



WORKING GROUP 2: SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

The Mediterranean region is among the richest biodiversity hotspots both at European and world level. However, despite its great environmental importance, over the last decades political leaders, businessmen and common people have been confronted daily with the challenge of how to sustainably and responsibly harness the enormous economic opportunities of existing and/or emerging Mediterranean economic sectors (e.g. marine energies, maritime transport, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, etc.).

Notwithstanding major efforts, due to a rapid population growth and to increased exploitations by a range of economic actors, the Mediterranean region is facing an ecological deficit: its natural resources are put at stake as habitats are degraded and the demand is two and half times higher than what its ecosystems can produce.

Face to this situation, there is an urgent need to agree and implement a “New Deal” aiming to ensure the sustainable management and use of the Mediterranean natural resources. Such an innovative ecosystem based management approach should be supported by policy makers’ in-depth understanding of the existing interdependencies and reciprocal influence between natural resources on one hand and the needs for economic growth on the other.

At European level, the Union has exclusive competencies to manage the exploitation of fish stocks as well as to regulate fishing activities and operations.

In this respect, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) provides all EU Member States with comprehensive set of rules as well as financial support through the European Fund for Maritime and Fisheries affairs - (EMFF). In addition to this, in 2016, with the support of the European Commission, Mediterranean Countries launched an ad hoc political initiative (the Catania process), which led to the signature of the Malta MedFish4Ever ministerial declaration, under the Maltese six-monthly presidency in 2017. The Valletta declaration represents also a key political turning point for the sustainable use of Mediterranean fishing stocks. Indeed, Mediterranean Member States through the MedFish4Ever declaration committed to:

- enhance data collection and scientific evaluation
- establish an ecosystem based fisheries management framework
- develop a culture of compliance and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- support sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture
- foster solidarity and coordination in the Mediterranean through a permanent network of cooperation and technical assistance with the General fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the FAO.

The work on the “Regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black sea” adopted during the Ministerial high level conference organised by the GFCM in Malta, in September 2018, will be considered.

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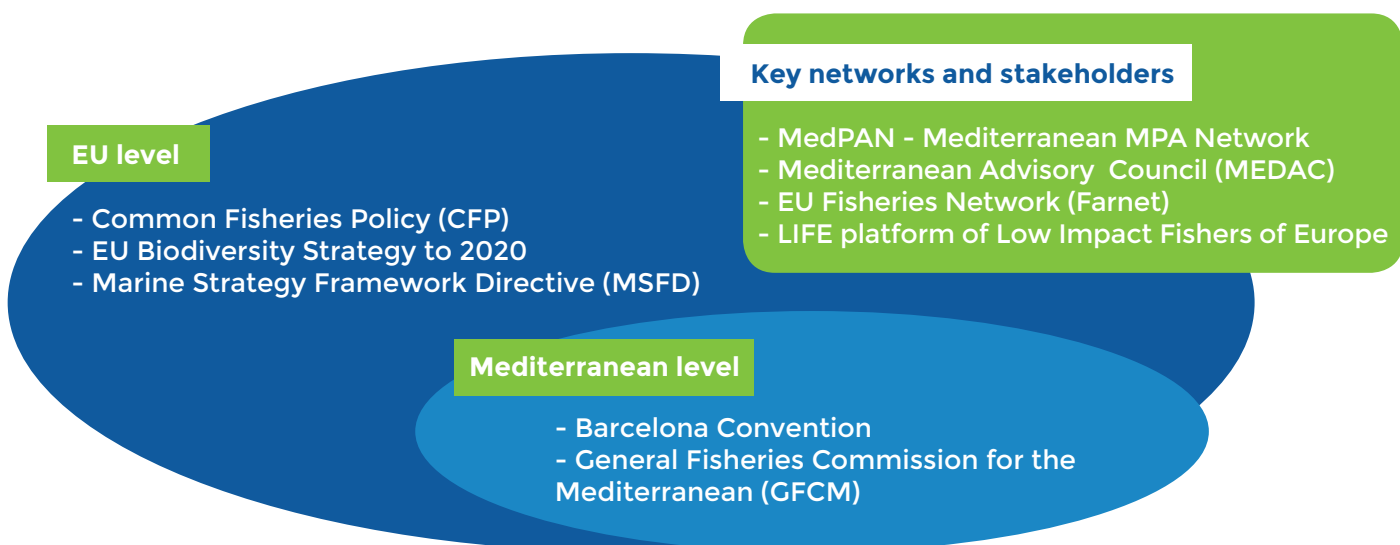
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER Montenegro

THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The Biodiversity protection community featured by PANACeA has set up a working group to address the issue of the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean region. It mainly focuses on fishing and on potential synergies between representatives of small scale fisheries sector, scientists, MPA managers and regional and local policy decision makers. The working group aims to identify best practices to deliver solutions to tackle common challenges through an open field of discussions, co-management practices and research results exchanges. In this respect, the working group will capitalise on studies, analy-

sis and data delivered by ongoing MED modular projects, as well as by other European projects, initiatives (e.g. FARNET) and/or organisations (e.g. GFCM, MED-AC, LIFE Platform of Low Impact Fishers of Europe, etc.).

According to its action plan, the working group will also develop concrete synergies with key Mediterranean and European networks such as MedPAN, LIFE Platform of Low Impact Fishers of Europe and FARNET. Finally, a specific attention (in coordination with the other PANACEA's working groups) will be paid to EU legislative tools, legal frameworks, global and regional intergovernmental agreements, such as the Barcelona Convention, the Biodiversity Convention, GFCM and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).



For a full picture of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community analysis of relevant policies and instruments, see [here](#).

Through broader exchange within the Biodiversity Protection Community, several critical issues emerged and will be addressed within the working group activities:

- The need for updated and more harmonised and exhaustive data from the fishing and the scientific community to support action at European/national and local level.
- Co-management models for natural resources: small-scale fisheries, wetlands and marine habitats.
- Promoting the role of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) through existing networks, a governance system for MPAs involving fishermen and other stakeholders in the management committee through active participation towards joint decision-making (co-management structure) and co-design of management measures. FLAGS can play a key role in developing a structured dialogue among fishing stakeholders and MPA representatives and provides the necessary conditions of collaboration to start up co-management pilot initiatives.

- Build up participatory multi-stakeholder governance to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean.

The working group is open to all modular projects and their consortium partners and mostly involved those which results and activities can be capitalised within the group and target its objectives. Other targets of the working group include Interreg MED Communities: Joint Secretariat, Axis 4 - PANORAMED project, Horizontal Projects; The Modular Projects of the MED Community on Biodiversity Protection and the Community's WGs 1 and 3 can be considered as key targets as well.

PANACeA Advisory board and associated partners, who are contributors and key stakeholders interested in WG2 activities: The European Fisheries Areas Network (FARNET), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), UNEP-MAP PAP/RAC, IUCN-MED, Tour du Valat, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Region of Crete, Sud, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), WWF Mediterranean.

THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

| | | Means and main steps | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Focus | Legal frameworks and key MED stakeholders | Relevant Projects | Actions and tools |
| 1. From science to management to policy: Factsheets and technical papers featuring pressures, impacts and responses in protected areas | | | |
| Co-management Role of FLAGS Wetlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interreg MED Communities and programme • Modular projects • PANACeA advisory board • GFCM • EU/national/regional level regulations • MedPAN - Mediterranean MPA network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FishMPABlue2 • CONFISH • POSBEMED • WETNET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical paper production on co-management of natural resources • Policy paper on co-management as governance models for multiple users |
| 2. Spatial data and new knowledge | | | |
| Harmonised and exhaustive data Fisheries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interreg MED Communities and programme • Modular projects • PANACeA advisory board • MPA managers • FAO-GFCM • Farnet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FishMPABlue2 • CONFISH • POSBEMED • AMARe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial data and cartography on habitat surface for benthic species • MAPAMED database of MPAs led by MedPAN and SPA/RAC • Spatial data and mapping of fishing grounds of SSF in MPAs |
| 3. Networking and showcasing | | | |
| Participatory and multi-stakeholder governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interreg MED Communities and programme • PANORAMED • Modular projects • PANACeA advisory board • GFCM • Farnet • EU/national/ regional regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FishMPABlue2 • CONFISH • POSBEMED • WETNET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO - GFCM side event preparation • Biodiversity Protection Community events • Promotional leaflet for FARNET and MedPAN events • Webinar for MPA managers • Videos on co-management including interviews with natural resource managers (fishing sector and wetland managers) |

The Sustainable Use of Resources working group has set up an action plan to address its identified issues. The work is developed through the monitoring and participation of the Med Biodiversity Protection modular projects closely involved in sustainable use of resources. FISHMPABLUE2, CONFISH for example are mainly concerned by the issues on small-scale fisheries. Other modular projects and/or partners in their consortium are also taking part in to the activities of the working group, such as AMARE with a focus on the state of habitats that can be extremely relevant for fisheries (posidonia, coralligenous formations), POSBEMED, WETNET.

Through the identification of common thematic interests in the community, sustainable resource management practices including participatory governance models for fisheries and species har-

vesting in protected areas are being addressed. Practitioners are being encouraged to exchange tested methodologies and present evidence-based solutions through networking activities and capacity building workshops. Those experiences are meant to build mutual trust, enable the community to identify potential gaps for an integrative approach putting together what is occurring in the water column with what is occurring on the benthos, and prepare policy recommendations to address multilevel policies and structural governance issues in various countries.

The working group on the Sustainable use of resources aims to support the GFCM management plans, the Regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the 2017 Malta declaration for sustainability for Mediterranean fisheries, and the EU Common fisheries policy.

MILESTONES

The working group on the Sustainable use of natural resources will be showcasing its work during the next two years particularly through EU and Mediterranean events as below and contributing to relevant publications.

An online [shared calendar](#) of events is available and regularly updated with opportunities to participate and organize joint activities.

| International events | Events in EU/MED area | WG2 partnership activities |
|--|--|---|
| | 18-19 April - "MADE in MED"- Rome | Participation in a panel |
| | 16-18 May - PANACeA in Montenegro | |
| European Maritime Days - 30 May -1 June 2018, Burgas | November - MedPAN regional training workshop on sustainable fisheries management in MPAs, in the framework of the FishMPABlue2 project | Webinar for MPA managers Preparation of technical paper on interactions between the scientific and fishing communities for the sustainable use of natural resources Promotional stands/campaigns Video interviews with natural resource managers fishermen on co-management |
| Farnet event | Nov-Dec. - PANACeA Mid Term Review in Brussels | Cartography and database Presentation Technical paper |
| FAO GFCM FishForum - December 2018 | Apr-May - PANACeA in Rome | Promotional stands/participation in roundtables |
| | November - PANACeA final conference in Malaga | Promotional stands/participation in roundtables |
| | November - MedPAN Annual Workshop | Policy paper on co-management as governance models for multiple users UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication - 2019 |
| IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 | MedPAN/SPA-RAC Marine Protected Areas Forum 2020 | |

2018

2019

2020

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<https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/>



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