

## Involving society in climate change adaptation in the Tordera Delta - Annelies Broekman (CREAF)

**ISACC TorDelta, Involving society in climate change adaptation in the Tordera Delta**, is a project supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment through the Fundación Biodiversidad, and is coordinated by CREAL. For nine months, between October 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, it will support the **Table of the Delta and low Tordera**, driven by local administrations and scientists, creating a space for debate to improve the integrated management of the deltaic territory.

### What happens to the Tordera Delta?

The Delta de la Tordera is an area of great geo-strategic importance for the development of the area, which hosts important economic activities (such as tourism, agriculture, industries, transport infrastructure and services, the supply of water, gas and electricity) and, at the same time, constitutes a key place for the conservation of the environment (i.e. wetlands, habitat of protected species, hydrological connectivity). Both in the past and today, this situation entails incompatibilities between the private interests of different sectors of the economy, the interests of public administration and the protection of the environment at the local and regional level.

Looking specifically at the tourism sector, the subject of today, we can indicate that in the Delta de la Tordera this sector is considered key by the local socio-economy. At the same time, the most urgent challenges induced by global change also affect this sector in a very important way: beach erosion affects the quality of the "sun and beach" supply, floods and torrential rains endanger life of people and affect infrastructure, the degradation of ecosystems affect the quality of the landscape

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and activities in nature, and the degradation of water bodies, among others, seriously affects the guarantee of supply of tourist facilities.

### How we approached it?

To address these important and complex challenges, the project developed a participatory process with different phases, including a) a diagnosis of the economic, environmental and social context; b) interactive seminars and c) specific workshops. The results of all the sessions were formulated in an interactive way through the use of a blog, where there is also a reference archive to ensure accessibility to information for everyone and at all times. The process resulted in a roadmap and objectives for the Table, including 7 strategic objectives and two cross-cutting axes.

### Conclusions

As far as the tourism sector is concerned, the conclusions of the project indicate that there is an opportunity to reduce overcrowding and opt for a more sustainable model that is balanced with other uses in the territory, with the aim of improving the quality of the offer and communicating Delta values to customers.

The project worked hard to establish a space for permanent dialogue, where the most difficult issues can be addressed and to encourage the creation of synergies and collaborations between economic sectors, public administrations, the scientific world and the general public.

The project aims to be another example of how improving governance can have tangible and concrete effects on vulnerable territories. However, the experiences that the project gave rise to are highly transferable.

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