\*Slide intro

\*clicG - We've seen in this Mooc what ecological monitoring a protected area means: it is the assessment of a PA value’s condition.

\*B - This value is characterised by its ecological attributes, described by indicators.

\*G - All this follows a protocol that determines the sampling plan, the method that will be used, dependant on the context, on the competences and the means at hand.

\*B - So as a conclusion, let's keep some simple rules in mind:

\*clicG - Ecological monitoring must have a purpose, and is thereby not a simple collection of information that nobody needs and that will pile up for nothing in the manager's office.

\*clicB - The purpose of monitoring needs to be clearly defined to be understood by the managers, executants and those to whom the results will be sent to.

\*clicG - Monitoring is part of protected area's management, particularly during the preparation of the management plan, during the assessment of its effectiveness and in daily staff activities.

\*clicB - Monitoring identifies what is being monitored and is based on the PA's values, it describes the ecological attributes and the indicators that will be chosen in priority.

\*clicG - Monitoring meets qualitative criteria, and is therefore assessed for the results it provides but also for the way it is carried out.

\*clicB - It is based on strong knowledge of the ecology of the values that are to be monitored.

\*clicG - Monitoring is adapted to the monitored values, its responsiveness in particular allows to detect variations of the ecological attributes in a good and workable way.

\*clicB - Sampling must be precise and relevant, the chosen method must be representative and explainable to all, and it must give way to the least bias possible.

\*clicG - Monitoring means effort, so sampling needs to be random and not centred on the accessible areas or the ones where we know species are plentiful.

\*clicB - The chosen method needs to be sustainable, and therefore needs to remain unchanged over time, or the possible changes need to be justified.

\*clicG - Honesty is key, meaning tampering with protocol or results to make them more impactful or meaningful is useless and will sooner or later be noticed.

\*clicB - You need to keep the original hypotheses in mind, because they condition the choice of method and influence the way in which we interpret data.

\*clicG - The surveying method needs to be replicable by each operator because individuals don't make the results.

\*clicB - The monitoring results have to be used for what they are and if the biases are too important, you need to have the wisdom and courage to speak up.

\*clicG - You also need to be smart when extrapolating the data, because you can have statistics say what you want them to say, so common sense need to prevail.

\*clicB - If you want monitoring to be realistic and sustainable, it needs to be adapted to skills and to the means of the site.

\*clicG - Monitoring needs to be enhanced, in other words the cost, the working time needed, the means to mobilise and the skills to acquire need to be extremely well managed.

\*clicB - All the relevant data need to be accessible and stored. This will guarantee transparency, sustainability and credibility of the monitoring.

\*clicG - The results need to be communicated simply, meaning that monitoring is useful only if the results are shared.

\*clicB - Finally, monitoring is carried out by the stakeholders of the protected area's management, and shouldn't be outsourced; the first goal of monitoring is to improve the site's management.

\*clicG - There you go. Some simple rules that, we hope will be useful daily in the execution of your ecological monitoring plan.