



Ecosystem-based approaches to managing transboundary and cumulative impacts in the Mediterranean with a special focus on marine plastic litter and climate change

27 November 2018 - at 13:15

Sharm El Sheikh International Congress Center (SHICC)
Aswan - JUSCANZ Room - Building 2
Egypt



Context

- The EU funded Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection community coordinated by the project PANACeA aims to mainstream networking and management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas (PAs) as a mechanism to enhance nature conservation and protection in the region. PANACeA acts as a Science-Policy-Interface to foster the exchange of experiences and knowledge and influence a behavioural and policy change in the Mediterranean region.
- The Union for the Mediterranean is an intergovernmental institution bringing together 43 countries to promote dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The governance of the Union for the Mediterranean is established through a process designed to ensure co-ownership of the decisions and shared responsibility by the Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries. The UfM is therefore co-chaired by the European Union on behalf of the Northern shore and by Jordan on behalf of the Southern shore. The UfM has consolidated an action-driven methodology, with a common ambition of creating effective links between the policy dimension and its operational translation into concrete projects and initiatives on the ground to adequately address the challenges of the region and its

key interrelated priorities. This methodology is composed of three components: political fora, dialogue platforms and regional projects. The UfM supports the protection and management of its natural resources facilitating partnerships inspired by 'green/blue' circular economy principles.

- The ETC-UMA is an international research centre based at the University of Malaga, Spain and part of the core team of the European Topic Centre of Urban, Land, and Soil Systems (ETC-ULS) of the European Environment Agency. ETC-UMA is engaged in the development, coordination, and dissemination of environmental knowledge to support science-based practice, evidence-based policy and decision-making. The results of ETC-UMA's applied research target key regional policies affecting European environmental aspects and key Mediterranean and global conventions, namely the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, in the domains of environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources, and nature-based solutions, as well as strong collaborations with regional key stakeholders.

Session Structure, Content and Objectives

- Transboundary cooperation is key to maintain healthy seas and associated natural resources, such as fisheries and biodiversity and to protect them from cross border impacts.
- The EU funded Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection community led by PANACEA/the European Topic Centre, and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean have joined forces for this COP CBD side event to present methods and processes that are scientifically and politically relevant to better implement EBM in the Mediterranean. The session will focus on plastic litter and climate change.
- Ecosystem based management (EBM) is an important and powerful approach which needs to be communicated more widely to properly assess its relevance, potential and utility. EBM directly links ecosystem state to pressures, which require transboundary assessment, monitoring and management.
- There are practical advantages of using the spatial boundaries of ecosystems and ecological functioning, called ecoregions, as it is where critical processes need to be maintained to ensure the persistence of natural resources and ecosystem services. Understanding ecological functions and policies at ecoregional scales and using appropriate Planning and Management Units are entry points to best practice Ecosystem based Management (EBM).
- The session will further ensure exchange among relevant Mediterranean stakeholders – managers, policymakers, socioeconomic actors, civil society and the scientific community, and highlight processes to ensure their active engagement and empowerment throughout the ecosystem-based management process, allowing for a balance between ecological, economic, and social values.
- The application of EBM to different scenarios and conditions has proven successful in dealing with transboundary impacts worldwide and case studies of approaches that maintain the integrity of ecoregions in the Mediterranean will be highlighted as they can also resonate globally.

- Sustainable governance frameworks that promote collaboration at various scales are critical and key components in their architecture will be also communicated in the session.

AGENDA – Ecosystem based approaches to transboundary impacts, with a focus on plastic pollution and climate change

27 November 2018 from 13:15 to 14:45hrs

13:15 – 13:30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Opening remarks

- ETC-UMA, Med Biodiversity Protection video introduction – Dr Dania Abdul Malak
- Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean – Ms Alessandra Sensi

Session agenda and objectives

Session Chair

- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas – Dr Ameer Abdulla

Panellists 13:30 – 14:15

TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS: MARINE POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- PlasticBustersMPAS – University of Siena – Dr Cristina Fossi
- Lebanese Institute of Environment of University of Balamand – Dr Manal R. Nader

POTENTIAL TOOLS AND POLICY PROCESSES TO ADDRESS TRANSBOUNDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY AT VARIOUS SCALES

- AMARE – Hellenic Centre for Marine Research – Dr Vassiliki Celia Vassilopoulou
- World Maritime University – Dr Olof Linden

Guided discussion 14:15 – 14:45

UTILIZING ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT IN INFORMED DECISION MAKING ACROSS COUNTRIES

- State Secretary for Environment of Montenegro – Mr Sasa Radulovic
- Arab Network for Environment and Development – Dr Emad Adly / Ms Ghada Ahmadein
- Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) – Mr Mehdi Aissi
- Nature Conservation Egypt – Ms Nada El Shanawany
- Mediterranean Network of Protected Areas (MedPAN) - Dr Purificació Canals (tbc)