



MODULAR PROJECTS on BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

The Biodiversity Protection community of projects featured by the partnership PANACeA

Nine thematic projects, those approved by the steering committee of the **Interreg Med programme 2014-2020** after their first call, are now under way in the programme's priority axis 3 "*Natural & cultural resources - Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources*" and particularly to reach the specific objective 3.2 "*To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through **strengthening the management and networking of protected areas***".

All these projects gather in the overall Mediterranean "**Biodiversity Protection community**" animated by the horizontal project **PANACeA**, an initiative to create synergies and new partnerships among Mediterranean stakeholders. PANACeA puts in place activities and actions to increase the visibility and impacts of the work implemented by a biodiversity protection community of projects.

This factsheet provides insight into the initial 9 projects that currently belong to the "Biodiversity Protection community" in the Mediterranean.



ACT4LITTER: Joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in Mediterranean Protected Areas

ACT4LITTER aims at reviewing the most promising proposed measures to effectively tackle the issue of Marine Litter and select those that could be implemented in MPAs, considering particularly the ecosystem services. The selection of measures will result in the development of MPA-specific action plans for implementation in a future project. Those plans will be complemented by a realistic and operational governance plan at transnational level.

Keywords: marine litter, marine protected areas, action plan, governance, preventive measures, circular economy, sustainable consumption, natural conservation.

MPA stakeholders and key experts on marine litter value chain will be involved through the process to validate the outputs together. The action plans will have a strong focus on preventive measures, using circular economy and sustainable consumption and production approaches. The issue of Marine Litter is global but MPAs are directly affected by its increasing amount, restraining highly the achievement of the conservation goals.

Led by: Catalan Waste Agency - Regional Activity Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), Spain - **Project manager:** Magali Outters, SCP/RAC - **Communication officer:** Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE - **Duration:** 18 months

AMAre: Actions for Marine Protected Areas

AMAre aims at reinforcing the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) to maintain their biodiversity and natural ecosystems. It targets a more integrated management of the maritime space, considering MPAs can be an efficient tool to achieve Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) goals. The development of shared methodologies and geospatial tools will foster the resilience of the Mediterranean MPA network, as well as concrete MSP applications in selected MPAs. The improvement of the information exchange among MPAs will be done by best practice dissemination; it will enable common solutions to enhance management strategies and governance mechanisms.

Keywords: Maritime spatial Planning (MSP), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), methodologies, geospatial tools, environmental monitoring, best practices, data access, ecosystem-based approach, Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Led by: National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CONISMA), Italy - **Project manager:** Simonetta Fraschetti, University of Salento, Italy - **Communication officer:** Federica Fogliani, CNR, Italy - **Duration:** 36 months



ConFish: Connectivity among Mediterranean fishery stakeholders and scientists resolves connectivity of fishery populations

ConFish aims at delivering a framework to promote knowledge transfer and capacity building between local fishermen and scientists, in order to improve the exploitation, conservation and management of Mediterranean fisheries, through a bottom-up approach including evolutionary tools. Critical fishing areas for protection will also be identified, in relation with scientific advice and local culture.

Keywords: Sustainability, fisheries, network, sociologists, fishermen, scientists, management, connectivity, adaptation, capacity building, knowledge transfer.

Led by: Faculty of science, University of Zagreb, Croatia - **Project manager:** Anamaria Stambuk, Faculté des Sciences, University of Zagreb - **Communication officer:** Miguel Baltazar Soares, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel - **Duration:** 18 months

EcoSUSTAIN: Ecological sustainable governance of MPAs

EcoSUSTAIN represents joint transnational action towards maintenance of biodiversity and natural ecosystems by means of stronger management and networking of protected areas obtained through capacity building, innovative technologies and improved management knowledge base. The overall objective of the action is to improve monitoring, management and networking of protected areas through supporting scientific, technical and management knowledge in order to tackle the

problem of incoherent and segregated management of protected areas as self-sustained units, which is believed to hamper protection and promotion of Mediterranean natural resources, as well as maintenance of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Management and networking of protected areas will be improved by capacity building activities and pilot implementation of innovative water quality monitoring solutions in several protected wetland locations across the programme area.

Keywords: Stronger management and networking of protected areas, capacity building, innovative technologies, improved management knowledge base, Pilot implementation of innovative water quality monitoring solutions, protected wetland locations, use of state-of-the-art ICT technology, long-term monitoring.

Led by: University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime studies, Croatia - **Project manager:** Neven Grubisic, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies - **Communication officer:** Sasa Milanovic, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies - **Duration:** 30 months



FishMPABlue2: Fishing governance in MPAs: potentialities for Blue Economy

FishMPABlue 2 is the follow-up of FishMPABlue 2007-2013 project: as the first one carried out the analysis of the management of small scale fishery within and around an MPA, identifying the suitable change (enforcing MPA management capacities) to be achieved through a concrete response (innovative governance toolkit), as current proposal wants to test such toolkit to actually demonstrate its effectiveness in achieving expected results (strengthening the management and networking capacities of Med MPAs).

Keywords: marine conservation, fishing governance, Blue economy.

Led by: Federparchi – Europarc Italy - The Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves - **Project officer:** Luca Santarossa, Federparchi - **Communication officer:** Anne Remy, WWF Mediterranean - **Duration:** 36 months



MEDSEALITTER: Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols to protect biodiversity from litter impact at basin and local MPAs

MEDSEALITTER addresses the issue of marine litter, a global threat for living marine organisms. The problem particularly affects fishes, cetaceans and marine turtles, animals in whose digestive tracts commonly appear accidentally-swallowed micro and macro plastic debris. Although many Mediterranean organisations are working

Keywords: marine litter, protocols, pollution assessment, monitoring, impact management, biodiversity, network, marine protected areas, scientific organizations, NGOs.

on this issue, there are no widely-accepted protocols to assess pollution by marine litter. For this reason, the project proposes to network representative MPAs, scientific organisations and environmental NGOs for developing, testing and delivering efficient, easy to apply and cost-effective protocols to monitor and manage litter impact on biodiversity.

Led by: Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area, Italy - **Project manager:** Patrizio Scarpellini, Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area - **Communication officer:** Simone Nuglio, Legambiente Onlus - **Duration:** 33 months

MPA-ADAPT: Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: Building resilience and adaptation

MPA-Adapt is aiming to develop collaborative and site-specific adaptation plans for the MPAs that enhance resilience to Climate Change impacts. This will be achieved by building capacity for effective management, assessing risks; and exploring potential actions and priorities needed to ensure the adaptability and the resilience of biodiversity and the local communities. It also aims to incorporate Climate Change vulnerability assessments and nature-based

Keywords: adaptation plans for MPAs, climate change, building capacity, assessing risks, adaptability, resilience, biodiversity, local communities, vulnerability assessments, MPA managers, local stakeholders, Mediterranean MPA sentinel sites.

adaptation planning into their existing management framework, and provide guidance to MPA managers and local stakeholders to implement and test climate change approaches. This project is a first of its kind for the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment and will also foster networks by improving the dialogue and coordination between MPA managers and scientists to create the first line of Mediterranean MPA sentinel sites.

Led by: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain - **Project manager:** Joaquim Garrabou, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - **Communication officer:** Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN - **Duration:** 30 months



POSBEMED: Sustainable management of the systems Posidonia-beaches in the Mediterranean region

POSBEMED aims at tackling the lack of public awareness of the benefits of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows natural capital and replies to a strong need for strengthening PA management capacity with adequate guidelines on how to effectively manage them. Several local studies and EU projects have evaluated the ecosystem services that *Posidonia* and its structures, called banquettes, offer, and developed tools for the management of banquettes and new ways to use them. By integrating these results and providing a transnational overview of the management

Keywords: seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*, tourism, leaf debris, seedbank, coastal / dune resilience, tools for local administration, integrated governance, integrated management, nature conservation.

practices and the perceptions of stakeholders across Mediterranean, POSBEMED aims to define a transnational joint management strategy for *Posidonia* beach/dune systems. It also aims to offer common sustainable tools for local administrators and PA managers and develop a strategic model of integrated governance, linking blue local growth to the conservation of this natural asset and enhancing the integrated management of these coastal habitats (meadows-beaches-foredunes) within PAs.

Led by: Entente Interdépartementale de Démoustication Méditerranéenne (EID), France - **Project manager:** Maria Eugenia Giunta, EID - **Communication officer:** Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN - **Duration:** 18 months

WETNET: Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

WETNET tackles the issue of implementing multilevel governance for Mediterranean wetlands in order to achieve overall and network effects on wetland ecosystems as well as on connected local systems. The project aims at ensuring higher coordination between different levels of spatial planning and authorities in charge of their management, whilst limiting conflicts between conservation issues and economic activities. By defining common priorities

Keywords: Wetlands preservation, governance, integrated management.

for Mediterranean wetland conservation, WETNET builds a common territorial strategy for their integrated management. Building on previous EU experiences (River Contracts), WETNET seeks to test and transfer 'Wetland Contracts', acting through broad participatory processes where users, private and public entities are committed in mainstreaming wetlands preservation into their ordinary activities.

Led by: Veneto region, Italy - **Project manager:** Franco Alberti, Veneto Region **Communication officer:** Alicia Sánchez-Valverde, Sociedad Aragonesa de Gestión Agroambiental (SARGA) - **Duration:** 30 months



BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

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