

Background document for participants



23-25 October 2017
Barcelona, Spain
*bridging the science-practice-policy
gaps in biodiversity protection*

ACT4LITTER - AMAre - CONFISH - ECOSUSTAIN - FishMPABlue2 - MEDSEALITTER - MPA-ADAPT - POSBEMED - WETNET

With the support of

What is PANACeA?

PANACeA is an Interreg Med pan-Mediterranean initiative aiming at streamlining management efforts in Protected Areas for enhanced Nature Conservation & Protection in the Mediterranean Sea. The Project has led to the articulation of an **EU Interreg Med Community** focusing on **Biodiversity Protection** (the “**MED Biodiversity Protection Community**”), bringing together a comprehensive network of experts from public & private institutions actively working to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems in **Mediterranean Protected Areas**. Filling the current gap between **Science, Management and Policy** is one of the priority targets of this **EU MED Biodiversity Protection Community**.

PANACeA creates synergies between relevant **Mediterranean** stakeholders, involving managers, policymakers, socio-economic actors, civil society and the scientific community, undertaking actions to increase the visibility and impacts of the results of different **Modular Projects** (MPs) that are being undertaken by members of its Community, namely projects financed by the **INTERREG Med programme** under its **Strategic Objective 3.2**, reaching a common and pre-identified strategic target audience. Several policy aspects including biodiversity protection, coastal and marine conservation, fisheries, Maritime Spatial Planning, climate change, governance mechanisms, marine litter or waste management are addressed under the umbrella of these MPs. The following 9 Modular Projects (MPs) are currently part of the **MED Biodiversity Protection Community**:

- Project ACT4Litter: Joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- Project MEDSEALITTER: Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols to protect biodiversity from litter impact at basin and local MPAs.
- Project MPA-ADAPT: Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: Building resilience and adaptation.
- Project ConFish: Connectivity Among Mediterranean fishery stakeholders and scientists resolves connectivity of fishery populations.
- Project AMAre: Actions for MPAs.
- Project EcoSUSTAIN: Ecological Sustainable governance of MPAs.
- Project POSBEMED: Sustainable management of the systems Posidonia-beaches in the Mediterranean region.
- Project WETNET: Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands.

Why is this Knowledge Sharing Event taking place? What are its objectives?

During the kick off meeting of the **MED Biodiversity Protection Community** in Marseille (15-16 March, 2017), participating public administrations, research institutions and conservationists in the region stressed the need to effectively link the efforts of applied



research on biodiversity monitoring and protection with **management practices** in protected areas - wetlands, rivers and coastal areas alike - and together influence **Policy Making** at various levels to achieve more coordinated and integrated management of ecosystems.

Based on this need, **PANACeA** is devoting this upcoming “**Knowledge Sharing Event**” in **Barcelona** towards **linking the needs of regional practitioners to researchers and to facilitate evidence-based policy making**.

The Event will strive to foster a constructive, productive dialogue between **researchers, practitioners** and **policy making officials** and to issue a set of recommendations for bridging the **Science-Practice-Policy** gap, in support of enhanced management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in Protected Areas.

As a result of the discussions, a **Report** will be produced outlining the identified **Recommendations on “Strategies and Tools for Bridging the Science-Practice-Policy Gap for Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean”**.

What will be the key points of discussion during the Event?

The dialogue will be articulated around 3 cross-cutting issues that have been specifically identified as relevant to PANACeA’s Community:

1. **Addressing emergent, transboundary biodiversity protection challenges** in Protected Areas, with a focus on **climate change** and **marine litter**.
2. **Sustainable resource management**, with a focus on fisheries.
3. **Integrated ecosystem monitoring**, focusing on freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems.

The **specific objectives** of the event are:

- To present past and current initiatives gathering scientific knowledge around the above cross-cutting issues and identify gaps in research data that may hinder evidence-based policy making.
- To introduce scientific and technological innovations being addressed by Projects undertaken within the MED Biodiversity Community.
- To highlight effective strategies and tools currently helping to close the Science-Practice-Policy gaps and to foster a debate geared at enhancing these key Interfaces, in support of biodiversity management and protection in Protected Areas and beyond.

A set of **introductory presentations** and **3 Expert Panels** have been envisioned to address these objectives:

- After the institutional opening of the Event, the **introductory presentations** will serve to set a framework reference for discussion, addressing the importance of biodiversity as a pre-condition for the provision of ecosystem services in the Mediterranean basin, as well as the urgent need for its protection. Through different presentations, our Guest Speakers will:



- Aim to identify on the most urgent and the most relevant challenges to be collectively address to ensure the successful conservation of biodiversity in the **Mediterranean**;
- Address the role of **MPAs** in the conservation of biodiversity in the **Mediterranean**: How can MPAs stir local action in support of global solutions to global environmental challenges?
- Address the role of **scientific evidence** in guiding better management of MPAs and reinforce the need to bridge current **science-practice-policy gaps**.

The **Metropolitan Area of Barcelona** will introduce a practical, strategic example of how biodiversity protection is being addressed in **Barcelona** and its surrounding municipalities.

- **Panel 1** will then address “**Emergent and transboundary challenges to Protected Areas: Addressing the effects of climate change and marine litter on biodiversity through evidence-based management practices and policies**”. Chaired by **Dr. Ameer Abdulla** (IUCN WCPA; Associate Professor of Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the University of Queensland), participating experts will seek to:

- Communicate and share experiences addressing emergent challenges to Protected Areas (PAs) through scientific research (specifically focusing on the effects of **Climate Change** and **Marine Litter** on biodiversity) and to identify research gaps hindering meaningful data-analysis or decision-making.
- Highlight effective strategies, mechanisms and best practices currently helping to bridge **Science-Practice-Policy** gaps.
- Reflect on effective ways of taking sound, evidence-based management practices from site and national and to a regional **Mediterranean** scale.

The idea of MPAs as **strategic tools** that can contribute to increase the resilience of local ecosystems against the impact of global environmental challenges will be central to this debate.

- **Panel 2** will focus on “**Sustainable use of natural resources in Protected Areas: Artisanal and small-scale fisheries**”. The Panel will be chaired by **Giuseppe Scaccia** (Executive Secretary of CPMR’s Islands Commission), who will steer invite participating experts will seek to:

- To communicate and share experiences addressing the sustainable use of natural resources in Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, with a special focus on artisanal and small-scale fisheries.
- To highlight effective strategies, mechanisms and best practices currently helping to bridge Science-Practice-Policy gaps when addressing the sustainable use of fisheries in Protected Areas.



- To identify existing, innovative management tools that are helping Mediterranean MPAs to advance towards the sustainable use of fisheries and other natural resources and to reflect on effective ways of taking them from site to a regional Mediterranean scale.

Stakeholder engagement, participatory decision-making and **co-responsibility** will be key words resonating in these discussions. The idea of MPAs as living laboratories to test and demonstrate the effectiveness of co-responsibility as a guiding principle for sustainable natural resource management will be introduced, challenged and discussed.

- **Panel 3** will focus on “**Integrated ecosystem monitoring & management: Addressing key challenges for the Mediterranean**”. **Sylvain Petit** (Programme Officer at UNE MAP PAP/RAC) will be in charge of chairing the last of these expert panels, which will be aiming to find answers to the following questions:
 - Why do we need to monitor coastal and marine ecosystems? What data are we missing for the **Mediterranean**? What are the major **challenges** and current **gaps** regarding the monitoring of ecosystems in the **European Union** and in the larger **Mediterranean** basin?
 - What major efforts are required to achieve a better, global understanding of integrated monitoring and management of coastal and marine zones? What are the **legal frameworks** that need to be tackled to ensure an effective consideration of land-sea interactions? What are the main “integration” challenges?
 - How can we advance the implementation of integrated approaches towards the goal of reaching good environmental status in coastal and marine areas? What existing initiatives can show the way as “beacons” of best practice towards achieving good environmental status?

The need to better understand and address **land-sea interactions** will be a central topic for discussion.

A rich discussion, powered by a community of practitioners, scientists and policy makers

PANACeA's Knowledge Sharing Event will bring together a broad family of experts working on biodiversity conservation from across the **Mediterranean**. In order to integrate as many visions as possible, and to foster a productive dialogue, our guest speakers have been assigned different roles, in support of a dynamic discussion:

- **Panellists:** Our guest Panellists will be invited to contribute with their knowledge and opinion to the key topics to be addressed by each Panel, delivering a presentation on specific, related initiatives or experiences that speak of the connections between science, practice and policy in biodiversity conservation in



protected areas. The sum of these presentations will help to build a collective understanding of the issues at stake, as well as to advance proposals.

- **Guest challengers:** the role of Guest Challengers will be to facilitate the transition towards a dynamic debate, reflecting on the topics of discussion from their own perspective and experience. Rather than doing a presentation from the stage, Guest Challengers are invited to stand-up from their place in the audience and contribute to the discussion by:
 - Briefly introducing their experience and how the key findings of their projects or initiatives compare and/or relate to those presented by the Panel.
 - Briefly reflect on challenges regarding Science-Practice-Policy gaps from their perspective and how they're aiming to impact better Practices or Policies.
 - Briefly expressing recommendations on possible ways of generating synergies amongst the initiatives introduced and on how to scale their impact to a wider geographical level.
 - Challenging the Panel with questions.

Each Panel will be chaired by an authorized representative of **PANACeA's Community**, who will set the background and the stage for discussions, as well as facilitating the debate, engaging not only guest speakers and challengers but all participants to the event.

How can you contribute to the debate?

PANACeA's Knowledge Sharing Event is a unique opportunity to interact with policy makers, scientists, conservation managers and practitioners and a broad range of experts from the field of biodiversity protection. An active participation from attendees will be encouraged. Each Panel has reserved enough time to foster a productive exchange of ideas amongst panellists and participants alike. Selected guest challengers will make sure that the debate is lively and productive.

On **Tuesday, October 24th**, a networking event will further grant participants the opportunity to interact with representatives of the Modular Projects in the MED Biodiversity Protection Community during the Interactive visual session.

You can follow us on Twitter [**@MEDCommunity3_2**](#) #MedBiodiversity_BCN2017, [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

To register and more details, click [here](#).

