using the question "quality of life aspects" as the main indicator. The responses were analysed qualitatively based on a Likert scale, allowing for a comparative assessment of residents' perceptions across different dimensions of well-being in Bozcaada.

Table 1. General wellbeing and happiness results

Local people	Rate the next aspects related to quality of life from "1" (very negative) to "5" (very positive):		
		Baseline	Final
Well-being aspects that can be addressed by NATMed project	Access to drinking water	Very negative: 3	Very negative: 1
		Negative: 2	Negative: 1
		Neutral: 6	Neutral: 4
		Positive: 5	Positive: 10
		Very positive: 2	Very positive: 9
		NA:	NA:1
	Access to water for agricultural irrigation	Very negative: 4	Very negative: 2
		Negative:	Negative: 6
		Neutral: 5	Neutral: 8
		Positive: 2	Positive: 6
		Very positive: 2	Very positive: 3
		NA: 5	NA: 1
	Sanitation	Very negative: 2	Very negative: 5

		Negative: 2	Negative: 1
		Neutral: 7	Neutral: 7
		Positive: 2	Positive: 3
		Very positive: 1	Very positive: 8
		NA: 1	NA: 2
	Employment opportunities	Very negative: 7	Very negative: 3
		Negative: 4	Negative: 7
		Neutral: 1	Neutral: 4
		Positive: 4	Positive: 5
		Very positive: 1	Very positive: 6
		NA: 1	NA: 1
	Climatic comfort (pleasant environmental conditions, in terms of temperature, humidity, breeze, etc.)	Very negative: 1	Very negative: 3
		Negative: 3	Negative: 1
		Neutral: 1	Neutral: 5
		Positive: 3	Positive: 8
		Very positive: 6	Very positive: 9
		NA: 4	NA:
	Green spaces and recreational areas	Very negative: 2	Very negative: 1
		Negative:	Negative: 6
		Neutral: 4	Neutral: 5
		Positive: 3	Positive: 7
		Very positive: 7	Very positive: 7
		NA: 1	NA:
	Infrastructure	Very negative: 3	Very negative: 3
		Negative: 3	Negative: 3
		Neutral: 6	Neutral: 8
		Positive: 2	Positive: 6
		Very positive: 2	Very positive: 6
		NA: 1	NA:
Other well-being related aspects	Safety	Very negative: 1	Very negative: 2
		Negative: 1	Negative: 1
		Neutral:	Neutral: 3
		Positive: 5	Positive: 9
		Very positive: 11	Very positive: 11
		NA:	NA:
	Access to Health services	Very negative: 3	Very negative: 6
		Negative: 6	Negative: 10
		Neutral: 6	Neutral: 7
		Positive: 2	Positive: 1
		Very positive: 1	Very positive: 1
		NA:	NA:
	Noise level	Very negative: 6	Very negative: 3
		Negative: 1	Negative: 4
		Neutral: 5	Neutral: 12
		Positive: 1	Positive: 2
		Very positive: 3	Very positive: 5

		NA: 1	NA:
	Cultural diversity	Very negative: 2	Very negative: 2
		Negative: 1	Negative:
		Neutral: 5	Neutral: 9
		Positive: 2	Positive: 7
		Very positive: 4	Very positive: 8
		NA: 3	NA:
	Inclusion (in a highly inclusive society no one is excluded or marginalised)	Very negative: 4	Very negative: 3
		Negative: 3	Negative: 2
		Neutral: 4	Neutral: 5
		Positive: 1	Positive: 5
		Very positive: 4	Very positive: 11
		NA: 1	NA: 1
	Electricity grid	Very negative: 1	Very negative: 2
		Negative: 3	Negative: 2
		Neutral: 5	Neutral: 9
		Positive: 6	Positive: 5
		Very positive: 2	Very positive: 8
		NA: 1	NA:
	Equity (in a very equitable society there are no major socio-economic inequalities)	Very negative: 4	Very negative: 2
		Negative: 4	Negative: 3
		Neutral: 4	Neutral: 9
		Positive: 2	Positive: 6
		Very positive: 3	Very positive: 6
		NA: 1	NA:
	Public transport	Very negative: 6	Very negative: 9
		Negative: 4	Negative: 5
		Neutral: 1	Neutral: 5
		Positive: 2	Positive: 3
		Very positive: 1	Very positive: 4
		NA: 4	NA:
	Access to Housing	Very negative: 8	Very negative: 11
		Negative: 3	Negative: 9
		Neutral: 2	Neutral: 2
		Positive: 1	Positive: 3
		Very positive: 2	Very positive: 1
		NA: 2	NA:
	Food	Very negative: 2	Very negative: 2
		Negative: 3	Negative: 7
		Neutral: 2	Neutral: 6
		Positive: 6	Positive: 8
		Very positive: 4	Very positive: 3
		NA: 1	NA:
	Education	Very negative: 3	Very negative: 3

		Negative: 4	Negative: 2
		Neutral: 5	Neutral: 13
		Positive: 3	Positive: 6
		Very positive: 2	Very positive: 2
		NA: 1	NA:

The results from both baseline and final surveys reveal a diverse range of perceptions across multiple aspects affecting community well-being. It should be noted that the number of respondents increased from 18 in the baseline survey to 26 in the final survey, providing a broader and more representative understanding of residents' views.

Several aspects, including access to drinking water, sanitation, and employment opportunities, continue to reflect mixed perceptions, although the final results indicate a slight shift towards more positive evaluations. Climatic comfort stands out as a particularly positively perceived dimension, with a majority of respondents expressing positive and very positive sentiments. Similarly, green spaces and recreational areas consistently receive favourable feedback, underlining their importance for community well-being.

In contrast, certain aspects remain more challenging. Access to health services, public transport, and housing are among the more negatively perceived issues, indicating ongoing concerns that affect overall satisfaction. Safety, however, continues to be evaluated positively by most respondents, suggesting a strong sense of security within the community.

Other dimensions, such as noise levels, education, and food, show largely neutral to mixed perceptions, reflecting variability in individual experiences. Cultural diversity, inclusion, and equity also continue to present mixed views, although the final survey indicates a modest improvement in positive responses compared to the baseline.

Overall, the findings highlight both areas of strength and areas requiring further attention. While climatic comfort, green spaces, and recreational opportunities contribute positively to residents' well-being and sense of comfort, persistent concerns related to essential services and infrastructure—particularly health, transport, and housing—indicate areas where targeted improvements could further enhance quality of life. Despite these challenges, the general outlook remains moderately positive, confirming the importance of sustaining existing strengths while addressing key gaps to improve overall community satisfaction in Bozcaada.

2.4. KPI37. Total number of educational excursions at a site

KPI 37 refers to the total number of educational excursions organised at the project site, including guided visits, workshops, and co-design activities aimed at students, researchers, and the local community. While this KPI is quantitative in nature, within the scope of this qualitative assessment it is interpreted in terms of its contribution to awareness raising, knowledge exchange, and broader social development outcomes in Bozcaada. In this context,

educational excursions are considered key mechanisms for strengthening environmental awareness, fostering a sense of place, and supporting community engagement with NbS.

At the baseline stage, two educational activities were recorded. These included:

- One educational workshop held on 28.04.2023, with approximately 60–70 participants
- One co-design workshop conducted on 15–16.06.2023 at Bozcaada Municipality, with 15–20 participants

These initial activities already demonstrated a commitment to knowledge sharing and participatory planning, bringing together local stakeholders to explore ecological processes and sustainable practices.

During the implementation phase, this engagement was further strengthened through additional activities. The final value of the parameter includes:

- Two additional co-design workshops organised at Bozcaada Municipality
 - Held on 17.02.2025, with approximately 25 participants
 - Held on 10.09.2025, with 36 participants

Overall, the increase in the number of educational excursions reflects a continuous effort to engage local stakeholders and promote environmental awareness. Beyond their numerical value, these activities played a significant role in facilitating knowledge exchange and encouraging active participation in the project. Through guided learning experiences and collaborative discussions, participants gained a deeper understanding of natural systems, ecological processes, and sustainable water management practices.

Importantly, these excursions contributed to strengthening the connection between the community and their local environment, reinforcing both environmental awareness and a sense of ownership over the implemented solutions. The co-design workshops, in particular, supported the co-creation of community-driven approaches, ensuring that local knowledge and perspectives were integrated into the decision-making process.

Overall, this progression demonstrates that educational excursions functioned not only as dissemination tools but also as catalysts for social impact. By enhancing awareness, fostering engagement, and supporting participatory processes, these activities contributed to the development of a stronger sense of place and community involvement in Bozcaada, ultimately reinforcing the social dimension of the NATMed actions.

2.5. KPI38. Increased consciousness of inhabitants of the demo areas on the defined issues

This KPI assesses the level of awareness and consciousness among local inhabitants regarding environmental challenges, sustainability, and resource management. This parameter was measured through baseline and final surveys, capturing changes in perceptions related to environmental problems, policy awareness, and the influence of project activities. Within the scope of this qualitative assessment, increased consciousness is interpreted as a key

indicator of social impact, reflecting how project interventions contribute to raising awareness and shaping more informed community perspectives in Bozcaada.

The baseline survey results indicate that the most prominent environmental concerns identified by residents were the destruction and degradation of natural sites and loss of biodiversity (35.3%), followed by drought and water scarcity (29.4%) and water pollution (17.6%). In the final survey, these perceptions remain largely consistent, with destruction and degradation of natural sites and loss of biodiversity and drought and water scarcity both identified at 32.1%, while rising temperatures emerge as an additional concern at 14.3%.

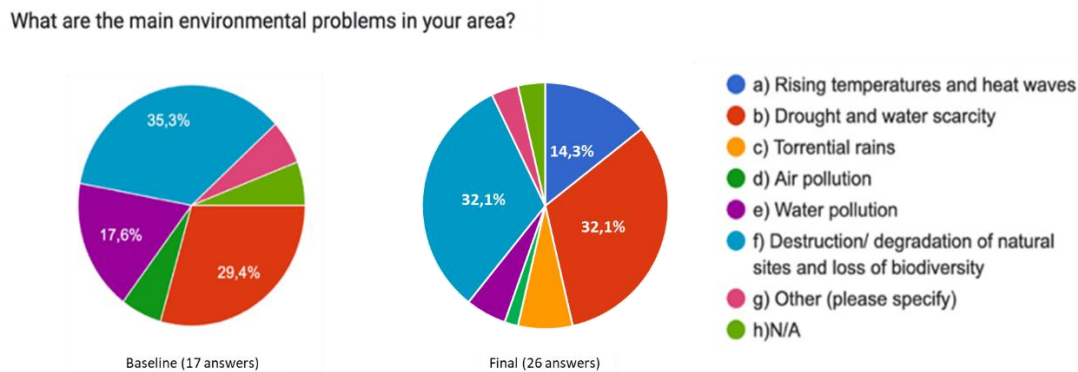


Figure 3. Main problems identified

In addition to general environmental awareness, the surveys also explored residents' knowledge of environmental governance and water-related policies. The baseline results revealed relatively low levels of awareness, with only 18.8% of respondents indicating a good level of knowledge regarding water legislation. Natural spaces were primarily associated with benefits such as health, well-being, and leisure, while policy-related awareness remained limited. The final survey results further highlight this gap. Among the 26 respondents, 46.2% indicated that they did not know about water legislation, while 26.9% responded positively and 26.9% negatively. This distribution points to a continued lack of clarity and engagement with regulatory frameworks, suggesting that awareness of environmental policies remains an area requiring further attention.

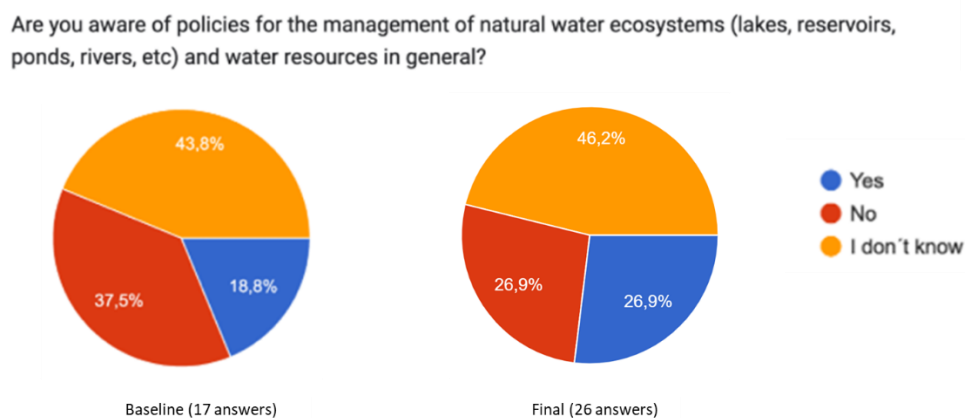


Figure 4. Awareness of policies

Importantly, the final survey also included a direct question regarding the perceived impact of the NATMed project on environmental awareness. The results indicate that 57.7% of respondents reported an increase in their awareness of environmental issues in Bozcaada, demonstrating a positive contribution of project activities to raising consciousness among the local population.

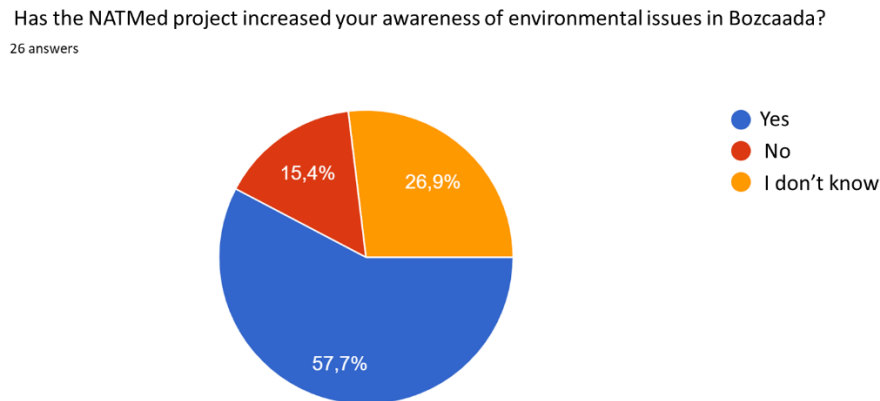


Figure 5. Environmental awareness increase

Overall, the findings show that while awareness of key environmental challenges is already present and remains relatively stable, knowledge related to governance and policy frameworks is still limited. Nevertheless, the reported increase in awareness among more than half of the respondents highlights the effectiveness of NATMed actions in enhancing environmental consciousness. This suggests that continued engagement and awareness-raising efforts could further strengthen informed participation and support more sustainable decision-making within the community of Bozcaada.

2.6. KPI44. Stakeholder involvement in co-creation/ co-design of NBS

KPI44 assesses the level of stakeholder involvement in the co-creation and co-design processes of Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This KPI was evaluated by documenting the number and diversity of stakeholders actively participating in co-design activities, based on attendance records and engagement documentation. Within the scope of this qualitative assessment, stakeholder involvement is interpreted not only in quantitative terms but also in relation to its contribution to participatory governance, knowledge integration, and the social acceptance of NbS in Bozcaada.

At the baseline stage, stakeholder engagement included a range of key local actors representing governance, production, and community-based organisations. These stakeholders comprised representatives from the District Governorate, the Mayor's office, the Bozcaada Agricultural Development Cooperative, the Women's Cooperative, the Bozcaada Tourism Enterprises Association and local producers. This initial composition reflects a multi-sectoral

structure, bringing together actors relevant to water and land management, agriculture, tourism, and local governance.

During the implementation phase, stakeholder involvement was further operationalised through a series of co-design workshops, enabling structured and continuous participation. The first co-design workshop involved 25 institutional stakeholders, including representatives from the District Governorate, Bozcaada Municipality, cooperatives, tourism associations, as well as technical experts and project partners. The second workshop brought together 12 institutional stakeholders, with participation from the District Directorate of Agriculture, cooperatives, and local authorities. The third workshop included 13 institutional stakeholders, among them the Mayor, municipal representatives, and project partners.

Across these activities, stakeholder participation demonstrates both continuity and diversity, ensuring that different institutional perspectives and sectoral expertise were incorporated into the co-design process. The involvement of local authorities, cooperatives, tourism actors, and producers reflects a collaborative and inclusive approach, where local knowledge and practical experience contribute to shaping the proposed solutions.

From a qualitative perspective, this level of engagement is particularly significant, as it supports not only the technical development of NbS but also their social legitimacy and long-term sustainability. The co-design process enabled dialogue among stakeholders, fostered mutual understanding, and strengthened a sense of shared ownership over the proposed interventions.

Overall, the results indicate that stakeholder involvement in Bozcaada has been both active and multi-dimensional. This participatory approach plays a critical role in enhancing the relevance, feasibility, and acceptance of NbS, ultimately contributing to more effective and locally grounded solutions. Continued engagement of these stakeholders will remain essential for the successful implementation and long-term impact of the project outcomes.

2.7. KPI49. Degree of satisfaction with the benefits generated by the project

KPI49 assesses the level of satisfaction among stakeholders regarding the benefits generated by the NATMed project, reflecting how project outcomes meet participants' expectations and perceived needs. Within the scope of this qualitative assessment, this KPI is interpreted as an indicator of perceived value and social acceptance, highlighting how participatory processes contribute to positive experiences and engagement in Bozcaada. The parameter was evaluated based on survey results collected during a co-design session, where participants assessed different aspects of the activity using a Likert scale from 1 to 5.

At the baseline stage, the value of this parameter was zero, as no prior assessment of stakeholder satisfaction had been conducted. The final results, based on responses from 16 participants, indicate a consistently high level of satisfaction across all evaluated aspects. Participants rated the structure and design of the session, including the co-design tools used, with an average score of 4.38, while the extent to which the session met their expectations was

also evaluated at 4.38. The relevance and usefulness of the session for participants' professional activities received the highest average score of 4.50, highlighting its practical value. In addition, the efficiency of the moderators and organizing team was positively assessed, with an average score of 4.33.

These results demonstrate that the co-design session was well-received and perceived as both effective and relevant by participants. The consistently high scores across all dimensions indicate that the session not only met expectations but also provided meaningful contributions to participants' professional and practical understanding of the project's themes.

From a qualitative perspective, these findings underline the importance of well-structured participatory processes in fostering stakeholder engagement and satisfaction. The co-design approach enabled active involvement, encouraged reflection, and supported the integration of local perspectives, thereby strengthening a sense of ownership over the project outcomes. High satisfaction levels also suggest a positive perception of the project's benefits, reinforcing trust and willingness to engage in future activities.

Overall, the results highlight that participatory and inclusive approaches, such as co-design sessions, play a key role in enhancing stakeholder satisfaction and perceived value. In the context of Bozcaada, this contributes to stronger community engagement and supports the broader social impact of the NATMed project by aligning project outcomes with stakeholder expectations and needs.

3. CONCLUSION

This qualitative assessment, conducted within the framework of Deliverable D3.3 (Case Study Assessment), provides an integrated evaluation of the impacts generated by NATMed actions in Case Study 4: Bozcaada. Rather than focusing solely on quantitative outputs, the assessment highlights how project activities have contributed to broader economic and social development outcomes through changes in awareness, participation, perception, and community engagement.

The findings indicate that NATMed actions have played a significant role in strengthening environmental awareness and fostering a more informed understanding of local challenges. While awareness of key environmental issues was already present among residents, project activities contributed to reinforcing this understanding and introducing new perspectives, particularly in relation to climate-related pressures and sustainable resource management. At the same time, the results reveal that knowledge related to governance and regulatory frameworks remains limited, pointing to the need for continued efforts in communication and capacity building.

A key outcome of the project is the strengthening of participatory processes and stakeholder engagement. The co-design and clustering activities enabled the active involvement of a diverse group of stakeholders, including local authorities, cooperatives, sectoral organisations, and community representatives. This inclusive approach facilitated knowledge exchange, encouraged dialogue, and supported the integration of local needs and expertise into the development of Nature-based Solutions (NbS). As a result, the project contributed to enhancing local ownership and increasing the social acceptance of proposed interventions.

Educational and engagement activities further supported this process by promoting awareness and reinforcing the connection between the community and their local environment. These activities not only improved understanding of ecological processes and sustainable practices but also contributed to strengthening the sense of place and community identity. This is reflected in the consistently high levels of attachment and positive perceptions reported by residents, highlighting the social value of the project beyond its technical outcomes.

In addition, the high levels of stakeholder satisfaction observed in participatory activities demonstrate that the project has been successful in delivering relevant and meaningful experiences for its participants. The perceived usefulness and effectiveness of these activities underline the importance of well-designed co-creation processes in achieving both engagement and impact.

Overall, the qualitative assessment confirms that NATMed actions in Bozcaada have generated positive social impacts by enhancing awareness, strengthening stakeholder participation, and reinforcing community attachment and satisfaction. While certain challenges remain—particularly in relation to policy awareness and access to key services—the results demonstrate a clear contribution to social development and provide a strong foundation for the continued implementation and replication of Nature-based Solutions.

In this context, the findings highlight the importance of integrated and participatory approaches in achieving sustainable outcomes, where technical interventions are supported by strong social engagement and local ownership. The lessons derived from this case study contribute to the overall objectives of the NATMed project and offer valuable insights for future applications within similar Mediterranean contexts.