



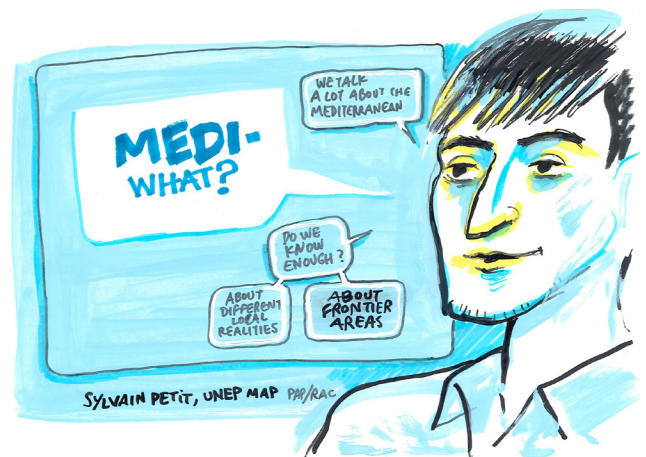
A ROADMAP FOR ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

Sharing ecosystem services and natural resources offered by a Sea neighbouring more than 20 countries requires territorial cooperation and a common vision towards protection and sustainability. Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity, both marine and inland, constitute a regional natural capital and a basis for livelihoods and the economy in the region, namely quality tourism, food provision, human health benefits and cultural heritage. However, the Mediterranean landscapes and its natural resources are changing rapidly. The population and its needs are increasing and therefore, there is more demand for clean water, food and better infrastructures. On the other hand, climate change is modifying species distributions and weather events, with multiple economic sectors competing commercially to make use of natural resources especially along the coastal and sea areas.

THE MED BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION COMMUNITY AND ITS OBJECTIVES

A collaborative EU Interreg MED community of 11 modular projects (ACT4LITTER, AMARE, CONFISH, ECOSUSTAIN, FISHMPABLUE2, MEDSEALITTER, MPA-ADAPT, PHAROS4MPA, PLASTICBUSTERSMPA, POSBEMED, WETNET) and a number of environmental organizations in the Mediterranean region are bringing together their work to identify the most effective mechanisms to manage and protect Me-



diterranean biodiversity. The coordination efforts in close collaboration with the modular projects is led by PANACeA Interreg MED horizontal project.

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

So far, three working groups have been established to focus on:

- **WG1. Biodiversity management and protection**, with an emphasis on comprehensive ecosystem-based management approaches that addresses increasing cumulative and transboundary threats including climate change and marine litter;
- **WG2. Sustainable use of natural resources**, with an emphasis on co-management practices and small-scale fisheries;
- **WG3: Integrated ecosystem monitoring and management**, with an emphasis on the connections

and integrated management between inland (freshwater), coastal and marine ecosystems.

As such, the PANACeA project strives to establish a direct dialogue with the main policy and management stakeholders to highlight the need for science-based management practices for the maintenance and growth of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services.

PANACeA has reviewed the ongoing work of different stakeholders and prioritised existing policy and legislative frameworks at different scales relevant to the thematic content of the 11 modular projects:

Key Networks and Stakeholders

- AdriaPAN - Adriatic MPA Network
- EMODNet
- EU Fisheries Network (FARNET)
- European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)
- Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)
- MedPAN - Mediterranean MPA Network
- Ramsar MedWet initiative
- UN Environment/MAP SPA/RAC Mediterranean Platform on Marine Biodiversity
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- UN Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Regional Activity Centres (RACs)

Global

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- UNFCCC (Framework Convention on Climate)

EU

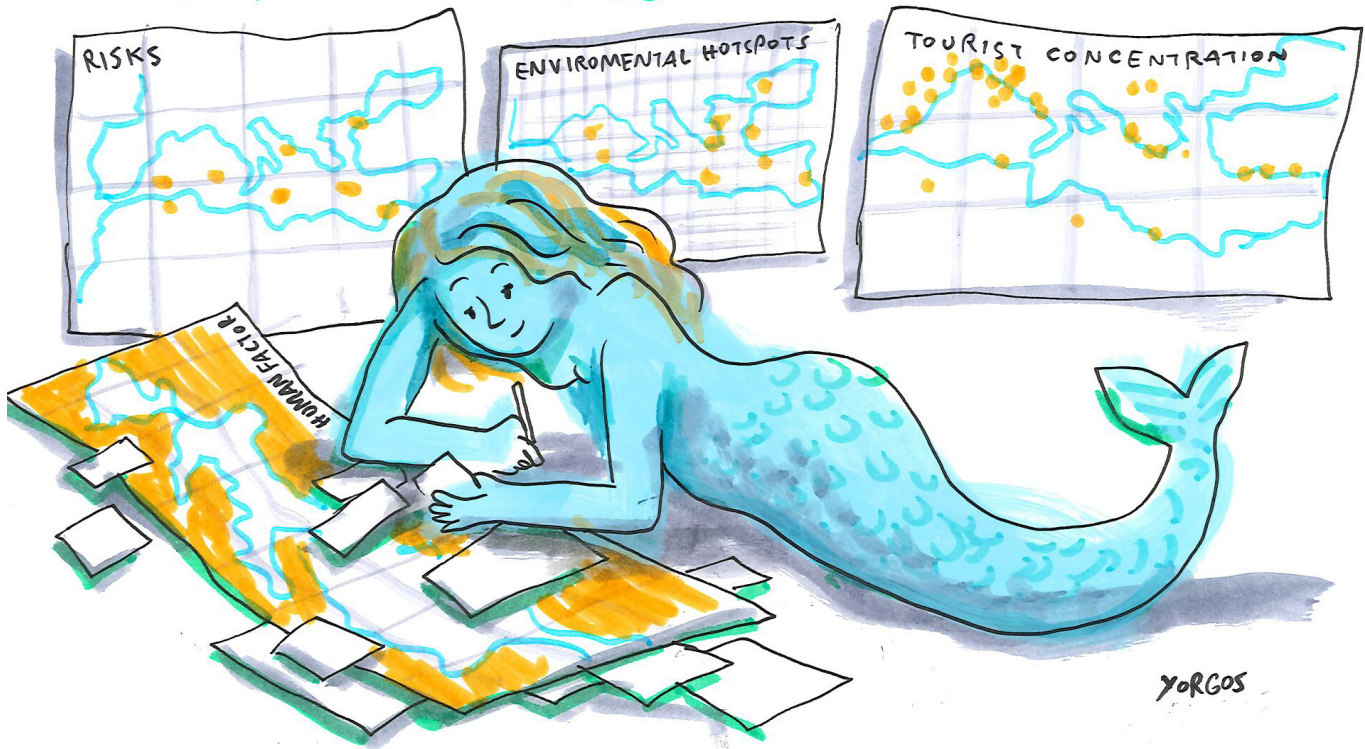
- Blue Growth Strategy
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
- EEA Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) strategy
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)
- Nature Directives (Natura 2000)
- Plastics Strategy 2018
- Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Mediterranean

- Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
- FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- UN Environment/MAP EcAp and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)
- UN Environment/MAP Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
- UN Environment/MAP Regional Plan for Marine Litter in the Mediterranean
- UN Environment/MAP Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean

For a full picture of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community analysis of relevant policies and instruments, click on the [WG1](#), [WG2](#) and [WG3](#)

MAPPING THE MEDITERRANEAN



THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

The activities of the Biodiversity Community are based on a holistic and ecosystem approach towards the effective monitoring, management, and protection of Mediterranean Sea biodiversity and habitats, and includes:

- Integrating knowledge and data on current pressures and impacts, including significant biodiversity features, to help define priority measures and management plans towards protection and conservation.
- Synthesising metadata and information from different sources, existing databases and formats, using INSPIRE standards and specifications and making them available through an online MED Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform as a repository and analytical tool for the community and the Interreg Med programme.
- Disseminating common guidelines for monitoring and assessing major pressures at regional and local scales.
- Promoting transfer and adoption of participatory methods and best practices for protected areas benefiting from existing human networks of protected area managers for an effective ecosystem based approach to biodiversity protection and management.

- Advocating for an ecosystem approach (EcAp) to resources management by raising awareness on and addressing cumulative transboundary impacts and fostering co-management solutions at multiple sectors and geographical scales, with particular attention to the integration of several ecological domains, EBSAs (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas according to the Convention on Biological Diversity) and relevant ecological functioning units.
- Providing guidance for the prioritization of actions towards a more coherent, representative, and effective network of MPAs in line with the UN Environment/MAP SPA/RAC 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap.

The main thematic outputs by PANACeA and its community will include:

- Scientific syntheses with clear messages and recommendations for use in management and to inform and influence current policy (Fact-sheets, technical and policy papers, including media materials).
- The use of spatial tools and databases to generate new knowledge and better integrate past and current datasets from related projects (GIS related products).
- Enhancing communication and learning through networking and showcasing the outputs of the 11 community projects (presentations and side events).

MILESTONES

The MED Community on Biodiversity Protection will be showcasing its work during the next two years in the following key events:

Montenegro
May 2018

Brussels
December 2018

Rome
Spring 2019

Malaga
Autumn 2019

PANACeA partners and biodiversity protection projects, with guidance from its advisory board and strategic regional stakeholders, will actively participate in external events and will contribute to key environmental publications (see below):

- Interreg MED and PANORAMED events
- Ramsar COP Europe - 2018
- CBD COP 14 - 2018
- UN Environment / MEDPOL Meetings on Marine Litter - 2018/2019
- DG MARE Maritime Spatial Planning events 2018/2019
- FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) events - 2018/2019
- COP 21 Barcelona Convention - 2019
- IUCN World Conservation Congress - 2020
- Mediterranean MPA Forum 2020 (organized by MedPAN and SPA/RAC)

A shared calendar is promoted to provide opportunities to participate and organize joint activities.

KEY PUBLICATIONS:

- MedPAN article and updated catalogue on tools for protected area management available on the MedPAN website virtual library - summer 2018 / autumn 2019
- 2020 Evaluation of the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap (MedPAN & SPA/RAC)
- UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication- 2019

You can join and follow us on

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



 [@MEDCommunity3_2](https://twitter.com/MEDCommunity3_2)

 [Biodiversity Protection Community - Interreg Med](#)

 [Biodiversity Protection Community](#)

 [PANACeA Biodiversity Protection](#)



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Montenegro