



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

## BACKGROUND

Monitoring and addressing the increasing cumulative impacts of threats such as overfishing, marine litter, climate change and uncontrolled development to the Mediterranean environment is crucial if we want to manage healthy and productive ecosystems and sustain the people that live on their resources.

Rapid global changes linked to human activities are happening at a regional scale, and so cross boundary challenges need to be jointly addressed through an overarching approach addressing actions at different scales (from regional and local). The socio-economic mechanisms necessary to co-manage our ecosystems and species require the support of appropriate legislation, the allocation of enough resources, public awareness and education, and regional collaboration mechanisms and networks to allow for mutual benefits and an effective implementation of measures proposed to protect Mediterranean livelihoods. Enhanced policy measures and management plans need to be deployed at protected area, ecosystem and ecoregional scales to be effective for people (in sustainable development) and for nature (biodiversity protection) at Mediterranean level.

## OBJECTIVE

The aim of the workshop and the public hearing at the EU Parliament is to transfer the lessons learnt by the Community of Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection projects and protected areas to a wider audience, in particular EU, Mediterranean and national policy makers, public authorities at different level, environmental organizations and territorial cooperation institutions.

The findings of two years of project work will show the solutions found at protected area level in various countries and the links to other economic sectors and areas to prove the need of an ecosystem-based approach to achieve effective protection and a good environmental status for the Mediterranean.

## FEEDING POLICIES

The Regional policy mapping related to biodiversity protection undertaken by PANACeA has helped identify the gaps and needs to which the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection community's findings can provide transferable solutions and recommendations in support of regional policies and management mechanisms.

Under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) developments in monitoring, measures and management plans to combat the growing threat of marine litter are in development. Particularly, for the second cycle of implementation and under Descriptor 10, filling the information gaps related to the interactions of marine litter with coastal and marine biodiversity is highly required to comprehend the dimension of the problem from an ecosystem-based management implementation. These MSFD developments are linked to the newly launched EU Plastics Strategy within the context of Blue Growth, as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

On the other hand, the changing climate and its effects on marine biodiversity are included within the EU Climate Change Program (EU Adaptation Strategy) in its priority 2 (Better informed decision-making) the adaptation platform tool (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe. Furthermore, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approaches in terms of nature and scale are under discussion with Mediterranean countries but the operationalization of this strategy towards maintaining coastal and marine biodiversity resources is not well-defined and binding rules for the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach are lacking. In relation to all these EU policies, the Interreg Med Biodiversity Community experiences will demonstrate different ways to gather targeted information from field surveys to geospatial assessments to generate reliable knowledge for decision-makers.

At the EU level, economic sectors, such as fisheries and their sustainability, have been discussed recurrently by Member States and implemented through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (EU CFP). Although with tangible benefits, this is directed mainly towards large fishing fleets, fishery stock management, quotas, discards, etc. Nevertheless, the EU countries artisanal fleets still need local support to find the way out for their sustainability. This represents a knowledge gap in terms of traditional fisheries management where co-management and the link to science and conservation can play a strategic role and assist in the socio-economic adaptation of the small-scale fisheries sector and protected areas to a marine impactful environment.

## IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

An integrated monitoring and management of coastal and marine areas can assist in the deployment of an ecosystem-based approach to conserving ecologically relevant areas. The involvement of multiple users of the same territory, marine areas and their resources proves essential for the sustainable use of Mediterranean ecosystems and the maintenance of the services they provide.

The Brussels workshop debates will offer a collaborative platform to bring to the table solutions to main policy gaps through project experiences addressing transferable monitoring protocols for climate change, water pollution, marine litter impacts and the use of new technologies to integrate data to better inform decisions at regional and marine protected area levels.

The Interreg Med Community solutions to strengthen ecosystem-based management in the Mediterranean Sea are holistic approaches to conserve biodiversity and increase resilience of natural

resources and key habitats. These approaches involve collaboration among public authorities, scientific institutions, regional organizations, protected area managers and the users and beneficiaries of these natural assets.

The holistic approach to biodiversity protection and management used by these projects is founded on the principle of using scientific-evidence and collaborative mechanisms to involve public bodies, the private sector and the society at large in the shared task of conserving and adequately manage our biodiversity hotspots and species in a sustainable fashion.

## DRAFT AGENDA

# Ecosystem based approaches: benefits for people and nature

**DAY 1: 4 December 2018 from 09.00 to 18.00 - Collaborative Workshop**

*Venue: Mundo-b  
Rue d'Edimbourg 26, B-1050 Brussels*

**Speakers are to be confirmed**

### 09.00 -09.15 – Welcome

- The need for cooperation and dialogue across ecoregions and economic sectors to preserve Mediterranean livelihoods and natural resources, by CPMR -IMC member region representative

### 09.15 -09.45 – Introduction

Building the **Mediterranean biodiversity protection community**: PANACeA's mid-term review and the way forward: Video animation with key achievements (the Community and Working groups)

- Multiple players, one objective: PANACeA Med Biodiversity Protection Community Building methodology, by Plan Bleu
- A shared biodiversity protection knowledge platform with a cumulative and regional focus, by ETC-UMA

### 09.45 – 13.00 – The Ecosystem based approach: a collaborative framework to link regions, users and beneficiaries

#### 09.45 - 10.30 How to better preserve Mediterranean natural resources: the role of local communities in protecting and managing their natural resources

The session will showcase lessons learnt towards effective mechanisms to approach natural resource science to different users and managers, including scientists, civil society and public authorities.

- **Confish:** linking genomic science to fishing practices in the Mediterranean
- **FishMPABlue2:** how to involve fishermen in protected area governance
- **WETNET:** negotiating water resources in Mediterranean wetlands

## Q&A – FARNET

### 10.30 – 11.00 coffee break

#### 11.00 - 11.45 How to tackle environmental threats using an Ecosystem Based Approach: from protected key species (MPAs) to ensuring ecosystem/ habitat function (ecoregions)

The session will look at new tools aiming to provide sufficient relevant information to feed policy driven processes namely the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and MSFD using the spatial boundaries of ecosystems that ensure proper ecosystem functioning and objectives at an ecoregional scale, with key biodiversity and ecosystem data gathered at smaller level for a better local management of natural resources in key biodiversity areas in need of protection.

- **POSBEMED:** improving beach management and protecting Posidonia habitats
- **AMAre:** integrating biodiversity information for protected area planning
- **MPA-ADAPT:** how are marine biodiversity and its users adapting to climate change
- **PHAROS4MPAS:** ensuring effective mechanisms to reduce impacts resulting from a blue growth economy

## Q&A: Planning authorities – representatives of national/regional authorities dealing with MSFD/MSP

#### 11.45 - 13.00 How to address transboundary pressures to reduce impacts on Mediterranean ecosystems: pollution including marine litter threats

- **ECOSUSTAIN:** using technology to monitor water quality
- **ACT4LITTER:** litter on beaches, measures and management action plans to be implemented by stakeholders
- **MEDSEALITTER:** enhanced coastal and open-sea litter monitoring with the aid of technology to measure litter amounts and interactions with species
- **PLASTICBUSTERSMPAs:** targeting and selecting marine species bioindicators with improved monitoring protocols to combat marine litter

## Q&A: representative working in the EU Plastic Strategy implementation or development

### 13.00 -14.30 – Buffet lunch

## 14.30 – 17.30 – Integrating Ecosystem Based approach in regional sectoral policies: Dialogue with policy makers

To facilitate the transfer of key findings by the current biodiversity research and management projects as potential policy and societal solutions, a series of roundtables will assist participants to benefit from thematic-oriented discussions aiming at highlighting the necessary role to be played by different sectors in achieving a good environmental status in Mediterranean ecoregions.

### Preserving the Mediterranean ecosystem: towards a sustainable Blue Economy PLANNING THE BEST USE OF RESOURCES

How to reach sustainable growth in the Mediterranean region while preserving our natural resources? New economy models around blue growth need to consider the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. The debate will address socio-economic aspirations and the debate around key measures to reach an environmentally sustainable development in the region.

- PANORAMED (Considerations for maritime transport, maritime surveillance, and its impact)
- BLUEMED initiative
- Tourism project or organization representative
- Resource Management (fisheries, aquaculture sector representative)
- PAP/RAC

### The Mediterranean under pressure: responding to pressures from a Marine Protected Area perspective SCARCER RESOURCES AND UNCONTROLLED THREATS

- Marine Litter policies: the EU Plastics Strategy
- Climate change adaptation policies
- Wetlands (Water Framework Directive)
- MPAs as a management tool / cooperation among Marine Protected Areas

### Addressing the right scale: in a need for Mediterranean-ecosystem based territorial integration ONE MEDITERRANEAN, MANY ACTORS

- Territorial cooperation: integrating priorities and funding
- MSSD / EcAp
- Union for the Mediterranean
- The challenge of integrating high seas
- EBSAs as a scale of intervention

## 17.30 – 18.00 – Conclusion

## 18.00 – 19.30 – Cocktail



# **Mediterranean Ecosystems in Danger: Enhancing EU policy response**

## **Towards an integration of ecosystem-based approaches in policies**

**DAY 2: 5 December 2018 from 9.00 to 12.00**

*Venue: European Parliament  
Bât. Altiero Spinelli, Room PHS 5B001  
60 rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels*

**In collaboration with**

**INTERGROUP  
SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS  
AND COASTAL AREAS**



[WWW.SEARICA.EU](http://WWW.SEARICA.EU)

### **Speakers are to be confirmed**

The objective of this public hearing is to ensure that the key questions identified by the Med Biodiversity Protection Community, comprising around 150 institutions representing local and regional practitioners, policymakers, environmental lobbyists, and researchers and working in the Mediterranean are presented and taken in consideration in the formulation of political proposals.

### **08.30 Registration - security check**

Participants are kindly requested to register beforehand and as soon as possible on the Registration link: <https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu> indicating 5 December 2018 in order to guarantee and organize the access to the EP. The day of the conference, participants are kindly requested to present themselves at **08:30** in order to avoid delays.

**09.00 – 09.15**

### **Opening session**

Welcome speech by **Ms Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, Chair of SEARICA

Brief presentation of the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection Community

09.15 – 10.00

**Roundtable 1: Towards a transboundary and ecoregional approach for a sound biodiversity management and protection**

Moderator: **Marco AFFRONTÉ**, MEP, Member of the Searica

Panelists: **Ameer Abdulla**, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas WPCA

**Representative**, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

**Valentina MABILIA**, Policy Officer, Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, DG Mare, European Commission

Q&A

10.05 - 10.45

**Roundtable 2: A long-term vision for the development of monitoring tools, harmonized methodologies, protocols and data**

Moderator: **Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS**, MEP, Vice-Chair of Searica

Panelists: **Sylvain PETIT**, Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia

**Khalil Attia**, Director, Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), Tunisia

**Matjaž MALGAJ**, Head of Unit, DG ENV, European Commission

Q&A

10.45 – 11.30

**Roundtable 3: Streamlining governance and cooperation to tackle Mediterranean biodiversity challenge**

Moderator: **Francesc GAMBUS**, MEP, Member of Searica

Panelists: **Antonio TROYA**, Director, IUCN Med

**Sergi TUDELA**, Director general de Pesca i Afers Marítims, Generalitat de Catalunya

**Abdellah SROUR**, FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, GFCM

Q&A

11.30 – 12.00

**Conclusions speech by MEP**

**Signature of the Charter for a MED Ecosystem Based Approach**