



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2023



## PLAN BLEU, AN EXPERTISE CENTER

Since 1975, the Mediterranean countries have agreed to work together on environmental issues and to conclude the first regional sea agreement under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). In 1976, this Action Plan was backed up by a legal instrument: the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, which became the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean in 1995. Plan Bleu is part of a network of six Regional Activity Centres (RACs) spread around the basin, which support the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan managed by the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit (CU). It works closely with the other components of this network. The uniqueness of Plan Bleu stems first and foremost from its missions, which focus on observation, forecasting, diagnosis and analysis of the environment and development. But Plan Bleu has also been highly innovative in its cross-cutting approach to sustainable development issues, including the cultural dimension and the attention paid to societies and populations.

## PLAN BLEU, AN ASSOCIATION

Plan Bleu is managed by an association under French law (1901 law). The Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition recognized in 2017 a general interest nature of the activities carried out by Plan Bleu. Plan Bleu has 45 members as of December 31, 2023, and held its General Assembly on September 20, 2023. It appointed its Bureau, made up of experts who contribute to Plan Bleu's scientific governance :

**Chairman:** Guillaume Sainteny

**Vice-chairman:** Jacques Theys, Aldo Ravazzi, Yves Colcombet, Denis Lacroix and Guillaume Benoît

**Treasurer and General secretary:** Yves Henocque

**Honor chairman:** Lucien Chabason and Thierry Lavoux

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EDITO

Guillaume Sainteny, Chairman of Plan Bleu



“ 2023 was a very active year for Plan Bleu. Focal points meeting, the meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in June in Marseille, finalization of the 2022-2023 work program, the preparation of that relating to the 2024-2025 biennium, COP 23 of the Barcelone Convention in Portoroz in Slovenia, publications on the coast, adaptation to climate change, coastal tourism, environmental easements, offshore wind power, unconventional use of water. The 2024-2025 biennium also promises to be very busy with, in particular, the publication of the MED 2050 foresight report on the future of the Mediterranean, on which Plan Bleu has been working for several years, the preparation of the new Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy ( 2026-2035), support for the publication of several reports from the Mediterranean Expert Network on Climate Change (MedECC), etc. In addition, Plan Bleu will contribute to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on the Oceans which will take place in Nice in June 2025. The Mediterranean will of course play a major role there. We welcome this historic opportunity to advance issues relating to sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

”

INTRODUCTION

Robin Degron, Director of Plan Bleu

“ Observe, understand, perceive weak signals, plan ahead and help Mediterranean decision-makers to anticipate, these have been the missions of Plan Bleu for almost 50 years. As a watchtower for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu has responded to the call of 2023 through its many productions. They show the multiplicity of ecological but also socio-economic issues around an exceptional space. Behind the diversity of themes addressed last year, there remains the observation of a great fragility of the Mediterranean world. If the North/South divide remains, if pollution remains a subject of concern, climate change clearly appears to be a decisive variable which weighs heavily on the future of the Basin. The Mediterranean is warming up faster than the rest of the Planet and is causing concern on a human level first, then on an environmental level and finally on a socio-economic level. The 23rd Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (in Portoroz (Slovenia) in December 2023) sets the course for even more resolute action to move “From decision to action” and restore positive momentum to the Mediterranean. Committed to the revision of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy and spearheading a new approach in favor of green finances for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu will, in 2024, be a key player, not only in observation but also of action.



”

A scenic view of a rocky cliffside with a cave entrance, overlooking clear turquoise water. The cliff is composed of layered, greyish-brown rock with some sparse green and brown vegetation. A dark cave opening is visible in the center of the cliff. The water in the foreground is exceptionally clear, showing a vibrant turquoise color with intricate ripples and reflections of the surrounding environment.

# PLAN BLEU PROJECTS



**OBSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
TO ENLIGHTEN DECISION-MAKERS**  
**A DIGITAL REGIONAL OBSERVATORY TO MONITOR THE STATE OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**



“WESR: Mediterranean” interface in MapX to access the Plan Bleu geospatial and statistical dataset.

Since 2022, Plan Bleu has managed the Mediterranean regional page of the World Environment Situation Room (WESR), UNEP’s digital platform for sharing information, data and knowledge. This WESR page, accessible via the ‘Browse by regions and countries’ section, allows users to view, query, access, associate and download data, information and knowledge products regarding the environmental situation in the Mediterranean. Since the first pilot version presented during the meeting of Plan Bleu National Focal Points in May 2021, Plan Bleu has continued its efforts in sharing environmental information to illustrate the relationships between environment and development and their trends scale of the Mediterranean basin on numerous themes.

Among the data offered for consultation by Plan Bleu, are all the indicators for monitoring the MSSD 2016-2025, those useful for monitoring the regional action plan for sustainable production and consumption of the CAR/MedWaves, but also geospatial data from the Report on the State of Environment and Development (RED 2020) as well as a set of Mediterranean maps concerning agriculture, air pollution, biodiversity, wetlands, water resources, pollution and forests.

By the end of 2023, 330 public views are available and organized into 24 categories with the aim of facilitating the user experience. They are interoperable with all views available on MapX, the WESR cartographic tool, all projects combined (2000 views in March 2024). These views are hosted by various partners and shared via a common system, which offers unrivaled functionalities today, such as the structured networking of national environmental observatories, essential to enable better

information on MSSD indicators.

Partnerships have been strengthened within the PAM system (with other CARs) and outside (with national observatories and specialized agencies, universities, research organizations, etc.) to develop a networked observatories system. Numerous bilateral meetings and events to publicize and demonstrate the functionalities of the tool by videoconference or in person have thus punctuated the year 2023. We can cite exchanges with CEREMA, the LPO, France Energie Marine, the six CARs and the MAP Coordination Unit, the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (Tour du Valat), the PELAGOS Sanctuary, EU Copernicus, WWF France, WCMC, ACCOBAMS, MedECC, ADEME, France energies marines and the OFB.

A presentation flyer and a user guide have been produced to present the tool and facilitate the user experience. In addition, in October 2023, a regional workshop at the UNEP-GRID headquarters in Geneva trained around ten country representatives in the use of MapX and the sharing of geospatial and statistical data.

**Partners :** Ecological Transition Agency (ADEME), Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB), Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (CMDD), national institutions producing and disseminating the reference data used, Action Plan for the Mediterranean of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP/MAP) and its Regional Activity Center CAR/MedWaves, UNEP GRID Geneva



**OBSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
TO ENLIGHTEN DECISION-MAKERS  
AN INTERACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING  
DASHBOARD**

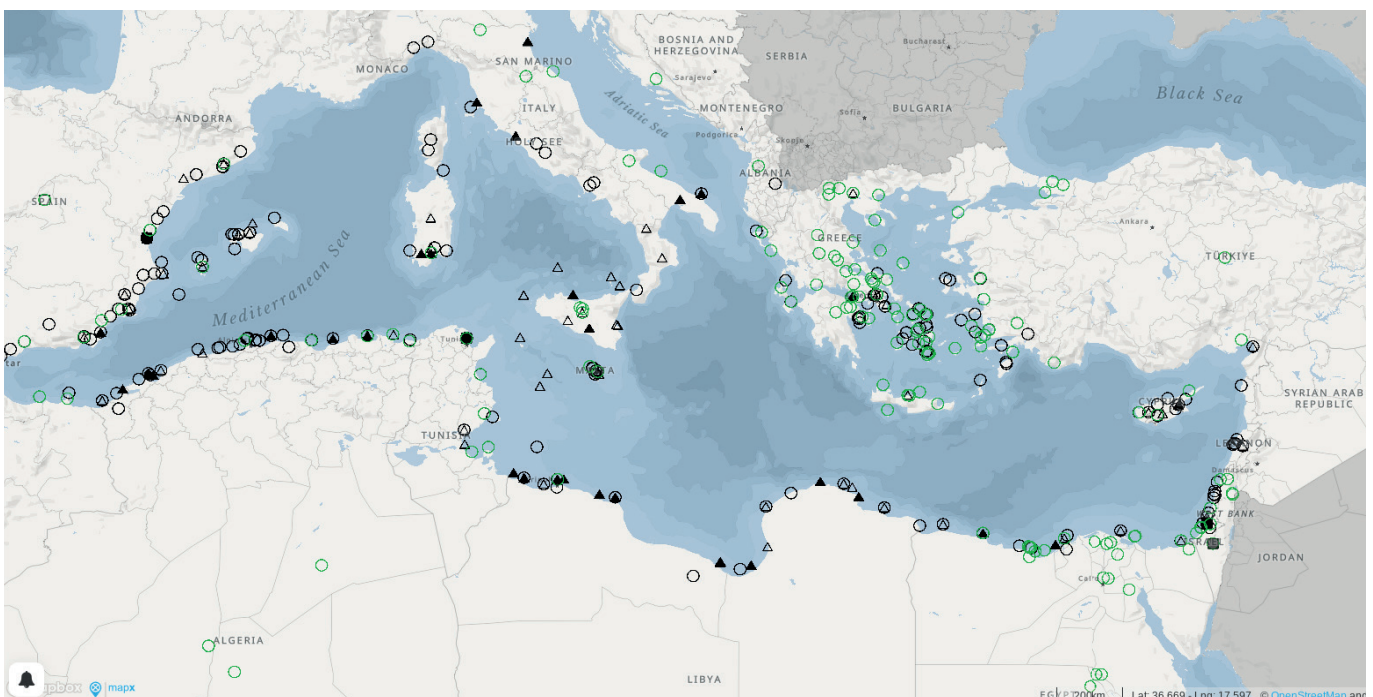
Plan Bleu is responsible for technical monitoring of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. This consists of measuring its level of implementation (for example, the number of countries implementing an action or “flagship initiative”) and progress in sustainable development (for example, the number of inhabitants supplied with drinking water or the share of organic production in total national production), thanks to indicators linked to the 2030 agenda and the sustainable development Goals.

During 2023, Plan Bleu published for the first time in its history, a fully interactive MSSD monitoring table allowing users to interact with the data to follow developments over time and space of the 28 indicators of the MSSD dashboard. On the other hand, Plan Bleu paid particular attention to other dimensions of the environment. Among the most significant data analyzed during 2023, let us cite a set of 13 cards on the state of the use of desalination in the Mediterranean.

Maps concerning the evolution of the number of factories and technologies over the past 10 years have been produced, as well as maps concerning the volumes of desalinated water and the volumes of brine discharged.

Finally, as part of the MedProgramme (2020-2025), funded by the GEF and coordinated by UNEP/MAP, an activity relating to the development of a conceptual framework for coastal observation was implemented. This framework aims to enable States to better provide information on indicators for monitoring changes in the state of coastal zones.

**Partners :** Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, National institutions producing and disseminating the reference data used, Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP/MAP), UNEP GRID Geneva, PAP/RAC, ETC-UMA, Global Water Intelligence.



Evolution of the number of desalination plants from 1979 to 2013 (black) and from 2014 to 2023 (green) depending on the type of technology



## OBSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENLIGHTEN DECISION-MAKERS THE ECO-SYSTEMIC APPROACH

The year 2023 saw the conclusion of the EcAp Med III project aimed at supporting countries to implement Decision IG.17/6 relating to the ecosystem approach (EcAp) and Decision IG. 22/7 (COP21) relating to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP).

As part of this project, Plan Bleu is responsible for leading the "Strengthening the interface between science and policy (ISP)" component of EcAp to promote interactions between scientists and managers of the marine and coastal environment. For the 3 areas of work of IMAP (marine biodiversity; pollution, contaminants and waste; coasts and hydrography).

During the year 2023, Plan Bleu worked, with PAP/RAC, in Morocco to monitor 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".

This work made it possible to carry out an inventory never before carried out from the point of view of the interface between Science and Decision-making for the monitoring of one of the IMAP indicators. This work was structured around 2 main deliverables:

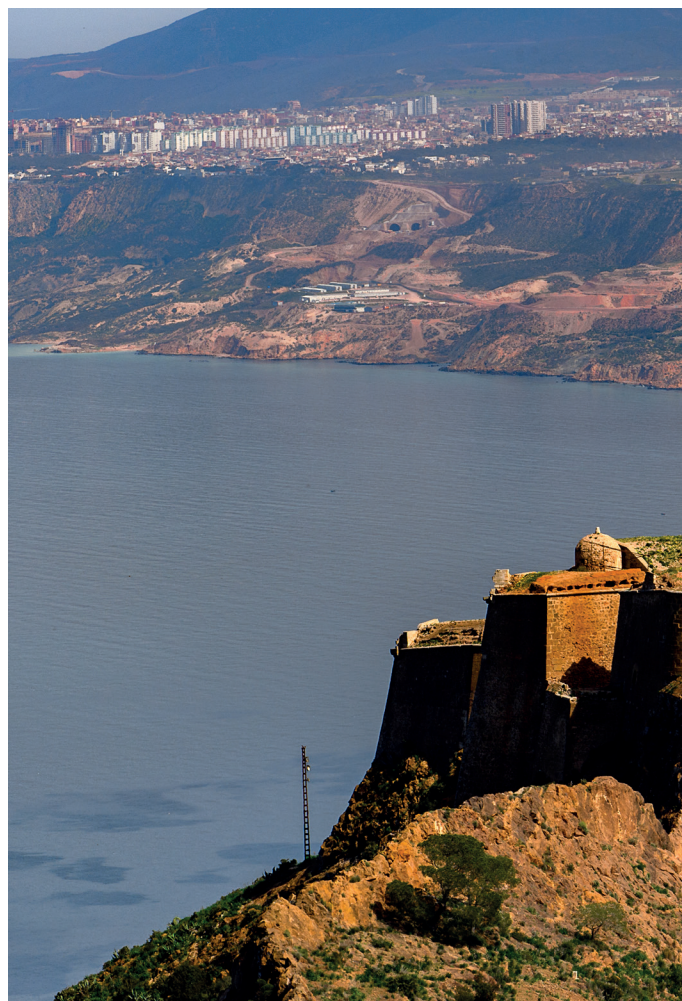
- the identification of the structures and institutions responsible for monitoring common indicator no. 15 as well as the scientific gaps and institutional barriers hindering effective monitoring
- a more concise report, focused on operational approaches to overcome these barriers.

These two reports were presented during the correspondence group relating to the monitoring (CORMON) of the coast and hydrography cluster in March 2023, in Marseille.

The ultimate objective of the EcAp MED III project is to contribute to the production of the 2023 report on the state of quality of the Mediterranean (Med QSR 2023). This has been fully achieved since the MQD QSR was adopted by the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention during CoP 23 which was held in Portoroz, Slovenia in December 2023 (Decision IG.26/3: The inventory of the quality of the Mediterranean 2023 for a renewed policy of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean).

At the regional scale, the MedQSR 2023 serves as a basis for measuring progress towards achieving Good Ecological Status (GES) and a consensus for the monitoring and evaluation processes of coastal and marine environments. Plan Bleu contributed to the work to develop the Med QSR 2023, in particular the drafting of the chapter dedicated to the Mediterranean socio-economic context and that dedicated to the needs in terms of strengthening the science - policy interface for the implementation of IMAP programs national.

Partners: *Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP/MAP) and its regional activity centers.*







## OBSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENLIGHTEN DECISION-MAKERS ABIOMMED PROJECT 2021-2023

The 2021-2023 ABIOMMED – “SUPPORT COHERENT AND COORDINATED ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY AND MEASURES ACROSS MEDITERRANEAN FOR THE NEXT 6-YEAR CYCLE OF MSFD IMPLEMENTATION” project is an EU research project funded under DG EN9/M6FD 2020 CALL with the main purpose to support the competent authorities of the Mediterranean region, as well as UNEP/MAP for a (sub) regional cooperation for the preparation of the next 6-year cycle of MSFD implementation through the marine strategies, by supporting:

- the (sub)regional assessment of the extent to which GES has been achieved, focusing on implementation of the 2017 GES Decision;
- the quantification (notably ex-post) of the effect of the PoMs, including linking monitoring programmes with measures;
- the establishment of new (sub)regionally coordinated measures, where needed.

Plan Bleu was the leader of “Activity 5” within the ABIOMMED project. The primary objective of Activity 5 was to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by providing socioeconomic insights into the use and management of marine waters. Plan Bleu led the following tasks:

- Task 5.1 initiated with a comprehensive literature review titled «Socioeconomic outcomes of the Barcelona Convention and MSFD measures: Compendium of Case Studies.» This review synthesizes ex-post socioeconomic assessments across various scales, revealing the scarcity of such assessments due to resource limitations. It emphasizes the need for increased support and resources for socioeconomic monitoring and proposes methodological frameworks to address knowledge gaps.
- Task 5.2 builds on the literature review, presenting critical recommendations for integrating ex-post socioeconomic analysis into decision-making processes. Based on insights from SHECAP meetings of ABIOMMED, the report underscores the political and institutional importance of such analyses and advocates for their explicit inclusion in Good Environmental Status assessments. The report emphasizes the necessity of enhancing institutional arrangements and securing increased resources, particularly in financial terms, for robust and comprehensive analysis.

- Task 5.3 culminates in an original ex-post socioeconomic assessment of measures. This assessment includes a broad, replicable framework applicable across diverse measures and regions, serving as a preliminary assessment tool. Additionally, detailed case studies from Bagaud (Port-Cros), France, and Palamos, Spain, provide real-world observations of implemented measures, highlighting strengths, limitations, and resource intensiveness. These case studies focus on initiatives critical for preserving ecosystems, such as eco-mooring systems in France’s Port-Cros National Park and a Long-Term Management Plan in Los Palamos, effectively curbing overfishing and fostering sustainable practices.

- Task 5.4 underscores the importance of stakeholder dialogue and information enrichment throughout the project. Collaborative discussions and engagement with stakeholders, facilitated through SHECAP meetings and WG POM ESA meetings, have enriched preliminary results obtained from the first three tasks. The involvement of competent authorities ensured comprehensive insights aligned with the regulatory framework and practical implications. Stakeholder dialogues served as a platform for collaboration, allowing diverse perspectives to converge, fostering the exchange of ideas, practical experiences, and insights crucial for refining the assessment’s outcomes.

In summary, the ABIOMMED project’s Activity 5 has made significant strides in evaluating the socioeconomic impacts of marine protection measures in the Mediterranean region and contributed to shaping effective marine protection policies in alignment with the MSFD and UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention.



Final ABIOMMED Conference, Athens, Greece, 11 and 12 December 2023



**EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF MARINE AND COASTAL GOVERNANCE**

**THE “EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL” FRAMEWORK APPLIED TO THE SEA**

The European Green Deal aims to tackle some of Europe's biggest challenges, such as environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. However, the current configuration of marine governance is not conducive to achieving the objectives of the Green Deal: it is hampered by institutional barriers, the lack of coherent policy mechanisms and the ineffectiveness of governance systems. Marine governance must evolve to become more flexible, cross-sectoral and multi-actor, in tune with the changing dynamics of politics, science, technology, industry and society. This is the objective of the PERMAGOV project to which Plan Bleu contributes.

PERMAGOV aims to streamline the implementation of sustainable marine management by focusing on cross-cutting policy priorities in the key areas of maritime transport, energy, marine life and waste.

In each of the project's nine case studies, existing governance structures are analyzed to obtain an understanding of the institutional barriers and formal-informal dynamics causing decision-making fragmentation. The results will guide the co-development of collaborative e-governance at multiple strategic levels with stakeholders in the four priority areas.



Plan Bleu plays two roles in the PERMAGOV project:

- 1- Through its observatory, it is a partner in activity relating to e-governance focused on engagement, the provision of information and data and digital transformations.
- 2- As Regional Activity Center of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) affiliated to the Barcelona Convention it is “end user” for Mediterranean case studies (4: marine life and 9: waste plastics).

**Partners:** PERMAGOV is a pan-European consortium of 15 organizations. Six are academic partners with long-standing expertise in marine research: WUR, AAU, QUB, UiT, RIFS, SYKE. Three are experts in e-governance and focus on stakeholder engagement, information provision, digital transformation and data-driven services: 21C, Plan Bleu, LifeWatch. Seven partners are end users of the results: Plan Bleu, NFVE, ESC, Celtic Sea Power, WWF Italy, HELCOM, AEP.





## DRAWING POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### MED 2050

MED 2050 is a foresight exercise on the Mediterranean in 2050, launched in December 2019 during the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Contracting Parties (COP21, Naples, Italy), after a long preparation phase. Three objectives are sought:

- Analyze the conditions for effective protection of the Mediterranean marine ecosystem over this 30-year horizon;
  - Provide long-term insights useful for the region's transition towards sustainable development;
  - And finally prevent the major risks of crises or ruptures that could have a decisive future impact on these two objectives of protecting the sea and sustainable development of the region.
- After phases 1 - construction of the prospective base, and 2 - collection of visions of the Mediterranean by 2050, the year 2023 was devoted to the consolidation of phase 3 on the construction of scenarios.

Plan Bleu MED 2050 team was mobilized to draft six contrasting scenarios which emerged from the work carried out within the foresight group. This writing work was a long iterative process punctuated by workshops or conferences, and meetings which made it possible to test and discuss the scenarios with young people from the Mediterranean and experts from the Foresight Group and the Steering Committee MED 2050. With this in mind, a workshop bringing together around thirty young people aged 20 to 30 from the Eastern Mediterranean was held in Alexandria in February 2023, in partnership with the Anna Lindh Foundation. Two meetings were also aimed at consolidating the scenarios: the first bringing together the experts from the Foresight Group took place in March, and the second with the members of the Steering Committee took place in July.



*MED 2050 workshop in Alexandria (Egypt), February 2023*



*MED 2050 workshop in Alexandria (Egypt), February 2023*

The scenarios were also the subject of presentations to different audiences, notably during:

- the reception in Plan Bleu premises of a delegation of Algerian officials as part of the PEBLA project (Protection of the Environment and Biodiversity of the Algerian Coast) financed by GIZ, in May 2023;
- World Maritime Forum in Bizerte (September 2023) which had the theme "The ocean and the Mediterranean at a time of boiling";
- Meetings of the Focal Points of Plan Bleu and the MCSDD as part of the revision of the MSSD (June 2023).

In 2023, two important progress reports were produced as part of the project: a report on Module 2 - Contrasting visions on the future of the Mediterranean, and a preliminary report on the MED 2050 scenarios, information document to the signatory countries of the Barcelona Convention, on the occasion of the UNEP/MAP COP 23 which was held in December in Slovenia. Finally, communication tools for project events were also produced during this period: flyers, kakemono and Pecha-Kucha on the scenarios.

**Partners:** Moulouya Hydraulic Basin Agency, French Development Agency, Aix-Marseille University, Interministerial Directorate for the Mediterranean of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE / DIMED), Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Action Plan for the Mediterranean of the United Nations Environment Program UNEP/MAP, Southern Region, Foresight Group and MED 2050 Steering Committee



## INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY

### SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING

Plan Bleu participates in several projects aimed at strengthening collaboration between different stakeholders around the Mediterranean on climate and environmental change and informing decision-makers in order to contribute to the improvement of policies concerning these subjects.

#### MEDECC

##### MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

In 2023, the the MedECC, an independent network of scientists, whose Secretariat is based at Plan Bleu, focused its work on the preparation of three Special Reports: 1) Climate and environmental coastal risks, 2) Climate-water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, 3) Environmental change, conflicts and human migration in the Mediterranean. These reports were subject to external review by scientific peers. The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the report on coastal risks and the SPM of the report on climate-water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus were also subject to consultation with decision makers and key stakeholders, including Plan Bleu and MAP Focal Points, as well as members of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSD). The plenary consultation on the SPM of the Special Report on coastal risks was held online on 6 November 2023, and the SPM was approved during the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 23) which took place from December 5 to 8 in Portoroz, Slovenia.

MedECC has received considerable media attention, with at least 50 news articles referencing MedECC as well as media interviews in 24 countries and 9 languages. MedECC's work was presented at 24 events. MedECC is present on LinkedIn (1,359 subscribers, +572 in 2023) and also communicates its news via its newsletter and its mailing list.

Learn more on : [medecc.org](https://medecc.org)



The MedECC delegation at COP 23

"The Citizens' Summary" in French of the First Assessment Report on the Mediterranean (MARI) was published in July 2023 by "Citoyens pour le Climat".

MedECC established its Terms of Reference, approved by the MedECC Steering Committee in April 2023, and conducted a consultation on an optimal structure for the MedECC Secretariat and its governance bodies. The conclusions of this reflection were recorded in a dedicated report.

**Partners :** Rhône Méditerranée Corsica Water Agency, French Ecological Transition Agency (ADEME), Swedish International Cooperation Agency for Development (SIDA), Association pour l'Innovation et la Recherche au service du Climat (AIR Climat), Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS), Principality of Monaco, Research Institute for Development (IRD), French Ministry of Ecological Transition (MTE), Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE), United Nations Environment Program Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

#### PROJET ETC CA

##### EUROPEAN TOPIC CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND USE, LAND USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY (LULUCF)

Since July 2021, Plan Bleu has been a member of the European Topic Center on Climate Change Adaptation and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. In 2023, Plan Bleu contributed to the proofreading of the content of the Climate-ADAPT

platform translated into Polish, as well as to the preparation of the key messages of around 40 case studies published on this platform.

Learn more on : [planbleu.org/projets/etcca/](https://planbleu.org/projets/etcca/)



**INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AS A PRIORITY**

**ADAPTING THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE: MED PROGRAM & CLIMAGINE**

In 2023, Plan Bleu pursued its activities in the context of the Global Environment Facility MedProgramme, implemented by UNEP/MAP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Through its involvement in three of the MedProgramme’s projects, Plan Bleu deepened its work on strategic foresight, coastal observation, integrated zone coastal management and coastal adaptation at several levels.

At the regional level, Plan Bleu further developed Module 3 of Med2050 foresight exercise on “Scenarios”, thereby contributing to the MedProgramme’s Child Project 1.1 “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts”. In the framework of Child Project 2.1 “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection”, an expert workshop was organised by Plan Bleu to finalise the “Conceptual Framework for Coastal Observation”, which proposes guidelines on how to frame data harvesting and the identification of data providers in order to follow and measure the status and evolution of coastal zones at the regional level.



*Workshop on climate risk and gender in Montenegro*

At the sub-regional level, Plan Bleu scaled up its work in this project’s three pilot sites. In Morocco and Montenegro, Plan Bleu organised two further participatory Climagine workshops to support the development of Coastal Plans in the Tangier-Tetouan-AI Hoceima Region, Morocco and the Bay of Kotor, Montenegro, led by PAP/RAC, in line with the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. These activities were further strengthened by activities of the MedProgramme SCCF Project “Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in



*Climagine final Kotor” workshop: Final workshop of the Coastal Management Plan/Climagine, Tivat, July 4, 2023*

the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas”, under which Plan Bleu further built on the “Gender-sensitive climate risk assessments” that it produced for both pilot sites in Morocco and Montenegro. Participatory foresight workshops were organised in both areas to engage stakeholders in identifying coastal adaptation solutions, leading to the publication of a baseline study on this topic, and further work on Nature-based Solutions for coastal adaptation and coastal adaptation finance. Finally, the first steps towards supporting the revision of Lebanon’s draft National ICZM Strategy and the development of an Integrated Management Plan for the Damour area through participatory Climagine workshops were taken in 2023, laying the ground for in-depth future activities in Lebanon together with the MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 partners. Finally, Plan Bleu had the opportunity to showcase this work by organising a session on sustainable water management at the third MEDCOP Climate 2023 in Tangier on 22 June 2023, in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean.

**Partners :** UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, GWP-Med, UNESCO-IHR, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Kingdom of Morocco, Regional Environmental Directorate, Tangier-Tetouan-AI Hoceima Region, Kingdom of Morocco, Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, Republic of Montenegro, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Lebanon



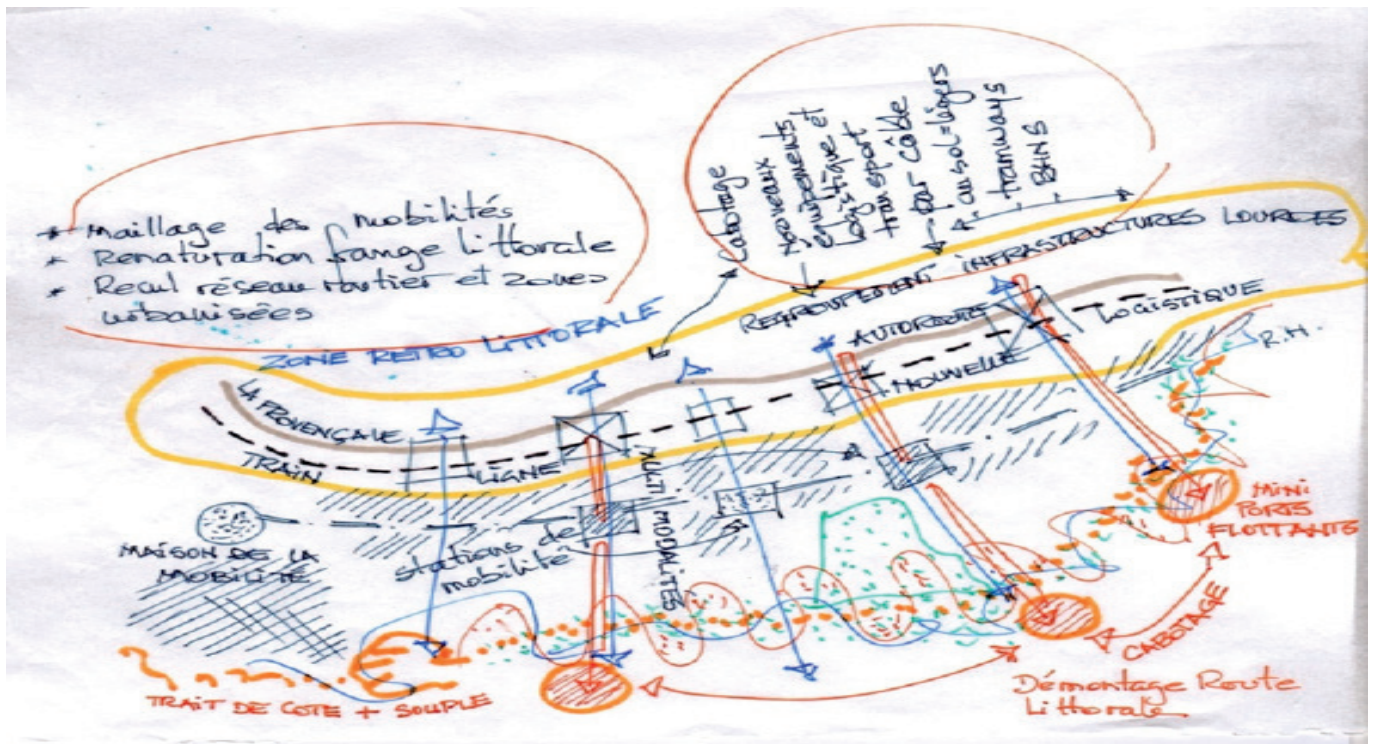
*Workshop on the Regional Coastal Plan Tangier-Tetouan-AI Hoceimal Region/Climagine 4*

Learn more on : [planbleu.org/projets/fem-medprogramme/](https://planbleu.org/projets/fem-medprogramme/) & [planbleu.org/projets/climagine/](https://planbleu.org/projets/climagine/)



## ADAPTING MEDITERRANEAN COASTLINES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

### CASADAPT ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT (2022-2024)



Coastal and retro-coastal redevelopment plan from an adaptation and renaturation perspective. © Sabine Chardonnet Darmaillacq (urban planner and participant in workshop no.2)

2023 was dedicated to finalizing diagnostics highlighting the major climatic and socio-environmental issues in the territory of the Sophia Antipolis Urban Community (CASA). A multi-stakeholder consultation workshop was organized in January in order to translate these issues into medium and long-term adaptation objectives. This consultation was supplemented by a survey on the representations and solutions for adaptation to climate change among CASA economic actors.

**Partners:** Plan Bleu, GREC-SUD (led by AIR Climat), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Sophia Antipolis Urban Community and its Development Council.





## TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: “ENVIRONMENTAL HARMFUL SUBSIDIES”

Environmental harmful subsidies pose a global threat to ecological balance, and Plan Bleu's work program addresses their impact in the Mediterranean. Environmentally harmful subsidies include direct and indirect subsidies, on-budget and off-budget measures, as well as differential treatment. Namely they include transfers from public budgets (national, sub-national, local) to private entities and other public entities. They include tax expenditures in many different forms (tax rate reductions, discounts and exemptions). They also include differentiation on tariffs (fees, charges) for environmental services (e.g. waste, water, local mobility).

The issue of environmental harmful subsidies holds particular significance for Mediterranean countries, given the unique ecological characteristics and socio-economic dynamics of the region. The Mediterranean basin is renowned for its rich biodiversity, delicate marine ecosystems, and critical role in climate regulation. However, this vibrant region faces a range of environmental challenges, and harmful subsidies exacerbate these issues, posing significant threats to both the environment and the well-being of its populations.

Plan Bleu's work program aligns with global sustainability initiatives and seeks to raise awareness, provide evidence-based recommendations, and promote coordinated efforts for subsidy reform. Plan Bleu published in October 2023 a call for papers open to all researchers. After the competition, eight policy papers were selected, addressing subthemes like fishing, tourism, protected areas, energy, agriculture, water, transportation, social justice, and international cooperation.

*We are pleased to see a strong presence of researchers from the southern Mediterranean, highlighting the global importance of this issue. Equally important, a strong participation of women among the contributors (13 out of a total of 18 authors/co-authors), reinforcing the value of diverse perspectives in tackling these complex challenges.*

The selected papers are:

- Fisheries subsidies and their impacts on marine ecosystems in Turkey: the past, present and future
- The antagonistic effects of tourism industry strategies on land use management: a comparative analysis of Toulon (France) and Kusadasi (Turkey)
- Addressing the link between fossil fuel subsidies and climate change in the Mediterranean region
- The inclusion of women in the labor market and energy policies in Mediterranean countries: evidence from a mixed methodological approach
- Fueling the future of Algeria: measuring the impact of fossil fuel subsidies on the national duality “water stress-energy consumption”
- Water subsidies, desalination and sustainable resource management: political evidence from Algeria
- Tax incentives and energy transition from a legal point of view: analysis of best practices adapted to the decarbonization of the Mediterranean region
- Measuring progress and accountability in phasing out - environmentally harmful subsidies: a global framework for the Mediterranean region

The “preliminary” drafts of the papers were sent in December 2023.

To ensure the wide dissemination and lasting impact of the selected policy papers, the policy papers and Plan Bleu “in-house” research will be combined and published in a dedicated Plan Bleu Edited Volume, to be published in mid-late 2024, which will serve as a comprehensive resource on the issue of environmental harmful subsidies in the Mediterranean context.

**Partner:** Plan Bleu initiative





## TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### MESURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

Plan Bleu published a «**Scoping Study to Develop a Mediterranean Pilot on the Measurement of the Sustainability of the Mediterranean Blue Economy**», in cooperation with Oceanogami. A preliminary version of the study was discussed at a multi-stakeholder regional workshop (Marseille, 23/11/2023), allowing for the co-development of a framework for the sustainable blue economy and the identification of a relevant, acceptable, credible, measurable, and robust set of indicators that could be a key resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders. The final report, published in December, proposes over 50 sectoral and cross-cutting indicators to measure the sustainability of the blue economy, ensuring a balanced representation of environmental, economic, and social dimensions.

**Assessing the costs and benefits of protection measures in two French marine protected areas (Plan Bleu Paper #22):** As part of its partnership agreement with the French Biodiversity Office (OFB), Plan Bleu published, in cooperation with ACTEON, a socio-economic study on the costs and benefits induced by different levels of protection in two marine protected areas (MPAs) in France, namely the Port Cros National Park and the Gulf of Lion Marine Natural Park. The conducted research allowed for the observation of activities within and affected by MPAs, as well as the socio-economic impacts related to the implementation of protection measures. The analysis clearly shows that MPAs generate an overall positive impact. Protection measures make a substantial contribution to the tourism sector: Additionally, feedback from fishermen suggests overall satisfaction. The primary objective of these areas is to improve the state of ecosystems, contributing to collective well-being; the results of this analysis clearly show that this objective is fully achieved, as the most significant benefits of protection measures are associated with biodiversity, ecosystems, society, and local communities.

**Study on the environmental impact of desalination and on the development of sustainability standards:** Within the framework of an agreement with the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency), Plan Bleu has deepened its work on desalination, structured along two axes:

- 1- Environmental aspects, related to the discharge of by-products (brines) from desalination plants.
- 2- Energy-related aspects linked to production systems of desalination plants.

Terms of reference and thematic notes have been produced. In parallel, Plan Bleu has carried out cartographic and statistical analyses. Data on various desalination parameters were analyzed quantitatively in order to study their spatial and temporal distribution. For a more in-depth understanding, public decision-makers and other Mediterranean stakeholders can refer to a more holistic 8-page report on the opportunities and risks associated with desalination in the Mediterranean.

**Scoping Study on the resilience of the aquaculture sector to climate change:** With the financial support of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Plan Bleu has undertaken a preliminary study on the resilience of aquaculture in the Mediterranean as part of the AquaMedCC (Mediterranean Aquaculture and Climate Change) project, in collaboration with specialist consultants. This in-depth research, soon to be published, explored the impacts of climate change on the region's aquaculture sector, focusing on the challenges as well as adaptation and mitigation strategies to increase its resilience and reduce its vulnerability to various impacts. These impacts include increases in surface water temperature, the proliferation of invasive species, the intensification of pathologies, eutrophication, extreme marine submersion phenomena and water salinisation.

A semi-quantitative questionnaire was also designed and circulated among stakeholders in the aquaculture industry to capture their perceptions of the issues raised by the study. This project has helped to enhance Plan Bleu's expertise and extend its network of partners and collaborators.

**Partners :** ACTEON, AFD (French Development Agency), Athens University of Economics and Business, BusinessMed, CASE, COI-UNESCO, DIRM (Interregional Sea Directorate - France), eco-UNION, EMEA, EU DGNEAR, EU DGMARE, Golfe du Lion Marine Nature Park, GSO-BlueMed-Tunisia, Mediterranean Water Institute, MedPan, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, ocean-ops, Oceanogami, Office Français de la Biodiversité (French Biodiversity Agency), Port Cros National Park, SwitchMed UNIDO, Stratégies Mer et Littoral, UNEP - WCMC, UNEP/MAP, UpM, WestMed Algeria.





## TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMUNITY4TOURISM (C4T)

The Community4Tourism governance project started in January 2023 for a period of 7 years. The project brings together 8 partners, including Plan Bleu, and 30 associated partners. The project builds on the results of the Interreg Euro-MED Sustainable Tourism Community and BlueTourMed projects, but strengthens its objectives to best respond to new challenges.

C4T has developed internal methodologies for the organization and development of working groups and synergy mapping, which will be finalized in the first half of 2024. C4T has also made progress in the development of the Join the Med platform, which will be launched in 2024. C4T participated in scientific conferences for the collective dissemination and promotion of project results through 2 scientific publications.

The C4T project participated on 21 and 22 November 2023 in a major event organized by the Interreg Euro-MED Joint Secretariat and the Slovenian Presidency in Ljubljana. This brought together actors from across the Mediterranean region to discuss and shape the future of governance in the region. This event aimed to initiate an institutional dialogue, strengthen and develop networks and encourage collaboration between different organizations in the Mediterranean and well beyond. This was an opportunity for the project to meet with associated partners to prepare upcoming activities in 2024 and discuss the integration of future thematic projects.

The general guidelines for managing the Mediterranean clusters, these thematic think tanks of the project, have been completed. The partnership worked on the composition and activities of the clusters after the publication of the approved thematic projects in November 2023 and after the event with associated partners in Ljubljana in Slovenia. C4T selected an external expert for the development of a best practice manual regarding the application of the ICZM protocol at the regional level.

C4T continued to coordinate with the other governance project, Dialogue4Tourism, in particular through the development and signing of a memorandum of understanding, formalizing the coordination process between the two governance projects, signed by the heads leader of the Sustainable Tourism Mission, during the 1st Annual Joint Forum held in Ljubljana on November 22, 2023. In addition, C4T started working on the development of the "Blueprint for Regional Climate Action Plans", selecting an expert in August 2023.

**Partners:** *Barcelona Provincial Council (ES), University of Thessaly (GR), Ionian Adriatic Euroregion (HR), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (FR), Network of European Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism (BE), UNIMED-Union of Universities of the Mediterranean (IT), University of Tirana (AL)*



*Project partners during the kick-off meeting*



## TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### WATERLANDS: WATER-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CARBON STORAGE, PEOPLE AND WILDERNESS

In 2023 the partners continued their efforts for the restoration of wetlands, particularly on the advocacy side with numerous events which Plan Bleu and the partners attended in order to promote the adoption of the Nature Restoration Law proposed by the European Commission in 2022.

At the end of April, the WaterLANDS General Assembly took place in Sofia, Bulgaria. Many discussions took place on the progress of the project, the progress of activities by sub-theme and the next steps, as well as on connecting partners in person and building even stronger relationships. A visit to the Dragoman marsh, the Bulgarian action site, was organized after several knowledge sharing workshops between the project partners. This intense week ended with a sunny visit to the island of Belene in the north of the country, one of the project's knowledge sites, exceptionally relevant for its rich biodiversity. We were lucky enough to see rare birds, including Danube Delta pelicans.

Plan Bleu published a study in September 2023 that analyzes the importance of governance models in wetland restoration with the aim of helping stakeholders develop collaborations to improve wetland restoration. Four governance models (polycentric, monocentric, community and network) are described based on the analysis of the experiences of knowledge sites and a review of the literature.

This publication proposes a theoretical framework of governance composed of three pillars, based on a documentary analysis, interviews with WaterLANDS knowledge sites and different conceptual frameworks of governance. The Theoretical Governance Framework is a versatile tool containing 25 recommendations, 50 possible actions and 20 examples of good practices from the project's knowledge sites.

Plan Bleu participated in the COP23 of the Barcelona Convention which took place from December 5 to 8 in Portoroz, Slovenia. In this context, Plan Bleu organized a side event entitled "Unpacking the potential of Ecosystem Restoration in the Mediterranean to address Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss", on Wednesday December 6 in order to present the results of the study published by Plan Bleu on the characterization of governance and policies in favor of the ecological restoration of wetlands in Europe.

**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), 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)



Project partners during the visit to the Dragoman marshes in Bulgaria in April 2023



## TOWARDS A GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE4NATURE (D4N)

The Dialogue4Nature governance project started in January 2023 for a period of 7 years. The project brings together 7 partners, including Plan Bleu, which is piloting the WP2 Transfer, and 32 associated partners.

Plan Bleu coordinates the working group on restoration/nature-based solutions and participates in the organization of annual dialogues in collaboration with the other governance project of the Mission for Natural Heritage, Community4Nature. Other key activities in which Plan Bleu is involved are the production of policy documents and event reports, communications activities, the development of national peer learning experiences to facilitate the post-2020 SAP-BIO and national biodiversity strategies and support the establishment of a Mediterranean nature network by the end of the project: the Mediterranean Resilience Network (MRN).

The D4N project participated on 21-22 November 2023 in a major event organized by the Interreg Euro-MED Joint Secretariat and the Slovenian Presidency in Ljubljana. This brought together actors from across the Mediterranean region to discuss and shape the future of governance in the region. This event aimed to initiate an institutional dialogue, strengthen and develop networks and encourage collaboration between different organizations in the Mediterranean and well beyond. This was an opportunity for the project to meet with associated partners to prepare upcoming activities in 2024 and discuss the integration of future thematic projects.

After two days of discussions with the Interreg Euro-MED Program and the four Missions, the Mission for Natural Heritage team took the road to Piran to organize its very first event which will take place every year. This event aimed to initiate an open dialogue with relevant institutions, national governments and local authorities, and to strengthen ties between members of the Community. Several activities took place, including the presentation of the Community's vision and objectives, the co-creation of the Mission's service portfolio, the first physical meeting of the thematic working groups and a visit to the Škocjan Caves. Plan Bleu hosted the working group session and met the first members of the working group on ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions that it coordinates.

Plan Bleu concluded this week by participating in the "SAIS-EBSA Governance Transference" workshop on November 24, 2023 in Piran, Slovenia. The objective of this workshop was to advance the process initiated within the framework of the Interreg Med Community for the Protection of Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (MBPC) project, to build on previous experiences and to help decision-makers move to a stable cross-border framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) which gives priority to conservation, in so-called "Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas" in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu participated in the COP23 of the Barcelona Convention which took place from December 5 to 8 in Portoroz, Slovenia. This was an opportunity for Plan Bleu to present the work of the D4N project and in particular the working groups, including that on the restoration of ecosystems and nature-based solutions to numerous partners and stakeholders in the Barcelona Convention.

**Partners:** Region of Crete (Greece), IUCN Med (Spain), MedCities (Spain), The Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism (Montenegro), Sardinia region (Italy), MARINE INSTITUTE (Croatia)



Mission partners (D4N and C4T) and associated partners



# PLAN BLEU EVENTS

## EVENTS FOR 2023

Plan Bleu participated in more than 30 events in 2023, as organizer, co-organizer or speaker. In addition to the workshops and webinars organized as part of projects and mentioned above, Plan Bleu has in particular :

- organized the first Steering Committee of the Community 4 Tourism project in Marseille.
- participated in the 20th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development in Marseille.
- coordinated the final Climagine participatory foresight workshop, in the Bay of Kotor, Montenegro.
- organized a regional workshop on the blue economy in the Mediterranean in Marseille.
- taken part in COP 23 in Slovenia.



Plan Bleu also participated and organized the following events:

- Workshop on Climate Risk and Gender in Montenegro. January (Montenegro).
- First Steering Committee of the Community 4 Tourism Project. January (Marseille).
- MED 2050 Participatory Workshop. February (Alexandria).
- Discussion Workshop - CC Indicators Chapter - TDA. February (Online).
- Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting. February (Lebanon).
- Pelagos Initiative Forum. March (Monaco).
- Les Rendez-vous du Plan Bleu #4. March (Online).
- MED 2050 Foresight Group Meeting. March (Online).
- Dialogue4Nature Project Launch Meeting. March (Online).
- ISP Strengthening Session within the Framework of a CORMON-EcApMED III. March (Marseille).
- MED2050 Scenarios Workshop Morocco. April (Morocco).
- Coastal Plan/Climagine 3 Workshop. April (Morocco).
- General Assembly of the WaterLANDs Project. April (Bulgaria).
- Exchange Day - PEBLA Project - Algerian Delegation. May (Marseille).
- Les Rendez-vous du Plan Bleu #5. May (Online).
- Workshop on the Regional Coastal Scheme for the Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïmal Region/Climagine 4. June (Tangier).
- MedProgramme SP 2.1 and SCCF Steering Committees. June (Morocco).
- Dialogue 4 Nature Project Workshop. June (Barcelona).
- Plan Bleu Focal Points Meeting. June (Marseille).
- Hybrid Event of the Dialogue 4 Nature and Community 4 Nature Projects. June (Barcelona).
- Coastal Plan / Climagine 4 Kotor Bay Workshop. July (Montenegro).
- Orientation Committee Meeting. July (Online).
- Sea Forum. September (Bizerte).
- Les Rendez-vous du Plan Bleu #6. October (Online).
- Governance Project Event - Interreg Euro-MED - Side Events: Dialogue4Nature and Community4Tourism. November (Slovenia).
- ABIOMMED Final Conference and "Socio-Economic Analysis" Workshop. December (Athens).

## COP23: 23RD MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION IN PORTOROŽ IN SLOVENIA

COP23 was held from the 5th to the 8th of December, 2023 in Portorož, Slovenia, bringing together 21 Mediterranean countries and with the theme "Green transition in the Mediterranean: moving from decisions to actions".

Slovenia took over the presidency of the Barcelona Convention for the years 2024-2025, delegates welcomed Mr Mitja Bricelj, President of COP23, and approved the composition of the Bureau until 2025. The Contracting Parties made progress in the articulation of the Mediterranean region's response to the triple global challenge: climate change crisis, loss of biodiversity and pollution:

- Progress on climate change: Contracting parties approved the summary for decision-makers of the MedECC special report on coastal risks linked to climate and the environment; and decided to create a regional activity center dedicated to climate change hosted by Türkiye. COP23 also renewed the commitment of States to national and local measures for the implementation of maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).

- Combat the loss of nature and biodiversity: the contracting parties undertake to do everything possible to ensure that by 2030, at least 30% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved and managed. They also renewed their commitment to halting the degradation of marine and coastal biodiversity through the effective implementation of the Biodiversity Framework, and also adopted decisions on the conservation of endangered and threatened marine species, extending

protection to six additional species of sharks and rays.

- Reduce pollution and waste: New legally binding and time-bound regional plans on agriculture, aquaculture and urban stormwater management and related regulatory measures have been adopted.

The Plan Bleu team actively participated in this event and in several side events during the week. A COP 23 which kept its promises and which further strengthened collaboration between Mediterranean countries and key players committed to the sustainable development of the region.



## THE MCSD, THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 20th meeting of the MCSD, established under the auspices of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP/MAP), was held in Marseille (France) from the 14th till the 16th of June, 2023.

MCSD members recognized progress and the need to strengthen partnerships to place the region on the path to sustainability and resilience. They identified areas requiring accelerated action, including:

- the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and the implementation of its own biodiversity framework (SAPBIO)

- the protection of Posidonia oceanica. Known as the "lungs of the Mediterranean", Posidonia seagrass beds are flowering marine plants that provide important habitats and high-value ecosystem services. They act as effective carbon sinks and help mitigate coastal risks, such as flooding and erosion, by acting as natural buffers.

- collective ambition within the framework of the revision of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

Thanks to the MED 2050 project, led by Plan Bleu, which provides visibility on the possible futures of the Mediterranean

through the prism of different scenarios, we can examine different indicators of sustainable development of the region and the results of a study on the future of the Mediterranean. By encompassing these elements, the revision of the strategy will seek to modify current trajectories and place the region on alternative paths of sustainability and resilience.





# PLAN BLEU COMMUNICATION

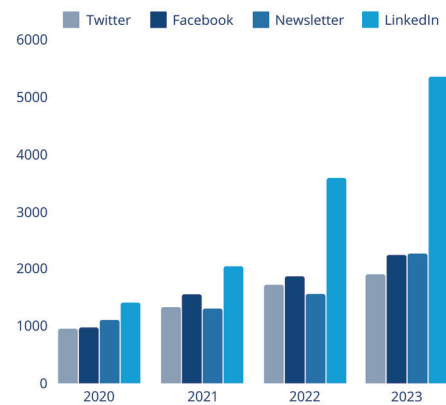
# COMMUNICATION IN 2023

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



<b>The numbers of 2023</b>	<b>+ 2000</b> new followers 	<b>17</b> media coverages 	
	<b>41</b> Articles written on the website 	<b>+ 30</b> Events 	<b>4500</b> unique visitors/month on planbleu.org 
	<b>10</b> Publications 	<b>12 Newsletters/year</b> to <b>2267</b> people 	





PUBLICATIONS 2023



**Report of the CLIMAGINE III workshop – Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Bay of Boka Kotorska, GEF MedProgramme, Child Project 2.1**

This publication is a workshop summary: two UNEP/MAP centres (CAR/PAP and Plan Bleu) organized a workshop to develop a coastal management plan for the Bay of Kotor, Montenegro, introducing sustainability indicators to monitor progress. April 5, 2023. English version.



**CLIMAGINE Workshop III Report – Boka Kotorska Bay Coastal Management Plan, GEF MedProgramme, Child Project 2.1.**

This publication is a report on the Climagine III workshop. On March 8, 2023, under the auspices of the Moroccan Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, a Climagine workshop advanced the Regional Coastal Plan of Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, as part of the Med Programme. May 31, 2023. French version.



**Baseline study to appraise coastal adaptation interventions in Mediterranean coastal hotspots – Stage I**

This study describes a participatory process related to the development of coastal plans in the Bay of Kotor, Montenegro, and the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima region, Morocco, highlighting the importance of coastal adaptation and sustainability issues for local and national stakeholders. October 9, 2023. English version.



**Technical Report: Land management to preserve biodiversity: Mediterranean case studies, with a focus on Real Environmental Obligations in France**

This technical report presents a study conducted by Plan Bleu. It explores the use of legal tools, including the environmental real obligation introduced by the French law of 2016, to better achieve the biodiversity conservation objectives set by the Barcelona Convention. October 27, 2023. Available in French and English versions.



**Report of the Fourth Climagine Consultation Workshop – Regional Coastal Scheme of the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Kingdom of Morocco**

This final report presents the fourth and last Climagine workshop held in Tangier on June 21, 2023, for the Regional Coastal Plan of Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, marking the continuity of the joint efforts of the CAR/PAP and Plan Bleu under the MedProgramme. November 23, 2023. French version.



**CLIMAGINE Workshop IV Kotor Bay Coastal Management Plan GEF MedProgramme, Child Project 2.1**

This publication reports on the fourth and final Climagine workshop, supported by the GEF MedProgramme, focused on coastal planning in the Bay of Kotor, Montenegro. The workshop involved stakeholders to validate sustainability indicators and discuss sustainable development scenarios. November 21, 2023. English version.



**Water-based solutions for carbon storage, people and wilderness**

This study, conducted as part of this work to explore the conditions for successful governance, revealed a long list of recommendations to improve current governance systems. The 25 recommendations provided within the theoretical framework of governance, supplemented by more than 50 possible concrete actions and over 20 examples of best practices in knowledge sharing, serve as a tool to support the implementation of the three pillars of the ideal governance framework constructed in this deliverable. May 31, 2023. English version.

## PUBLICATIONS 2023



### Four scenarios for coastal tourism in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region by 2050

This summary report and its synthesis are the result of a forward-looking approach by Plan Bleu with the support of ADEME Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, outlining «4 scenarios for coastal tourism in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region by 2050,» aiming for carbon neutrality. December 1, 2023. French version.



### National regulations, plans & strategies for the development of offshore wind energy in the Mediterranean basin

This publication from Plan Bleu examines the regulations, national plans, and strategies for the development of offshore wind energy (OWE) in the Mediterranean basin, highlighting the crucial role of renewable energy sources (RES) in the energy transition in the face of climate change. December 20, 2023. English, French, and Italian versions.



### National regulations, plans & strategies in Mediterranean countries regarding non-conventional water use

This publication from Plan Bleu analyzes regulatory frameworks, plans, and strategies for the unconventional use of water in Mediterranean countries, a response to water scarcity exacerbated by climate change and population growth. It emphasizes the reuse of treated wastewater as a means to reduce water withdrawals and provide alternative resources. December 20, 2023. English, French, and Italian versions.

Plan Bleu has also contributed to the publication of the following reports :

- Best practices on nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development/green economy identified - IUCN WCC.
- Report on sustainability criteria for desalination projects.
- Associated documents Med2050 (Summary for decision-makers).
- Coastal Plan/Climagine 5 Morocco Report and Coastal Plan/Climagine 5 Montenegro Report.
- Report on Environmental Real Obligations and the Barcelona Convention.
- Climagine 4 Morocco Report and Climagine 4 Montenegro Report.
- Characterizing governance and support policies for wetland restoration and producing a theoretical governance framework.
- Med2050 Scenarios Module 3 Report and MED 2050 Module 2 Report.
- Socio-economic analysis of measures aiming at achieving GES
- Levels of protection and cost and benefits of MPAs - projet MedRegion.
- Climagine 3 Morocco Report and Climagine 3 Montenegro Report.
- Provide practical solutions to strengthen and sustain Science-Policy Interface mechanism to support IMAP implementation in Morocco: SPI frameworks and processes regarding monitoring of IMAP Common Indicators 1 & 15 in Morocco.
- Contribution to the MedProgramme Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment: climate change indicators to monitor transboundary impacts.
- Conceptual framework for coastal observation.
- State and Outlook of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean
- Coastal adaptation solutions in Kotor Bay, Montenegro and the TTA region, Morocco.
- Impacts socio-économiques des Solutions pour la Nature et Guide de financement des Solutions pour la Nature pour les collectivités territoriales.
- Interest note - Calculation of a «carbon footprint» indicator for the South PACA region.
- Marine Studies Article.
- Coastal adaptation solutions.



# ADMINISTRATION OF PLAN BLEU

# TEAM

The activities were carried out in 2023 by a team, supported by Mediterranean experts. This information is as of December 31, 2023:

**DIRECTION**

- François Guerquin, Directeur/Director
- Lina Tode, Directrice Adjointe/Deputy Director
- Céline Dubreuil, Directrice des programmes/Programme Director

**EXPERTS**

- Khadidja Amine, Chargée de mission Développement Durable et Prospective/Sustainable Development and Foresight Project Manager
- Samson Bellieres, Chargé de mission Transition vers des économies vertes et bleues/Project Officer
- Antoine Dolez, Chargé d'études Prospective/Prospective Studies Manager
- Michael Karner, Chargé de mission Gestion intégrée des zones côtières/Project Manager
- Antoine Lafitte, Chargé de programme Observation de l'environnement et du développement durable en Méditerranée/Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory
- Gloria Lazaro, Chargée de programmes thématiques / Thematic Programme Manager
- Anaï Mango, Chargée de mission Analyse socio-économique/ Project manager: socio-economic analysis
- Katarzyna Marini, Chargée de programme Changement climatique/Lead Science Officer, Climate Change
- Colline Mias, Chargée de mission "adaptation du littoral au changement climatique"/ Project manager: adapting coastal zones to climate change
- Arnaud Terrisse, Chargé de mission Economie bleue/Project Officer Blue Economy
- Constantin Tsakas, Chargé de programme Analyse Socio-économique et économie bleue/Socio-economic analysis and blue economy Programme Manager

**ADMINISTRATION**

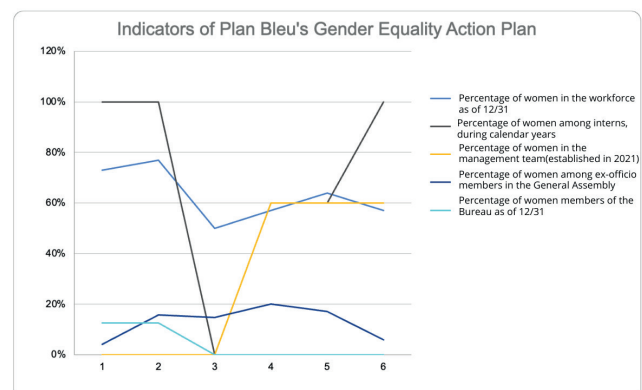
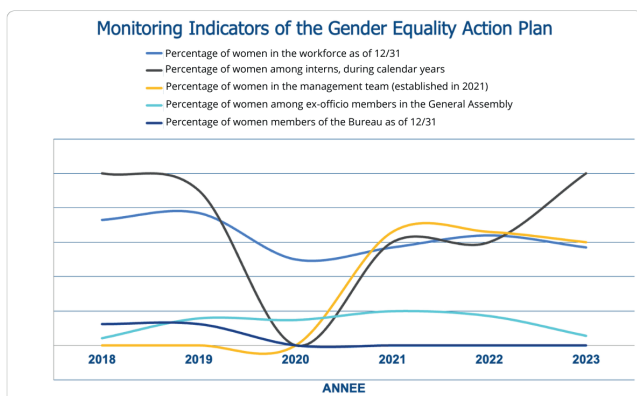
- Florian Agullo, Responsable des Ressources humaines/HR
- Anne-Dominique Chalmet, Responsable des Ressources humaines/HR
- Sandra Dulbecco, Assistante de direction/Executive assistant
- Isabelle Rossi, Responsable comptable/Account Manager
- Pauline Simon, Responsable de communication/Head of Communication

**PhD, Apprenticeship, and Internship**

- Aloïs Aguetant, Stagiaire/Intern
- Christelle El Selfani, Alternante Assistante communication/Communications Assistant Apprentice
- Ana Goubert, Doctorante/PhD Student
- Roxane Grange, Stagiaire/Intern
- Evan Le Poul, Alternant IEP Gouvernance Transition écologique/Governance of Ecological Transition Apprentice (IEP)
- Marie Lesniak, Stagiaire/Intern
- Arthur Vaugeois, Alternant juriste Environnement et Urbanisme/Environmental and Urban Planning Law Apprentice

The question of gender equality has always been at the heart of Plan Bleu's issues, even if, informally, it has influenced the composition of the teams, the themes covered and was taken into account within our work.

The Action Plan on Gender Equality was adopted within Plan Bleu in 2022 and continued in 2023.



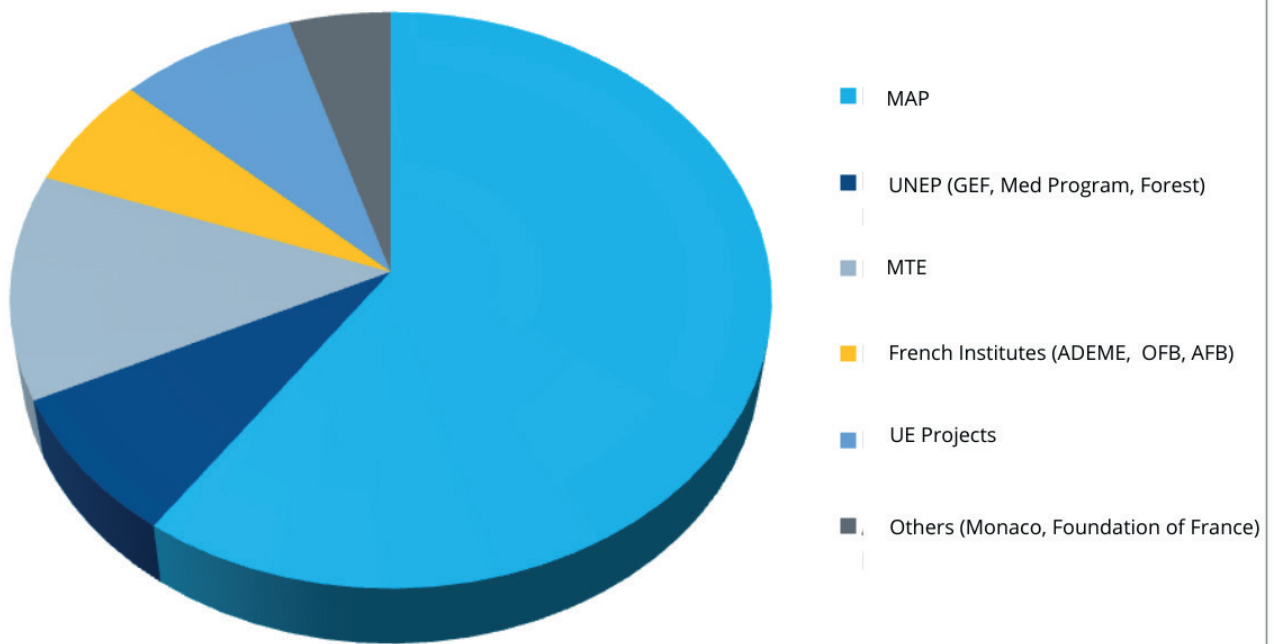
FINANCIAL INFORMATIONS

The financing of Plan Bleu is provided by three main sources of financing:

- Mediterranean countries and the European Union,
- an endowment from the French Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition,
- contributions to joint work and projects, provided by various institutions and partners.

The total operating subsidies from Plan Bleu in 2023 is €1,941,368.23.  
 The operating result for 2023 is negative - €49,904.76

Allocation of Plan Bleu Resources 2023



LIST OF MEMBERS

**CHRISTIAN AVEROUS**  
**GUILLAUME BENOIT**  
**OMAR BESSAOUD**  
**BERNARD BRILLET**  
**FATIMA DRIOUECH**  
**HUGUES DE JOUVENEL**  
**JEAN DE MONTGOLFIER**  
**YVES COLCOMBET**  
**YVES HENOCQUE**  
**DENIS LACROIX**  
**JEAN-PAUL LANLY**  
**LUCIEN CHABASON**  
**THIERRY LAVOUX**  
**ALDO RAVAZZI**  
**KENTY RICHARDSON**  
**GUILLAUME SAINTENY**  
**MOHAMMED SI YOUCEF**  
**JACQUES THEYS**



# ACRONYMS

- ADEME : Agency for Ecological Transition
- AFD : French Development Agency
- MPA : Marine Protected Areas
- BEE : Bon Etat Ecologique (Good Ecological Condition)
- RAC : Regional Activity Centers
- SPA/RAC : Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Center
- INFO/RAC : Information and Communication Regional Activity Center
- PAP/RAC : Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Center
- CIHEAM : International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agromic Studies
- CMI : Center for mediterranean integration
- MCSD : Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
- COP : Conference of the Parties
- MSFD: Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- EcAp : Ecosystem Approach
- FAO : Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- FEMISE : Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences
- GEF : Small Grants Programme
- IFREMER : French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea
- IMAP : Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
- MedECC :The Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change
- MedWaves : Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production - formerly RAC/SCP
- MTE : Ministry of Ecological Transition
- MAP : Mediterranean Action Plan
- UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
- OFB : French office of biodiversity
- NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
- UN: United Nations
- REMPEC : Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
- SEIS: Shared Environmental Information System
- NbS: Nature-based Solutions
- MSSD: Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- NSDS: National Sustainable Development Strategies
- IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
- UfM: Union for the Mediterranean





Plan Bleu, center of expertise for  
development and the environment

**Plan  
Bleu**

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