

# A RISK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEM VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN SARDINIA

Bazzato Erika<sup>1,6</sup>, Melis Raimondo<sup>5</sup>, Defraia Michele<sup>1,2</sup>, Brundu Giuseppe<sup>3,4</sup>, Bagella Simonetta<sup>4,5</sup>, Caria Maria Carmela<sup>4,5</sup>, Farris Emmanuele<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Marco Malavasi<sup>5</sup>, Marignani Michela<sup>1,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Via Sant'Ignazio da Laconi, 13, 09123 Cagliari, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Institute for Advanced Studies, IUSS, Palazzo del Broletto Piazza della Vittoria, 15 27100, Pavia, Italy; <sup>3</sup>Department of Agricultural Sciences, University of Sassari, Viale Italia 39/a, 07100 Sassari, Italy; <sup>4</sup>NBFC, National Biodiversity Future Center, Piazza Marina 61, 90133 Palermo, Italy; <sup>5</sup>Department of Chemical, Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, University of Sassari, Via Piandanna 4, 07100, Sassari, Italy; <sup>6</sup>Project e.INS - Ecosystem of Innovation for Next Generation Sardinia.

## INTRODUCTION

Climate change is increasing adverse impacts, prompting international and European policies to call for **vulnerability and risk assessments** to support adaptation planning. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) risk results from the interaction of **vulnerability, exposure, and hazard**; where vulnerability itself includes two components: sensitivity (ecological susceptibility of ecosystems) and capacity (societal ability to anticipate, respond, and adapt) (IPCC, 2022).



## METHODS

### Study areas

The study area includes the coastal zones of Sardinia (Italy), encompassing 13 distinct biotopes (Angelini et al., 2009).



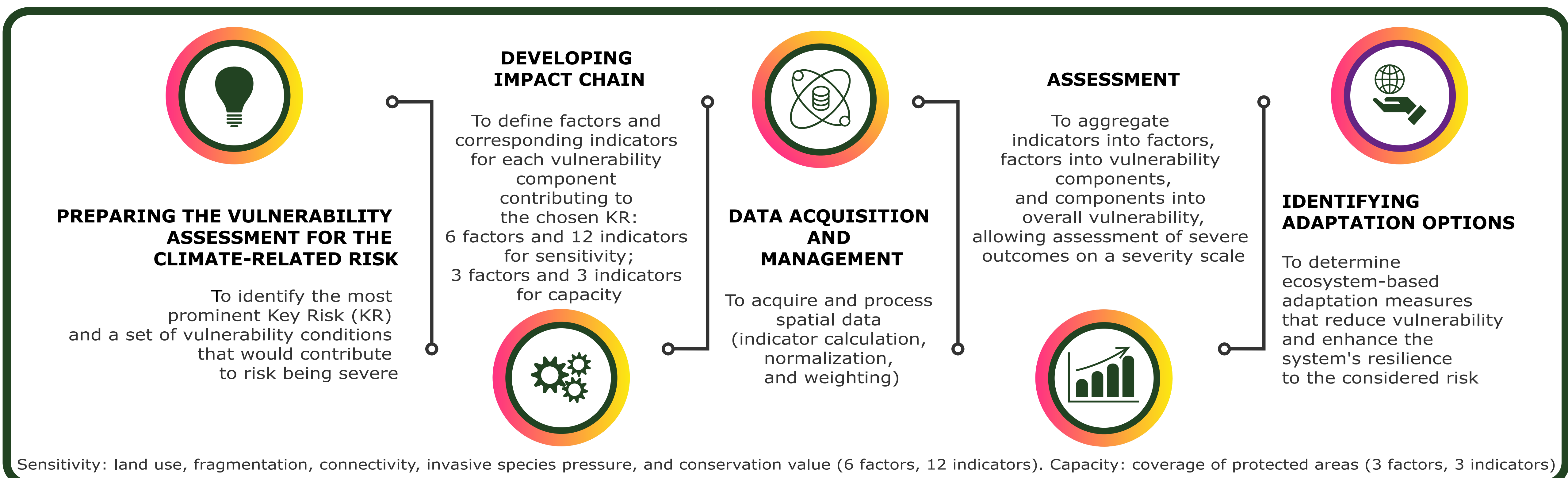
## AIMS

To evaluate the vulnerability of coastal biotopes to the risk of terrestrial biodiversity loss:

- by identifying key drivers of vulnerability
- by assessing interactions between sensitivity and capacity

To identify ecosystem-based adaptation options and support the design and implementation of strategies tailored to regional needs.

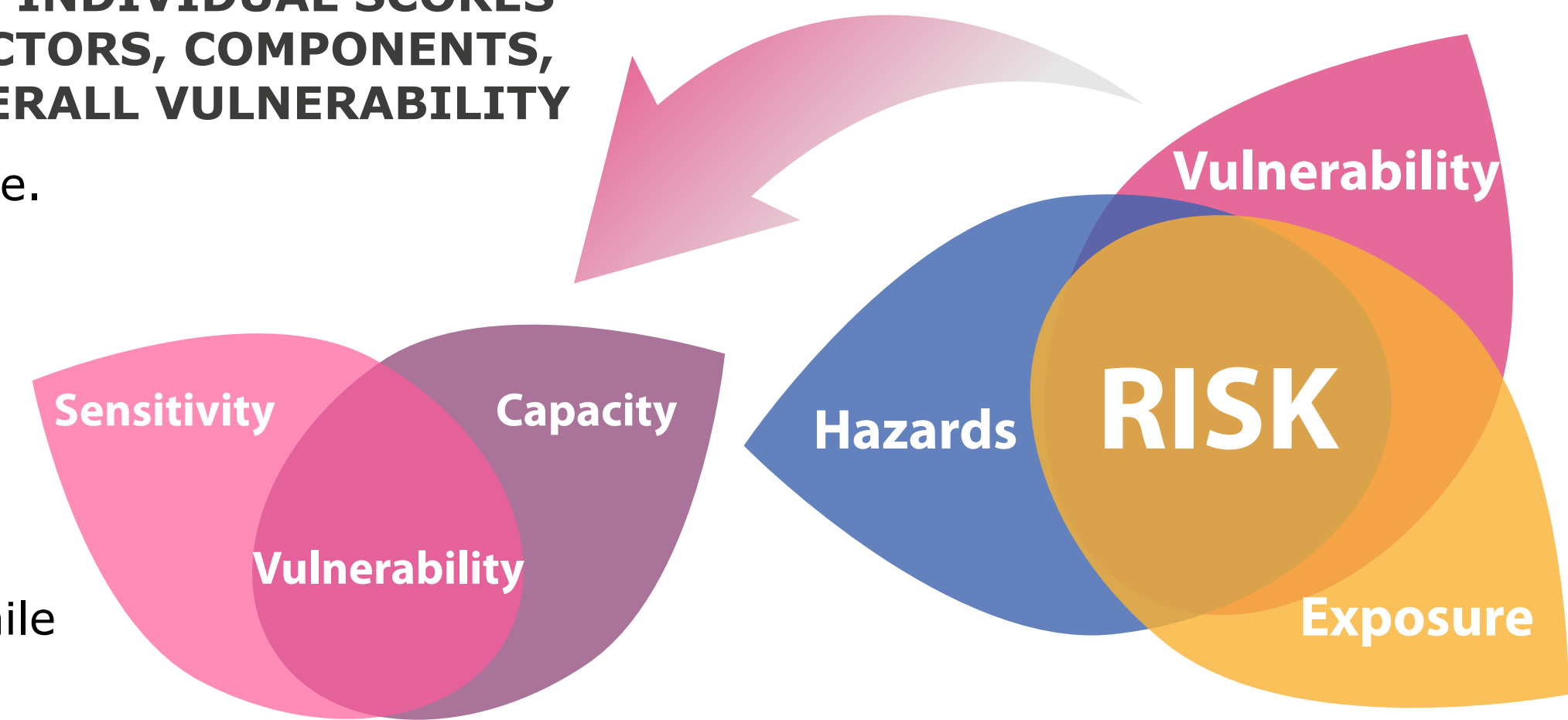
## IPCC risk assessment framework using the impact chain method



## RESULTS

### ALL 13 BIOTOPES RECEIVED INDIVIDUAL SCORES FOR INDICATORS, FACTORS, COMPONENTS, AND OVERALL VULNERABILITY

- Most biotopes showed neutral sensitivity; saltmarsh scrubs and cliff communities were less susceptible.
- About 80% of biotopes displayed neutral to optimal capacity, mainly due to legal protections.
- Some biotopes (e.g. salt meadows, sand and shingle beaches, dune juniper woods) had negative capacity values.
- Overall, ecosystems showed neutral vulnerability, but dune juniper woods were more susceptible, while dune sclerophyllous scrubs were more resilient.



### BIOTOPES WITH CRITICAL CAPACITY



### BIOTOPES WITH CRITICAL SENSITIVITY OR VULNERABILITY



21 ecosystem-based adaptation measures were proposed, each targeting specific sensitivity or capacity factors to reduce vulnerability



## CONCLUSION

- 1 Not all biotopes show the same degree of capacity, sensitivity and vulnerability.
- 2 Site-specific assessments are needed to evaluate vulnerability degree of individual biotopes.
- 3 Targeted ecosystem-based adaptation measure can reduce vulnerability to specific drivers and factors.

## REFERENCES

Angelini et al., 2009. The Nature Map Project on a scale of 1:50,000. Guidelines for cartography and habitat assessment at the 1:50,000 scale, Handbooks and guidelines. ISPRA, Roma.  
IPCC, 2022. Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Working Group II Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK; New York.

