

ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

PLAN BLEU



Plan Bleu, Center of Expertise

Since 1975, Mediterranean countries have agreed to address environmental issues together and conclude the first regional sea agreement under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP): the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). In 1976, this Action Plan was reinforced with a legal mechanism: the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean, which in 1995 became the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu is part of a network of six regional activity centers spread around the basin, which support the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan managed by the UNEP/MAP coordination unit. It works closely with the other components of this network. The singularity of Plan Bleu comes first of all from its missions centered on observation, diagnoses and analyzes on the environment and development. But Plan Bleu is also very innovative in its cross-cutting approach to sustainable development issues, including, among other things, the cultural dimension, the attention paid to societies and populations.

Plan Bleu, Association

Plan Bleu is managed by an association governed by French law (1901 law). In 2017, the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition recognized the general interest nature of the activities carried out by Plan Bleu. The Association, which had 38 members as of 12.31.2021, held its General Assembly on June 6, 2021 by videoconference. It has appointed its Bureau, made up of experts who contribute to the scientific governance of Plan Bleu:

Chairman : Thierry Lavoux (january - june 2021) and Guillaume Sainteny (since june 2021)

Vice-chairmen : Christian Averous, Jacques Theys, Aldo Ravazzi, Denis Lacroix and Guillaume Benoît

Treasurer : Yves Henocque

Secretary General : Jean de Montgolfier

Honorary Presidents : Lucien Chabason and Thierry Lavoux



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EDITOS

Guillaume Sainteny, Chairman of Plan Bleu



The Mediterranean basin is a hot spot in many areas. It is so in terms of biodiversity, climate change, water resources, migratory flows, maritime transport, telluric pollution, geographical tensions, etc. These different challenges are cumulative, worryingly, in the same fragile space. More than ever, these different issues and the links they maintain require forward-looking insight, cooperation between the riparian states and an approach that combines development and environmental concerns. This is precisely the task of Plan Bleu. That is to say its importance. I thus measure the responsibility that has become mine for nearly a year that I have assumed the presidency. I would like to pay tribute to its creator Serge Antoine and to its successive presidents, Michel Batisse, Lucien Chabason and Thierry Lavoux and to the work they accomplished and which enabled Plan Bleu to exist and then to develop and become what it is. This status and this credibility are also the result of the efforts of the entire Plan Bleu team, which should be thanked. They were also made possible by the work of all Plan Bleu partners. The links with this network are essential and must be reinforced.

Our work aims in particular to highlight the crucial environmental and development issues for the future of the Mediterranean basin and to propose methods and tools to contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive mode of development. We must continue on this path and deepen it with the help of everyone since it is everyone's business.

François Guerquin, Director of Plan Bleu

Despite the ecological crisis affecting the world and more particularly the Mediterranean, the path traveled by Plan Bleu in 2021 is dotted with great successes! While celebrating 45 years of the Barcelona Convention, we closed this last biennium with historic decisions taken at the last COP 22 held in Antalya. The major decision to designate the Mediterranean as a whole as an Emission Control Area for Sulfur Oxide (ECA SOx Med) and the green light given to the Medium Term Strategy (MTS - 2022-2027), show the intensification of a common desire to make peace with nature. For the basin, this conference suggests a green recovery thanks to the collective efforts led by all the Contracting Parties, the UNEP / MAP system and its regional activity centers, and thanks to strong Mediterranean and European solidarity. The year 2021 was also an opportunity for Plan Bleu to see its recent work and publications recognized by stakeholders. The countries have renewed their confidence by validating the work program of Plan Bleu: the initiatives in progress (on observation, the blue economy, foresight, etc.) are emerging strengthened, and the new developments (on



the science interface -policy around the theme of climate change, on the study of environmental economic tools...) have set off interest. For two years, we have faced the difficulty of meeting each other following the consequences of the pandemic, but we have continued our efforts to communicate as widely as possible on the state of the environment in the Region. We have reinvented the way we communicate to promote our projects. By meeting you: workshop dedicated to SoED in Tunisia, MED 2050 prospective meetings, Green Week, Blue Growth community webinars, IUCN congress, AMP Forum, and of course COP 22. And by improving our communication: redesign of the newsletter, more translations of our publications, new infographics and above all more media relations. The next biennium promises to be equally dense and diversified, and we look forward to continuing this great momentum to build the future of the Mediterranean together!

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a large, shallow body of water with a vibrant turquoise hue is visible, interspersed with white, crystalline mineral deposits that form winding paths. The water's surface shows gentle ripples. In the middle ground, a dark, flat strip of land separates the water from the background. This strip is dotted with several tall palm trees and a few smaller, leafy trees. The background is dominated by massive, rugged mountains with a warm, orange-brown color palette, suggesting a desert environment. The sky above is a clear, pale blue.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

OBSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO INFORM DECISION-MAKERS

A DIGITAL VERSION OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVATORY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

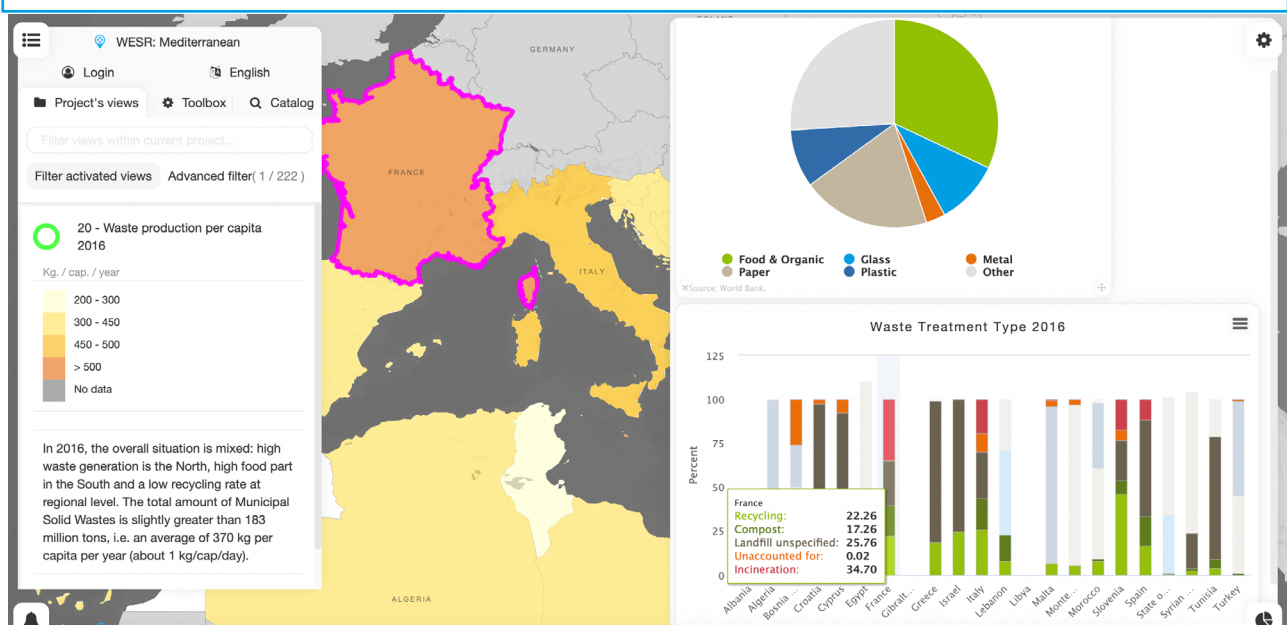
In 2021, Plan Bleu continued, in collaboration with UNEP/GRID Geneva, the migration of all the data it manages to the MapX environment, the cartographic component of the World Environment Situation Room (WESR), an online and digital platform for sharing UNEP information, data and knowledge products. A dedicated project to the Mediterranean region is now available online, the “WESR: Mediterranean”. It allows users to visualize, query, access, associate and download data, information and knowledge products regarding the environmental situation in the Mediterranean. A first pilot was presented during the Plan Bleu national focal points meeting in May 2021. Plan Bleu was encouraged to continue its efforts in terms of sharing environmental information to illustrate the relationship between environment and development and trends at the scale of the Mediterranean basin. Among the data offered for consultation by Plan Bleu, we find the 28 indicators for monitoring the MSSD 2016-2025, those useful for monitoring the regional action plan of sustainable consumption and production from MedWaves (in accordance with decision IG. 23 /4 of CoP 21) but also geospatial data from the report on the state of the environment and development (SoED 2020) as well as a set of thematic maps illustrating relationships between environment and development at regional and local scales. In total at the end of 2021, 215 views make up the cartographic environment of the “WESR: Mediterranean” project. These views are interoperable with all the views available on the MapX platform, all projects combined (more than 1600 to date).

Plan Bleu is thus pursuing its objective of developing an observatory in a network allowing access to data hosted by various partners but shared via a common system offering today unequaled functionalities. Structured networking of national environment and development observatories in the Mediterranean is essential to allow a more precise monitoring of MSSD's indicators. Partnerships have been strengthened within the MAP system (with other RACs) and outside (with national observatories and specialized agencies) to truly develop an observatory into a network. Many bilateral meetings and events to promote and demonstrate the functionalities of the tool by videoconference or face-to-face have punctuated the year 2021. Among them we can mention the IUCN International Congress in Marseille; exchanges with the Mediterranean Water Institute; the 6 RACs and the MAP CU; the Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands (Tour du Valat); PELAGOS Sanctuary; EU Copernicus; WWF France; OceanCare; French Water Agency; ACCOBAMS; MedECC; ADEME; GWP MED - Tunisia branch; France energies marine and the OFB.

Partners : UNEP/MAP and MedWaves, Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development; national institutions producing and disseminating data, UNEP GRID Geneva, C Water Agency, ADEME.

Learn more : [observatory website](#) and [“WESR: Mediterranean” website](#)

MSSD indicator 20: waste production per capita in 2016



THE DYNAMIZED SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

A global monitoring system and relevant indicators are essential for monitoring 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 monitor progress in terms of sustainable development (for example, the reduction or stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions). With the tracking of indicator 8 “Proportion of fish stocks within biologically viable limits”, this is the first time that the entire Mediterranean sustainability dashboard is fully populated. During the year 2021, Plan Bleu developed time sliders within the MapX environment for 12 MSSD indicators. This feature allows users to view the evolution of data to monitor these indicators, covering for some of them a period of more than 40 years.

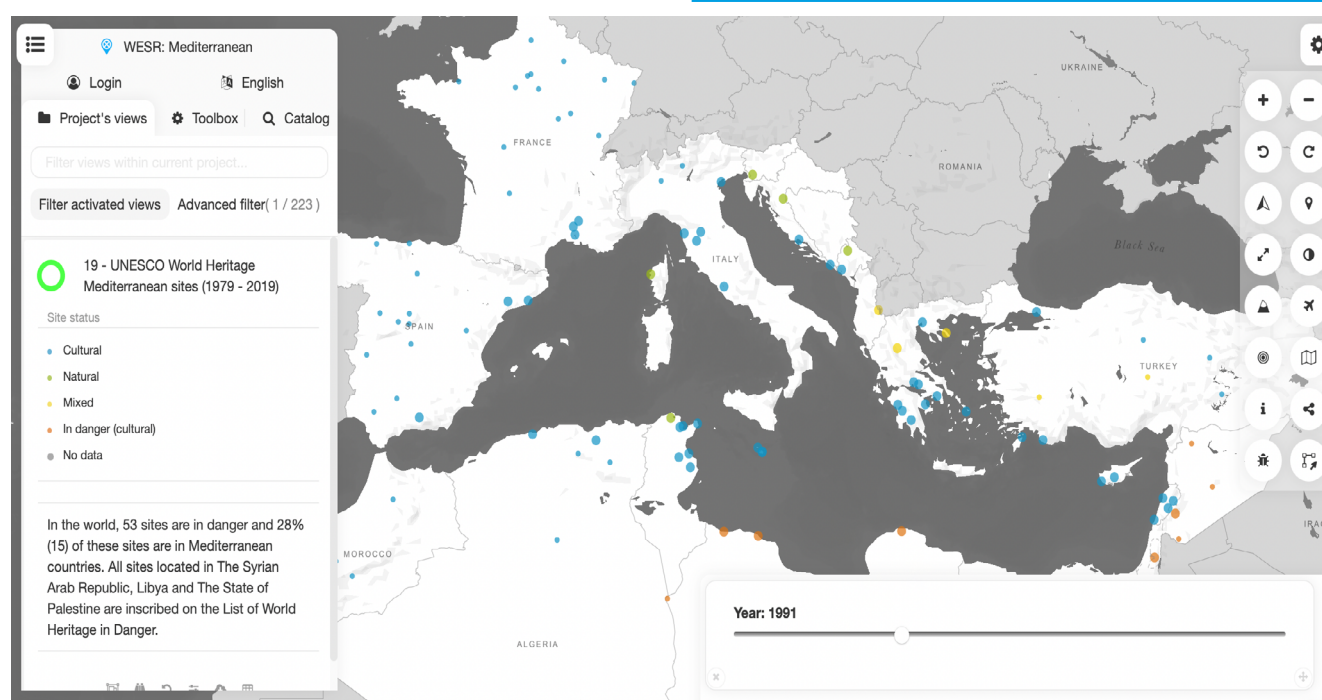
On the other hand, Plan Bleu paid particular attention to the legal dimension of the dashboard, in particular how to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention. A method has been set and some indicators developed by the CIDCE have been tested in 3 countries (France, Tunisia and Türkiye). Finally, within the frame of the MedProgramme (2020-2025), financed by the GEF and coordinated by UNEP/MAP, an activity has been launched to enable the development of a core set of indicators complementary to the IMAP indicators for the “coasts and hydrography” cluster. These indicators, provided for all the Mediterranean countries, are a common regional basis to support the preparation of reports for monitoring the evolution of the state of the environment, in particular the physical, socio-economic and governance components.

Partners : UNEP/MAP, Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSO); national institutions producing and disseminating data, UNEP GRID Geneva, Agence française de l'eau

Learn more : [Sustainability Dashboard](#)



MapX's «time slider» feature for monitoring sustainability dashboard metrics



TOWARDS ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

By decision IG.17/6, the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention committed to progressively apply the ecosystem approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities according to a roadmap in several stages, including the initial assessment, the revision of the environmental monitoring programs and the implementation of programs of measures aimed ultimately at achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems. In 2019, COP 21 adopted the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP). The EcAp MED project, led by UNEP/MAP with the support of the components, has entered its third phase (EcApMED III) with the objective of supporting countries to implement IMAP. Launched in 2021, the EcAp MED III project contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", to the achievement of Aichi Target 11 for biodiversity and the implementation of the MSFD.

Strengthening the Policy Science Interface (SPI) to develop and implement science-based environmental policies

Plan Bleu is responsible for leading the activity "Strengthening the interface between science and policy (SPI)" component of EcAp to promote interactions between scientists and policy officers of the marine and coastal environment for the 3 IMAP clusters (Marine Biodiversity; Pollution, Contaminants and Litter; Coast and Hydrography). Based on the work carried out between 2012 and 2018 regarding the strengthening of the SPI and the development of indicator factsheets for IMAP monitoring, Plan Bleu is working, with PAP/RAC, in Morocco for the monitoring of the Common Indicator No. 15 entitled "Location and extent of habitats directly impacted by hydrographic alterations", in connection with Common Indicator No. 1 "Habitat distribution area".

The objective of the national SPI activity is to identify: (i) existing SPI frameworks and processes, as well as centers/laboratories and scientific institutions and partners; ii) to propose solutions (both on the scientific and political side) to strengthen, structure and sustain an SPI in Morocco for the monitoring of indicator n°15.

The MedQSR 2023, for a state of the quality of the environment based on the 11 EcAp ecological objectives and the data made available by the Mediterranean countries

The ultimate objective of the EcAp MED III project is to contribute to the production of the 2023 report on the quality status of the Mediterranean (Med QSR 2023). For this, an effective implementation of IMAP by the beneficiary countries is essential to provide quality data, the basis of the analysis for the development of the Med QSR 2023. At the regional level, the MedQSR 2023 will be a basis to measure progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) and will serve as a consensus for the monitoring and assessment processes of coastal and marine environments.

Partners : UNEP/MAP; PAP/RAC; SPA/RAC; INFO/RAC; Plan Bleu, with the financial support of the European Union

Pour en savoir plus : [EcAp project](#)

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the regions in the world the most affected by marine litter. Every day, more than 200 tons of plastic enter the Mediterranean Sea and plastics represent up to 95-100% of total floating marine litter and more than 50% of seabed litter.



INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN — RISK ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION

Insofar as the impacts of climate change and adaptation are one of the greatest challenges for sustainable development, Plan Bleu is participating in several projects in order to support Mediterranean countries in their efforts to define and implement climate change adaptation policies.

The MedECC is an open and independent network of scientists founded in 2015 that assesses the best available scientific knowledge on climate and environmental change and the associated risks in the Mediterranean basin in order to make this work accessible to decision-makers, stakeholders and citizens. Since 2018, Plan Bleu has hosted the MedECC Scientific Secretariat as part of a partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). In 2021 the UfM renewed the technical assistance contract for the MedECC with the AIR Climat association (2021-2023). MedECC activities connect directly to the revised work program of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) 2022-2023 approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during COP22 (Antalya, December 2021).

In November 2020, the MedECC published the report on environmental and climate change in the Mediterranean (First Mediterranean Assessment Report, MAR1). The report includes the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) approved at the MedECC stakeholder plenary session in September 2020. The SPM has been translated into seven languages. The main results of MAR1 were presented at 25 events in 2021 and were the subject of more than 30 press articles. During the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Action held in October 2021 in Cairo (Egypt), the 42 Ministers recognized in their declaration the SPM as an important contribution of the scientific community to future actions in matters of climate and environment in the Mediterranean region. During the 22nd meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention COP22 (Antalya, Turkey), the SPM was approved by the Contracting Parties.

Partners : Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Agence de la Transition Écologique (ADEME), Principality of Monaco, Mistrals, AIR Climat, Generalitat de Catalunya, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse

Learn more : www.medecc.org

On December 9, 2021, MedECC received the prestigious North-South Prize 2020 from the Council of Europe in Lisbon.



ETC CA project – European Topic Centre for Climate Change and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

In July 2021, Plan Bleu officially joined the “European Topic Center on Climate Change Adaptation ETC-CA and LULUCF (2022-2026)” consortium. In 2022 Plan Bleu and more specifically the MedECC will participate in the task: “Climate change in the seas of Europe - assessment of challenges and solutions”. Plan Bleu also offered its expertise to enrich the Climate-ADAPT platform by supplementing it with adaptation case studies.

GEF MedProgramme (Global Environment Facility) (2020-2024)

Plan Bleu is participating in three MedProgramme projects dealing with integrated coastal zone management, climate change adaptation and cross-border environmental diagnosis:

- Child Project 1.1 “Reducing pollution by harmful chemicals and waste in Mediterranean hotspots and measuring progress”: Plan Bleu is contributing to the elaboration of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), in particular through work on the blue economy, climate change, regulating services provided by Mediterranean marine ecosystems, and macro-scenarios. Plan Bleu is also supporting the development of environmental and climate change indicators and socio-economic analyses. **Partners :** UNEP/MAP(MEDPOL), SCP/RAC

- Child Project 2.1. “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection”: Plan Bleu is implementing its [Climagine](#) foresight methodology through a cycle of four workshops to support the development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans in the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region (Morocco) and Kotor Bay (Montenegro) led by PAP/RAC. A kick-off workshop was organized in Tivat, Montenegro on 3 December 2021, followed by its Moroccan equivalent in March 2022 (delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic) The workshop reports are available [here](#). Over the coming years, Plan Bleu will also support the development of a National ICZM Strategy in Lebanon. **Partners :** UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, UNESCO-IHP, GWP-Med

- SCCF Project (Special Fund for Climate Change): in 2021, Plan Bleu launched the evaluation study on climate risk assessments in the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region (Morocco) and the Kotor Bay (Montenegro). **Partners :** UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, GWP-Med

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

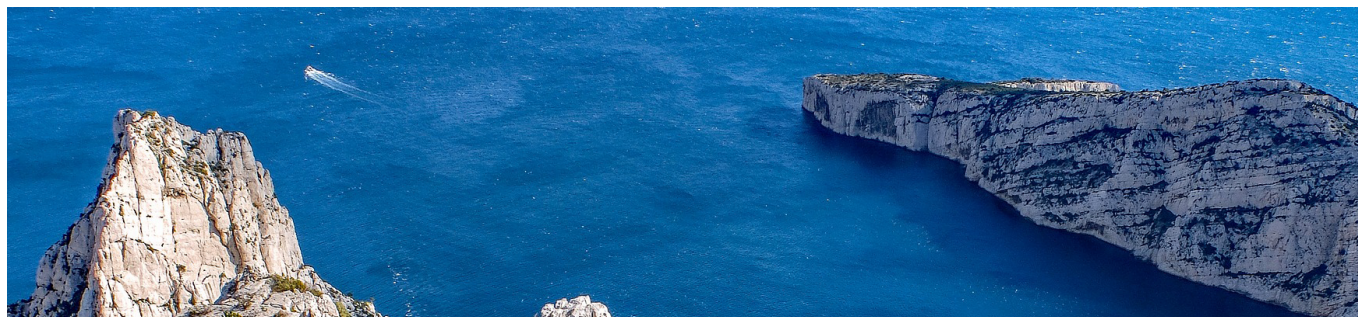
In 2021, Plan Bleu mobilized its expertise in socio-economic analysis for the realization of two activities: the finalization of an economic impact study of the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea as an emission control area for sulfur under MARPOL Annex VI (Med SOx ECA); and work on socio-economic assessments of measures aimed at achieving good environmental status in the Mediterranean, carried out within the framework of the MEDREGION and ABIOMMED projects.

Economic impact study of a possible SOx ECA in the Mediterranean

Plan Bleu's expertise in socio-economic analysis has been specifically requested by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to complete a set of analyses in preparation for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea as SOx ECA. In close coordination with REMPEC and the Technical Committee of SOx ECA Experts, Plan Bleu coordinated an impact analysis of a potential Med SOx ECA on (i) maritime transport involved in international trade (ii) the potential for modal shift away from maritime transport, (iii) the activity of short sea shipping, and (iv) the social and economic impact on Mediterranean countries, and in particular on the development of islands and remote areas (Malta, Greece, ...).

The results of these analyzes have been incorporated into a dossier comprising the "Joint and Coordinated Proposal to Designate the Mediterranean Sea as a Whole as an Emission Control Area for Sulfur Oxides (ECA SOx Med)", which was submitted to the 22nd Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention in Antalya, Turkey in December 2021. In a historic decision, the Mediterranean countries validated this dossier and agreed to officially submit it to the IMO for validation.

Partners : Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), REMPEC, International Maritime Organisation (IMO)



MEDREGION and ABIOMMED - Implementation support for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Mediterranean – Socio-economic approach

Plan Bleu contributed to the MEDREGION project, which supports the coordinated implementation of the second 6-year cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in the Mediterranean. Supported by the European Commission, the MEDREGION project brought together around twenty partners: researchers, representatives of the competent authorities responsible for implementing the Directive at the national level, and representatives of the UNEP/MAP system. Plan Bleu worked on the socio-economic assessment as part of the implementation of the programs of measures developed for the implementation of the Directive. He is particularly interested in 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. The project ended in 2021 and the results will be published in 2022. The work on socio-economic analysis for the implementation of the MSFD has been ongoing since July 2021 with the ABIOMMED project which is particularly interested in the ex-post socio-economic analysis of measures taken to achieve the good ecological status of the Mediterranean Sea. This work will continue until 2023.

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), RAC/SPA (Tunisia), INFO/RAC (Italy), MITE Ministry of Environment (Italy), Ministry of Environment (Greece), Ministry of Environment (Slovenia), Ministry of Environment (Croatia), CNR (Italy), CSIC (Spain), ACCOBAMS (France), THETYS (Italy), EcoOCEANS (France), CONISMA (Italy)

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

DRAWING POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - FORESIGHT

MED 2050 – WHICH MEDITERRANEANS IN 2050?

Following the inception work undertaken in 2020, MED 2050 focused on the program activities planned for 2021.

1) Module 1 : construction of the foresight base

This first phase, aiming at establishing a basis for quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Mediterranean system, mobilized experts from the Foresight Group and Plan Bleu team. The work carried out in 2020 on system analysis, and on trends, disruptions and weak signals has made it possible to identify a number of structuring driving variables, enabling the analysis of the situation and the evolution of the Mediterranean both as a region and as an ecosystem. During the year 2021 and following the work carried out in 2020, the Foresight Group extended to guest experts supporting the exercise, met eight times to work on the development of a corpus of variable sheets, analyzing the components of the Mediterranean system and making assumptions about their evolution. This work will be continued in 2022.

In addition to the meetings of the Foresight Group, two meetings of the Advisory Committee, whose role is to ensure that the MED 2050 exercise achieves the objectives set by the Contracting Parties and partners, took place on 13 January 2021 and 29 November 2021.

As part of MED 2050, a focus workshop on the Nexus Demography-International Migration-Sustainable Development took place on December 15 and 16, 2021, by videoconference, in partnership with the Department of Political Science of the University of Bari (Italy). The participants in this workshop shared their knowledge on international migratory flows in the Mediterranean basin, their factors and their economic, social, political and/or environmental impacts. The workshop also gave rise to an exchange on the scenarios of possible evolutions of migrations in the Mediterranean by 2050.

2) Module 2 : visions of the Mediterranean by 2050

The year 2021 has witnessed the launch of Module 2, a phase of consultation with stakeholders and co-construction of differentiated visions of the development and the environment future in the Mediterranean - with interviews conducted with "key witnesses" from the three sub-regions - South, East and North, representatives of the political, economic, academic, scientific fields, civil society and media, etc.

As part of this module, in order to integrate the points of view of young people into the foresight exercise, in accordance with the MED 2050 roadmap, the Plan Bleu team started preparatory work, at the end of 2021, for the setting up of a workshop aiming at hearing the visions of the future of the territory from young Mediterranean people, in a perspective of sustainable development. This workshop is scheduled for March 2, 2022.

3) Focus projects: a local projection of MED 2050

In order to support action in favor of sustainable transitions at the local level, Plan Bleu also carried out two projects which benefited from the MED 2050 approach:

- a project implemented in 2021 with the South Region in France and the financial support of the Regional Council, to establish a basic diagnosis, to reflect on long-term scenarios during workshops which brought together elected representatives from the South Region, and to assess the costs and benefits of such scenarios. This project gave rise to a report in the form of a territorial diagnosis to better understand the dynamics, challenges, breaking points for the coming decades including proposals for action;

- a participatory foresight project at the scale of the Moulouya watershed (Morocco) on the long-term sustainable management of water resources, with the aim of supporting a long-term strategy for sustainable water management, in partnership with the Agence du Bassin Hydraulique de la Moulouya (ABHM) and the financial support of the French Development Agency, AFD. The participatory workshop aiming at bringing together all the stakeholders interested in the sustainable management of the basin's water resources, planned to be held face-to-face in Oujda, Morocco in December 2021, had to be postponed to January 2022 by adopting a virtual format, due to the health crisis.

Partners : Agence du Bassin Hydraulique de Moulouya (ABHM), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Aix-Marseille University, Ministère de la Transition Écologique et Solidaire (MTES), UNEP/MAP, Région Sud, University of Bari, the MED 2050 Foresight Group

Learn more : www.med2050.org



TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION COMMUNITY



Plan Bleu is a partner of the “Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC)” (2019 -2022). This project is co-financed by the Interreg MED program and led by 7 partners from different Mediterranean countries. The MBPC counts 17 thematic projects led by more than 300 partners and 240 institutions located around the Mediterranean. The MBPC aims to advance efforts to network and manage marine protected areas (MPAs) as well as to improve nature conservation and management in the region.

Plan Bleu is leading the MBPC’s capitalization efforts, which consist in disseminating good practices, technologies and knowledge developed by this community in the Mediterranean region.

2021 has been a very active year for the community in terms of capitalization events:

- On June 4, 2021, as part of European Green Week, [the Mediterranean Solutions workshop towards zero pollution impacts on biodiversity and health](#) took place. During this event, several Mediterranean and international organizations (scientists, decision-makers, NGOs and civil society) met to discuss sustainable solutions to better manage marine litter and its impact on health and biodiversity in the Mediterranean. Conclusions and key recommendations are available in English [in the event report](#).
- On June 29, 2021, a workshop was organized on capacity building for marine litter management in MPAs in Montenegro, its report available [here](#).
- On July 13 and 14, the MBPC organized the “Managing Transboundary Priority Areas: Towards a governance mechanism on the conservation of the south Adriatic-Ionian marine ecosystem” webinar .
- As part of the World Conservation Congress (IUCN WCC), on September 6, 2021, Plan Bleu, as a partner of the Sustainable Tourism Community and the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community, co-organized the Campus Session entitled

[“Streamlining biodiversity in sectoral development: a sustainable touristic model in the Mediterranean that ensures resilient coastal and marine ecosystems. Innovative tools & practices to ensure a healthy mediterranean biodiversity and sustainable tourism”](#). This event provided an opportunity to discuss innovative tools and practices to ensure healthy Mediterranean biodiversity and sustainable tourism.

- From November 28 to December 1, 2021, Plan Bleu was in Monaco for the third edition of the Forum on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Forum was the last step in a multi-stakeholder process to finalize the post-2020 Mediterranean MPA roadmap. It brought together 234 face-to-face participants in Monaco representing 27 countries and nearly 600 online participants representing 36 countries. More than 30 sessions were organized including 5 sessions by the MBPC team and its modular projects. Contributions to the MBPC AMP Roadmap are available in English [in this report](#). During the closing plenary session, Plan Bleu shared their main commitments, available [here](#).
- In December 2021, the MBPC was present at the 22nd meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in Turkey.

Plan Bleu participated in the production of a [video](#) produced by MedWet as part of the TUNE UP project of the MBPC. Several international collaborators of MedWet, including MedPan and the Conservatoire du littoral, explain how community engagement contributes to sustainable development and strengthens the protection of marine biodiversity.

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

<https://planbleu.org/projets/communaute-med-pour-la-protection-de-la-biodiversite/>

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

WATERLANDS PROJECT

WaterLANDS (Water-based solutions for carbon storage, people and wilderness) is a €23.6 million, 5-year Horizon 2020 Green Deal funded project that will restore wetland sites across Europe and lay the foundations for scalable protection across much wider areas. The WaterLANDS project is led by University College Dublin, Ireland and brings together 32 organizations from research, industry, government and nonprofit sectors in 14 European countries. The project officially started on December 1, 2021, will run until 2026 and will contribute to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

It targets 15 knowledge sites and 6 action sites with the overall objective of restoring 10,000 ha by the end of the project.

Plan Bleu is mainly involved in WP3 - Aligning Governance through activities aimed at identifying policy and governance conditions that contribute to the successful development and implementation process for ecological restoration of wetlands and associated ecosystems. Plan Bleu will also contribute to WP7 - Communication, Dissemination, Data and knowledge management and Exploitation of results, as well as advocacy for restoration with various stakeholders at Mediterranean, European and international levels. Finally, Plan Bleu will co-organize the final conference of the project together with the University College of Dublin.

Learn more : <https://www.waterlands.eu>

(website under development)

Partners : AS Tootsi Turvas (EE), Balkani Wildlife Society (BG), Ca'Foscari, University of Venice (IT), Centrum Ochrony Mokradel (PL), Community Wetlands Forum (IE), ERINN Innovation Ltd (IE), Estación Biológica Doñana – CSIC (ES), Estonia Fund for Nature (EE), Estonian State Forest Management Centre (EE), Geological Survey of Finland (FI), UICN – UK Peatland Programme (UK), Landscape Finance Lab (AT), Michael Succow Foundation (DE), National Parks and Wildlife Service (IE), Natural England (UK), NUI Galway (IE), Plan Bleu (FR), Prospex Institute (BE), Provincie Groningen (NL), Radboud University Nijmegen (NL), Staatsbosbeheer (NL), Tour du Valat (FR), University of Eastern Finland (FI), University of Leeds (UK), University of Tartu (EE), University of Warsaw (PL), Uppsala University (SE), Wageningen University (NL), We are here Venice (IT), Wetlands International (NL), WWF Bulgaria (BG)



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMUNITY

The Mediterranean was the world's leading tourist destination before the Covid-19 pandemic and the tourism sector was among the most revenue-generating in the region but, despite its economic importance, the development of tourism exerts pressures that can threaten the environment, the quality of life of the local populations, degrade the tourist assets and, consequently, negatively affect the sustainable development of the region. Plan Bleu is a partner of the horizontal Interreg Med project for sustainable tourism ([Sustainable Tourism Community - STC](#)) (2019-2022), which is a continuation of the previous project entitled BlueTourMed (2016-2019).

The main objective of the second phase is to integrate the results of the projects into European, national, regional and local policies, also bearing in mind how they can contribute to the recovery of green and digital tourism post- Covid in:

- Addressing tourism pressures by reducing the impact of tourism;
- Improving the attractiveness and the tourist offer with alternatives to mass tourism;
- Strengthening planning and management practices by taking sustainability into account.

The Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Community now relies on 30 territorial cooperation projects involving more than 200 organizations (public authorities, universities, NGOs and international organizations) active in promoting sustainable tourism by capitalizing on the tools and good practices developed by its projects.

In order to contribute to this transition, during 2021, Plan Bleu participated in the following events at European and Mediterranean level.

- On May 19, 2021, the Sustainable Tourism Community organized the event [Re-connecting Tourism with the biosphere: a Mediterranean Perspective](#), which highlighted the importance of the sustainable connection between people and nature, in line with the vision of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme.
- On June 3, 2021, during the European Green Week, the STC organized a webinar ["Sustainable tourism solutions to reduce pollution"](#) which presented the solutions of a selection of projects aimed at reducing pollution through ethical consumption and sustainable tourism.
- On [MedCoast day](#) on September 27, 2021, Plan Bleu participated in the event entitled "Time to draw a line in the sand: a reflection for healthier Mediterranean coast" organized by the PAP/RAC. The objectives of the webinar were to present the latest developments related to the Mediterranean challenges of coastal urbanization and tourism in the context of climate change; as well as to present ways to promote sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean and address the multiple challenges in a (post-)Covid era.
- On November 9, 2021, Plan Bleu also organized a virtual workshop during the [WestMED Stakeholder Conference, "Corridors to Sustainable Blue Development - Accelerating Sustainable Innovation and Cooperation in the WestMED"](#) to present the results of the Sustainable Tourism Community.
- On December 7, 2021 Plan Bleu co-organized the blue tourism [side event in collaboration with Eco-union and IUCN-MED](#) during the twenty-second meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in Turkey. This event presented different regional and national initiatives, policies and practices promoting good governance, environmental planning and multi-stakeholder management of coastal and maritime activities and destinations around the Mediterranean.



BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY

Plan Bleu is a partner of the Interreg MED project Blue Growth (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 communication and capitalization activities, creating and ensuring internal (inter-community) and external synergies, sharing, transfer and knowledge capitalization for the appropriation of project recommendations by key players (projects, SMEs, local and regional political decision-makers, technicians, researchers, etc.).

Plan Bleu leads the capitalization activities of the Blue Growth Project and, in this context, actively contributed in 2021 to the capitalization of knowledge on the themes of aquaculture, marine renewable energies, cruises and pleasure boating.

Position Paper on Maritime Spatial Planning

In March 2021, Plan Bleu contributed to [the position paper on Maritime Spatial Planning \(MSP\)](#). At the end of March 2021, the Interreg MED Blue Growth project sent a “Position Paper” with a set of policy recommendations to the main authorities concerned in Greece, France, Portugal, Italy and Spain, with the aim of contributing to the development of their national maritime spatial plans. This initiative aims to put the knowledge of the maritime sector existing within the Blue Growth Community at the service of EU Member States, which are called upon by the [Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning \(MSP 2014/89/ EU\)](#) to develop maritime spatial plans that identify all existing human activities in EU waters by the end of March 2021.

Learn more : <https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/no-cache/news-events/news/detail/actualites/interreg-med-blue-growth-community-supports-the-maritime-spatial-planning-2021/>

Roadmap for sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean

On the occasion of COP21 in Barcelona (December 2019) the contracting parties adopted the UNEP/MAP work program 2020-2021 in which Plan Bleu was tasked with developing a roadmap for the sustainable development of the sector of aquaculture in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu has set up a participatory process and a group of around 100 stakeholders to brainstorm, identify the main challenges and best practices to promote sustainable aquaculture in the Med region. Members of the community project Blue Growth (in particular representatives of the [BLUEfasma](#) project) and community projects for the protection of biodiversity were invited to be part of this group. In January 2021, Plan Bleu organized the first meeting with the working group in charge of preparing this roadmap for a sustainable aquaculture sector. On May 27, 2021, a workshop as well as the presentation of the consolidated version of the roadmap was presented by Plan Bleu. In September-November 2021, Plan Bleu began finalizing the roadmap as well as communicating around the main recommendations.

Partners : Agence Française de Développement (AFD), WestMED



BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY

Participation in the first meeting of the BLUE BIO MED Reflection Committee to promote the MED innovation community for the blue economy

As a member of the [BLUE BIO MED](#) task force, Plan Bleu participated in the first meeting of the committee, which took place online on February 15, 2021. This event brought together representatives of the main governance frameworks and initiatives. It aimed to reflect on how to develop the activities and results of BLUE BIO MED and B-BLUE, and pave the way for a stronger MED innovation community for the blue economy.

The three main objectives of the Task Force are:

- Lead the development of the deliverables of the main projects that pave the way for a strengthened MED Innovation Alliance for the Blue Economy, in line with the priorities and initiatives of the represented entities (Board members).
- Facilitate adoption of relevant project activities by represented entities.
- Ensure the viability of proposals to strengthen the innovation community and the engagement of other key Euro-Mediterranean actors

As part of this Interreg MED 2014-2020 strategic innovation project "BLUE BIO MED", [ART-ER](#) organized a series of 3 online multi-stakeholder workshops on innovation in sustainable aquaculture on September 28, October 13 and 25 2021. Plan Bleu played a key role in the policy experiment related to aquaculture organized by BLUE BIO MED by introducing the main issues of aquaculture during the first workshop (28/09/21) and by presenting an overview of the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean (on 4 aspects: Governance, Social, Environment and Economic) during the 2nd workshop (13/10/21). This participatory workshop aimed to establish common ground and a common vision on the challenges of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean among the participants. The last workshop aimed to facilitate dialogue on three levers of innovation: technical innovation, innovation through cooperation and innovation linked to knowledge; as well as creating new networks with participants interested in developing projects in the future.

Partners : ART-ER; Area Science Parl; Ruđer Bošković Institute; NCSR Demokritos; Technology Park Ljubljana; CREDA - Center for Agro-Food Economics and Development; IFAPA – Instituto de Investigación y Formación Agraria y Pesquera Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Technopolis; CPMR – Conference of Maritime Peripheral Regions; MCST - Malta Council for Science and Technology; Directorate General for Maritime Policy Portugal; Union for the Mediterranean; Westmed; PANORAMED; Plan Bleu

Learn more : <https://planbleu.org/page-actualite/plan-bleu-nomme-membre-representatif-bluebiomed/>

Guidelines for a sustainable development of the cruise and pleasure boating sectors in the Mediterranean

The recommendations of the [Interreg MED InnoBlueGrowth project \(2016-2019\)](#), of which Plan Bleu was a partner, highlighted the lack of common rules in the cruise and yachting sector in the Mediterranean region, as well as the need to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. Thus, within the framework of the 2nd phase of the Interreg MED project of the Blue Growth Community, Plan Bleu has set out to produce guidelines for the sustainability of cruises and pleasure boating in the Mediterranean region. Capitalizing on the results produced by specific modular projects of three Interreg Med communities dealing with cruising and yachting (Blue Growth Community, MED Sustainable Tourism Community and Mediterranean Community for the Protection of Biodiversity), the guidelines are based on the implementation of a participatory process as well as on the work carried out within the framework of the [BlueBoatsMed project](#).

The guidelines should provide decision-makers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean with an evidence-based sustainability roadmap to harness the opportunities of both sectors while mitigating their negative effects on marine and coastal ecosystems, associated biodiversity, climate, air quality and local communities.

Stakeholders were consulted in three phases:

- April 2021: A first survey helped to develop a common vision of the sustainability of the cruise and pleasure boating sectors, and to identify sustainability objectives. Stakeholders were also asked to assign each objective a score of relevance and feasibility for each sector.
- May 2021: A second survey collected stakeholder input on best practices in terms of sustainability in each of the cruise, port, yachting and marina sectors.

Finally, two online workshops were organized to present the draft guidelines, discuss the results of the surveys and collect stakeholder contributions to the overall document:

- On May 25, 2021, a workshop dedicated to the cruise and port sectors in order to specifically address the challenges related to these two sectors and to identify good practices.
- On June 9, 2021, the third workshop was dedicated to the pleasure boating and marina sectors, always with the aim of agreeing on the issues and identifying good practices.

To access the guidelines : https://planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Guidelines_planbleu_190422_FINAL.pdf

Learn more : <https://planbleu.org/page-actualite/communaute-de-tourisme-durable-evenements/>

BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY

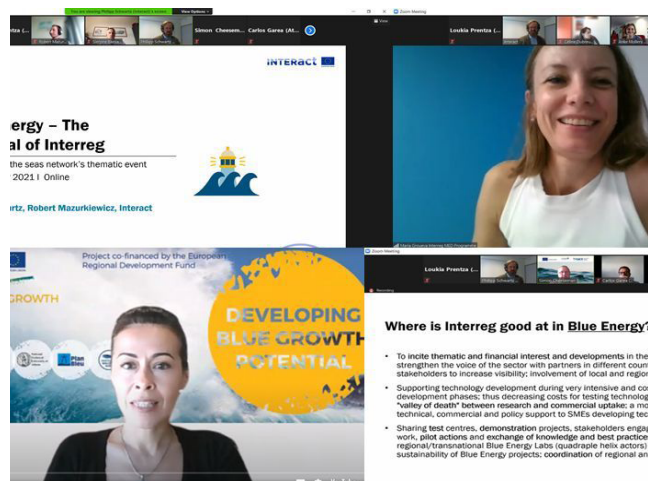
On 22 april, Plan Bleu contributed to the organization of the transfer-training event on Marine Renewable Energies (MRE). The first part of the event, jointly organized by the Blue Growth Community and the Blue Deal project, took place online and gathered virtually 45 participants and 5 Mediterranean regions (Attica and Crete of Greece, Abruzzo, Emilia -Romagna and Lazio of Italy) who are interested in replicating in their territories the methodologies on blue energy developed by the Blue Deal project. [Learn more.](#)

On september 8, as part of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Plan Bleu organized in the France Pavilion, in partnership with the French Development Agency, a session highlighting solutions to limit the environmental impact of aquaculture in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu also co-organized the "Cruising and Biodiversity" workshop during the "ICO Solutions" event at the Palais de la Bourse, in partnership with the Club de la Croisière Marseille Provence, the CCI AMP, the Conservatoire du Littoral during which solutions for cruise ship owners were presented in order to limit the environmental impacts of the sector. Plan Bleu presented the challenges in terms of biodiversity of cruising in the Mediterranean as well as the existing measures and solutions to limit their impact. [Learn more.](#)

On september 21, Plan Bleu produced a video and a presentation on Marine Renewable Energies for a Blue Energy event organized by the INTERACT program (co-funded by the INTERREG III community initiative). Plan Bleu presented the recommendations from the report on Marine Renewable Energies in the Mediterranean produced by the Blue Growth community. [Learn more.](#)

On October 12 & 13, Plan Bleu organized the second Annual Assembly and the third consultative meeting of the Blue Growth Community and presented the capitalization activities carried out by the Blue Growth Community and spoke on the theme of the circular blue economy. [Learn more.](#)

On November 18, Plan Bleu co-organized the mid-term conference of the Blue Growth Community, entitled "Mediterranean Blue Economy: Blue Business Tools for SMEs". [Learn more.](#)



Collaboration with the Pelagos Sanctuary

Within the framework of the Action and Management Plan for the Pelagos Sanctuary (2022-2027) adopted, on December 16, 2021, by the Contracting Parties of Pelagos, the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement (Pelagos Secretariat) and the Mediterranean Community of Biodiversity Protection (MBPC), a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. This initiative will strengthen Plan Bleu's collaboration with the Pelagos secretariat in order to enhance the visibility of Pelagos initiatives and thus inspire the Mediterranean Action Plan. Plan Bleu will participate in some thematic working groups and will also contribute to the capacity building of the Pelagos Secretariat and contracting parties on sustainable practices to support the implementation of the Pelagos Management Plan regarding the mitigation of the environmental impact of cruising, yachting, tourism and marine renewable energy sectors.

COMMUNICATION

One of the main mandates of Plan Bleu is to raise awareness among Mediterranean actors and decision-makers of issues related to the environment and sustainable development in the region and to inform them in decision-making. In this context, communication is an essential element of Plan Bleu's activities by offering media and messages targeted and adapted to different audiences. In summary, Plan Bleu achieved in 2021:

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PLANBLEU.ORG
WEBSITE

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EVENTS

WEBSITES

planbleu.org : showcase of our activities, our institutional website is constantly updated and informs you about our news, projects, events and publications.

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

docs.planbleu.org : access to a database of around 9,000 references on environmental, economic and sustainable development issues around the world, and more particularly in the Mediterranean.

med2050.org : An exchange platform around the MED2050 foresight project. It allows you to consult and submit works related to foresight subjects.

NEWSLETTER

Sent monthly in French and English
to 1100 people planbleu.org/newsletter



" L'édito de l'équipe "



"Le 22 avril dernier avait lieu la Journée internationale de la Terre. Une occasion de rappeler l'interdépendance qui existe entre l'être humain, les autres espèces vivantes et la planète – terre nourricière - sur laquelle nous vivons tous. Or, les conclusions du RED 2020 nous le confirment : Réchauffement climatique particulièrement accentué, perte de biodiversité, augmentation du stress hydrique, dépendances alimentaires et énergétiques croissantes aux importations,... la région méditerranéenne n'est pas sur la bonne voie pour vivre en harmonie avec la nature. Que faire pour changer de trajectoire ? Face aux tendances plutôt catastrophistes, nous proposons aux Méditerranéens de co-

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn:



1400
followers



1200
followers



1900
followers

PRESS COVERAGE

Plan Bleu was mentioned 38 times in the media

La Provence



EVENTS

The global pandemic continued to disrupt events in 2021. Plan Bleu was able to bounce back, by organizing more webinars and online conferences to facilitate the science-policy interface and inform governments and the general public.

Orientations and perspectives for sustainable development in Tunisia - 01/02/2021 - Webinar - Organized by Plan Bleu in the framework of SoED 2020

BLUEMED closing conference: presentation of the results of the Start up Actions - 01/02/2021 - Webinar - Intervention within the framework of BLUEMED

BLUE BIO MED Sounding Group meeting - 01/02/2021 - Webinaire - Intervention dans le cadre de Blue Growth Community

The successes of sustainable artisanal fishing (SSF) in marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean - 01/03/2021 - Webinar - MBPC - Intervention in the framework of Interreg Med

Making Peace With Nature and Delivering on the SDGs in the Mediterranean: Geneva Environment Network conference - 08/03/2021 - Webinar - Intervention of Plan Bleu in the framework of SoED 2020

Meeting of Plan Bleu Focal Points - 19-20/05/2021 - Online meeting - Organization by Plan Bleu

Pollution, biodiversity and health in the Mediterranean, EU Green Week 2021 - 01/06/2021 - Online workshop in the MBPC framework - Interreg Med

UfM Working Group on Blue Economy - 01/06/2021 - Webinaire - Intervention

1st AQUAWEST kick-off meeting - 01/06/2021 - Webinar - Intervention

BlueBioMed Sustainable Aquaculture Policy experiment - 01/06/2021 - Webinar - Intervention within the framework of Blue Growth Community

19e meeting du steering committee de la CMDD - 7 au 9/06/2021 - Online meeting - Co-organization of Plan Bleu within the framework of the MCSD - UC

Plan Bleu General Assembly - 06/07/2021 - Organization of the online meeting

IUCN Congress - 1 au 9/09/2021 - Hybrid - Co-organization

IUCN WCC: Campus session on innovative tools and practices to ensure healthy Mediterranean biodiversity and sustainable tourism - 01/09/2021 - Online workshop - Intervention in the framework MBPC - Interreg Med

IUCN side event - presentation of the mapX tool and Plan Bleu observatory - 02/09/2021 - Hybrid event - Intervention within the framework of the observatory - MapX

MedAID webinar - Social acceptability and governance of aquaculture development in the Mediterranean - 01/09/2021 - Webinar - Intervention in the framework of Blue Growth Community

It's time to draw a line in the sand: A reflection for healthier Mediterranean coasts - 01/09/2021 - Online workshop - Intervention in the STC framework

Blue energy - The potential of Interreg - 01/09/2021 - Webinar - Intervention within the framework of Blue Growth Community

BlueBioMed Launch event - 01/10/2021 - Webinar - Intervention

Panel at Pollutec - 14/10/2021 - Face-to-face - Intervention

2nd General Assembly of the community, followed by a webinar on the sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean - 01/10/2021 - Webinar - Intervention within the framework of Blue Growth Community

Data for climate action in the Mediterranean - 25/10/2021 - Webinar - Intervention in the framework of ECMWF (Copernicus Climate Change Service) - UfM

Regional workshop on promoting good practice in green and blue infrastructure projects at EU level - 27-28/10/2021 - Webinar - Intervention

Mid-Term Conference - 18/11/2021 - Webinar - Speaker and co-organization of Plan Bleu within the framework of Blue Growth Community

Scientific Council of the tour du valat - 04/11/2021 - Online meeting, Intervention within the framework of the observatory

El-Hiwar Euro-Arab political dialogue on climate change - 01/11/2021 - Webinar

MPA Forum: The Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean - 11/2021 - Hybrid - Intervention within the framework of MBPC

TAIEX EPPA Regional Workshop on Promoting Climate Change Adaptation - 01/12/2021 - Webinar - Intervention

COP 22 - Antalya including side-events - 01/12/2021 - Webinar - Intervention

Climagine workshop in Tivat, Montenegro - 03/12/2021 - Face-to-face - Intervention within the framework of MedProgramme CP 2.1.

Workshop: Nexus Demography-Migrations-Sustainable Development - 15-16/12/2021 - Workshop in the framework of MED2050

GWP-Med Partnership Board Meeting - 23/12/2021 - Online meeting



ZOOM ON... COP22

COP 22, a great success: the Barcelona Convention obtains a historic consensus on sulfur oxide emissions from ships in the Mediterranean

The 22nd meeting (COP 22) of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols took place face-to-face from 7 to 10 December 2021 in Antalya (Turkey). Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, attended the COP 22 Ministerial Session alongside with H.E. Mr. Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Turkey and several Ministers of Environment of Mediterranean countries.

The countries published their final declaration on Saturday, December 11, and the biggest success lies in the designation of the Mediterranean Sea - as a whole - as an "Emission Control Area for Sulfur Oxides" (Med SOx ECA). This decision was taken in accordance with the Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The related proposal will be submitted to the International Maritime Organization by mid-2022.

During this meeting, the Contracting Parties agreed to intensify their efforts to protect and conserve threatened or endangered species. They also renewed their commitment to follow the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in order to leave a "prosperous legacy" for future generations. COP 22 also marked the 45th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, adopted in 1976 and amended in 1995. Plan Bleu organized five parallel events that allowed it to highlight its work on biodiversity, blue economy, climate change but also to present the Med2050 foresight exercise and the new developments of the regional observatory. Plan Bleu is proud to have participated in this COP 22 and would like to thank and congratulate all of its partners and colleagues from the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan under the leadership of the Coordinator Mrs. Tatjana Hema whose contribution led to the success of this meeting.

ZOOM ON... IUCN CONGRESS

Plan Bleu was widely represented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, both in Marseille and online



With nearly 6,000 registered participants on site and more than 3,500 online participants, the 7th IUCN World Conservation Congress (September 3-11, 2021) brought together, in Marseille, representatives from governments, civil society, indigenous, religious and spiritual communities but also representatives of the private sector and the academic world to collectively decide on actions to take to address the most pressing conservation and sustainable development challenges.

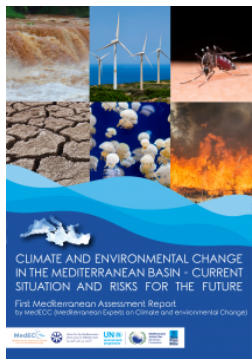
Throughout the duration of the congress, Mediterranean solutions were particularly honored within the Mediterranean Solutions Stand (MEDStand) co-organized by Plan Bleu and eleven other conservation organizations: Accobams, CEPF, Conservatoire du Littoral, IUCN Med, the MedFund, MedPAN, the MAVA Foundation, MedWet, SPA/RAC, Tour du Valat and WWF. This consortium and this congress have been an opportunity for Plan Bleu to organize great meetings and to speak out to alert and inform about issues related to the environment and development in the Mediterranean. To conclude its participation in the IUCN Congress, Plan Bleu organized a press conference on September 8 with the interventions of the President of Plan Bleu, Guillaume Sainteny, its deputy director, Lina Tode and the scientific manager of the MedECC network, Katarzyna Marini. This conference was an opportunity to present, to the public, the respective contributions of the SoED2020 and MAR1 reports as well as to inform citizens and all actors concerned by the environmental risks in the Mediterranean of the actions to be taken to fight against these risks.

PUBLICATIONS



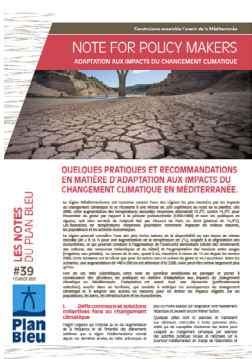
10 infographics on the state of the environment and development in the Mediterranean - SoED 2020

The objective of SoED 2020 is to fill these gaps and increase awareness and understanding of the environmental status and trends in the Mediterranean, their driving forces and their impacts, as well as to propose potential responses, while facilitating the measurement of progress towards sustainable development. These infographics provide a synthetic vision of the major themes of SoED 2020. Infographics available in [french](#), [english](#), [arabic](#) and [turkish](#).



MAR1: 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report – Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin - Current situation and risks for the future

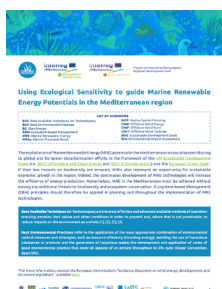
Prepared by the Independent Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), MAR1 assesses the best available scientific knowledge on climate and environmental change and associated risks in the Mediterranean basin in order to make it accessible to policy makers, to stakeholders and citizens. The [full report](#) also includes a Summary for Policymakers (SPM) available in [french](#), [english](#), [spanish](#), [catalan](#), [greek](#), [turkish](#) and [arabic](#).



Notes #39: Adapting to the impacts of climate change

The Mediterranean region is recognized as one of the regions most affected by the impacts of climate change and is warming at a rate 20% faster than the rest of the planet. Based on these scientific facts, this summary aims to share and bring to the attention of decision-makers practices in terms of adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean.

Available in [french](#).



Technical Factsheet on Marine Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean

Plan Bleu published a technical factsheet on the current state, challenges and potential impacts on biodiversity of Marine Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean in the framework of the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Community. The factsheet illustrates how Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) principles should be applied in the planning and implementation of MRE technologies. Available in [french](#).



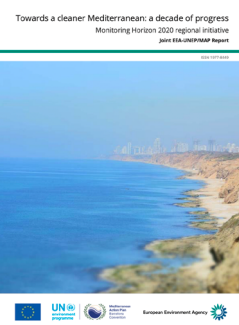
Mapping of Mediterranean observatories and monitoring programs for the environment and marine and coastal activities

This technical report, written by LITTOCEAN under the coordination of Plan Bleu, presents, by country, a map of Mediterranean observatories and programs for monitoring the environment and marine and coastal activities. It aims above all to identify the main actors and national capacities for the observation of the environment and marine and coastal activities (institutional structures as well as the regulatory system), and to summarize the assessments of the state of the environmental activity monitoring in this area. Available in [english](#). A second report complements this technical report, synthesizing various aspects of the evaluation of monitoring activities in coastal and marine environments, available in [english](#) and in [french](#).



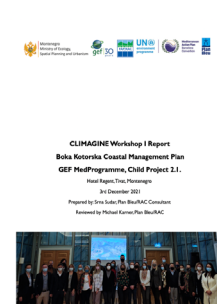
BLUEMED – Prospective report: cruising, yachting and yachting in the Mediterranean

This report is based on the results of the BlueBoatsMed project, a “Start-up Action” of the BLUEMED initiative. The project brings together Mediterranean stakeholders with complementary expertise in the cruise and yachting sectors. Report available in [french](#), [english](#) and [italian](#).



Towards a cleaner Mediterranean: a decade of progress

Almost 15 years after the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Horizon 2020 initiative, this report takes stock of the progress made towards a cleaner Mediterranean, against the backdrop of socio-economic, geopolitical and structural changes experienced by the region during this period. The 2020 assessment provides a more comprehensive and holistic assessment of regional efforts and achievements in protecting the coastline and the Mediterranean Sea. The report is available in [english](#). A summary is available in [french](#), [english](#) and [arabic](#).



Workshop report: first Climagine workshop in Kotor Bay, Montenegro

On 3 December 2021, Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC organised the kick-off workshop of the Coastal Plan elaboration process in Tivat, Montenegro, in the context of GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1. The workshop welcomed national and local governmental representatives, scientific institutions and NGOs to discuss the preparation of Kotor Bay's Coastal Plan, led by PAP/RAC. Plan Bleu is supporting this process through its participatory Climagine methodology. The workshop report is available in [french](#), [english](#) and [arabic](#).

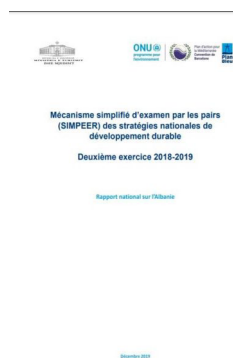
RAPPORT TECHNIQUE

Avril 2021

ETUDE COMPARATIVE : ENVIRONNEMENT ET DEVELOPPEMENT EN MEDITERRANEE - PROJECTIONS EN 2005 ET ETAT ACTUEL

Comparative study: Environment and development in the Mediterranean – projections in 2005 and current status

As part of a new [MED 2050](#) prospective exercise, Plan Bleu wishes to carry out a comparative study. The objective is twofold: 1. To compare the projections of the reference scenario and the alternative scenario of the Plan Bleu forecast report of 2005 with the actual evolution of the various variables and phenomena. 2. Answer the following questions: What exactly did the 2005 report anticipate? What hadn't he anticipated? What had he anticipated wrongly? And above all, why? The report is available [in french](#).



Technical Reports: Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Sustainable Development Strategies

Plan Bleu was responsible for facilitating the SIMPEER exercise. Albania, Egypt and Tunisia have voluntarily committed to participate. It covers the five key dimensions presented in the methodological report: (i) leadership and ownership; (ii) the integration and links between the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental); (iii) governance and participation of stakeholders; (iv) resources and means of implementation; (v) monitoring and evaluation. The report is available for three countries: Albania ([french](#) and [english](#)), Egypt ([french](#) and [english](#)) and Tunisia ([french](#) and [english](#)).



Note #40: Emerging contaminants in the Mediterranean Sea

This study is part of one of the spin-offs of the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report. The term «emerging contaminants» refers to a heterogeneous set of several thousand molecules and metabolites whose presence in the environment had not been previously detected. The study and monitoring of these contaminants is relatively recent, even though these substances have been present in the environment for a long time. Study available [in french](#) and [in english](#).



Note #41: Mapping the construction of environmental information

Plan Bleu and the LittOcean think tank have studied in detail the organization of the environmental observation system for three countries: Tunisia, Israel and France and have written a summary entitled «the cartography of the construction of the environmental information. These documents present, at the national level, the way in which environmental information is produced, how the institutions are structured and how the sharing of environmental information is organised. Three country sheets are available: France ([french](#) and [english](#)), Israël ([french](#) and [english](#)) and Tunisia ([french](#) and [english](#)).



Technical report: update of the Climagine methodology for its upcoming application in the GEF MedProgramme

Within the framework of the MedPartnership sister project “Integration of climate variability and change in national strategies for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (Climvar), Climagine was tested in two pilot areas: Šibenik-Knin county in Croatia and the Kerkennah Archipelago in Tunisia. Based on the lessons learned from the case of the Kerkennah Archipelago, this note aims to provide useful information for the planned implementation of Climagine within the framework of the GEF MedProgramme (2021-2024), in particular for the elaboration of two ICZM plans in the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region (Morocco) and Kotor Bay (Montenegro). This report is available in [english](#).



Note#42: Maritime transport in the Mediterranean, status and challenges

Thanks to its strategic location, the Mediterranean is home to an important route of transit and cross-shipping activities for international shipping. It is also an area of intense traffic due to Mediterranean maritime traffic (movement between a Mediterranean port and a port outside the Mediterranean), and short sea shipping activities (linking two ports). This publication is a spin-off of the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean report. It is available in [french](#) and in [english](#).

TEAM

The activities were carried out in 2021 by a team of 14 people, supported by Mediterranean experts. This information is as of December 31, 2021:

DIRECTION

François Guerquin, Director
Lina Tode, Deputy Director
Céline Dubreuil, Director of Programs

EXPERTS

Antoine Lafitte, Program Manager "Observation of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean"
Jean-Pierre Giraud, Deputy Secretary General, Program Manager «Indicators and information systems»
Gloria Lazaro, Program Officer "Thematic Project Management"
Katarzyna Marini, Program Officer «Climate Change»
Khadidja Amine, Project Manager "Sustainable Development and Prospective"
Michael Karner, Project Manager "Integrated Coastal Zone Management"
Arnaud Terrisse, Project Manager "Blue Economy"

ADMINISTRATION

Sandra Dulbecco, Bilingual Secretary, Executive Assistant
Isabelle Rossi, Accounting Manager
Florian Agullo, Human Resources Manager
Pauline Simon, Communications Officer

ALTERNATES, TRAINEES AND IVY VOLUNTEERS

Eloise Faure, apprentice
Mélina Roditis, harmful public subsidies
Lucie Gallegos, socio-economic analysis
Thomas Belanger, prospective
Philippe Cherabier, aquaculture
Mattéo Combes, translation of publications
Victor Curnier, sustainable tourism
Léa Ferrandi, blue economy
Louisa Charouni, sustainable tourism
Ozlem Ozbiler, communication

DOCTORAL STUDENT and POST-DOCTORAL STUDENT

Anna Goubert, MED2050 and foresight
Antoine Dolez, MED2050 and foresight

OTHER EMPLOYEES PRESENT IN 2021

Philippe Mugnier, Accountant
Aurélia Camérini, Accountant
Arnaud Comolet, «Foresight» Program manager
Piero Fontolan, "Socio-economic analysis" Project manager



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

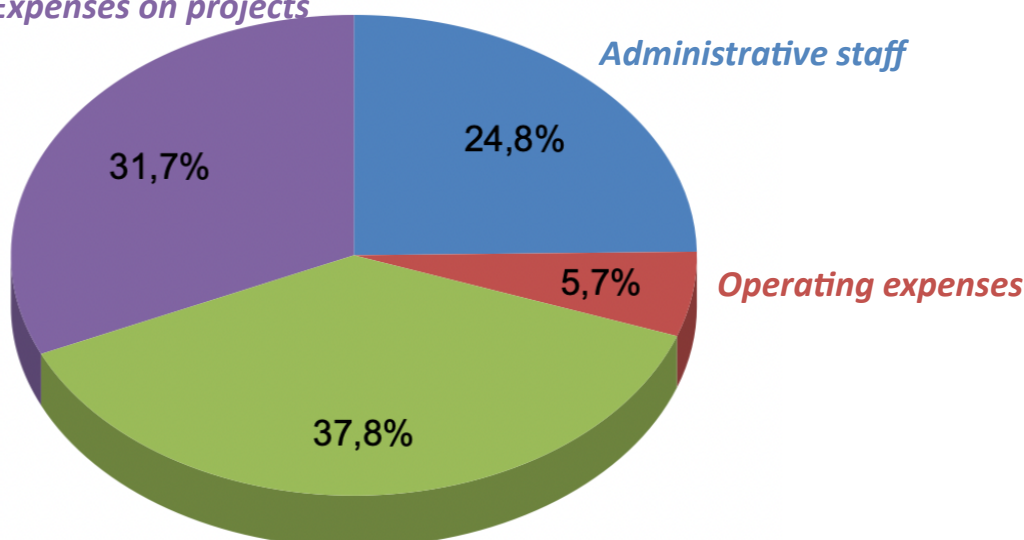
Funding for Plan Bleu is provided by five major sources of funding: Mediterranean countries and the European Union, a grant from the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and contributions to joint work and projects, provided by various institutions and partners. Total Plan Bleu operating grants in 2021 are €1,770,372.

The operating result for 2021 is positive with 34 638 €.

However, the net result shows a deficit of 25 506 € due to an exceptional result of 60 610 €, mainly due to charges from previous years of € 32 846 € noted during the audit of closed Interreg projects, carried out during the 4th quarter of 2021.

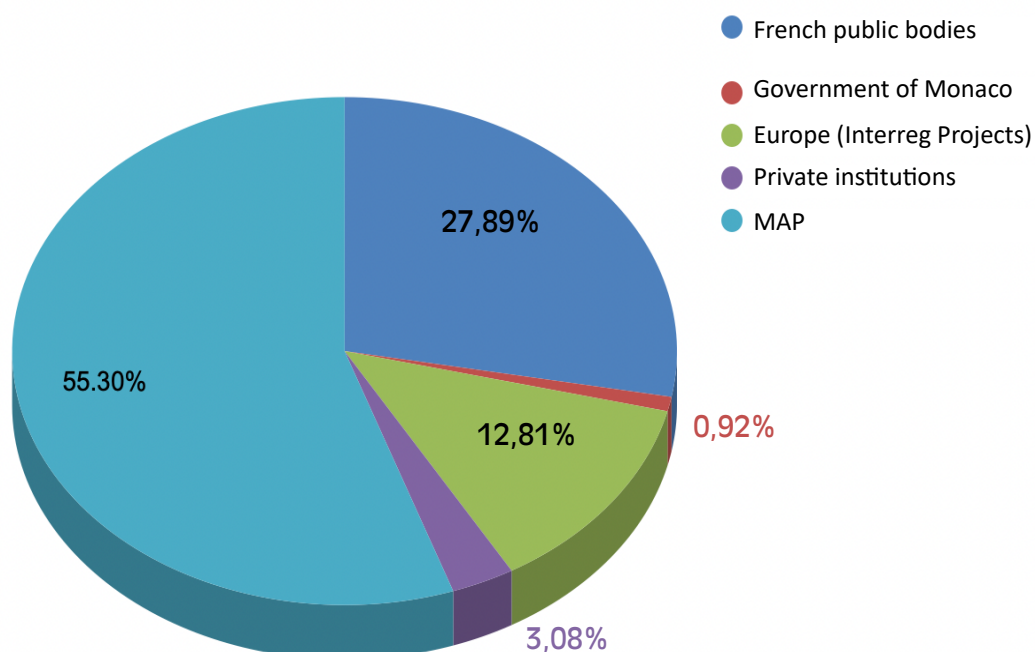
USE OF RESOURCES

Activities: Expenses on projects



Activities: staff costs on projects

RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION



MEMBERS

QUALIFIED PERSONALITIES

CHRISTIAN AVEROUS

GUILLAUME BENOIT

OMAR BESSAOUD

BERNARD BRILLET

LUCIEN CHABASON

ROLAND COURTEAU

MARC DAUNIS

HUGUES DE JOUVENEL

JEAN DE MONTGOLFIER

YVES HENOCQUE

DENIS LACROIX

JEAN-PAUL LANLY

THIERRY LAVOUX

ALDO RAVAZZI

KENTY RICHARDSON

GUILLAUME SAINTENY

JACQUES THEYS

INSTITUTIONS / COMMUNITIES



Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

Uffiziu di l'Ambiente di a Corsica



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)
 IPEMED (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)
 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)
 MSSD (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development)
 MTS (Medium-term strategy)
 SNDD (National Strategies for Sustainable Development)
 UfM (Union for the Mediterranean)

Plan Bleu pour l'environnement et le développement en Méditerranée
planbleu@planbleu.org - www.planbleu.org



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