

The model of the Mediterranean

The regional dimension of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy



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Ocean-related activities in the Mediterranean Sea represent the fifth largest economy in the region and 20% of the world's annual "Global Marine Product" (GMP) in an area which makes up only 1% of the world's oceans¹. Today, more than ever, Blue Economy sectors are important engines for the region's economy, with enormous potential for innovation and sustainable and inclusive prosperity².

However, the health of the Mediterranean is failing due to local stresses, such as habitat destruction, overfishing and pollution. The economic opportunities provided by the Mediterranean Sea are closely linked to an increasing need for new management models which respect its ecosystems and are able to maintain and increase their value over time, benefiting local communities.

Continuous dialogue and close co-operation between Mediterranean countries and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks are key conditions to reach a common goal: the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of the Mediterranean Sea.

The UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention, the Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu MAP Regional Activity Centre, the European Union, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and WWF are coordinating their strategies and working towards improved cooperation with governments, local authorities, businesses, universities and civil society.

Beyond ministry walls, and across borders between economic sectors and countries, now is the time to have everyone moving together towards a sustainable and inclusive future for the ocean and for the coming generations.

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy

A sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy should³:

- ensure that Blue Economy investments deliver long-term social and economic benefits while protecting and restoring the diversity, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems
- be based on participatory and effective governance that is inclusive, accountable and transparent
- promote sustainable use in marine areas through far-sighted, anticipatory and preventive spatial planning to ensure Good Environmental Status, through the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach
- be based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows and promote innovation and research in all Blue Economy sectors to achieve zero carbon net emissions
- enable the creation of employment opportunities for blue jobs in the marine and maritime sectors.

THE CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE VALUE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN'S BLUE ECONOMY IS IMMENSE. ONLY A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND A JOINT EFFORT INVOLVING KEY ACTORS WILL ALLOW US TO APPROACH THE CHALLENGE AT THE SCALE NEEDED.

¹ Randone, et al. 2017. Reviving the Economy of the Mediterranean Sea: Actions for a Sustainable Future. WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Rome, Italy.

² Union for the Mediterranean. 2017. Blue Economy in the Mediterranean.

³ Plan Bleu. 2017. Towards a Blue Economy for a sustainable Mediterranean: indicators and recommendations. See also the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (UNEP/MAP, 2016).

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference: Side event

28 November 2018, 09:00-11:00am

Kenyatta International Conference Center (Tent C)

Side event organizer: UN Environment

Partners:

- UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (MAP)
- Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Mediterranean Marine Initiative of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Plan Bleu MAP Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu)

Opening speech and moderator: UN Environment Deputy Executive Director, Joyce Msuya

Keynote speaker: Leader of the WWF International Oceans Practice, John Tanzer, to provide a global framework for sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy and to introduce the Mediterranean context

Panel:

- MAP Coordinator, Acting Director and Regional Representative for UN Environment Europe Office, Gaetano Leone
- UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Environment and Water, Miguel García-Herraiz Roobaert
- WWF Mediterranean Director, Paolo Lombardi
- Plan Bleu Director, Elen Lemaitre-Curri

The side event aims to foster improved models of regional cooperation to promote the achievement of a truly sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy. It will build on Blue Economy concept implementation in the Mediterranean region and countries, both from the perspective of policy (governance and institutional framework) and from an operational point of view (partnerships, best practices), with a specific focus on Fisheries Co-Management Models and Sustainable Tourism.

Beyond advocacy, communication and experience sharing, the main expected outcomes are:

1. to establish and strengthen coordinated partnerships among Mediterranean decision makers and stakeholders from various categories
2. to develop new initiatives and collaboration and to promote the exchange of best practices at the global and regional levels.



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