



United Nations
Environment Programme



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



Plan
Bleu

Plan Bleu's Activity Report 2016



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INTRODUCTION

2016 was marked by key events such as the COP 22 Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh and the Barcelona Convention COP19, which adopted the new Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025) supported by Plan Bleu, in a situation that continues to be deeply affected by migration issues and wealth inequality between Mediterranean countries.

In this context, it is crucial to emphasise the importance of implementing existing international agreements (treaties, conventions, protocols, amendments, including the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and major international conventions and their accompanying documents) and international commitments (Aichi, UN 2030 Agenda) and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Plan Bleu contributes in its own right to these goals as one of its primary missions is to provide the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with data, statistics, indicators and assessments on the environment and sustainable development in order to support their actions and their policymaking process.

In 2016, in an effort to strengthen this function, Plan Bleu restructured and revamped its geographic information system and the way it collects, processes and disseminates data and indicators, particularly for the MSSD 2016-2025.

The Shared Environmental Information System project (SEIS / Horizon 2020 Initiative) involves extending the European Shared Environmental Information System to Mediterranean countries, and in particular the ENP-South partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), around the priorities of the “Horizon 2020” initiative for reducing pollution in the Mediterranean by 2020. This project is funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and implemented jointly by the EEA (European Environment Agency) and UNEP/MAP with the support of Plan Bleu.

This type of information system would not be possible without an integrated monitoring and assessment programme (IMAP) for the environment, which relies on an Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and on “strengthening the science-policy interface”, which Plan Bleu coordinates under the supervision of UNEP/MAP.

In reality, only a small fraction of relevant scientific knowledge is actually used for environmental management or for preparing assessments such as the “Report on the State of the Environment and Development”.

One of Plan Bleu’s core missions is to design possible futures for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. In 2016, under the supervision of UNEP/MAP, it began a process to prepare a new foresight project on the environment and development in 2050 (MED 2050). This new foresight study is planned for the two upcoming programme periods in 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.

Adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025 and reform of the MCSD have led to a Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) for national strategies on sustainable development, which fosters dialogue between Mediterranean countries about national sustainable development organisations and processes. SIMPEER also contributes to the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025, which is the regional adaptation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

PLAN BLEU

**Mediterranean Environment
and Sustainable Development
Observatory**

**Regional Activity Centre for the
Mediterranean Action Plan**

Plan Bleu produces studies and future scenarios in order to raise awareness among Mediterranean stakeholders and policymakers about environmental and sustainable development issues in the region.

Plan Bleu has offices in Sophia Antipolis and Marseille, and is managed by a French non-profit organisation under Law 1901. Its activities are carried out by a team of around fifteen people, supported by Mediterranean experts and validated by the Focal Points in each country.

Funding is provided by Mediterranean countries and the European Union, a grant from the French Ministry of the Environment, and contributions to joint research and collaborative projects from various institutions and partners.

Our missions:

- Observing the environment and development to enlighten decision-makers
- Shaping possible futures for sustainable development
- Monitoring the implementation of Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- Integrating climate change as a priority
- Supporting the transition to a green and blue economy
- Providing socio-economic insights for the appropriate management of Mediterranean resources

Plan Bleu participated in discussions on climate change at “MedCop Climate” (Tangier, July 2016), which was aimed at promoting synergies between the different Mediterranean stakeholders involved in fighting climate change, and coordinated some events at the COP22 in Marrakesh.

It is also involved in the MedECC initiative “Towards an experts group on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean”, which specifically targets the key relationship between science and policymaking.

Finally, the activities of the Med-ESCWET project (Economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands in terms of climate change), which Plan Bleu launched in 2014 in partnership with the Tour du Valat, came to an end in 2016. This project was co-funded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Mava Foundation and a final report will be published in 2017.

Forest management is a sensitive topic in the Mediterranean and Plan Bleu has been working with the FAO’s Silva Mediterranea committee to regularly publish a reference guide on the state of Mediterranean forests in order to address the lack of data and provide a solid foundation for Mediterranean forest management in the future. This guide is currently being prepared for publication in 2018.

In 2016 Plan Bleu and its partners (RAC/PAP and RAC/SCP) pursued the implementation of a project on “measuring, monitoring and promoting an environmentally sustainable economy in the Mediterranean”, funded by the MAVA Foundation since 2015. Tourism is one of the drivers of the blue economy and Plan Bleu has contributed significantly in this area by defining what could be considered guidelines for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Anne-France Didier, who was the Director of Plan Bleu in 2016. As her secondment contract could not be renewed for administrative reasons, I decided to appoint Jean-Pierre Giraud as Deputy Secretary General and have the Board closely involved in the governance of our organisation until a new director can be appointed in 2017.

Thanks to the expertise and hard work of its team, next year Plan Bleu will celebrate its 40th anniversary and continue to be a key player in sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Thierry Lavoux
Chairman

Main partners



Activities

carried out in 2016

OBSERVING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENLIGHTEN DECISION-MAKERS

RED 2019 – Towards a new report on environment and development in the Mediterranean

In 2016, as part of its function as a Mediterranean Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory, Plan Bleu initiated the first steps in preparing a new report on the environment and development in the Mediterranean (RED 2019). In particular, Plan Bleu is working on a roadmap for preparing the RED 2019, which will be finalised in 2017.

The RED 2019 is currently scheduled to be written in 2017-2019 and published in early 2020.



Mediterranean countries are working together to overcome shortages of information on biodiversity

Plan Bleu relaunched its partnership with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) to exchange ideas on how to cooperate in the area of biodiversity data and information in the region.

Two meetings have been held; the first at IUCN in Malaga in June 2016 and the second at Plan Bleu in December 2016. The Tour du Valat research institute was invited to the second meeting.

This working group discussed ways of gathering more integrated information more effectively to determine the state of biodiversity and identify trends in the Mediterranean in order to influence policymakers about the importance of preserving biodiversity.

Discussions revolved around how each organisation can use its resources, mandate and expertise to help improve information sharing and collaboration for future activities (Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean, MSSD monitoring, etc.)

This cooperation will continue in the months to come in order to define the objectives and strategy of closer collaboration in the area of biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

Partners: IUCN-Med, Tour du Valat



"Mediterranean Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory" function

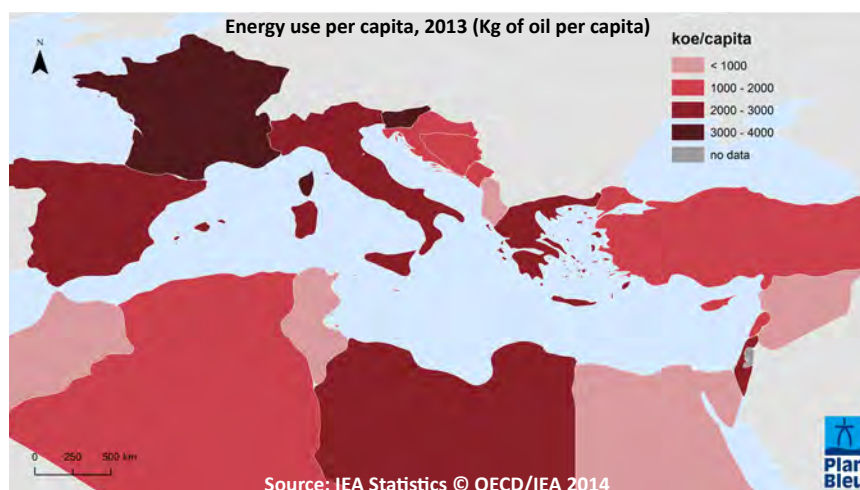
One of Plan Bleu's primary missions is to provide the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with data, statistics, indicators and assessments on the environment and sustainable development to support their actions and decision-making processes.

In 2016, in an effort to strengthen this function, Plan Bleu restructured and revamped its geographic information system and the way it collects, processes and disseminates data and indicators, particularly for the MSSD 2016-2025.

This function needed to be improved for future Plan Bleu publications, such as the State of the Environment and Development, scheduled for release in 2019, and the MED2050 foresight exercise, to be published in 2021.

A dedicated website is currently being designed for the Plan Bleu "Observatory" function to publish maps, fact sheets and databases that will be created for the MSSD 2016-2025 and other Plan Bleu outputs/publications.

A website prototype will be posted online in March 2017 and improved/adapted in the following months.



SEIS, Shared Environmental Information System / Horizon 2020 Initiative

The SEIS project in the Mediterranean seeks to extend the European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to Mediterranean countries, in particular the ENP-South partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), initially around the priorities of the "Horizon 2020" initiative for reducing pollution in the Mediterranean by 2020.

This project is funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and implemented jointly by the EEA (European Environment Agency) and UNEP/MAP with the support of Plan Bleu. The project is based on 3 pillars:

- content (data and indicators),
- infrastructure (information systems),
- governance (participation of national institutions).

An initial phase in 2013-2014 led to the publication of the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation: "Horizon 2020 Mediterranean Report: toward shared environmental information systems".

In 2016, Plan Bleu helped define the second phase (2016-2019), during which activities in 2017-2019 will focus on indicator aspects, particularly waste issues, in order to contribute to the Horizon 2020 evaluation.

Partners: EEA, UNEP/MAP

KEY FIGURES

Project term: 2016-2019

Budget: \$189 K

ECAP, Ecosystem Approach



Through Decision IG 17 / 6, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention undertook to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities following a roadmap in several steps, including initial assessment, review of the environmental monitoring programme, and implementation of a programme of measures with the aim of achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) for marine and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean. COP 21 adopted the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). The EcAp MED II 2015-2018 project is led by UNEP/MAP with the support of components, with the aim of helping Southern Mediterranean countries implement the IMAP.

Plan Bleu is responsible for coordinating the “**Strengthening of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)**” component (see objectives opposite) to promote information exchange between scientists and environmental decision-makers. Assuming that only a small fraction of relevant scientific knowledge is actually used for management, the following activities are planned:

- Identifying the main gaps in scientific knowledge with regard to implementation of the IMAP to organise regional scientific workshops with scientists and managers on pre-determined issues associated with the implementation of EcAp;
- Encouraging relevant scientific results to be taken into account for drawing up EcAp documents, in particular the Quality Status Report (QSR 2017) on the Mediterranean environment;
- Continuing action by producing targeted communication media for better knowledge sharing and a specific scientific contribution to the development of national activities (monitoring and implementation plans) and sub-regional and regional policies.

Two thematic workshops were organised in 2016:

- [Workshop on Science-Policy Interface \(SPI\) strengthening for the implementation of the IMAP, with a focus on contaminants and eutrophication](#), Marseille, 20 - 21 October 2016, jointly organised with MEDPOL, with scientific experts chosen by Plan Bleu and representatives appointed by the Contracting Parties to the Group on Pollution Monitoring. Discussions focused on monitoring programmes and measures that help achieve GES, and solutions to overcome scientific shortcomings in these areas. 14 major needs surrounding eutrophication and 16 needs concerning contaminants were presented and discussed
- [Workshop on SPI strengthening in the field of Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) and marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean](#), Tangier, Morocco, 28 November 2016, jointly organised with MedPAN and RAC-SPA during the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum. Scientific research needs concerning biodiversity-related EcAp ecological objectives were identified and discussed. The interest in strengthening the science-policy interface in this area is specified in the 2016 Tangier Declaration, approved by the delegates at the end of the Forum.

The next workshop will be held in Madrid on 2 March 2017, and will focus on the cross-cutting theme of the risk-based approach (RBA) for the development of marine and coastal environment monitoring. The main goal of the workshop will be for scientists and managers to discuss the interest of this approach for optimising the cost-effectiveness of national marine and coastal monitoring strategies by defining risk and monitoring strategy priorities.

Partner: UNEP/MAP

KEY FIGURES

Project duration: 4 years (2015-2018)

Budget: €284 K

Objectives for strengthening the Science-Policy Interface:

- Stress that science plays a critical role for developing and implementing environmental policies. The environment and its changes need to be understood in order to develop relevant and adaptive environmental policies.
- Ensure that environmental policies are based on firm scientific knowledge so that they are stronger and lead to greater acceptance and legitimacy of public initiatives.
- Make science more action-oriented, targeting specific societal and policy needs and overcoming various constraints such as differing visions, or semantics and terminology related misunderstandings, which limit the effectiveness of dialogue between scientists and policymakers.
- Strengthen "marine and coastal environmental governance" in a context involving diverse stakeholders, including society and the economy.
- Coordinate collaborations between scientific communities and cooperation between scientists and national and regional policymakers, and gear them towards concrete management needs.

SHAPING POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MED 2050 – Towards new foresight for the Mediterranean

One of Plan Bleu's missions is to design possible futures for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. In 2016, under the supervision of the UNEP/MAP, it began a process to prepare a new foresight project on the environment and development in 2050 (MED 2050).

After an initial workshop with the Plan Bleu Board in September 2016, Plan Bleu and the IPAMED jointly organised a [brainstorming workshop](#) with around twenty Mediterranean foresight experts in Paris on 5 December 2016. Both these workshops allowed to identify the initial aspects for developing a roadmap for a new Mediterranean foresight exercise. To better frame the roadmap under development, in late 2016, Plan Bleu launched a benchmarking study of existing foresight exercises on the environment and development in the Mediterranean, which will be completed at the end of the first quarter of 2017.

The new foresight exercise is planned for the two programme periods in 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.



Brainstorming workshop,
Paris, 5 December 2016



MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) for National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD)

Following adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the reform of the MCSD (Decisions IG.22/02 and 22/17, COP19, Athens, Greece, February 2016), the SIMPEER is based on the voluntary and equal participation of the parties and is designed to foster dialogue between Mediterranean countries on national sustainable development organisations and processes.

This framework for mutual learning and improvement seeks to encourage the Contracting Parties to share experiences, policies and best practices on implementing sustainable development at the national level, through a methodology determined during the first technical meeting on 18 October 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. The SIMPEER also contributes to the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025, which is the regional adaptation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

The SIMPEER process is based on an analysis of existing peer review mechanisms and includes the following three phases:

1. A preparatory phase with a literature review of the strategic, regulatory, legislative and institutional documents provided by the volunteer countries. During this phase, a questionnaire is completed by the national contact points and a country fact sheet is produced by the project team made up of three independent experts.
2. A consultation phase during which the project team carries out missions in the volunteer countries to consult national policymakers and stakeholders involved in implementation of the NSSD. Based on interviews and plenary meetings, this phase uses the mission report to establish a national report for submission to peer countries for consideration at the Peer Review Meeting.
3. A review phase at the heart of the process: the national reports produced during the previous phase are shared among the countries involved. These reports are the background documents for the Peer Review Meeting to be held on 27 April 2017 in Nice, France. This phase must lead to finalisation of the national reports, including the recommendations of the Peer Review Meeting, with a view to preparing a final report of the SIMPEER pilot test.

The three phases are followed by an outputs dissemination phase, both at national and regional levels, so that all Contracting Parties, national stakeholders and other partners can benefit from the results and lessons learned.

During the 2016-2017 exercises, SIMPEER involves three Contracting Parties which have expressed their interest and willingness to take part in the pilot test: France, Morocco, and Montenegro.

KEY FIGURES

**3 pilot countries for 2016-2017:
France, Morocco and Montenegro**

Budget: €69 K



Mission to Morocco



Mission to Montenegro

Indicators / Dashboard for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025

This activity is addressed in Paragraph 3.3 of the MSSD 2016-2025, entitled "Towards a monitoring system and a regional dashboard on the implementation of the Strategy".

A comprehensive monitoring system and relevant indicators are necessary for monitoring implementation of the Strategy, according to two requirements:

1. Monitor the implementation of actions recommended in the Strategy: the level of implementation and gaps in implementing the objectives in terms of recommended actions (e.g., the number of countries implementing an action);
2. Monitor the progress of sustainable development issues: the sustainability dashboard in relation to the objectives in terms of sustainability (e.g., reduction in greenhouse gas emissions)

The process for developing a dashboard for sustainable development in the Mediterranean with a limited set of indicators chosen from among the most representative and accessible (that can be measured with available data) was presented at the 16th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Marrakesh, 9-11 June 2015).

In 2016, Plan Bleu continued its work on indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 in connection with the adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the Mediterranean.

A workshop entitled "How to monitor MSSD 2016-2025 implementation?" brought together Mediterranean experts and stakeholders on 30 and 31 March 2016 in Saint-Laurent du Var (France). The purpose of the workshop was to define a regional process for monitoring implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 in connection with the adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the Mediterranean region. An initial set of 34 indicators was chosen for the strategy's 6 objectives.

In the months that followed, Plan Bleu assessed this initial set of indicators and "indicator sheets" for use in a dashboard for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Data from international sources such as specialized agencies of the United Nations were used for some of the indicators.

A workshop was organised in Barcelona on 17 October 2016 as part of SwitchMed Connect 2016 at the 2nd annual SwitchMed programme meeting, funded by the European Union (EU). It brought together over 300 participants from around the Mediterranean with the aim of creating synergies, sharing knowledge and developing economic and social innovations. This technical workshop was jointly organised by Plan Bleu and RAC/SCP (Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production) and provided the opportunity to present and discuss the initial version of the dashboard for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, a preliminary version of the "Blue Economy" dashboard and to present and gather feedback from countries on the initial set of SCP indicators.



Draft version
March 2017

Following the workshop, a second version of the "MSSD indicators" factsheets was developed and published on the Plan Bleu website in January 2017.

The state of progress of the MSSD dashboard was presented at the MCSD steering committee meeting (Athens, January 2017), and members of the committee were consulted to gather feedback on the entire list of indicators and on some specific indicators.

KEY FIGURES

Budget: €50 K

45 indicators



Workshop: "How to monitor MSSD 2016-2025 implementation?", Saint-Laurent du Var, France, 30 - 31 March 2016

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

MedCop Climate, Tangier, Morocco, 18 - 19 July 2016

This regional conference was aimed at developing synergies between the different Mediterranean stakeholders involved in fighting climate change and promoting the implementation of a roadmap for mitigation and adaptation. Plan Bleu participated in the Grand Debate "Mediterranean commitments facing the challenge of implementation", as well as a back-to-back workshop on the Green Economy in the Mediterranean.



MedCOP Climate, Tangier, Morocco, 18 - 19 July 2016

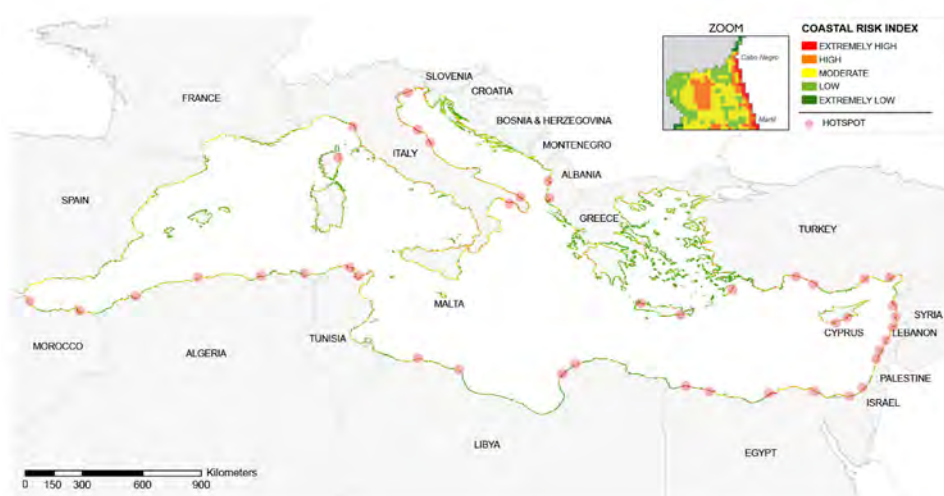
COP22 - 22nd Session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Marrakesh, 7 - 18 November 2016

Plan Bleu coordinated several side events at this international conference:

- **"Towards an experts group on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean (MedECC)".** During this event, Mediterranean partners supported the scientists' initiative during a high-quality debate which demonstrated the commitment of all stakeholders to addressing the challenge of climate change in the Mediterranean.
- **"MedClimate Day".** Organised by ENERGIES 2050 and its partners, Plan Bleu and the FEMISE/*Institut de la Méditerranée*, this event was the opportunity to announce publication of the Report: "Climate change challenges in the Mediterranean: turning constraints into opportunities for action". It also helped show how UNEP/MAP could support this MedCOPClimat initiative in its development, notably through networks of academics, NGOs, businesses, civil society and local authorities with which Plan Bleu and other Regional Activities Centres work to develop strategic frameworks, such as pilot operations and flagship initiatives facilitating tangible progress in the field. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity and the Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production were presented.
- **"Strengthening Climate Risk Monitoring: A Method for Assessing Coastal Risk at Different Scales for the Mediterranean".** The Mediterranean region is a climate change "hot spot" and it is essential to evaluate the role of climatic and non-climatic factors on coastal zones in order to understand the underlying risks and identify appropriate response measures. Plan Bleu and the MedSea Foundation organised the session with the objective of presenting a Coastal Risk Index and the results of its implementation throughout the Mediterranean and for two local case studies (the coastal zone of Tetouan in Morocco and the Var in France). This session demonstrated the extent to which the Coastal Risk Index is a powerful tool that supports decision-making regarding adaptation to climate change in Mediterranean coastal zones and its potential for application in other regions across the world.



Session on the Coastal Risk Index, Marrakesh, 11 November 2016



Regional Coastal Risk Assessment Map

The **regional coastal risk assessment map** opposite uses the CRI-MED method developed by the MedSea Foundation for Plan Bleu to highlight all coastal sites the most at risk.

The objective is to generate local awareness of the risk and to prioritise practical preventive management actions supported at the local level with the involvement of the populations affected.

Coastal areas and climate change adaptation

A Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) has been implemented in the Var département in France. This CAMP is coordinated by PAP-RAC and the *Conservatoire du Littoral*, and Plan Bleu participated in the steering committee meetings organised in March and November 2016. Plan Bleu applied the "Coastal Risk Index" method in close collaboration with the MedSea Foundation. This work gave rise to a detailed technical report presenting the boundaries of a coastal risk zone in which the risk level is quantified and ranked. Vulnerability, exposure and impact maps were also developed for the entire Var coastline, along with a focus on the Giens Peninsula, and the towns of Grimaud and Saint-Raphael.

Partners: UNEP/MAP, MEDPOL, PAP-RAC, SPA-RAC, MedSea *Conservatoire du Littoral* Foundation, MedPan



Developing a Science-Policy Interface for Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean: Towards Implementation of one of the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives?



Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change

initiative related to this Objective recommends creating a regional science-policy interface mechanism in order to prepare consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options.

Following one of the main recommendations of the Positive Mediterranean Agenda - MEDCOP21 Solutions (Marseille, July 2015) during a side event held during the Our Common Future under Climate Change Conference (CFCC) in Paris on 9 July 2015, the decision was made to develop a network of scientific experts working towards a regional science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean. This network meets a number of existing intentions of regional institutions, such as (i) the UNEP/MAP through the MSSD 2016-2025 and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean and (ii) The Climate Change Expert Group of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

This network is also supported by several regional and Mediterranean partners, including the French international research programme, MISTRALS, the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) in partnership with the World Bank, the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD, France), the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (France), the *Consell Assessor per al Desenvolupament Sostenible de Catalunya* (CADS, Spain), etc. The MedECC network is also increasingly recognised by a number of Mediterranean countries where it has been visible since its creation, particularly at various side events at the UNFCCC COP21 and COP22.

An important step was made with the [Regional workshop for the MedECC Network](#) (Aix-en-Provence, France, 10 - 12 October 2016). The workshop, which was co-funded by the Principality of Monaco, received UNFCCC COP22 certification and brought together 68 participants from 16 countries, including scientists and policymakers, making it a science-policy interface. The purpose of the workshop was to define the scope and outline of the first MedECC assessment report covering the driving factors and environmental risks related to climate change, including solutions.

The next thematic workshops are to be held in 2017-2018 with coordinators and the main contributors to the three main chapters of the first MedECC report. The first MedECC report should be finalised and published by late 2018 (pending sufficient funding).

In terms of challenges, 18 months after its creation, the MedECC initiative succeeded in developing and mobilising a network of scientific experts and obtaining political recognition from Mediterranean countries and regional organisations, although work remains to be done to consolidate these two aspects. The objective is now to institutionalise the network and ensure its future by asserting its governance and publishing the first report by the end of 2018. Pursuing and achieving these general objectives will depend on whether funding is obtained from a number of sources.

Partners: The French international research programme - MISTRALS, Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) in partnership with the World Bank, the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD, France), the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (France), the *Consell Assessor per al Desenvolupament Sostenible de Catalunya* (CADS, Spain).

The Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) presents real opportunities for implementing one of the flagship initiatives of the MSSD 2016-2025. Objective 4 of the Strategy addresses climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean. The flagship

MedECC has two complementary missions:

- to produce assessments and a literature review of knowledge on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean region.
- to develop a regional Science-Policy Interface for climate and environmental changes across the Mediterranean.



Regional workshop for the MedECC network, 10 - 12 October 2016

Timeline for Mediterranean events:

- The MedECC network was integrated as Solution no. 2 on the Agenda of Solutions from MedCOP21, Marseille, France, 4 - 5 June 2015;
- Two side events were organised as round-table discussions at COP21-UNFCCC, Paris, France, 4 - 5 December 2015;
- MedECC participated in MedCOP Climate 2016, Tangier, Morocco, 18 - 19 July 2016;
- A side event was organised as a round-table discussion at COP22-UNFCCC, Marrakesh, Morocco, 14 November 2016.
- Steering Committee meetings: 7 - 8 April 2016 in Barcelona; 26 January 2017 via video-conference (governance and 2017 work plan); 13 - 14 March 2017 with back-to-back meetings of the Environment and Climate Working Group and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group.

MED-ESCWET, Economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands in the context of climate change in the Mediterranean

The activities of the MedESCWET project, initiated in 2014 by Plan Bleu, in partnership with the Tour du Valat, came to an end in 2016. This project for the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands for climate change adaptation is co-funded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Mava Foundation.

The main objective of the Med-ESCWET project is to promote the role of wetlands in climate change adaptation. It is based on the view that ecosystems play a role in adaptation, which is also recognised and encouraged by the Convention on Biological Diversity. In order to raise awareness among policymakers of the importance of wetlands for climate change adaptation, the project assigned an economic value to the following ecosystem services:

- **storm protection service provided by the Etang de Vic coastal lagoon** (France),
- **flood control service provided by the Lonjsko Polje floodplain** (Croatia),
- **carbon sequestration service provided by Lake Burullus** (Egypt),
- **carbon sequestration service provided by the Yeniçağa Lake peatlands** (Turkey).

In February 2016, the last kick-off workshop of the Lonjsko Polje floodplain pilot site in Zagreb was held to inform and raise awareness among policymakers involved in the management of the Lonjsko Polje floodplain about the content and duration of the study being carried out on the pilot site in order to facilitate the implementation of activities in the field. The biophysical assessment of the 4 ecosystem services selected was carried out and presented to members of the Med-ESCWET steering committee during a meeting held on 18 May 2016 at Plan Bleu. The method adopted for the economic valuation was also presented and discussed with the members of the steering committee, and implemented with the support of the consulting firm Nomadeis and local partners: Doga Koruma Merkezi (Nature Conservation Center, Turkey), Interdepartmental Agreement for Mosquito Control (EID, France); WWF Adria (Croatia), Tanta University (Egypt), and Abant İzzet Baysal University (Turkey).

The outputs of the Med-ESCWET project were presented at a [regional workshop on ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands](#), organised by Plan Bleu in Sophia-Antipolis, France, on 19 September 2016. A technical report entitled "Economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands in terms of climate regulation" will soon be published in French, English and Turkish. A four-page summary will also soon be available on the Plan Bleu website in French and in English.

Partners: Tour du Valat, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Mava Foundation, Doga Koruma Merkezi (Nature Conservation Center) (Turkey), Interdepartmental Agreement for Mosquito Control (EID, France), WWF Adria (Croatia), Tanta University (Egypt), Abant İzzet Baysal University (Turkey), Nomadeis.



© Mocvarni Krajobraz, Lonjsko Polje Nature Park

Lonjsko Polje floodplain, Croatia

KEY FIGURES

Project duration: 2 years

Total budget: €471 K

4 ecosystem services selected

4 pilot sites



Lake Yeniçağa peatlands, Turkey

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

Project - "Towards an Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean"

Since December 2015, Plan Bleu has been a partner in the "West Med Maritime Initiative" project. This project seeks to develop an initiative for an integrated and sustainable blue economy in the Western Mediterranean's sub-regional sea basin. It is carried out on behalf of the EC - Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

Three partners (Ecorys consulting firm in Madrid and Brussels, Plan Bleu and consulting firm Stratégies Mer et Littoral) form a consortium with the aim of identifying practical fields for cooperation in order to support Western Mediterranean countries in the development of a sustainable marine economy.

The Initiative for the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean has a vision that seeks to face up to major environmental challenges, transform existing economic activities to make them less polluting and more profitable, and promote green and blue growth opportunities. Security and safety are also assessed as they are considered a prerequisite to the development of this initiative and for the pursuit of democratic, modernisation and peaceful processes in the sub-region.

This project's road map consists in preparing a marine initiative for the Western Mediterranean and developing an action plan for implementation. It will result in a European Commission Communication.

Beyond the analysis and review of various documents, the involvement and engagement of communities of stakeholders, particularly marine stakeholders, is vital for validating the outputs, ensuring that the interests and concerns of policymakers and other stakeholders are taken into account, and for providing the support required to implement the initiative. The project therefore includes numerous consultation operations to ensure stakeholder involvement.

Plan Bleu is involved in all project activity phases and is a key institutional partner due to its status as a UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre and its role as an science-policy interface, its large network of policymakers, civil society and private sector representatives, government bodies, academics and experts, etc. Plan Bleu is also responsible for analysing and preparing reports on environmental degradation in the Western Mediterranean, and challenges and requirements for the development of a strong, fair and sustainable blue economy in the region.

The West Med Maritime Initiative could be considered a sub-regional adaptation of the MSSD 2016-2025 and these regional and sub-regional levels could help adapt global/regional policies into concrete actions at national level.

Find out more: <http://www.westmed-initiative.eu>

Partners: Ecorys and Stratégies Mer et Littoral



Barcelona, Spain

KEY FIGURES

Project duration: 22 months

Budget: €65 K



© Antoine Lafitte

Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia

Supporting “a blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean” (green economy in a blue world)

In 2016, Plan Bleu and its partners (PAP/RAC and CPD/RAC) continued implementation of a project for "measuring, monitoring and promoting an environmentally sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region", financed by the MAVA Foundation, which was launched in June 2015.

This project aims to "identify indicators, select tools and recommend that politicians promote the blue economy, which is defined as a sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region for the assessment and protection of ecosystems".

In 2016, activities primarily consisted of:

- Organisation of Mediterranean Coast Day on Tuesday 27 September in Barcelona, by PAP/RAC, CPD/RAC and Plan Bleu,
- A workshop organised in Barcelona on 17 October 2016 as part of SwitchMed Connect 2016 (see "Indicators" activity) to present and discuss the initial draft of the "Blue Economy" dashboard,
- A study on "measuring and monitoring the blue economy in the Mediterranean", based on a scoping study carried out in 2015, with the aim of proposing a dashboard.

A final conference will be held in May 2017. It will begin with a steering committee meeting to present the work carried out on indicators of the blue economy in the Mediterranean and its dashboard, with the opportunity to then discuss possible impacts of implementing the dashboard, and more generally, issues concerning the blue economy in the Mediterranean, by seeking to make recommendations.

Partners: PAP/RAC, CPD/RAC, MAVA Foundation

ActionMed (Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea)



This DG Env pilot project (11/2015-01/2017) is coordinated by the Greek Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR) and aims to strengthen the regional integration of marine environment monitoring programmes and programmes of measures for achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean. As an extension of its EcAp role, Plan Bleu is a partner of

MAP, responsible for the economic assessment of programmes of measures. Plan Bleu produced a cost-benefit, cost-efficiency and multi-criteria analysis report for four regional measures: introduction of a tax on plastic bags, introduction of non-specific fees for the use of waste disposal facilities in ports, "fishing-for-litter" initiatives, and extension of the current surface of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean. The report also includes a methodological study for the practical application of socio-economic assessments for the development of programmes of measures in the Mediterranean.

The final workshop was held in Venice, Italy, from 10 - 12 January 2017. The project was closed at the end of January 2017 and its deliverables are currently being validated by DG Env.

Partners: Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR), MAP

KEY FIGURES

Project duration: 2 years

Budget: €381 K



Workshop in Barcelona, 17 October 2016

KEY FIGURES

Project duration: 15 months

Budget: €199 K

InnoBlueGrowth, Horizontal Communication and Capitalization project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level



Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

The InnoBlueGrowth project or "Horizontal Communication and Capitalization project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level" under the INTERREG MED 2014-2020 programme was launched in 2016. Plan Bleu is a partner in this three-year project, coordinated by CoNISMA (Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare), with a budget of €1.47 million. Other project partners:

- Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)
- Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM)
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- University of Montenegro – Institute of Marine Biology

The aim of InnoBlueGrowth is to increase the transnational activity of innovative clusters to develop smart and sustainable growth in the Mediterranean. The InnoBlueGrowth project is mainly designed to perform communication and capitalisation activities for "modular" blue growth projects (studies, pilot projects) in order to increase their impact in achieving well-defined common goals. For InnoBlueGrowth, these activities focus on increasing the transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks in key sectors in the Mediterranean. Four modular projects have already been incorporated into the InnoBlueGrowth project: MAESTRALE, PELAGOS, PROteuS and i@Blue. They focus on the development of renewable blue energy and maritime monitoring.

InnoBlueGrowth will implement concrete actions (e.g. a communication strategy, community development initiatives and capitalisation events) in order to build a real community of modular blue growth projects. This innovative community will strengthen a cross-disciplinary and integrated approach between the modular projects and key transnational players, which is vital for supporting Mediterranean clusters in their cross-border activities.

It will also facilitate the dissemination and transferability of modular project outputs, leading to a greater and wider-reaching impact on external players at all levels, which will contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Mediterranean region through innovative investments in the blue economy.

Partners of the InnoBlueGrowth project came together for the first meeting on 9 November 2016 in Nice, and following the official project launch, from 12 - 14 December 2016 in Athens, at the National Technical University of Athens' School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

Partners: Ecorys, Stratégies Mer et Littoral, Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM), National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), University of Montenegro – Institute of Marine Biology

KEY FIGURES

Project term: 3 years

Budget: €1.47 M



Providing socio-economic insights for the appropriate management of Mediterranean resources

Relaunch of "Tourism and Sustainability" activities

The regional workshop "How can Mediterranean tourism contribute to sustainable and inclusive development of territories in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean?", organised in partnership with the AFD (Agence Française de Développement - French Development Agency) in Marseille on 23 - 24 May 2016, helped develop a shared vision and concrete approaches for renewing tourism models in the region, including the improvement and diversification of seaside tourism, and discussion of public policies to promote the balanced development of countries and destinations via tourism.

Tourism is a sector closely linked to the MSSD 2016-2025 approach, which seeks to invest in environmental sustainability for social and economic development.

Furthermore, the United Nations has declared 2017 "**International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development**", and in 2014, the UN launched the Sustainable Tourism Programme as part of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), approved during the Rio + 20 summit in 2012.

Following the production of two technical reports and an inventory of work on tourism within the MAP system, Plan Bleu defined the guidelines for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean. These guidelines are linked to the vision, structure and objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025, taking into account the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol), the Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production, and other MAP processes and policies.

The guidelines for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean received input from all RACs in the MAP system. This approach needs to be continued as part of a major and inclusive consultation process that involves members of the MCSD, national focal points and the main stakeholders. These guidelines were published in a [Plan Bleu Note](#).



Nice, France

Tourism is vital for many Mediterranean countries as a major pillar of Mediterranean economies.

Mediterranean destinations have developed a unique mix of tourism products covering leisure, healthcare, sports, nature, business, cruises and culture. However, economic growth associated with the tourism sector has often been at the expense of environmental integrity and social equality.

Tourism is still a major economic sector in Mediterranean countries, creating wealth and jobs, but with an impact on the environment and natural resources.

BleuTourMed - Sustainable maritime and coastal tourism in the Mediterranean region



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Plan Bleu is one of the six partners of the **BleuTourMed** project, which strives to support Sustainable Maritime and Coastal Tourism in the Mediterranean Region. BleuTourMed is built on a transnational partnership with strong expertise and knowledge on integrated coastal zone management and sustainable development policies. It seeks to create synergies between modular projects selected under Specific Objective 3.1 of the Interreg Med 2014-2020 Programme (FEDER funding). This Specific Objective seeks to create a cluster of projects capable of strengthening cooperation for the protection and promotion of natural and cultural resources in the Mediterranean, through a coherent development strategy for Community, Communication and Capitalisation.

Partners: Arc Latin, Barcelona Provincial Council, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Adriatic and Ionian Euroregion

KEY FIGURES

Project term: 3 years (November 2016 – October 2019)

Budget: €1.4 M

Optimising the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change

2016 saw the finalisation of the project: "Optimising the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change", funded by the French Global Environment Fund (GGEF), and implemented jointly by Plan Bleu and the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*, in five countries around the Mediterranean (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey).

This project includes five priority areas of action:

- Integration of the impacts of climate change into forestry management policies and production of data and tools regarding both the vulnerability of forests and their ability to adapt.
- Assessment of the socio-economic value of the goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems.
- Improvement of modes of governance for woodland ecosystems at a territorial level.
- Optimisation and valuation of the role of Mediterranean forests in climate change mitigation (carbon sinks) via the production of methodological tools.
- Strengthening of coordination and sharing of experience between Mediterranean stakeholders via the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).

To varying extents, the forest policies implemented in CPMF countries already provide partial responses to the many challenges. However, these policies do not sufficiently take into account the value of the goods and services provided by woodland areas, from which other economic sectors benefit (tourism, livestock farming, water, etc.), at the local, national and international level. In particular, current challenges associated with global change can only be overcome through better understanding and recognition of this economic and social value, and through better stakeholder coordination. It is therefore vital to strengthen modes of territorial governance by better taking into account the needs and constraints of the populations using these areas. Similarly, in a context characterised by competition over water uses between the different sectors, it is vital to encourage stakeholders to manage and restore Mediterranean woodland areas with a view to establishing sustainable water supplies.

Studies that focus on the economic assessment of ecosystems are rare in these countries, even though they are vital for guiding public policies. This is why Components 2 and 3 of this project managed by Plan Bleu (studying how to optimise the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change) provide responses and go one step further in terms of understanding and recognising the socio-economic benefits of Mediterranean woodland ecosystems by also proposing participatory modes of governance suited to the various contexts.

The project's national and regional outputs were published in various forms and will be presented at a side event during the 5th Mediterranean Forest Week in Morocco from 20 - 24 March 2017.

Partners: FAO *Silva Mediterranea*, CTFC (Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya), EFIMED (Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute), Cofor International



Morocco

KEY FIGURES

5 countries
Project term: 6 years (2011 - 2016)
Total budget: €2.65 M
Plan Bleu budget: €1.06 M



Lebanon

Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week



Morocco will host the 5th MFW in Agadir from 20 - 24 March 2017. The main question will be: **how can efforts on the restoration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes contribute to achieving the overall objectives on these issues?** (e.g. the Bonn Challenge, CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNCCD objective for land degradation neutrality, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the decisions taken at the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakesh and SDG no. 15).

The 5th MFW will promote restoration at Mediterranean level and bring together various ongoing forest initiatives associated with the Rio Conventions and make them a reality through an ambitious programme of on-the-ground

actions, involving all technical and financial partners from Mediterranean countries.

Plan Bleu is one of the event's organising members, in particular for the following sessions:

- State of play, success stories, Mediterranean restoration baseline

This session aims to shed light on regional-level restoration activities by illustrating some of the main principles presented during the opening session on Monday afternoon. It will be structured around two presentations and concrete examples of restoration initiatives, whether or not they were successful.

- Local governance: issues, methods and concrete cases

This session is an integral part of the inventory on restoration in the Mediterranean and seeks to provide examples of real case studies, whether or not they were successful, and Mediterranean forest and landscape restoration initiatives, taking into account the issue of governance during implementation, in order to share best practice (success stories) and identify any difficulties and possible solutions.

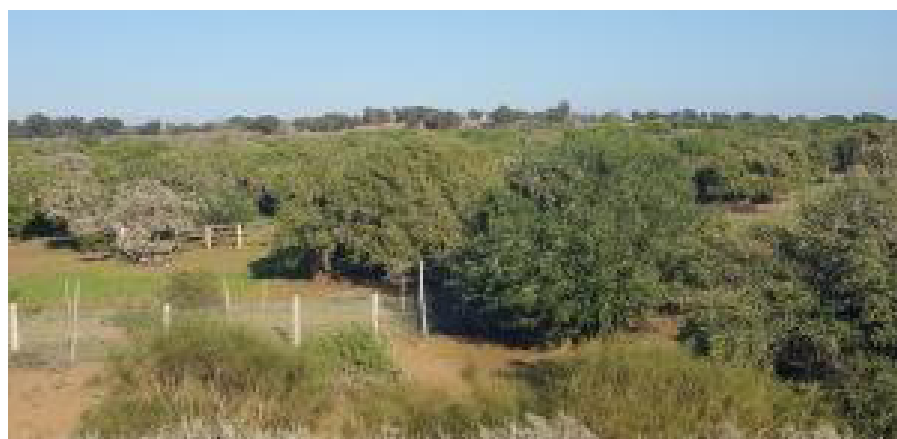
- Perspectives and obstacles to the sustainable funding of forest and landscape restoration

The purpose of this session is to share the lessons learnt and best practices from the Mediterranean region (and beyond) in terms of innovations for restoration funding, to identify the risks and obstacles that limit funding, to propose risk mitigation approaches, to present and discuss emerging funding opportunities, and finally, to specify key aspects in a funding strategy for a possible Mediterranean Restoration Initiative.



Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) is one of the main forums for discussion on Mediterranean forests, bringing together stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds (forest administrations, science and academia, private sector, financial institutions, civil society and NGOs). This week-long event takes place every two years for in-depth discussion around a chosen topic.

The vision of the 5th MFW is a restoration approach requiring cross-sector coordination in order to promote productive and multifunctional territories with optimal balance, following negotiation with local stakeholders, in terms of the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide. This vision of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), which is now internationally recognised, helps promote synergies between the three Rio Conventions and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



State of Mediterranean Forests - 2nd Edition

Plan Bleu and FAO *Silva Mediterranea* intend to regularly publish the State of Mediterranean Forests as a reference guide on Mediterranean forests in order to compensate for the lack of data and provide solid foundations for the management of Mediterranean forests in the future.

The first edition was published in 2013 and the second edition is being prepared for publication in 2018.

The main question considered in the 2nd edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests will be: How do Mediterranean forests contribute to achieving the objectives of international forestry commitments, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 13 and 15) and Rio Conventions?

The report will have three main parts and thirteen chapters:

- **Part 1: Mediterranean landscapes: importance and threats**

The first part will provide descriptive statistics on trees (inside and outside forests) in Mediterranean landscapes to highlight their importance. It will also present the threats currently challenging the importance of trees in Mediterranean landscapes.

- **Part 2: Solutions based on Mediterranean forests**

The second part will present forest-based solutions that could be implemented to overcome the threats challenging Mediterranean forests. The common characteristic of these forest solutions is the valuation of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests through local sustainable development.

- **Part 3: An ideal environment for implementing solutions**

The final part will present the conditions that must be met in order to roll-out the forest solutions presented in Part 2. It will develop new conceptual approaches to forest management, which are required to solve the paradox of Mediterranean forests.

Plan Bleu and FAO *Silva Mediterranea* are jointly responsible for coordination and publication of the full report.

Plan Bleu is coordinating and writing the introduction, which presents changes and modifications to the socio-economic context since the last edition. It is also coordinating and jointly writing the chapter on the economic valuation of ecosystem services for use in decision-making.

Partners: FAO *Silva Mediterranea*, FAO FLRM, FAO UPF, Univ. Madrid, University of Florence (Italy), Directorate General of Combating Desertification and Erosion (Turkey), EFIMED, FSC Italy, FSC Spain, GDF Algeria, Univ. Sapienza (Italy), University of Lisbon and WWF Mediterranean Program (Portugal), INRA Avignon (France), Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), GDF Tunisia, CIFOR-INIA (Spain), etc.

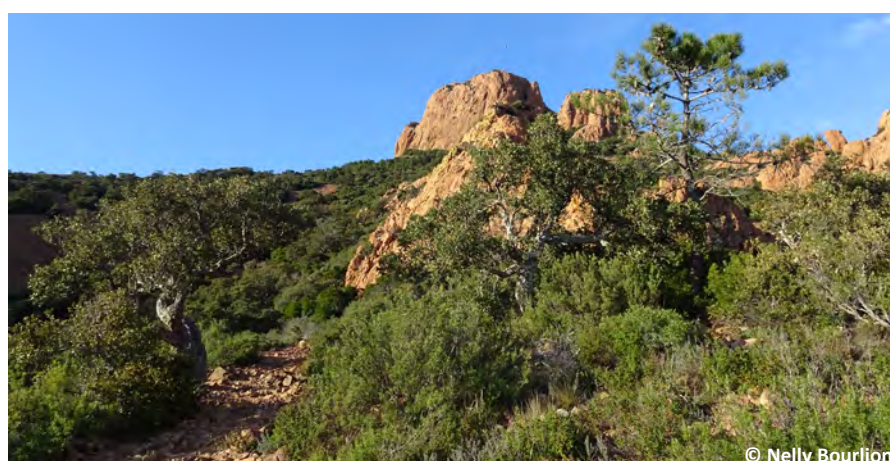


KEY FIGURES

February 2016 - July 2018

Over 100 contributors

13 countries involved



Massif de l'Esterel, France

PANACeA: A regional initiative of streamlining management efforts in Protected Areas for enhanced protection in the Mediterranean Sea



Since 2016, Plan Bleu has been a partner in the PANACeA project, jointly funded by the Interreg Med programme. It aims to boost the creation of a network of stakeholders (administrators, political leaders, socio-economic representatives, civil society and the scientific community) for Mediterranean protected areas in order to improve nature conservation and biodiversity protection in the region. For this, the project has set up a community of 9 thematic projects that bring together over 100 entities, all of which are involved to some extent in supporting biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean, representing a total investment of around €18 million over three years.

These projects are associated with strategic objectives such as coastal and marine management, biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources, management of protected areas, global change, governance and cooperation, and with scientific methodologies and innovation.

PANACeA acts as a Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge in order to influence a change in behaviour and policy in the Mediterranean region.

The first major step in the PANACeA project is its launch meeting in Marseille on 15 - 16 March 2017, with a community of leading regional stakeholders in biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean.

Partners: ETC-UMA, University of Málaga (Spain), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, CPMR (France), UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union (Italy), Barcelona Metropolitan Area in its post of General Secretariat of Medcities (Spain), Regional Environmental Centre - REC (Montenegro)

Key objectives:

1. Summarise the results of efforts for natural protection and preservation of biodiversity;
2. Involve a community of stakeholders and transfer knowledge beyond the project life cycle;
3. Implement a communication and information exchange strategy;
4. Develop a long-term capitalisation tool to ensure application of fact-based policies.

KEY FIGURES

Budget: €1.5 M

Duration: 36 months



Porquerolles Island, France

Implementation of public-private partnerships for the management of protected areas in the Mediterranean

An exploratory project in the field of management of natural resources and ecosystem services (biodiversity) was launched in Autumn 2016 as a partnership between the AFD and Plan Bleu, with a special focus on the implementation of public-private partnerships in protected areas.

This project comes in the context of a need for a global and integrated model for the sustainable development of protected areas, capable of responding to the new political, socio-economic and environmental challenges facing the Mediterranean region. This model needs to tap into economic revenue to contribute to conservation, be financially viable, involve local populations who are vital stakeholders, and draw on the financial and technical capacities of the private sector.

This approach has significant potential in the Southern Mediterranean in terms of:

- conservation funding (which is often very low, making some protected areas merely virtual, unlike Northern countries, where there is often EU, national and regional funding, etc.)
- and the involvement of local populations and stakeholders in a decentralised management system, linked to the issues of management of common goods and territorial development.

This project has three main stages of development:

1. Development of a tool for Mediterranean protected areas, using:

- An inventory of existing legislative and regulatory resources, ongoing or completed projects and lessons to be learnt,
- An attempt to exchange, capitalise on and create links between the results of this inventory and the participatory governance approaches currently available to protected area managers, in order to:
 - understand the purpose, origins, principles, potential or verified advantages and disadvantages of projects in protected areas funded and managed on the basis of a PPP,
 - develop an operational perspective of the life cycle and managerial process of PPP projects,
 - implement tools for analysing and comparing the different funding solutions (via a PPP or conventional funding).

2. A focus on a few pilot sites to experiment with approaches (for testing and demonstration purposes),

3. Regional capitalisation and insight - exchange between countries and institutions in the Mediterranean region to produce recommendations.

This three-stage approach is fundamental in order to provide concrete solutions for managers, on the basis of sites they know, while also proposing and promoting a political and strategic regional understanding of the sustainable management of Mediterranean protected areas. This is designed to promote the sustainable funding of protected areas and consequently strengthen the responsible engagement of the private sector in its contribution to local development and environmental protection.

The first stage led to [publication of an inventory of the national legislative and regulatory framework for Public-Private Partnerships \(PPPs\), which may be applied to Protected Areas \(PAs\)](#). 2017 will be dedicated to developing an operational perspective of the life cycle and managerial processes of PPP projects, and carrying out a feasibility study on a chosen site.

Partner: Agence Française de Développement

KEY FIGURES

Budget 50 K € (phase 1)

Duration: 1 year (phase 1)

Objectives:

- Development of long-term Public-Private Partnerships with private sector operators (especially from the tourism sector) and local populations for the conservation of biodiversity and protected areas and a direct reduction in poverty around the target sites.
- Contribution to the definition of public conservation policies at the national and regional level by rolling out participatory approaches for the sustainable management of protected areas and public-private partnerships with local communities.
- Improvement of modes of governance for protected areas at the territorial level to promote local strategies for funding conservation and reducing anthropogenic pressures on Mediterranean protected areas while ensuring that the goods and services on which users depend can be maintained in the long term.
- Development of environmentally sustainable activities that generate income and create jobs, especially the development of eco-tourism, which can provide incentive income for private operators involved in PPPs and increase the income of local populations in accordance with the conservation objectives.

Communication

MAIN EVENTS

BIODIVERSITY

2016 Forum of Marine protected Areas in the Mediterranean, Tangier, Morocco, 28 November - 1 December 2016

CLIMATE CHANGE

COP22 - 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Marrakesh, Morocco, 7 - 18 November 2016

MedECC scoping workshop "Towards an improved scientific assessment of climate change and its impacts in the Mediterranean Basin", Aix-en-Provence, France, 10 - 12 October 2016

2nd edition of the Mediterranean Climate Conference (MEDCOP Climate), Tangier, Morocco, 18 - 19 July 2016.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1st Technical Meeting on Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development, Barcelona, Spain, 18 October 2016

Technical workshop on "How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean ?", Barcelona, Spain, 17 October 2016

Regional workshop: "How to monitor MSSD 2016-2025 implementation?", Saint Laurent du Var, France, 30 - 31 March 2016

WATER, WETLANDS

Regional workshop on ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands, Sophia Antipolis, France, 19 September 2016

2nd Steering Committee meeting of the Med-ESCWET project, Sophia Antipolis, France, 18 May 2016

Kick-off workshop of the Med-ESCWET project on the Lonjsko Polje floodplain pilot site (Croatia), Zagreb, Croatia, 3 February 2016

GOVERNANCE

Plan Bleu's internal seminar, Marseille, France, 15 March 2016

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Workshop on Science Policy Interface (SPI) strengthening in the field of Marine Protected Areas and Marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean, Tangier, Morocco, 28 November 2016

Workshop on Science Policy Interface (SPI) strengthening for the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, for Pollution, Marseille, France, 20 - 21 October 2016

Meeting of the Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (CORMON), Marseille, France, 19 - 21 October 2016

Consultation workshop on "Maritime Strategy for the Western Mediterranean", Marseille, 8 March 2016

FORECAST

Workshop "What prospects for the Mediterranean?", ? Roadmap for Med2050 Report, Paris, 5 December 2016

TOURISM

Workshop "Tourism and Sustainable Development", Marseille, France, 23 - 24 May 2016



Regional workshop: "How to monitor MSSD 2016-2025 implementation?"



Regional workshop on ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands



SPI Workshop

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

BIODIVERSITY

Economic assessment of ecosystem services: A tool for sustainable development in the Mediterranean? (*Plan Bleu* Note no. 31 - [French](#), [English](#))

CLIMATE CHANGE

Adaptation of Mediterranean Coastal Zones to the Impacts of Climate Change: The Plan Bleu Tools. (*Published in IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2016* - [English](#))

Contributing to successful adaptation to climate change in Mediterranean coastal areas (*Policy brief* - [English](#))

A systemic and prospective sustainability analysis within the Šibenik-Knin County (Croatia) ([English](#))

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025: Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development. ([French](#), [English](#))

Monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 - draft version. ([French](#), [English](#))

MSSD Review - Stakeholder Newsbrief no. 3 - March 2016 ([French](#), [English](#))

FOREST

Guide pratique pour la mise en œuvre d'une gestion participative et durable des espaces boisés à travers des contrats gagnant-gagnant dans la forêt de la Maâmora : Exemple d'une gestion participative de la subéraie en forêt de la Maâmora – Maroc ([French](#))

Mediterranean forests: Towards a better recognition of the economic and social value of goods and services through participative governance ([French](#), [English](#), [Arabic](#))

Guide pratique pour la mise en œuvre d'une gestion participative et durable des espaces boisés dans les pays du Maghreb : Exemple de deux modèles socio-économiques étudiés initialement en forêt de la Maâmora (Maroc) et proposés pour les pays du Maghreb ([French](#), [Arabic](#))

Assessment of the socio-economic value of the goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Regional synthesis (*Technical Report* - [French](#), [English](#))

Assessment of the socio-economic value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems. National reports (*Technical Reports* - [French](#), [English](#))

Improving Mediterranean woodland areas governance through participative approaches implementation. Regional synthesis (*Technical Report* - [French](#), [English](#))

Improving Mediterranean woodland areas governance through participative approaches implementation. National reports (*Technical Reports* - [French](#), [English](#))

GOVERNANCE

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Guidelines for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (*Plan Bleu* Paper n°16 - [French](#) - [English](#))



COASTS

Application d'une méthode pour l'évaluation des risques côtiers du département du Var dans le cadre du programme d'Aménagement Côtier du Var (PAC-VAR). (Technical Report - [French](#))

Towards a multi-scale coastal risk index for the Mediterranean. (Plan Bleu Note no. 28 - revised edition - [French](#), [English](#))

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Report of the Inception Workshop "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean: strengthening the science-policy interface", 15 - 16 December 2015. ([French](#), [English](#))

EcAP Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Brief. ([French](#), [English](#))

TOURISM

Promoting sustainable and inclusive tourism in the Mediterranean: Guidelines for a Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean. (Plan Bleu Note no. 32 - [French](#), [English](#))

Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development (MSSD 2005-2015): assessment of tourism component (Technical report - [English](#))

Tourism and sustainability in the Mediterranean: key facts and trends (Working document - [English](#))



PAPERS

Adaptation of Mediterranean Coastal Zones to the Impacts of Climate Change: The Plan Bleu Tools, IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2016

Adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025: Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development. CIHEAM Watch Letter no. 37, September 2016

In partnership with Econostrum:

Better protecting biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea. Published on 22/12/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))

Experts mobilized on Mediterranean climate change issue. Published on 19/09/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))

Climate change – A mapping of the coastal zones at risk in the Var. Published on 18/07/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))

Sustainable tourism the way forward for the Mediterranean. Published on 13/06/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))

MSSD 2016-2025 – Implement and measure the impact. Published on 02/05/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))

No development project without an impact assessment. Published on 02/03/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))

Scientists and decision-makers: How to better work together? Published on 09/02/2016. ([French](#), [English](#))



RESOURCES

THE TEAM IN 2016

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- **Aziza Akhmouch**, Vice-President
- **Jacques Theys**, Vice-President
- **Aldo Ravazzi Douvan**, Vice-President
- **Lucien Chabason**, Honorary Chairman



Plan Bleu's internal seminar, Marseille, France, 15 March 2016

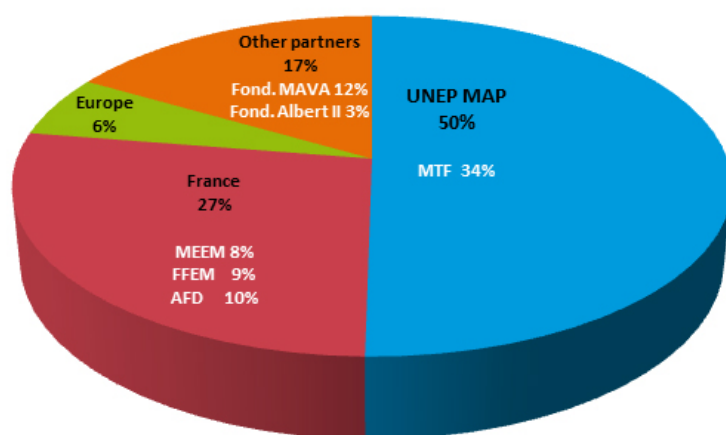
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Resources

In 2016, our total operating income was approximately 1.6 M€.

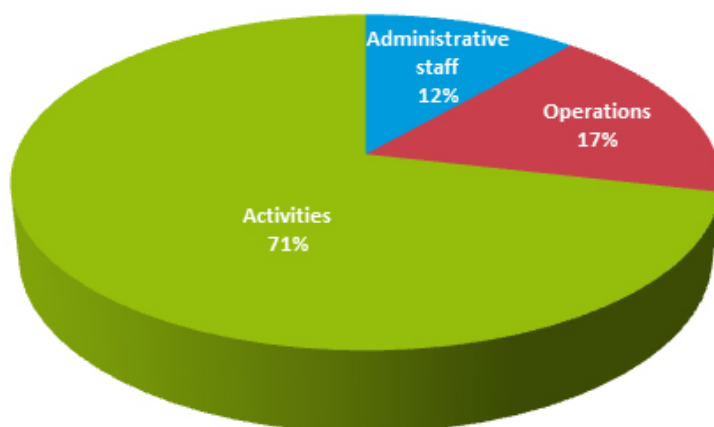
Plan Bleu also raised contributions in kind of approximately 364 k€ of which 283 k€ involved the release of staff and premises and 81 k€ were volunteer contributions (members of the Bureau).

The breakdown of the various financial contributions by source shows four main sources of funding :



Uses of resources

The financial resources and kind contributions used represent a total amount of 1.9 M€, distributed as follows:



GLOSSARY

AFD (Agence Française de Développement)

ASCAME (Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

CAMP (Coastal Area Management Programme)

CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)

CMI (Center for Mediterranean Integration)

COP (Conference of Parties)

CPMF (Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests)

CPMR (Intermediterranean Commission of Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions)

EcAp (Ecosystem Approach)

ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy)

ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)

EU (European Union)

FGEF (French Global Environment Fund)

GES (Good Environmental Status)

HCMR (Hellenic Center for Marine Research)

ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management)

IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme)

IPEMED (*Institut de Prospective Economique du Monde Méditerranéen*)

MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan)

MCSD (Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development)

MEEM (French Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea)

MFW (Mediterranean Forest Week)

MPA (Marine Protected Areas)

MSSD (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development)

MTF (Mediterranean Trust Fund)

NGO (Non-Governmental Organization)

NSSD (National Strategy on Sustainable Development)

NTUA (National Technical University of Athens)

PAP/RAC (Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre)

PPP (Public-Private Partnership)

QSR (Quality Status Report)

RAC (Regional Activity Centre)

RBA (Risk-Based Approach)

RED (Report on Environment and Development)

SCP/RAC (Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production)

SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)

SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System)

SIMPEER (Simplified Peer Review Mechanism)

SPI (Science Policy Interface)

UfM (Union for the Mediterranean)

UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)

UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)

UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)



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