

Marine and Terrestrial Protected Areas to Foster Climate Change Adaptation in Islands: A Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

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Introduction

- Islands and small states are expected to face disproportionate **climate change impacts** due to their geographic and socio-economic characteristics
- Coastal and marine **protected areas (PAs and MPAs)** can support **climate change adaptation (CCA)** and **well-being** in Malta
- Crucial to identify key climate hazards and to examine how PAs contribute to **national and EU adaptation goals**



Il-Majjistral Nature and History National Park

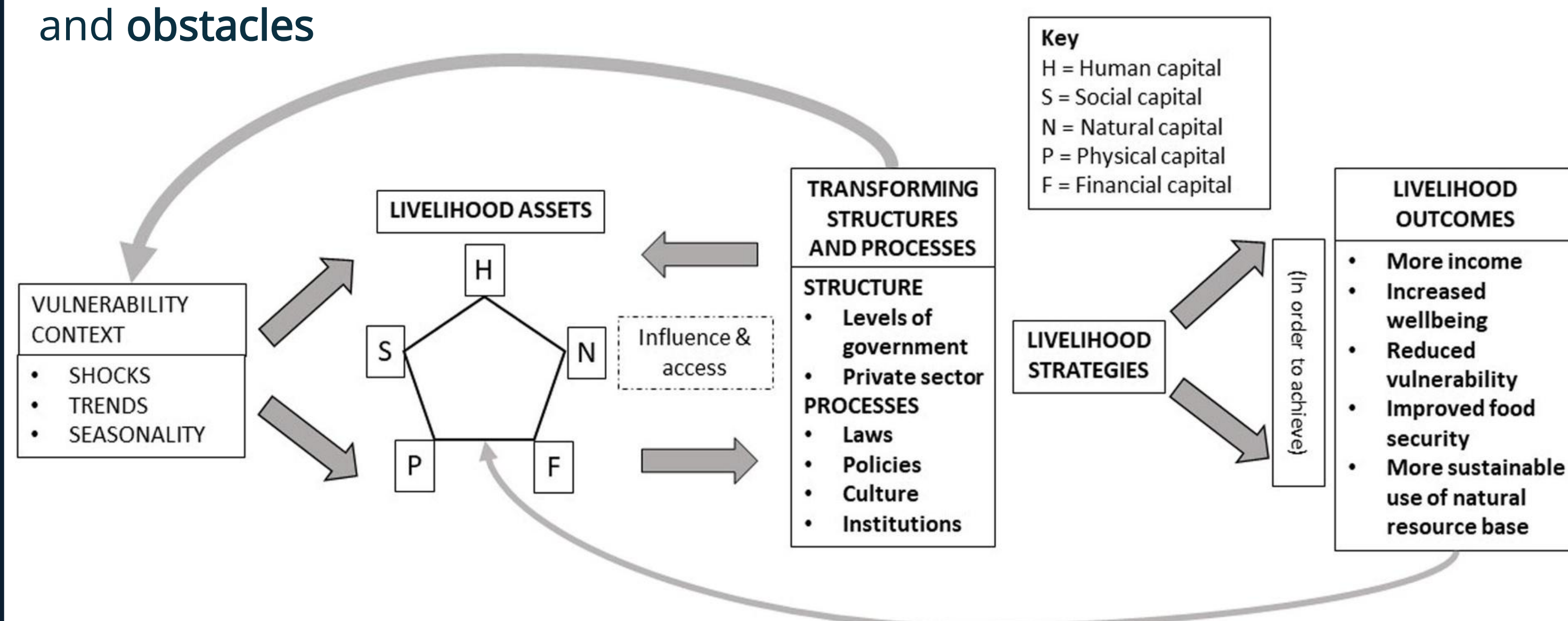


Maltese Archipelago and location of the Il-Majjistral Nature and History Park (Tomaskinova e Tomaskin 2018)

- Malta 1st National Park (2007)
- 7 km of coastline, from Anchor Bay to Golden Bay
- Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000), European Habitat Directive

Research Approach & Methodologies

Through the **Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA)**, the study will assess how PAs and MPAs in Malta can enhance livelihood resources and well-being among **stakeholders** and the wider population, including **challenges** and **obstacles**



The DFID Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) (Natarajan et al. 2022)

The project will employ **mixed-methods**, combining:

Quantitative surveys

Spatial analysis

Qualitative participatory focus groups

Research Questions

- What are the primary climate hazards impacting Malta?
- How can PAs, MPAs and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) foster CCA?
- Which are the **socio-economic benefits** provided by PAs and NbS to communities, how do they support **sustainable livelihoods**?
- How can **stakeholder engagement** strengthen the effectiveness of PAs as CCA?

Research Gaps

- Efficacy of PAs and Nature based Solutions (NbS) as climate change adaptation strategies across small islands
- Role of PAs and NbS in socio-economic wellbeing in the Mediterranean region
- Stakeholder engagement potential in the management of PAs within small islands states

Expected Outcomes

- Enrich literature** on NbS and PAs as climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods strategies in small islands
- Test SLA and mixed-methods framework** to increase environmental protection, stakeholder engagement and local well-being
- Provide actionable policy recommendations** for climate change adaptation and PA management in Malta and small island states

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