

**Interreg**  
Mediterranean



**BIODIVERSITY  
PROTECTION**



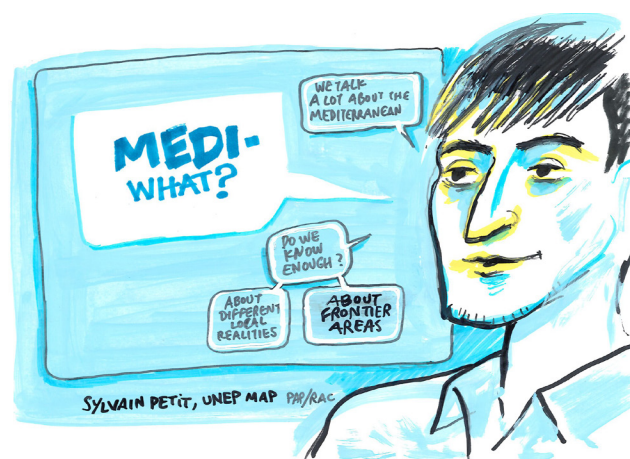
## A ROADMAP FOR ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

### 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



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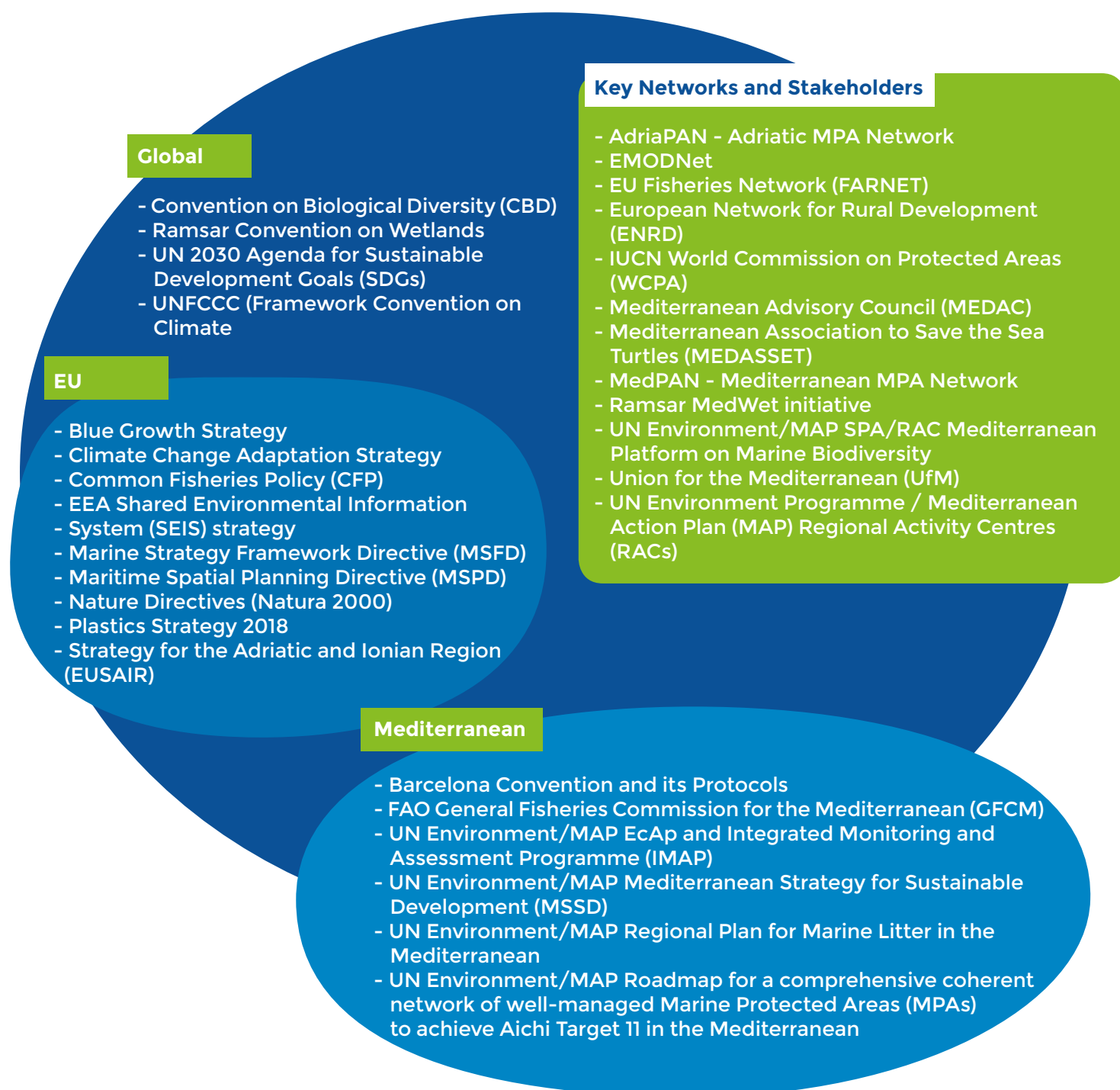
So far, three working groups have been established to focus on:

- **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.

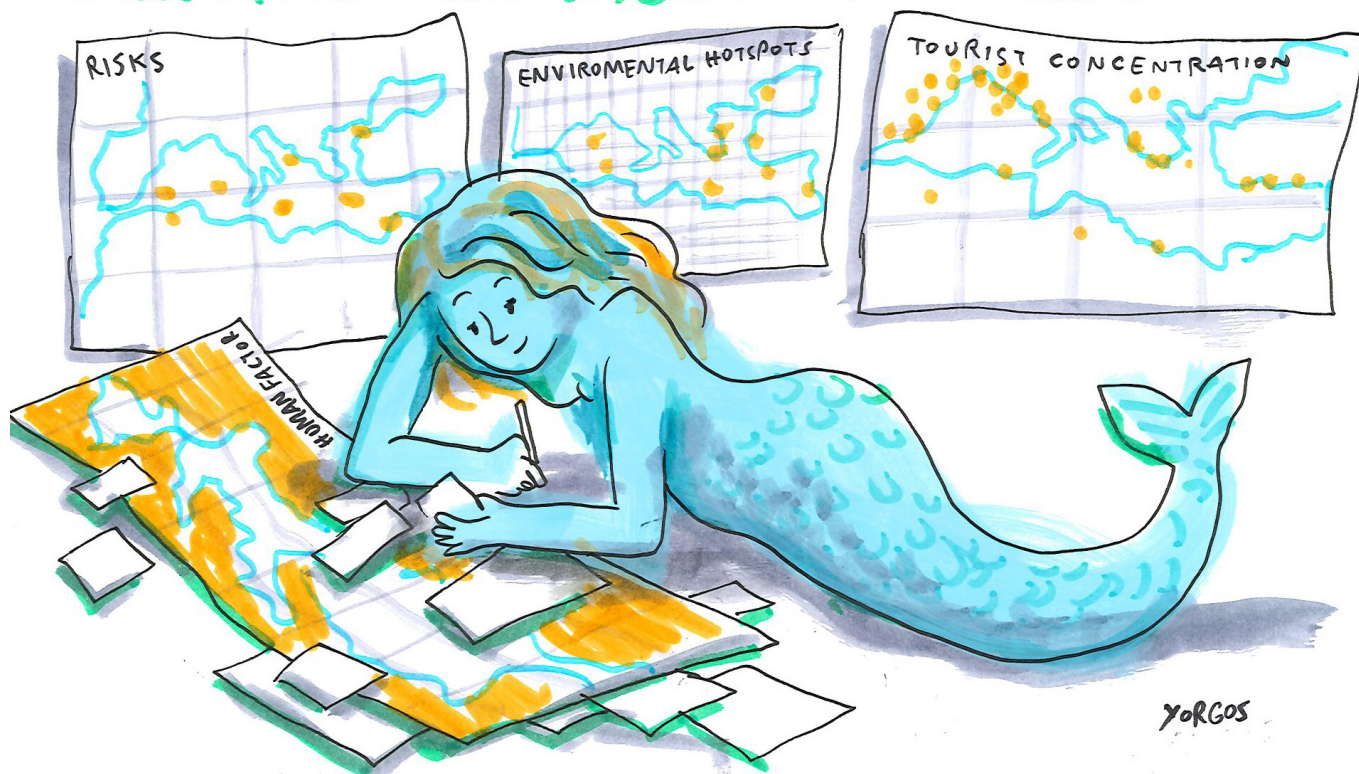
PANACeA has reviewed the ongoing work of different stakeholders and prioritised existing policy and legislative frameworks at different scales relevant to the thematic content of the 11 modular projects:



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, EBAs (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

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