

ACTIVITY REPORT 2020

PLAN BLEU



GOUVERNANCE

The Association

Plan Bleu is managed by an association governed by French law (1901 law). The Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition recognized in 2017 the general interest nature of the activities carried out by Plan Bleu.

The Association, which has 32 members in 2020, held its General Assembly on September 30, 2020 by videoconference.

In 2020, the Governance is made up of experts contributing to the scientific governance of Plan Bleu.:

President :

Thierry Lavoux

Vice-presidents :

Christian Averous

Yves Henocque

Jacques Theys

Aldo Ravazzi

Guillaume Benoit

Treasurer :

Jean de Montgolfier

General Secretary :

Mauricette Steinfeldt

Honor President :

Lucien Chabason

The Regional Activity Center

Plan Bleu brings together its national focal points every two years to review the current programme of work implementation, and to discuss and approve the programme of work of the next biennium. Plan Bleu provides a transversal approach to sustainable development issues for the UNEP/MAP, with the emphasis on observation, diagnostics, foresight, and the connection between economy and environment. The next meeting of the focal points of Plan Bleu will be held from 17 to 18 May 2021. Plan Bleu's 2022-2023 programme of work will be confirmed by the Contracting parties during their 22nd meeting in Antalya (Turkey), from 7 to 10 December 2021.

EDITORIAL

INTRODUCTION

ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2020

OBSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT FOR ENLIGHTENING THE POLICYMAKERS

SoED 2020 - The report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean

The sustainability dashboard

The Regional Observatory and its website

SEIS, Shared Environmental Information System / Horizon 2020 Initiative

SOCIO-ECONOMIC APPROACH

Economic impact study of a possible SOx ECA in the Mediterranean

MEDREGION - Support for the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Mediterranean - Socio-economic approach

DRAWING UP POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MED 2050 - Towards a new Mediterranean foresight exercise

TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community, MBPC

2nd Advisory Council of the Mediterranean Blue Growth Community

Capitalization on the theme of renewable marine energies

Guidelines for sustainable Mediterranean cruising and yachting

A Roadmap for sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean

Plan Bleu is partner of the Sustainable Tourism Community project (2019-2022), new phase of the BlueTourMed project (2016-2019)

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

Strengthening the science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean: the MedECC network

COMMUNICATION

FOCUS : SOED 2020

FOCUS : MED 2050

EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS

TEAM

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EDITORIAL

Thierry Lavoux, President of Plan Bleu



In this period when all the mediterranean countries had to confront the consequences of the health crisis, Plan Bleu has continued to make efforts to communicate as widely as possible on the state of the environment in the Region.

The publication of the report SoED 2020 which clearly points out the risks incurred by the countries in terms of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of the resources, solid or air pollution (waste, chemicals, particles) has allowed to underline the weakness of a governance making it possible to confront them effectively. These data based on the best available knowledge, accompanied by rigorous analysis, offer the policymakers, and in the public at large, the possibility to react and act. Plan Bleu, faithful to its mandate, provides the Mediterranean countries with the essential tools for a renewed ecological dynamic, all the more necessary when the lessons from this health crisis must imperatively be learned.

Within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and of the Barcelona Convention, the means of action are available and only awaiting a political will in order to be better applied. Plan Bleu with its partners and funders, which we have to thank here, will contribute properly to the definition of the post Covid-19 ecological recovery. It is to this price that the hope of a cleaner and more sustainable Mediterranean could be realised.

This year has occasioned many devastations in our lives, despite that, it is important to emphasize Plan Bleu has successfully overcome the pitfalls and difficulties. We recruited our new director François Guerquin, whose international experience will be decisive in effectively leading projects, whether they concern the blue economy or the impacts of climate change.

Plan Bleu has definitely left the site of Sophia-Antipolis in the Alpes-Maritimes for the premises located in the Tour Marseillaise in Marseille in which they will have, in addition to a magnificent view of the Phocian City, a chance to lead large-scale projects with as a common thread the foresight by 2050.

A great thank you to everyone for your commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Thierry".

INTRODUCTION

François Guerquin, Director of Plan Bleu



It is a pleasure for me to present Plan Bleu's activity report 2020 to you. Over the past year, Plan Bleu has distinguished itself by the publication of major works on environment and the development in the Mediterranean, the culmination of several years of work and which have consolidated its reputation for expertise in these subjects. Our projects remain more relevant than ever, in the context in which the necessity of living in harmony with nature has been strongly illustrated by the global pandemic.

First of all, the State of the Environment and Development Report in the Mediterranean - SoED 2020, which presents a complete and up-to-date evaluation of the interactions between the environment and the development in the Region, was published in November. This titanic work mobilised a large part of the team, besides the precious network partners of Plan Bleu, to achieve an assessment of major issues in the Mediterranean, almost ten years after the previous edition.

Meanwhile, the network of experts on climate and environmental changes (MedECC) strongly supported by Plan Bleu, which hosts its secretariat, published in 2020 the first report on the evaluation on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean (MAR1). A mobilisation of more than 180 authors enabled the production of this regional peer-reviewed scientific study, and its approval by the representatives of the countries. Such a regional report creates a first that demonstrates the dynamism of the Mediterranean community on these topics.

To shape possible futures for the sustainable development in the Mediterranean and under the aegis of UNEP / MAP, Plan Bleu has also officially launched the foresight study on the environment and the development by 2050: MED 2050. A reinforced team, a new collaborative website as well as a newsletter have been created to give scope and visibility to this activity. One of the fundamental characteristics of this study is its participatory approach.

The year 2020 also allowed to publish several documents of policy recommendations, technical reports and briefing notes on sustainable tourism, biodiversity, blue economy and nature-based solutions, capitalising the works of multiple Mediterranean partners under the coordination of Plan Bleu.

All these documents were valued through a reinforced communication, with a new website, a rapidly evolving environment and development observatory, over 70 media appearances, more than 100 webinars, infographics, and increased social media presence.

I would like to thank our partners and members, each year more numerous, for their confidence and their loyalty. 2020 was a difficult year, shaken by an unprecedented health crisis that devastated the region, and also weakened it economically in key sectors such as tourism.

We need more than ever to co-construct together alternative narratives of the future of the Mediterranean and to imagine concretely what a sustainable and resilient Mediterranean would look like, in order to take the measure of the profound changes needed to achieve it. Plan Bleu will continue to work on it, by promoting the exchange between actors within Med 2050, but also by contributing to the definition of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027

ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2020

OBSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT FOR ENLIGHTENING THE POLICYMAKERS

SoED 2020 - The report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean

One of this year's highlights is the publication of the Report on The State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2020 (SoED 2020) in October 2020. [The web page dedicated to SoED](#) allows you to download all related publications: The full report of 340 pages, the executive summary, the key messages, the videos, the infographics and spin-offs.

This report is the result of a great collective effort, led by Plan Bleu. All components of MAP and UNEP/MAP coordinating unit, as well as networks and regional partners, such as the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, the Center for Mediterranean Integration and the Mediterranean Network of Experts on Climate and Environmental Change, co-piloted the preparation of chapters and thematic sections.

The report draws on several available resources of information, giving the priority to data stemming from the United Nations system. When data is not available in the UN system, they come from other international and regional recognised organisations, for example the World Bank, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature, European Environment Agency, etc. The report contributes to the information of the public and private sector policymakers, but also to that of the general public.

The complexity and the diversity of the problems of the environment and the development of the region represent a significant challenge for accomplishing such reports. More than 2 years and the collaboration of around 150 experts were necessary for elaborating this document. It contains the most recent scientific information pointing out the challenges with which the region has been already confronted.



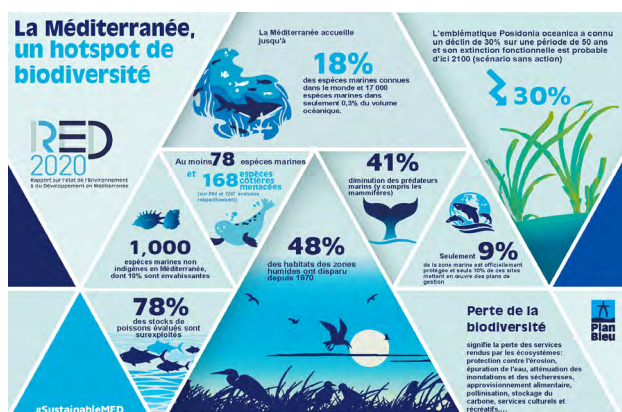
Thematic notes (4-16 pages) are elaborated on specific themes or questions addressed in SoED 2020, aiming either (a) to further highlight the information contained in SoED, possibly by expanding the results; or (b) to address the knowledge gaps identified in the SoED by supplementing or updating its information. A first note on demography in the Mediterranean has been published. A second on emerging contaminants will be published in May 2021. Three additional notes, on offshore activities, shipping and desalination, are being finalized and should be published in the coming months.

The thematic maps created and updated for the SoED 2020 are presented in Plan Bleu's observatory cartographic library (<https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/maps/>).

Partners : UNEP/MAP and its Regional Activity Centers (RAC), as well as numerous technical, scientific and institutional partners: World Bank, MedECC, IPCC, IUCN, CMI, Agency of Mediterranean sustainable cities and territories (AVITEM), International Center for High Mediterranean agronomic studies (CIHEAM), French Institute for Research for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), etc., National focal points, members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, etc.

Financial Support : Environment and Energy Management Agency, French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, RMC Water Agency.

For more information : <https://www.planbleu.org/soed>



The sustainability dashboard

A global monitoring system and relevant indicators are necessary to supervise the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development to measure its level of implementation and the gaps encountered (for example, the number of countries implementing an action or a “flagship initiative”) and to monitor the progress towards the sustainable development (for example, the diminution or the stabilisation of greenhouse gas emissions).

During the year 2020, studies have been carried out to improve the coverage of all the MSSD indicators in accordance with the IG decision. 23/4. Therefore, 27 indicators were updated in 2020, and the 28th and the last indicator was completed for the first time: the Indicator 8 “Proportion of fish stocks at biologically sustainable levels”.

Tasks have also been initiated to improve the coverage of the objective 6 of the MSSD “Governance”, the 14th SDG “Live below water” and the 17th SDG “Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, especially through the identification of legal indicators regarding environmental regulations, more particularly the effectiveness of the Barcelona Convention in national legislation. During the 22nd meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development organised on December 15 and 16, 2020 by teleconference, the proposed list of indicators was considered to be evolving and to be periodically updated and improved, especially according to the evolution of the international repositories and of the availability of the relevant data at the national level.

Plan Bleu has presented the progress made in 2020 with an updated the list of indicators of the sustainability dashboard, precisng that particular focus will done regarding the legal dimension, particularly the monitoring of the effectiveness of the Barcelona Convention implementation. This activity will be carried out in 2021.



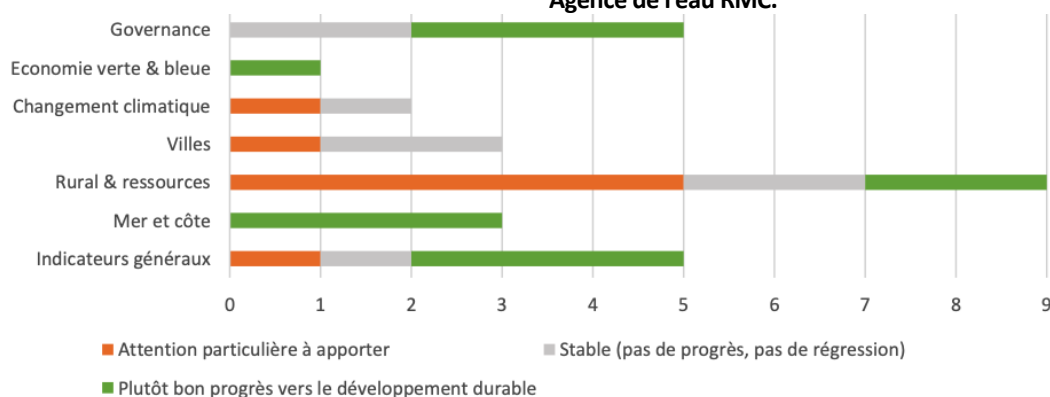
The Observatory and its sustainability dashboard make it possible to measure progress, regression or stability in terms of sustainable development, the framework is given by the MSSD and its 7 themes. Since 2015, among 28 indicators (see table below), the fact is that:

- 12 indicators show a good progress towards the sustainable development
- 7 indicators are stable (neither a progression nor a regression)
- 8 indicators require a particular attention

The progress made over the last decade has not been sufficient to reduce the pressures and degradation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. The transition towards more sustainable paths requires radical changes in behavior at all levels and in all areas, especially in our production and consumption patterns.

For more informations : https://www.obs.planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SMDD_Dashboard_Version_Mars_2021.pdf

Partners : UNEP/MAP, the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, national institutions producing and disseminating the reference data used, UNEP GRID Geneva, Agence de l'eau RMC.



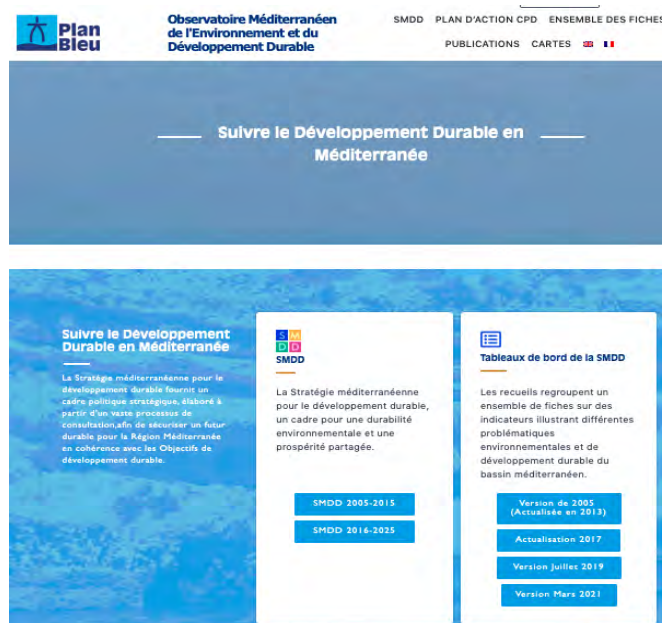
→ **Progrès vers le développement durable (état en 2020). Tableau de bord de la durabilité**
<https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/mssd/>

The Regional Observatory and its website

A [new version of the website for the Regional Observatory](#) has been developed and is available in two languages (English and French). It is structured around five sections allowing users to find information relating to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the 28 indicator sheets constituting the sustainability dashboard and methodological elements relating to the selection of indicators.

In accordance with the decision IG. 23/4, the Observatory website hosts a section dedicated to the set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the regional action plan of the RAC for sustainable consumption and production (based in Barcelona). The result of this joint work between the two Centers has made it possible to strengthen the MSSD dashboard regarding governance, the green and blue economy and sustainable production and consumption.

The Observatory website offers a section dedicated to regional and national publications related to coastal observation and information systems as well as a section dedicated to a set of thematic maps, some of them are from the SoED 2020 and other reports, especially illustrating the relationship between the state of the environment and pressures from human activities.



End of 2020, Plan Bleu initiated a pilot project with GRID Geneva to migrate the set of MSSD indicators and the data it manages under the MapX environment, the cartographic component of the World Environment Situation Room (WESR), future UNEP online data platform.

It enables users to view, query, access, combine and download data, information and knowledge products concerning the state of the global environment in near real time. MapX is the WESR's open geospatial platform hosting data from the various WESR themes (risks, climate change, biodiversity, etc.) which aims to manage, analyze and visualize data on these themes. The objective is to develop an observatory in network providing access to data hosted by various partners. A first pilot version will be available in 2021 and presented to Plan Bleu focal points in May 2021.



→ The MapX platform: MapX environment for Plan Bleu/ RAC project and the sustainability dashboard

A network of national observatories dealing with environment and development in the Mediterranean needs to be structured for allowing better population of the MSSD indicators. Issues were encountered in providing information on certain indicators without the contribution of the competent institutions at the national level. The identification of more systemic and less sectoral indicators will be initiated to allow a better monitoring of sustainability at the regional level and to better cover all the MSSD topics. The issues raised by the coronavirus disease in the beginning of 2020 have also encouraged the inclusion of more economic and social indicators, this crisis reminding us of the systemic nature of the environmental system. Partnerships will be forged within the MAP system (with other RACs) and outside (with national observatories and specialized agencies) to really develop a networked observatory system.

For more informations : <https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/>

Partners : UNEP/MAP and its Regional Activity Center CPD/ RAC, Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development; national institutions producing and disseminating the baseline data used, UNEP GRID Geneva, Agence de l'Eau RMC

SEIS, Shared Environmental Information System / Horizon 2020 Initiative

The SEIS project (Shared Environmental Information System) is a 4-year project, funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) and implemented jointly by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and UNEP/MAP, with the support of Plan Bleu and the MEDPOL program. The project aims to contribute to the reduction of marine pollution in the Mediterranean by supporting the regular production and sharing of environmental data, indicators and information in the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) of the Southern region: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, State of Palestine and Tunisia. It feeds into the evaluation of the Horizon 2020 initiative.

Since 2017, Plan Bleu has supported the EEA and the MAP Coordinating Unit in the organization of a series of workshops and expertise. Three themes associated with major pressures on the state of the Mediterranean stand out in particular: information on waste (land and sea), industrial pollution and water quality. In 2019, Plan Bleu and the project partners supported the carrying out of appraisals to document the indicators identified in the Southern ENP partner countries, targeting coastal areas as much as possible. National and regional data fed into the preparation of the evaluation report of the H2020 initiative, with the support of Plan Bleu, in particular on waste-related issues. Plan Bleu also ensured the link between the work carried out within the framework of SEIS and the results of the Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2020 (SoED).

The final report resulting from SEIS was published in September 2020 ([summary](#)) and in March 2021 ([full report](#)).



The region is a hotspot for biodiversity. The coastal and marine endemic species are vulnerable and threatened by the risk of species extinction and habitat loss.

For more information : <https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/south>

Partners : UNEP / MAP, EEA, partner countries of the European Neighborhood Policy of the South, MEDPOL

Socio-economic approach

In 2020, Plan Bleu mobilized its expertise in socio-economic analysis to carry out two activities: an economic impact study of a possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a control area for SOx emissions (SOx ECA) under Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention; and a work on socio-economic evaluations of measures contained in regional strategies and action plans, carried out within the framework of the MEDREGION project.

Economic impact study of a possible SOx ECA in the Mediterranean

Plan Bleu's expertise in socio-economic analysis was specifically requested by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during the COP21 in Naples, Italy (December 2019), to complete studies carried out by REMPEC, in preparation for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea as SOx ECA. Plan Bleu is responsible for (i) impact analyzes on maritime transport engaged in international trade and the potential for modal shift of trade outside the Mediterranean; and (ii) impact analyzes on short sea shipping and analysis of the social and economic impact on the Contracting Parties, including on the development of island and remote areas.

In close coordination with REMPEC and the SOx ECA Technical Committee of Experts, Plan Bleu drew up detailed terms of reference, recruited a specialized consulting firm and supervised the work of the consulting firm to carry out the analyzes mentioned above. The results feed into the overall roadmap for the potential designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a whole as a SOx Emission Control Area under MARPOL Annex VI and are therefore discussed by the SOx ECA Expert Technical Committee, the REMPEC focal points and, subsequently, the MAP focal points, prior to being integrated into a submission to COP22.

Partners: UNEP/MAP, REMPEC, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, IMO

MEDREGION - Support for the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Mediterranean - Socio-economic approach

Plan Bleu contributes to the MEDREGION project, which supports the coordinated implementation of the second 6-year cycle of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Mediterranean. Supported by the European Commission, the MEDREGION project brings together around twenty partners: researchers, representatives of competent authorities for the implementation of the Directive at national level, and representatives of the UNEP / MAP system and some of its centers. Since the project launch meeting (Athens, Greece, April 11, 2019), Plan Bleu has been working on socio-economic assessment as a part of the implementation of the programs of measures developed for the implementation of the Directive. Plan Bleu particularly focused on the socio-economic impacts of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, and how the use of socio-economic analysis can be improved to facilitate decision-making. This work continued in 2020 and its results will be published in the second half of 2021.

Partners: HCMR (Greece), Ifremer (France), ISPRA (Italy), AZTI (Spain), IEO (Spain), IzVRS (Slovenia), NIB (Slovenia), IOF (Croatia), NKUA (Greece), CORILA (Italy), University of Salento (Italy), University of Venice (Italy), OGS (Italy), SPA/ RAC (Tunisia), INFO / RAC (Italy), Ministry of the Environment (Italy), Ministry of the Environment (Greece), Ministry of the Environment (Slovenia), Ministry of the Environment (Croatia)

Beyond these activities, Plan Bleu represents the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system within the Working Group on Economic and Social Analysis of Programs of Measures (WG POM ESA) of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Since October 23, 2020, Plan Bleu has been co-chairing this working group.



DRAWING UP POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MED 2050 – Towards a new Mediterranean foresight exercise



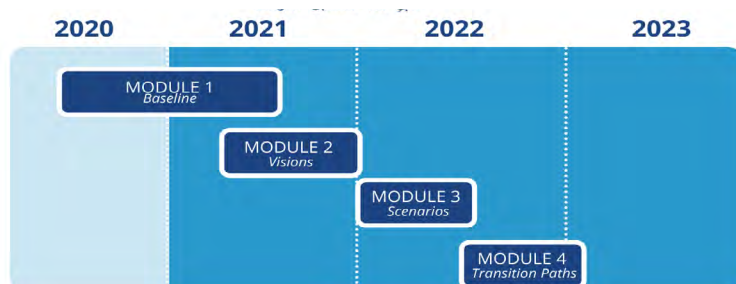
After the Report on the State of Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2020, which draws an alarming picture of non-sustainability of the Mediterranean, the MED 2050 foresight exercise aims to explore the possible futures of the Mediterranean to identify transition pathways towards sustainable development. Led by Plan Bleu, and started 2 years ago, MED 2050 follows a modular approach, made up of four main successive and complementary activity modules :

Module 1 : Building the foresight basis - past and future trends, disruptions and weak signals.

Module 2 : Comparing and sharing contrasted visions - defining a desired future for the Mediterranean.

Module 3 : Designing scenarios - exploring possible futures to enlighten policies for resilience.

Module 4 : Co-constructing transition strategies - guiding decision-making towards alternative narratives of the future.



The year 2020 was marked by a consolidation of partnerships for the participatory implementation of MED 2050, bringing together thematic and foresight experts, scientists, policy makers, politicians, donors and stakeholders from different territorial levels, as well as members of the civil society. At this stage, mobilization concentrated mainly around the experts of the Foresight Group and Plan Bleu team. To strengthen this team, Plan Bleu has established a partnership with Aix-Marseille University. This partnership represents an opportunity to create synergies and to base MED 2050 on scientifically recognized work, including in its interdisciplinary approach. This partnership led to the opportunity for a post-Doc researcher and a PhD researcher to work with Plan Bleu, the latter with the support of the Région Sud. Since March 2020, MED 2050 was particularly impacted by the coronavirus crisis, due to the participatory approach planned and integrated into the methodology: a large number of meetings were planned to be face-to-face, with the use of particular methods that foster collective intelligence and which are mostly incompatible with video conferencing solutions. Despite these constraints, the implementation of the first module of MED2050 progressed by adapting the methodology to face the circumstances.

A technical report of MED 2050 comparing the projections of Plan Bleu's 2005 foresight exercise with the current situation, a report on the demographic trends and perspectives in the Mediterranean and also a methodological note were published in 2020. An analysis of trends and disruptions for the future of the Mediterranean has been carried out and will serve as a solid basis to produce a broader and qualitative reflection on future scenarios for the Mediterranean region.

During the first half of 2021, the drafting of factsheets will be launched. The aim of the factsheets is to collect the most relevant information in a synthetic manner and to formulate hypotheses on the future challenges for around thirty key themes of the «Mediterranean System», as identified by the Foresight Group. The themes of the factsheets were identified by the Foresight Group by narrowing down some 197 trends and disruptions that were identified. For each factsheet, a multi-stakeholder writing team has been set up. The factsheets will be used in the construction of the scenarios (module 3) and will also provide basic data for the whole exercise. They will result in a publication in 2021.

The MED 2020 exercise is planned to be finalised in 2023, with the exploration of transition pathways towards a sustainable development of the region.

The web platform med2050.org, and the MED 2050 newsletter were created in 2020. An invitation to participate in the MED2050 initiative remains open on Plan Bleu's website, following interested stakeholders to join the MED2050 network.

For more information : med2050.org

Partners : UNEP/ MAP, MTES, AFD, Région Sud, Aix-Marseille University



Following one of the recommendations of SoED 2020, Plan Bleu has made efforts to support action in favor of sustainability transitions at the local level, where many concrete decisions are made. Thus, targeted local projects, benefiting from the MED 2050 approach, have been designed. A project will be launched in January 2021 with the Région Sud in France (with the financial support of the Regional Council), to establish a basic diagnosis, to reflect on long-term scenarios during workshops bringing together elected representatives of the Région Sud, and to evaluate the costs and benefits of such scenarios. An end-of-project publication is scheduled for December 2021. Another participatory targeted project in a watershed in Morocco has been prepared (with the financial support of the Agence française de développement (AFD)) to support a long-term strategy for sustainable management of water and natural resources..

TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community, MBPC

Plan Bleu is a partner of [the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community \(MBPC\)](#) (2019 -2022), a continuation of the previous project, PANACeA (2016 -2019). This horizontal project is co-financed by the Interreg MED program and composed of 7 partners from different Mediterranean countries. The MBPC counts 15 thematic projects led by 342 partners and 239 institutions located in the Mediterranean. The MBPC aims to support marine protected area (MPA) networking and management efforts and to improve nature conservation and management in the region. Plan Bleu steers the MBPC's capitalization work in order to promote the protection of biodiversity by capitalizing and disseminating good practices and supporting the transfer of technologies and knowledge developed in the Mediterranean. The MBPC's main objectives are to:

- integrate biodiversity management efforts, guaranteeing environmental sustainability in the Mediterranean.
- promote better science-based biodiversity protection policies and practices.
- consolidate a community of experts on biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

In order to meet all these challenges and objectives, the community organized several events in 2020 :

- On 22 June 2020, the «Restructuring of the Mediterranean community» webinar took place to present the MBPC's action plan to its new and old thematic projects. Likewise, on 26 June, 1 and 3 July 2020, three working groups of the community organized webinars to present their roadmaps, followed by follow-up meetings with their respective members.
- On 17 September 2020, the MBPC organised the "[Science-policy-society interactions in ecosystem-based marine resource management and planning](#)" webinar, to streamline and integrate marine conservation and marine sciences into the planning and management of marine spaces and marine resources, through the use of adapted mechanisms.

On 22 October 2020, Plan Bleu and ETC-UMA co-organised the first capitalisation event as part of European Green Week via a webinar "[Healthy wetlands: our best natural response to biodiversity crisis: the case of Mediterranean](#)". It brought together international experts and EU political representatives to draw attention to the actual situation of the wetlands within policies and research, as well as the urgent need for agreements and actions ensuring the protection and the sustainable usage of wetland habitats. It also presented the regional efforts of European projects for developing tools and solutions that help to contribute to these objectives in the Mediterranean wetlands.

The conclusions and main recommendations are available in English in [the event report](#).

In 2020, the MBPC also produced a technical fact sheet on «[Using Ecological Sensitivity to Guide Marine Renewable Energy Potentials in the Mediterranean Region](#)».

The MBPC will continue to integrate the results of biodiversity protection effort into its capitalization tools, such as :

- [The Mediterranean biodiversity protection Tools Catalogue](#), which contains 16 ecosystem-based management tools in the Mediterranean
- [The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform](#), including among others the MedBioLitter database which focuses on research on the impacts of marine litter on marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean

The MBPC will participate in several events in 2021 in order to capitalize on the results of its projects, including the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.



For more information : <https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/>

Partners: ETC-UMA, University of Malaga (Spain), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (France), MedCities (Spain), Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism (Montenegro), Latte Creative (Italy) and the Marine Institute (Croatia).

The Blue Growth Community

Plan Bleu is a partner of the Interreg MED Blue Growth project (2019-2022), a consortium of 7 partners led by CoNISMa (Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare). This project is the continuation of the Interreg MED InnoBlueGrowth project (2016-2019). The Mediterranean Blue Growth Community assists and coordinates modular / integrated projects dealing with blue growth in several ways. These include communication and capitalization activities, creating and ensuring internal (inter-community) and external synergies, as well as sharing, transferring and capitalizing on knowledge to encourage the appropriation of project recommendations by key players (projects, SMEs, local and regional policymakers, technicians, researchers, etc.). As the pilot of these capitalization activities, Plan Bleu designed guidelines for their integration in order to catalyze the development potential of blue economy sectors such as maritime surveillance, blue energies and the greening of the yachting sector on the one hand, and to contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Mediterranean region through innovative investments in the blue economy on the other.

2nd Advisory Council of the Mediterranean Blue Growth Community

On 27 July 2020, Plan Bleu co-organised the 2nd meeting of the Blue Growth Community Advisory Board online, which involved around 65 participants. The event explained the transfer process of the products elaborated by the Blue Growth Community's modular projects with a view to their capitalization, as well as the role of the horizontal project in this process. The participants were able to highlight the importance of the [MARINA](#) platform as an interactive space for working collaboratively within the Advisory Board. The most relevant tools developed by the modular projects were presented to the members of the Advisory Board in order to initiate and facilitate their transfer, for example the 4Helix + Cyberspace tool, a collaborative virtual platform to intensify the collaboration between the project's actors and beneficiaries within the blue economy sector, developed by the 4Helix + project team led by Sviluppo Marche SpA (Italy).

For more information : <https://planbleu.org/en/projects/blue-growth-community/>

Partners : ADEME, BlueMed, Interreg Med Community for Blue Growth, Interreg Med Community for Sustainable Tourism, Interreg Med Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community

Capitalization on the theme of renewable marine energies

In Europe, the Mediterranean basin holds great potential for the production of marine renewable energies (MREs), the in situ experimentation of technologies and the stimulation of the MRE sector, in particular for SMEs. In addition, the EU's Green Deal aims to transform the fight against climate change into a unique growth opportunity, and thus represents an important opportunity for the sector. In this context, the Blue Growth Community organized a capitalization event on 10 and 11 November 2020 dedicated to MREs. On the first day, it gathered around 100 policymakers, researchers, academics, SME representatives, NGOs and international organizations from 14 different countries. Three major questions related to the development of MREs in the Mediterranean region were addressed: favorable frameworks (including legal and regulatory frameworks), the obstacles to and levers of the development of the sector in the Mediterranean and how to reconcile MREs with biodiversity and tourism. The European Commission emphasized its willingness to reinforce the collaboration between EU member states concerning MRE development especially through the EU Green Deal but also with [the new Strategy](#) on offshore renewable energy, which both contribute to the EU's climate neutrality by 2050.

The second day was held as part of the Circle the Med Forum, and welcomed 500 participants. It was dedicated to SMEs and included the presentation of tools, funding opportunities and a networking session as part of the 1st BLUE DEAL Business Forum. Three important points to remember from this event:

- Tools exist for promoting the development of MREs in the Mediterranean region, for example Blue Energy Labs (MAESTRALE project) ;
- The offshore wind energy and tourism industries can coexist, inspired by the multi-use action plan for the Baltic Sea of the MUSES project ;
- Funding possibilities, actors and initiatives in the field of blue energy are increasing.

The event emphasized that the MRE sector needs to :

- be integrated into climate change mitigation policies;
- be part of Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management processes, which aim to promote a holistic approach to the management of oceanic space and must be accelerated, to include strategic environmental assessments and be driven by enhanced collaboration between member states;
- reflect conservation priorities and avoid zones of ecological interest and Marine Protected Areas.

Guidelines for sustainable Mediterranean cruising and yachting

As part of the BlueMed Initiative, Plan Bleu carried out the “BlueBoatsMed” innovative action (2018-2020). The project gathered key Mediterranean stakeholders with complementary expertise in the cruising and yachting sectors in order to: I) analyze the prospects for complete and sustainable development of the two sectors, II) reach an agreement on the main environmental and societal challenges related to the expected development of these two sectors, III) identify promising innovations capable of responding to such challenges, and the conditions necessary for their use and generalization and; IV) initiate a roadmap for a Mediterranean transition towards sustainable cruising and yachting sectors. In total, 25 experts participated in these four stages during four brainstorming meetings (webinar in April 2019; face-to-face meeting in Genoa, Italy, in June 2019; face-to-face meeting in Marseille, France, in November 2019 ; webinar in October 2020). The results of the discussions are displayed in a [Prospective Report](#) available in French, English, Spanish and Italian.

Based on this work and the results produced by specific modular projects of three Interreg Med communities dealing with cruising and yachting, Plan Bleu set out to produce guidelines for the sustainability of cruises and yachting in the Mediterranean region within the framework of the Blue Growth Community. This notably involves mitigating their negative effects on marine and coastal ecosystems, associated biodiversity, climate, air quality and local communities. The participatory process is based on a working group of around 100 stakeholders including representatives of port authorities, international organizations, think tanks, cruise lines and the nautical industry. The final guidelines are expected to be available at the end of June 2021, and will be presented at the 2nd Blue Growth Community Capitalization Event in Autumn 2021.

Partners : ADEME, BlueMed, Interreg Med Community for Blue Growth, Interreg Med Community for Sustainable Tourism, Interreg Med Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community

A Roadmap for sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean

As part of UNEP / MAP's 2020-2021 work program, Plan Bleu was tasked with drawing up the Roadmap for the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean in partnership with two Interreg Med communities. The Roadmap development process, co-financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the Agence française de développement (AFD), is based on a pan-Mediterranean debate including a large number of organizations, projects, economic operators and policymakers. A working group of around 150 members has already been established. Two webinars were organized in November 2020 in collaboration with FAO / GFCM, OuestMed and IUCN Med, among others, in order to:

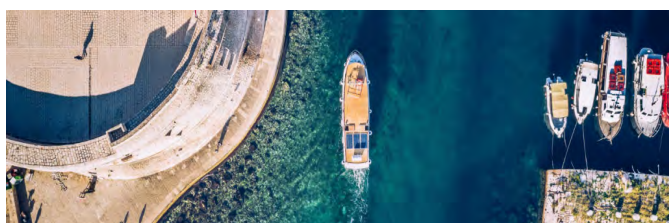
- agree on the main governance / environment / economic / social challenges posed by the Mediterranean aquaculture sector ;

- identify approaches, tools, technologies and innovative practices as promising solutions for each challenge. The long-term Roadmap focuses on 2030 with a mid-term review in 2025, in line with international targets.

The Roadmap should be a strategic plan which will address the sector's crucial sustainability challenges, based on a long-term vision for Mediterranean (coastal and offshore) aquaculture that is shared at the regional level. To do so, a draft Roadmap is currently underway in collaboration with the members of the working group. It is expected to be completed by the end of June 2021 and brought to the attention of the Contracting Parties at the COP22 of the Barcelona Convention in December 2021.

The work carried out by Plan Bleu to develop the Roadmap also contributed to the assessment of the state of play of aquaculture practices in the Mediterranean and their environmental impact carried out by MedPOL, in order to identify the approaches and innovative measures needed to minimize pollution by aquaculture facilities and promote environmentally friendly practices in coastal areas. This preliminary work is being carried out to support the development of the regional aquaculture management plan.

Partners: Agence française de développement (AFD), MEDPOL, OuestMED, CIHEAM-Zaragoza, Interreg Med Community for Sustainable Tourism, Interreg Med Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community



For more information : <https://planbleu.org/en/projects/blue-growth-community/>

Plan Bleu is partner of the Sustainable Tourism Community project (2019-2022), new phase of the BlueTourMed project(2016-2019)

The Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Community relies now on 24 territorial cooperation projects involving more than 200 organisations (mainly public authorities, universities, NGOs and international organizations) active in 13 European countries to promote sustainable tourism by capitalizing on tools and best practices developed by its projects.

The results and lessons learned from the projects constitute a unique asset that can help the transition towards innovative tourism policies and practices based on sustainability principles. For this purpose, during 2020, the community participated in numerous events at European and Mediterranean level, such as :

- The European Week of Regions and Cities workshop co-organized with the Interreg MED UrbanTransport community on «Sustainable mobility in tourist destinations», on 20 October 2020.
- The workshop «Tools for reducing tourist density and promoting off-season tourism in the Mediterranean» on 13 October, during the «Forum TourisTIC».
- On 12 October 2020, the Community presented the main results during a thematic closed-door workshop on «Greener holidays» organized by the European Commission in the framework of the «[European Tourism Convention](#)». The Convention aimed to start a dialogue on sustainable recovery and strategic orientations for the tourism of tomorrow and to orient future work and cooperation in the field of tourism (towards a European tourism agenda 2050). The participants identified ten action points for the revival and sustainable, innovative and resilient transformation of the European tourism.
- On 11 November 2020, the Community also participated in the round table «[Best practices in the development of smart tourism dimensions from management perspectives](#)» at the «CETT Smart Tourism Congress» in Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), an international congress bringing together academics and professionals, focused on innovation, sustainability, technology and governance, organized by CETT - Barcelona School of Tourism, Hotel and Gastronomy.
- The Community also participated in the online conference «[Tourism in the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and COVID-19 crisis: measures and opportunities towards sustainability](#)» during the General Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion whose objective was to explore which are the measures taken at different levels (such as the EU and the macro-regional level) to mitigate the effect of Covid-19 on tourism and help the sector in its recovery phase.

Tourism is considered by the European Commission as a pillar for relaunching the European economy on a more sustainable and resilient basis. On 14 December 2020, the MED Sustainable Tourism Community organized [a virtual meeting with the aim of discussing the future of sustainable tourism in the EU Next Generation](#). The meeting focused on the new Interreg MED programming period 2021-2027 but also EU NEXT funding for pandemic recovery.

In 2020, the first collective scientific publication of the MED sustainable tourism community, entitled «[Reconsidering the development of tourism in the Mediterranean. Reflections from the INTERREG MED Sustainable Tourism Community](#)», was published in the scientific journal [Tourism: an International Interdisciplinary](#).

The Sustainable Tourism Community has also published [the first edition of the Projects outputs](#) catalogue which so far brings together 40 results of the most important achievements of the projects implemented during the first phase of the project. A second version of this catalogue is planned in the following months.

Among its publications in 2020, the Community published two new factsheets on [the new stage of the Community](#) and on [the success stories of the replicability of the sustainable tourism community](#).

During this new phase, the territorial antennas will strengthen the dialogue and the cooperation with key actors of the territories. Plan Bleu will be responsible for relations with the French Mediterranean communities.

Partners : Diputació de Barcelona (DIBA), Union of Mediterranean Universities (UNIMED), University of Thessaly (UTH), Network of European Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism (NECSTouR), Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE), Regional Development Agency Green Karst Ltd (RDA Green Karst

For more information : <https://sustainable-tourism.interreg-med.eu/>

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

Strengthening the science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean: the MedECC network

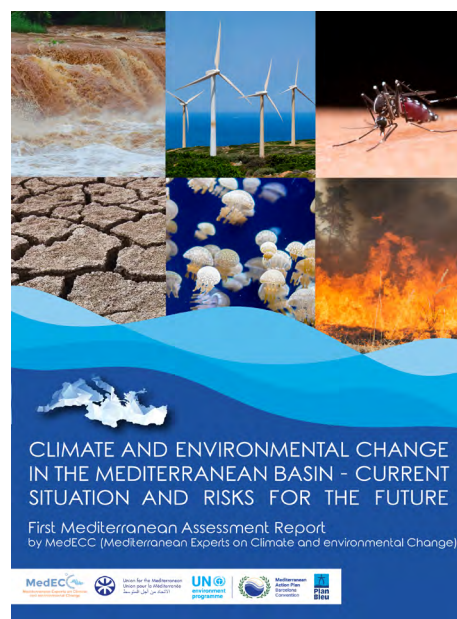
The MedECC (the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change) is an independent network of scientists founded in 2015. It assesses the best scientific knowledge available on climate and environmental change and the associated risks in the Mediterranean Basin in order to make it accessible to policymakers, stakeholders and citizens.

MedECC has over 700 scientific members who contribute individually and on a voluntary basis. The MedECC scientists are based in 35 countries, including 19 countries registered as Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and 23 countries that are members of the Union for the Mediterranean. Since May 2018, Plan Bleu has hosted the Scientific Secretariat of MedECC as part of a partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean thanks to the funding from the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); as well as the funding granted to Plan Bleu by the Government of Monaco and the Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME).

In 2020, the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1), and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM) were finalised. The Editorial Board meeting was held from 10 to 12 February 2020 in Venice, Italy. The objectives of the meeting were to achieve a complete provisional draft of the MAR1 and to develop the key messages for each chapter. Ten active MedECC scientific members (MedECC Coordinators, Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA) and Steering Committee members) participated in the meeting.

The SPM has undergone a broad consultation with policymakers, governments, stakeholders and partners between 22 April and 30 June 2020. The latest draft of the full MAR1 report was also shared as a supporting document. Following this consultation, the MedECC Secretariat received 21 files containing 453 comments on SPM and 196 comments on MAR1. The revised Summary for Policymakers was the subject of the plenary consultation with policymakers, governments, and stakeholders, which took place on 22 September 2020 in Marseille, France and online (due to the health situation). The goal was to ascertain that the results of MAR1, as presented in SPM, were fully comprehensible and unambiguous and that the comments from the online consultation were well integrated. This meeting brought together more than 100 participants, including official representatives from 15 countries. The plenary consultation was an important step in strengthening the science-policy dialogue. The agreed changes are now implemented in the SPM.

[MAR1 was released](#) on 17 November 2020 during the Med2020 online conference. This report continues to generate great interest and has been consulted online more than 17,000 times between its publication and June 2021.



→ MedECC publishes its first report (MAR1), welcomed by the Council of Europe

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) has been translated into French, Arabic, Spanish and Catalan. A total of 190 authors from 35 countries participated in the drafting of the report. Among 86 Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA) and Lead Authors (LA) from 21 countries, 27 (31%) authors are from the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean. An atlas of maps of seasonal temperature and precipitation changes for the Mediterranean Basin under different greenhouse gas emission pathways has also been prepared.

MedECC received the prestigious North-South 2020 award from the Council of Europe for its efforts to address climate change and the conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean, in particular through the elaboration of the first-ever scientific assessment on climate and environmental change impact in the Mediterranean Basin.

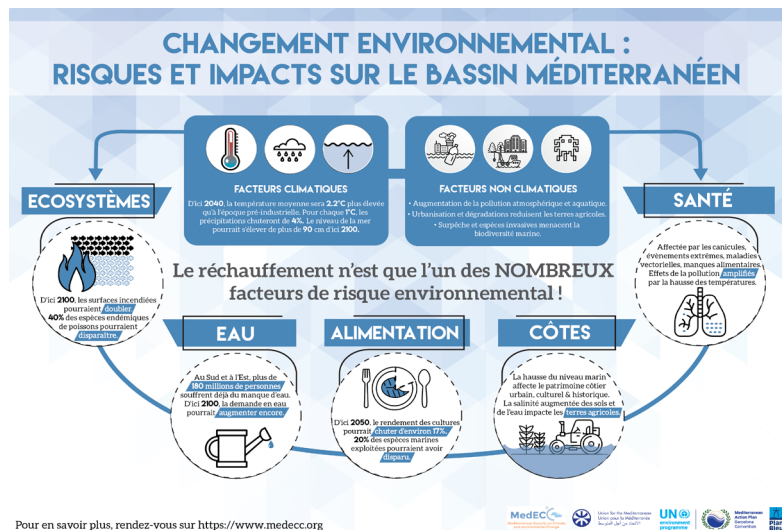


At the international level, several authors of MAR1 contribute to the next IPCC assessment report (AR6). MedECC co-coordinator Prof. Wolfgang Cramer, is coordinator of the Cross-Chapter Paper on the Mediterranean Region of AR6.

MedECC communicates on its activities through its website, mailing list (over 700 subscribers), quarterly newsletter and Twitter.

The 2nd Cooperation Agreement between Plan Bleu and the Union for the Mediterranean to support and promote the MedECC was signed for the period 2021 - 2023. In March 2021, the status of Plan Bleu were amended by a resolution of the Extraordinary General Assembly to indicate that Plan Bleu hosts the MedECC Secretariat, and supports MedECC activities in relation with partner institutions in the framework of their agreements. Next steps towards wider political recognition of MedECC include the submission of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) in 2021 for possible endorsement at the next UfM ministerial meeting, currently scheduled for 2021 in Egypt. In accordance with the results of the 90th meeting of the UNEP / MAP Bureau, it is also envisaged to submit SPM for possible approval in the 22nd meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22). During the period 2021-2023, the publication of four thematic reports is planned, on the following themes: i) coastal risks, ii) climate change and the management of water, energy, food and ecosystems, iii) environmental change, conflicts and human migration, iv) energy (topic to be confirmed). Other objectives include wider communication on the results of MAR1, identification of knowledge gaps, network and capacity building in the south and east of the Mediterranean and strengthening of the science-policy interface.

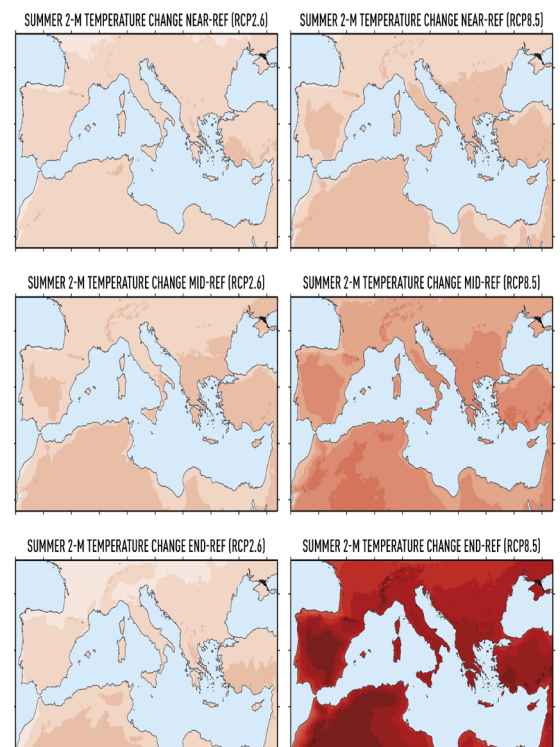
For more information : <http://www.medecc.org/>



The First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) on the current state and risks related to climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean Basin and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM): <https://www.medecc.org/first-mediterranean-assessment-report-mar1/>

The atlas: <https://www.medecc.org/atlas/>

Partners : Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME, France), French Water Agency, Government of the Principality of Monaco, French Ministry of Ecological Transition, Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia of the Government of Catalonia (CADS, Spain), Association for Innovation and Research in the Service of Climate (AIR Climat), ACTERRA Consulting (France), French International Research Program MISTRALS, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD, France), Région Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France), Aix-Marseille University (France), LabEx OT-Med



Projected changes in summer precipitation (June, July, August) between recent past reference period (REF: 1980-1999) and three future sub-periods (near: 2020-2039, medium: 2040-2059, end: 2080-2099), based on the overall average results of high-resolution EURO-CORDEX simulations for pathways RCP2.6 (left panels) and RCP8.5 (right panels).

COMMUNICATION

One of the main mandates of Plan Bleu is to make Mediterranean actors and policymakers aware of issues related to the environment and sustainable development in the region and to enlighten them in policy-making. In this context, communication is an essential element of Plan Bleu's activities by offering targeted media and messages adapted to different audiences.

Communication efforts related to SoED 2020 represent a step towards enhanced large-scale communication to the civil society and the general public. The released report made it possible to experiment with new communication channels, more visual and more complete for a wider audience.

To sum up, Plan Bleu achieved in 2020: :

2 PRESS RELEASES

12 PUBLICATIONS

13 EVENTS & WEBINARS

23 NEWS ON THE WEBSITE PLANBLEU.ORG

1 WEBSITE REDESIGN

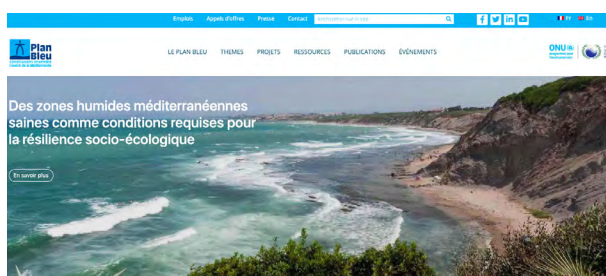
2 VIDEOS

11 INFOGRAPHS

75 MEDIA COVERAGES

WEBSITES

planbleu.org : Best example of our activities, our institutional website is permanently actualised and inform you about our actualities, projects, events and publications.



obs.planbleu.org : Offer statistics, indicators and maps on environmental issues and the sustainable development in the Mediterranean basin.

docs.planbleu.org : Provide access to a database of thousands references on environmental, economic and sustainable development issues around the world, and most particularly in the Mediterranean..

NEWSLETTER

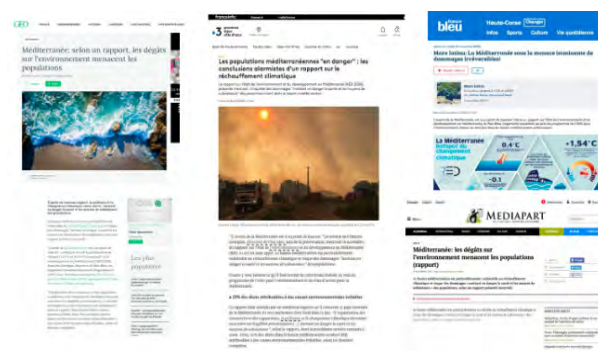
Sent to 1,100 people every month :

<http://planbleu.org/newsletter/>



MEDIA COVERAGE

47 media coverage in France and 31 internationally! !



SOCIAL MEDIA

950
f

1300
in

1000
t

FOCUS : SoED 2020

The communication efforts linked to SoED 2020 represent a step towards a reinforced large-scale communication to the civil society and the general public



The report release enables us to experiment with new communication channels, more visual and complete for a wider audience.

The communication positioned with SoED allowed Plan Bleu to achieve unprecedented visibility since its creation: over 70 media appearances in France and over the World since the publication of SoED 2020 in October 2020. The organised public press conferences brought together more than twenty international journalists, allowing Plan Bleu to promote its actions in several media in the Mediterranean countries. This strong mobilization was supported by active social networks: Beyond the website of SoED 2020, platforms on Twitter and LinkedIn have been privileged communication channels. The opinion leaders and the general public relayed the various created content (infographics, tweets, video, but also full report, summary for policymakers and key messages).

Plan Bleu exceeded 1300 subscribers on LinkedIn and reached out 1000 subscribers on Twitter; each publication was relayed by the members of the network, which made it possible to disseminate the messages on a large scale.

In accordance with UNEP/MAP's operational communication strategy, Plan Bleu increased its communication on the activities and Plan Bleu's mandate and UNEP / MAP during regional and international events:

- The official launch in October, organized jointly by Plan Bleu and UNEP/MAP, with the intervention of Gaetano Leone, during the EU Green Week 2020. An intervention in front of a dozen international journalists aroused interest : around thirty media coverage !
- Plan Bleu's intervention during the Mediterranean conference 2020 of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 3rd November 2020 led Plan Bleu to present the SoED 2020 report during the «Promoting environmental cooperation» session.
- From 16 to 18 November 2020, Plan Bleu co-organized the MED 2020 conference, in cooperation with MISTRALS research program and MedECC. The event gathered more than 280 scientists and policymakers together (see next page)
- A webinar co-organised by UNEP/MAP and the Parliamentary Assembly for the Mediterranean on 14th December 2020, enabled Plan Bleu to reach out to policymakers of all the countries in the Region. Plan Bleu presented SoED 2020 to more than 70 participants, including representatives of the national parliaments of the Parties in the Barcelona Convention, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

FOCUS : MED 2020

Plan Bleu, MISTRALS and MedECC organised Med 2020: an ambitious conference on the climate and environmental issues in the Mediterranean



From 16 to 18 November 2020 MED 2020 took place, an online conference organized by MISTRALS program, MedECC and Plan Bleu which gathered more than 280 participants together. Inspired by the achievements of science-political interfaces, this three-day conference for Mediterranean policymakers was an opportunity to create the state of play of scientific knowledge and the challenges that the Mediterranean environment will face in the next decade.

The broached themes during this conference include: the evolution of the Mediterranean climate in the 21st century and its impacts on the environment, the extreme events (floods, heat waves, marine submersions), the water resources management and the amplification of droughts, the problems of the link between pollution and health, the flow of contaminants from water, air and soil into living organisms, the proliferation of invasive species on land and at sea and the loss of biodiversity. The MED 2020 conference was an opportunity for the organizers to present the conclusions from their respective work:

- Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2020) release, coordinated by Plan Bleu within the framework of Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP);
- MedECC's first assessment report on the risks and impacts of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean, which go along with a summary for policymakers, discussed with stakeholders and authorities in the Mediterranean basin;
- The conclusions of the new MISTRALS program, organized into six programs and two transversal actions allowing the deployment of multidisciplinary research to study the impacts of climate change and environmental modifications on the habitability of the Mediterranean basin in the 21st century. This event is the final conference of the program, an opportunity to present an assessment of the scientific advances made in 10 years and to discuss the legacy of this program.

High-level political and civil society representatives were invited to participate in the opening and closing sessions as well as round tables of the scientific sessions. A conference was a great success, with more than 280 scientists and policymakers participating.

Outside the event, Plan Bleu organized a press conference which gathered a dozen journalists together, including AFP, which allowed for good media coverage.

EVENTS

The global pandemic has turned events upside down in 2020. Plan Bleu has started over by organising more webinars and online conferences to facilitate the science-policy interface and inform the governments and the general public.

JANUARY 14-15, 2020

Conference “New Plan Bleu, 10 years later” as part of Euromed-IHEDN talks, Marseille, France

JANUARY 21-23, 2020

Mediterranean Regional Workshop - Decades of the United Nations of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), Venice, Italy

FEBRUARY 3-4, 2020

Kick-off meeting for phase 2 of Interreg MED Blue Growth project, Montpellier, France

FEBRUARY 4-5, 2020

First Annual Meeting of the Blue Growth Community

FEBRUARY 4-6, 2020

Blue Growth Fair, Marseille, France

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2020

«PANORAMED» meetings and gathering with strategic projects and mechanisms of the Interreg MED coordination

MARCH 2-4, 2020

Kick-off meeting for phase 2 of the MED Community of the Sustainable Tourism, Salou, Spain

JUNE 22, 2020

Webinar of the Mediterranean Community of biodiversity protection “ Reorganisation of the Mediterranean community”

JULY 1, 2020

Webinar of the work group 3 on integrated monitoring and management of ecosystems in the Mediterranean Community for the protection of biodiversity

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Plenary consultation with policymakers, governments, and stakeholders on the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the 1st assessment report on the Mediterranean prepared by MedECC

MÉDITERRANÉE : L'EXPERTISE SCIENTIFIQUE POUR LES DÉCIDEURS

La recherche sur le climat et l'environnement au service des objectifs du développement durable

16-17-18 Novembre 2020
EN LIGNE



OCTOBER 13-14 & DECEMBER 2, 2020

2 meetings of the foresight group

OCTOBER 21, 2020

Official presentation of SoED 2020 with UNEP/MAP during the UE Green Week

OCTOBER 22, 2020

First capitalisation event of the Mediterranean Community of biodiversity protection “Healthy wetlands: our best natural response to biodiversity crisis: the case of the Mediterranean” within the framework of European Green Week

NOVEMBER 4 & 16, 2020

2 Webinars entitled “Towards a sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region”

NOVEMBER 16-17-18, 2020

MED 2020 - Mediterranean : scientific expertise for policymakers

NOVEMBER 23, 2020

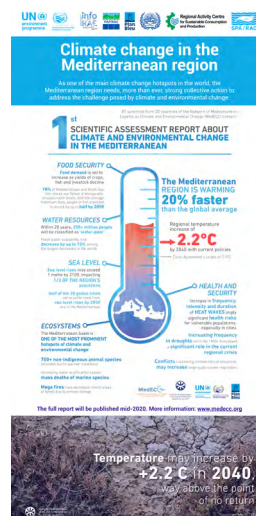
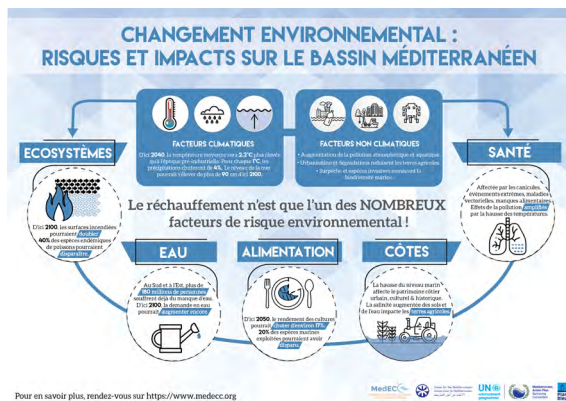
Virtual meeting call for contributions to develop «Guidelines for the sustainability of Mediterranean cruises and yachting»

DECEMBER 10, 2020

Work group meeting 3 of the Mediterranean Community of biodiversity on the integrated monitoring and management of ecosystems

LEAFLETS, BROCHURES, POSTERS...

Plan Bleu communicated also in 2020 within the framework of projects including SoED 2020, BlueBoatsMed and MAR1, by producing several infographics, leaflets and fact sheets :



BlueBoatsMed is a Startup Action promoted by the BlueMED CSA to boost the development of innovative ideas going to sustainable Blue Growth in the Mediterranean. More info: <http://www.bluemedinitiative.eu/the-startup-action/>

BlueBoatsMed is engaged to:

- TRENDS**
Analyze and evaluate the prospects for further and sustainable expansion in the cruise and recreational boating sectors in the Mediterranean, based on the partners' knowledge and on-going research.
- STAKES**
Agree on up to four main environmental or societal challenges associated with such expansion (i.e. challenges linked to the rapid changes the cruise and recreational boating sectors are undergoing and expected to experience in the upcoming years).
- PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR SCALING UP**
For each selected challenge, present up to three promising innovations, through case studies, discuss the potential and readiness for further uptake of these innovations, and identify the main instruments (or policy mixes) necessary to accompany these transitions in the short, medium and long term.
- GUIDELINES**
Contribute to outlining and designing guidelines for a sustainable and inclusive cruise and recreational boating sector, including yachting, in the Mediterranean.

MEETING: WEB BASED
The first meeting focused on identifying major trends, key challenges and promising innovations in the cruise and recreational boating sectors.

MEETING: GENOVA, ITALY
Three working groups were set up to discuss the environmental and societal challenges associated with the expansion of the cruise and recreational boating sector.

MEETING: MARSAILLES, FRANCE
Discussion involved around the conditions and levers necessary to support the sustainable and inclusive developments of guidelines.

START UP ACTION SUPPORTED BY THE BLUEMED CSA
<http://www.bluemed-initiative.eu/>

Supported by the BLUEMED CSA (CA 727455) funded by the European Commission DG Research and Innovation

Virtual International Conference

THE MEDITERRANEAN: SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE FOR DECISION-MAKERS

med2020.sciencesconf.org/

ONLINE
16-17-18 November 2020

Climate and environmental research to support sustainable development goals



January 2020

BLUE ECONOMY

A new frontier for growth and a healthy Mediterranean



Blue economy is a major work pillar of Plan Bleu. Plan Bleu supports the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) and the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu works in relation and partnership with many governments, enterprises, NGOs and international entities, such as the World Bank, OECD, European Union, FAO and other United Nations institutions, as well as regionally Union for the Mediterranean, MED, etc.

Plan Bleu - UNEP/FAO Regional Activity Centre (Marseille, France)
www.planbleu.org - planbleu@planbleu.org - Follow us on Twitter - Facebook - LinkedIn



Using Ecological Sensitivity to guide Marine Renewable Energy Potentials in the Mediterranean region

BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES (BAT)

- BAT: Best Available Techniques (or Technologies)
- BAT: Best Environmental Practice
- BAT: Blue Energy
- BAT: Ecosystem-based Management
- BAT: Marine Renewable Energy
- BAT: Marine Protected Areas

BEST AVAILABLE PRACTICES (BAP)

- BAP: Marine Spatial Planning
- BAP: Offshore Wind Energy
- BAP: Offshore Wind Farm
- BAP: Offshore Wind Turbines
- BAP: Sustainable Development Goals
- BAP: Environmental Impact Assessment

The exploitation of Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) potential in the Mediterranean is crucial to contributing to global and European decarbonisation efforts in the framework of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (i.e. **SDG7 Affordable and Clean Energy** and **SDG13 Climate Action**) and the **European Green Deal**. If their low impacts on biodiversity are ensured, MREs also represent an opportunity for sustainable economic growth in the region. Indeed, the continuous development of MRE technologies will increase the efficiency of energy production. Nonetheless, MRE in the Mediterranean must be achieved without posing any additional threats to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) principles should therefore be applied in planning and throughout the implementation of MRE technologies.

Best Available Techniques (or Technologies) are the most effective and advanced available methods of operation ensuring emission limit values and other conditions in order to prevent and, where that is not possible, to reduce impacts on the environment as a whole [1] [2] [3] [4].

Best Environmental Practices refer to the application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies, such as resource efficiency (including energy), avoiding the use of hazardous substances as products and the prevention of hazardous waste, the development and application of rules of good environmental practice that cover all aspects of an activity throughout its life cycle (Eggar, European Commission, 2010).

For more information, consult the European Commission's "Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation", available [here](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/observatory/energy).

Logos for Interreg, UN Environment Programme, and Plan Bleu.

PUBLICATIONS



Paper #19: Blue Economy in the Mediterranean: Case study, lessons and perspective

The objective of this report is to assess and highlight the current impact and various opportunities offered by the blue economy in the Mediterranean in favor of sustainable development and to present a series of concrete examples, good practices and transposable lessons on the blue economy in the region.

[Download the paper](#)



Paper #21: Demographic trends and prospects in the Mediterranean

This report commissioned by Plan Bleu and written by a consortium of international consultants highlights the heterogeneous demographic trends of the northern, southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean. The first part focuses on two major trends: on the one hand the transformation of the age structure of Mediterranean populations in the direction of generalized aging and on the other hand urbanization. A second part is

devoted to the prospects for 2050, some possible futures relating to the general demographic development of the riparian countries and their urbanization are presented. [Download the paper](#)



Development of indicators to assess and monitor the impacts of climate change on socio-economic trends related to biodiversity and natural resources especially in high-priority protected areas of the Mediterranean

Recognizing that climate change represents a significant threat to Mediterranean marine biodiversity and to the vitality of marine ecosystems has had a strong impact on the political

framework of the Barcelona Convention and the support given to national policies and plans. [Download the report](#)



Paper #20 : SIMPEER Report: Simplified Peer Review Mechanism for Sustainable Development Strategies in the Mediterranean Countries

Based on a voluntary principle of equal participation, the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) aims to initiate a dialogue between the Mediterranean countries for a process of mutual improvement and learning on National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD). This peer review mechanism seeks to establish, on the basis of an agreed methodology, the exchange of

experiences, policies and good practices on the implementation of sustainable development at the national level, rather than create a control framework between the examining countries and the examined countries. It also contributes to the implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2015 (MSSD 2016-2025).

[Download the paper](#)



Paper #38: Demographic trends and prospects in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean coasts are the places of strategic importance which are home to rich and varied ecosystems, while being subject to many pressures. For more than twenty years, the IPCC has warned that these fragile areas risk being strongly impacted by climate change. ICZM, recognized as the most appropriate approach to promote sustainable development of these vulnerable areas, now fully integrates this issue. However, ICZM, by its participatory nature, is faced with a major challenge: giving stakeholders the means to co-plan their territory by integrating the impacts of climate change

into the discussions. In order to meet this need, a new methodology has been developed: Climagine. [Download the paper](#)



ANALYSE SOCIO-ECONOMIQUE DES MEILLEURES PRATIQUES CLÉS EN MATIÈRE DE DÉCHETS MARINS POUR PRÉVENIR/REDUIRE LES SACS ET LES BOUTEILLES EN PLASTIQUE À USAGE UNIQUE



Socio-economic analysis of key best practices on marine litter to prevent / reduce single-use plastic bags and bottles

This report, prepared as part of the development of the roadmap for the new MED 2050 foresight exercise aims to establish a state of the art of foresight exercises already available in the Mediterranean. [Download the report](#)



Environment and development in the Mediterranean: forty years of Plan Bleu

The commemoration of the forty years of Plan Bleu led to the organization of a conference on 15 June 2018, at the initiative of its president, Thierry Lavoux, and the Serge Antoine Association, chaired by Jacques Theys.

The conference “Environment and development in the Mediterranean, yesterday, today, tomorrow”, was able to take place with the support of the History Committee of the Ministry of Ecology (MTES), of the General Council of food for agriculture and rural areas (CGAAER) and the Mediterranean-Middle East Research and Studies Institute (Iremmo) with the participation of UNEP / PAM and the Institute for Economic Foresight of the Mediterranean World (Ipemed). On the occasion of the 2 years of the colloquium, the History Committee is publishing a Special Issue dedicated to this event.

[Download the Special Edition](#)

STATE REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2020



Full report

At the request of the 21 countries from the Mediterranean and the European Union, SoED was prepared by Plan Bleu within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention. It presents a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the interactions between environment and development in the Mediterranean region. This year SoED 2020 is made up of eight thematic chapters



Summary for policymakers

The summary provides an overview of the state of the environment and development in the Mediterranean. It is developed according to the same structure as the main report, and is also intended for a wide audience.

[Download the documents](#)



The Covid-19 in the Mediterranean: new major risk or opportunity for reconstruction?

Plan Bleu should share its point of view on the consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic in the Region, concerning its expertise several times ten years on the environment and development in the Mediterranean. These are two analyzes that are cautious about the conclusions because the health crisis affecting the countries bordering the Mediterranean

Sea is not over and the statistics remain provisional and sometimes imperfect. [Download the notes](#)



MAR 1: Climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean basin - 1st Mediterranean assessment report

Prepared by MedECC, which assesses the best available scientific knowledge on climate and environmental change and associated risks in the Mediterranean basin in order to make it accessible to policymakers, stakeholders and citizens. The report includes a Summary for Policymakers (SPM), including key messages from MAR1. The report was written by nearly 190 scientists from

25 countries, all contributing individually and without financial compensation. [Download the report](#)

Key Messages



This paper brings together the evidence from various chapters closely related to marine and coastal environment issues and highlights the interactions and combined impacts according to the factors-pressures-state-impacts-responses (DPSIR) analytical framework. The key messages are to develop a broader meaning of the results, conveying suggestions relevant to policy makers but not normative, in the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention

TEAM

The activities were carried out in 2020 by a team of a dozen people, supported by Mediterranean experts. This information will date to June 2021.

DIRECTION :

François Guerquin, *Director*

Lina Tode, *Deputy Director*

Céline Dubreuil, *Director of Programs*

EXPERTS :

Antoine Lafitte, *Program Officer of "Observation of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean"*

Jean-Pierre Giraud, *Deputy Secretary-General, Program Officer of «Indicators and information systems»*

Gloria Lazaro, *Program Officer of "Thematic Project Management"*

Arnaud Comolet, *Program Officer of "Foresight"*

Michael Karner, *Executive Officer of "Integrated Coastal Zone Management"*

Katarzyna Marini, *Program Officer of "Climate Change"*

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Sandra Dulbecco, *Bilingual Secretary, Executive Assistant*

Isabelle Rossi, *Account manager*

Florian Agullo, *Human Resources Manager*

Pauline Simon, *Communication Officer*

OTHER EMPLOYEES PRESENT IN 2020

Elen Lemaitre-Curri, *Director*

Hélène Rousseaux, *Communication officer*

Philippe Mugnier, *Accountant*

Aurélia Camérini, *Accountant*

Anna Goubert, *Research Fellow MED 2050*

PhD

Anna Goubert, *MED2050 and foresight*

INTERNS

Mélina Roditis, *inventory of harmful public subsidies*

Lucie Gallegos, *socio-economic analysis*

Thomas Belanger, *MED2050 and foresight*

Philippe Cherabier, *foresight*

Mattéo Combes, *translation of publications*

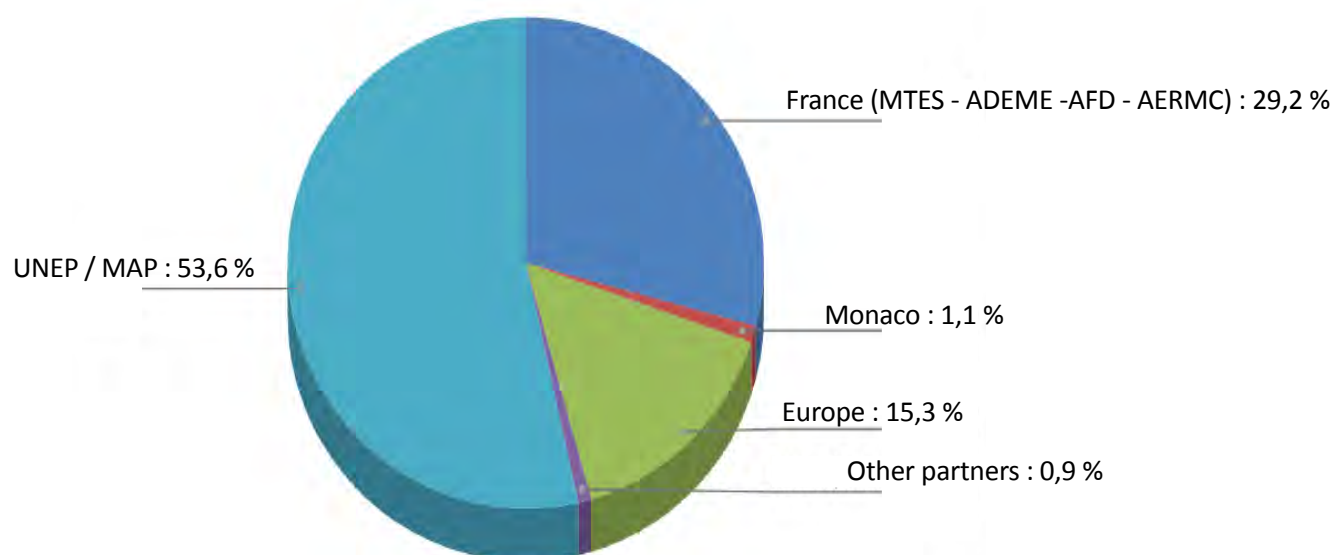
IVY - VOLONTAIRE

Arnaud Terrisse, *Executive Officer of Blue Economy*

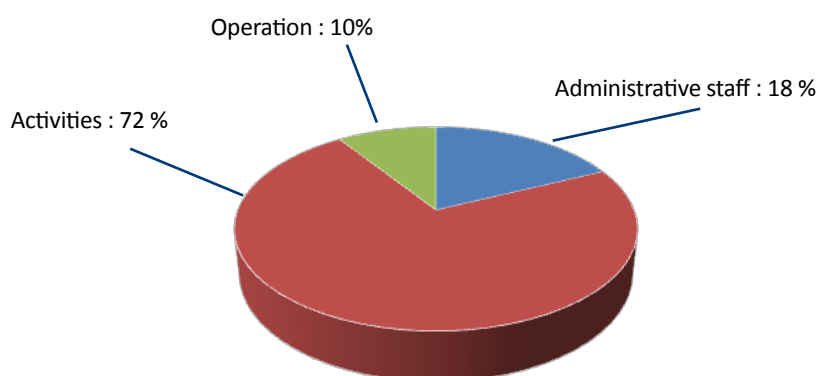
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financing of Plan Bleu is provided by five major funding sources: the Mediterranean countries and the European Union, an endowment from the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and contributions to joint works and projects, provided by various institutions and partners. The total of Plan Bleu's operating grants in 2020 is € 1,238,361.

Ressources 2020



Use of the resources 2020



Operating result

The operating result for 2020 is positive at € 26,310

MEMBERS

QUALIFIED PERSONALITIES

CHRISTIAN AVEROUS

GUILLAUME BENOIT

OMAR BESSAOUD

BERNARD BRILLET

LUCIEN CHABASON

ROLAND COURTEAU

HUGUES DE JOUVENEL

JEAN DE MONTGOLFIER

YVES HENOCQUE

JEAN-PAUL LANLY

THIERRY LAVOUX

ALDO RAVAZZI

KENTY RICHARDSON

JACQUES THEYS

INSTITUTIONS / COMMUNITIES



ASSOCIATION DES «ÉCHANGES
MÉDITERRANÉENS POUR L'EAU,
LA FORÊT, L'ÉNERGIE ET LE
DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DES
TERRITOIRES



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADEME (The French Agency for Ecological Transition)
 EEA (European Environment Agency)
 AFD (Agence française de développement)
 IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program)
 MPAs (Marine Protected Areas)
 ASCAME (Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry)
 GEC (Good ecological condition)
 RAC (Regional Activity Centers)
 SPA / RAC (Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas)
 PAP / RAC (Regional Activity Center for the Priority Action Program)
 CEREMA (Center for Studies on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning)
 CGAAER (The General Council for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas)
 CITEPA (Technical Interprofessional Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies)
 MCSD (Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development)
 COP (Conference of the Parties)
 CPMR (Inter-Mediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions)
 CTFC (Centro tecnològic forestal de Catalunya)
 ECA (Emissions control areas)
 EcAp (Ecosystem approach)
 EFIMED (Mediterranean regional office of the European Forest Institute)
 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
 ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)
 ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management)
 ENPI (European Neighborhood Partnership Instrument)
 IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program)
 INERIS (National Institute for the Industrial Environment and Risks)
 INFO / RAC (Regional Activity Center for Information and Communication)
 IPAMED (Mediterranean World Economic Foresight Institute)
 IRD (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development)
 ISP (interface between science and policy)
 MedECC (Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change)
 MTES (Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition)
 NTUA (National Technical University of Athens)
 MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan)
 ENP (European Neighborhood Policy)
 SME (Small and medium-sized business)
 PPP (Public-private partnership)
 OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)
 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)
 NGO (non-governmental organization)
 UN (United Nations Organization)
 SoED (State of the environment and development in the Mediterranean report)
 REMPEC (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea)
 SCP / RAC (Regional Activity Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production)
 SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System)
 MFW (Mediterranean Forest Week)
 SIMPEER (Simplified Peer Review Mechanism)
 MSSD (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development)
 MTS (Medium-term strategy)
 SNDD (National strategies for Sustainable Development)
 UfM (Union for the Mediterranean)

Plan Bleu for environment and development in the Mediterranean

planbleu@planbleu.org - www.planbleu.org

 <https://www.facebook.com/planbleu.org>

 <https://twitter.com/planbleu.org>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/plan-bleu>

