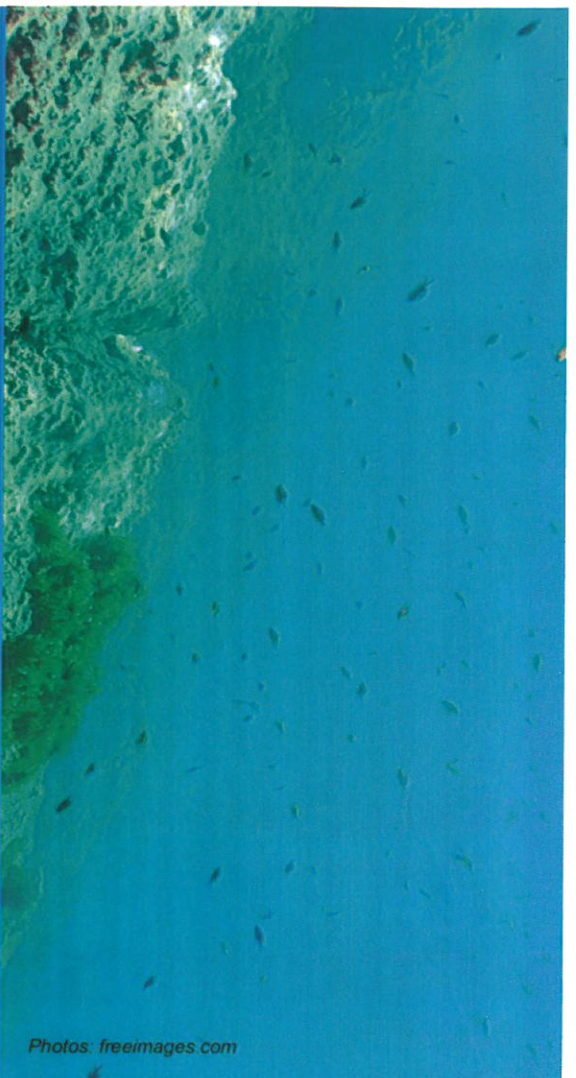


Med-IAMER

Integrated Actions to Mitigate Environmental
Risks in the Mediterranean Sea



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Med-IAMER provides recommendations on integrated trans-boundary actions required to mitigate environmental risks in the Mediterranean Sea by putting together knowledge on regional Coastal and Maritime Environmental Pressures (CMEP) and by assessing their gaps. It proposes data integration and analysis approaches and maps the condition of existing trans-boundary mechanisms to mitigate these risks, focusing on cooperation and conflicts and involving regional stakeholders.

Med-IAMER Objectives

Med-IAMER proposes an integrated environmental status assessment to mitigate environmental risks to be addressed at trans-boundary scale in the Mediterranean Sea. The approach draws on the main pressures and the conservation level in the Western Mediterranean and the Adriatic-Ionian ecoregions (figure 1) to identify spatial hotspots of environmental pressures.

The main objectives of Med-IAMER are:

- Improve the knowledge and spatial information on the intensity and distribution of Coastal and Maritime Environmental Pressures (CMEP) of the study areas, drawing on a baseline understanding on data availability of the descriptors of ecosystem functioning.
- Provide a spatial overview of the protection measures of marine ecosystems in the study areas and on the effectiveness of their implementation.
- Identify the level of environmental pressures on marine protected areas and relevant coastal and marine ecosystems in the study areas through an analysis of the a) intensity of pressures and b) effectiveness of the protection measures.
- Categorize the main gaps, conflicts and cooperation opportunities in planning and management of Mediterranean coastal and marine areas in the context of CMEP and the trans-boundary cooperation mechanisms.

To reach these set objectives, regional stakeholders' consultations are scheduled to validate the available knowledge used for the assessment and to judge the effectiveness of cooperation mechanisms and trans-boundary arrangements put in place to overcome trans-boundary conflicts in the region.

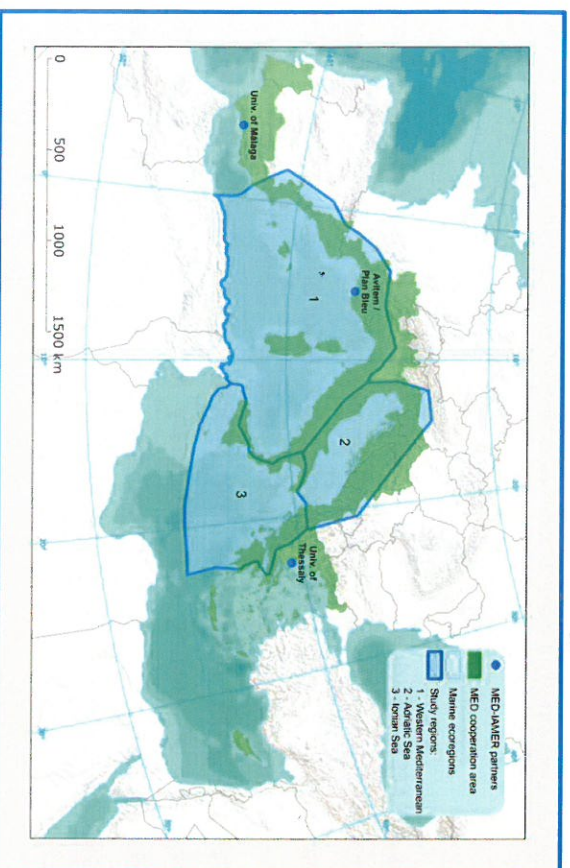


Figure 1. Med-IAMER study regions: Western Mediterranean, Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea.

Methodological Framework

Med-IAMER is structured in 5 interconnected work packages (WPs) that provide an evidence base to identify existing threats on the Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystems:

WP1 ensures both good communication among the project team and the MED Programme, and the effective delivery of individual WPs and outputs.

WP2 focuses on the validation of existing datasets on the state of CMEP and the conservation measures put in place. **Pressures** on coastal and marine ecosystems are mapped in this WP based on the descriptors of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

WP3 complements this mapping with an analysis of the **state** of CMEP and the identification of conflict of uses and their possible **impacts** on the environment. WP3 categorizes the **drivers** of change related to human activities.

WP4 uses the knowledge generated in WP2 & 3 to develop a structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders and proposes improvements supporting the project outcomes. WP4 focuses on validating the main drivers, pressures and the relevance of policy **responses** in place to reduce drivers of change and pressures.

WP5 formulates common priorities and actions as recommendations to be used for an integrated framework for trans-boundary Mediterranean planning areas.

The Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework for integrated environmental reporting and assessment, developed by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in 1999, has since been widely adopted in the study of environmental problems. In the context of Med IAMER, the methodological framework uses this approach to mitigate environmental risks on Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystems (figure 2).

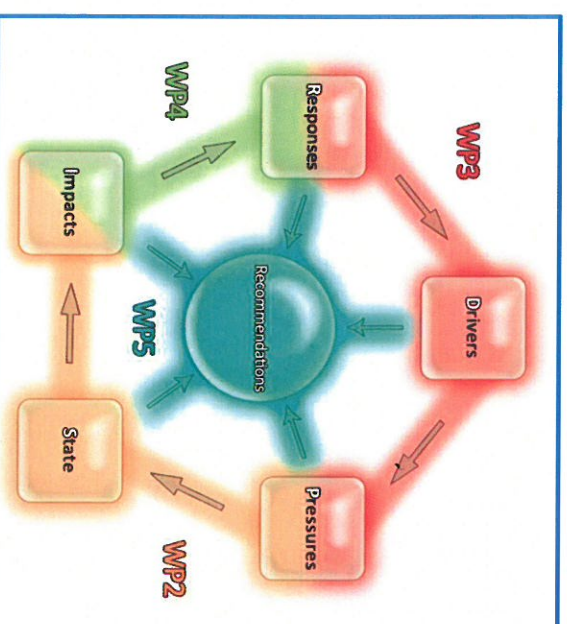


Figure 2. DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts, and Responses) framework used in Med-IAMER.