

ACTIVITY REPORT

Plan Bleu



2025

planbleu.org



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who We Are and Our Missions	01
Editorial	02
Publications	03
Events	05
Revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development	07
Environmental Assessments to Inform Decision-Making	09
Foresight and Future Scenarios for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean	12
Economy, Finance and Society in Support of Sustainable Development	14
Climate Change at the Core of Priorities	17
Sustainable Access to Water for Future Generations	20
Biodiversity Protection to Ensure a Sustainable Future	22
Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Cities	27
Sustainable Tourism as a Major Challenge	29
Communication	33
Administration	35
Members	38
Acronyms	39

WHO ARE WE ?

Plan Bleu is both a French non-profit association (under the 1901 law) and one of the seven Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP).

As an association, it operates in an open and collaborative manner, mobilizing institutions, researchers, economic stakeholders and civil society to preserve resources, promote sustainable development and support territories in addressing climate change.

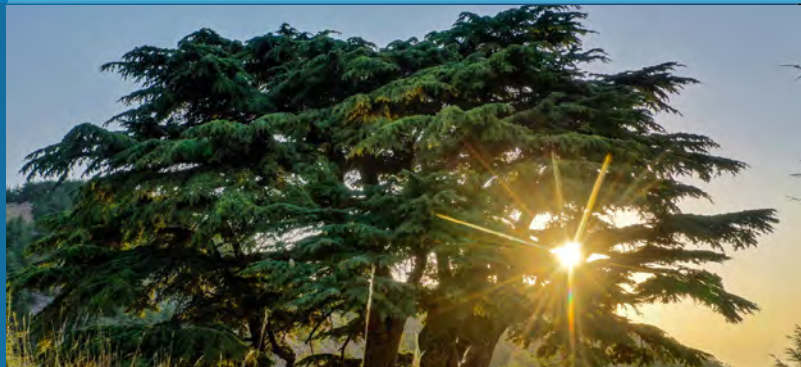
As a Regional Activity Centre, it benefits from international recognition and is tasked with analysing Mediterranean dynamics, producing forward-looking studies, supporting public policies and facilitating dialogue among countries in the region.

OUR MISSIONS



Develop and participate in projects promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Bring together Mediterranean stakeholders around our mission of cooperation for sustainable development.



Analyse the Mediterranean environment to support decision-makers in making strategic choices.



EDITORIAL

« In France, 2025 was designated the Year of the Sea, marked by a major global event: the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice in June 2025. Among the many declarations and decisions adopted, it was also the occasion on which the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, of which the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is a historic component, adopted its new strategy looking ahead to 2029.

As a Regional Activity Centre of MAP, Plan Bleu actively participated in this global event, and I would like to commend the work of the entire team, as well as that of the outgoing Board, in particular two of its distinguished members who, alongside the team, contributed their expertise to the design and implementation of the long-term MED2050 foresight exercise. Launched nearly ten years ago under the presidency of Thierry Lavoux in 2016, this project culminated in the publication of the final report as we know it in 2025. Recognized by UNEP as a major contribution for the Mediterranean, the report is also considered a model for other regional seas. It should now be further promoted and implemented on the ground, across different levels of governance.

Another major milestone was the revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) for the period 2026–2035. Adopted by COP24 last December, it provides a highly structuring framework for Plan Bleu and its commitment to implementing the latest 2026–2027 biennial programme under the MAP Medium-Term Strategy. The new MSSD now places climate change, its impacts, as well as the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures, at the core of priorities, as temperatures in the Mediterranean are rising 20% faster than the global average. In this context, Plan Bleu, together with the new Regional Activity Centre established in Turkey, is particularly involved, as it hosts MedECC, a scientific network currently preparing its second Mediterranean Assessment Report on climate change (MAR2).

The year 2025, which concluded with the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP24) held in Cairo in December, therefore represents a turning point for MAP, and for Plan Bleu in particular, in terms of the strategic integration of its activities and its internal governance, including with its members. This evolution aims to further strengthen its recognition as a leading Mediterranean “think and do tank”, capable of shedding light on possible futures, enhancing regional cooperation, promoting local initiatives, and accelerating the transformations needed across the Mediterranean basin and for all those who live there..»



YVES HENOCQUE
PRESIDENT OF PLAN BLEU



ANTOINE LAFITTE
ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLAN BLEU

« 50 years! The year 2025 marks half a century of action in support of regional cooperation for sustainable development in the Mediterranean through the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), under the auspices of UNEP.

The year 2025, the Year of the Ocean, also marks 10 years of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. Through the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the region benefits from its own policy framework and a set of associated indicators to support States in implementing this ambitious Agenda. Plan Bleu plays a key role in this process.

The year 2025 also hosted the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), dedicated to SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. UNOC3 led to major progress, including the entry into force of an agreement to eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies, as well as an agreement on the protection of the high seas (BBNJ). While these advances are significant, much remains to be done. The Ministerial Declaration of the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Cairo, highlights the value of shared

commitment and collaboration to strengthen sustainable development across the Mediterranean region. On behalf of the entire Plan Bleu team, I wish you an enjoyable reading of our achievements in 2025.»

In 2025

Plan Bleu published more than 15 publications, including reports, edited volumes, technical reports and briefs.



MED2050: The Mediterranean by 2050

Plan Bleu published the foresight report “**The Mediterranean by 2050: A Foresight by Plan Bleu**”, the result of a major collective effort involving more than one hundred experts and stakeholders from 20 countries across the basin. Its aim is to anticipate possible futures for the Mediterranean by 2050 by analysing the major challenges that could shape its trajectory. This study is intended to inform decision-makers and stakeholders in the region, while also raising awareness among the general public, so that all can engage with the sustainable development challenges facing the region.

Edited Volume II: Sustainable Finance Series

Plan Bleu published the report “**Environmentally Friendly Economic tools and Finance**”, which forms part of a structuring series dedicated to sustainable finance in the Mediterranean. This collective analysis highlights the strategic role of green finance in the region’s sustainable transformation and identifies key operational levers, such as environmental taxation, green bonds, and financing for water and biodiversity, to accelerate the alignment of public policies and investments towards resilient and sustainable pathways.



Edited Volume: Towards Sustainable Desalination in the Mediterranean

Plan Bleu published the report “**Towards Sustainable Desalination in the Mediterranean: Integrating Environmental, Economic and Social Perspectives**”, as part of its work on water-related challenges in the Mediterranean. This collective analysis highlights the strategic role of desalination in addressing increasing water scarcity and identifies key operational levers to enhance its sustainability and support public policies towards resilient pathways.



10 Key Indicators: The State of the Environment in the Mediterranean

Plan Bleu published a concise assessment of **the state of health of the Mediterranean basin**, as part of its work on monitoring sustainable development in the region. Based on 10 key indicators from its Observatory, this analysis highlights the main socio-economic and environmental trends and constitutes an essential monitoring tool within the framework of the update of the MSSD 2026–2035, with a view to informing decision-makers and guiding public policies towards sustainable pathways.





This report presents a socio-economic assessment of shark and ray conservation measures in the Gulf of Sirte, highlighting the vulnerability of fishers and proposing tailored support measures.

EN-FR-AR Versions



This report analyses the potential socio-economic implications of a Med NOx Emission Control Area (ECA) in the Mediterranean, assessing its impacts on fisheries, tourism and environmental health in order to inform policy decisions.

EN-FR-AR Versions



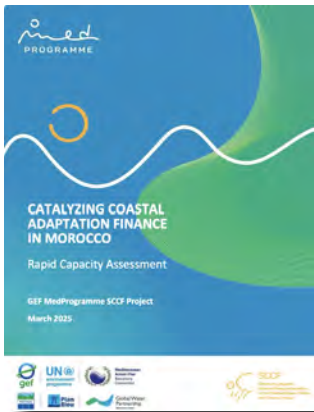
This policy brief, resulting from the first Adapt-Pelagos workshop, analyses the pressures of maritime traffic within the Pelagos Sanctuary and highlights tools to reconcile cetacean protection with maritime activities.

EN-FR Versions



This brief highlights the potential of nature-based solutions to reduce air pollution in Mediterranean cities while generating co-benefits for health, climate and biodiversity.

EN-FR Versions



This technical report examines Morocco's adaptation needs and capacities in response to coastal climate risks, with a particular focus on the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region and on mobilizing finance for key sectors.

EN Version



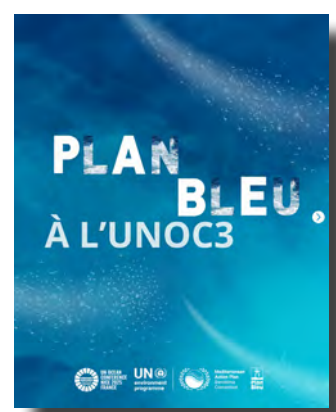
This technical report analyses gender-sensitive climate vulnerabilities in pilot coastal areas in Morocco and Montenegro, highlighting the key role of women's empowerment in climate change adaptation.

EN-FR Versions



This technical report highlights the role of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation in strengthening the resilience of Mediterranean coastal areas, drawing on pilot experiences in Morocco and Montenegro.

FR Version



This report provides a synthesis of Plan Bleu's events and contributions at UNOC3, highlighting its actions and key messages on Mediterranean ocean-related issues.

FR Version

In 2025

Plan Bleu was present in more than 30 events across Mediterranean countries, as an organizer, co-organizer or speaker. In addition to the workshops and webinars related to the projects mentioned in this report, it notably:

Launched the MED2050 foresight report

In January, Plan Bleu presented its MED2050 foresight study at a press conference held to mark the release of its report “The Mediterranean by 2050: A Foresight by Plan Bleu”. The result of broad collaboration with experts and stakeholders from across the Mediterranean basin, MED2050 explores different possible future pathways for the region through six scenarios looking ahead to 2050.



Organized a scientific workshop on green finance

In January, Plan Bleu organized a high-level scientific workshop in Marseille on economic instruments and sustainable finance in the Mediterranean, bringing together academic experts from across the region. Thirteen contributions were presented, offering in-depth analyses of financial mechanisms, the energy transition and biodiversity conservation, in line with the priorities of the MSSD. These exchanges contributed to a strategic reflection on integrating environmental considerations into Mediterranean economic policies, the outcomes of which were consolidated in a Plan Bleu publication.

Organized workshops on transition pathways

In February and March, Plan Bleu organized three MED2050 workshops in Tangier, Tunis and Dubrovnik, in partnership with local organizations respectively the Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES), Saison Bleue and the French Embassy in Croatia. These workshops brought together stakeholders from the economic, civil society, media, academic, institutional and political spheres. Their objective was to discuss the MED2050 scenarios and to reflect, based on current situations, on the actions needed in the short, medium and long term to move towards the desired scenarios and avoid those considered unacceptable.



Convened the national focal points

In May, Plan Bleu convened its national focal points in Marseille and online, with representatives from 15 Mediterranean countries and UNEP/MAP. Discussions focused on the strategic vision, the revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, and future work perspectives. The meeting strengthened regional coordination in preparation for upcoming Mediterranean milestones.

Contributed to the discussions at UNOC3

In June, Plan Bleu actively participated in UNOC3 alongside numerous partners committed to a sustainable future for the oceans and the Mediterranean. The team took part in several discussions and initiatives aimed at promoting cooperation, resilience and collective action. This participation strengthened Plan Bleu's visibility and engagement in international efforts in support of the ocean.



Promoted sustainable desalination in the Mediterranean

In September, Plan Bleu organized a webinar dedicated to scientific advances and practices in sustainable desalination in the Mediterranean, in response to increasing pressure on water resources. The event provided an opportunity to present ten scientific contributions and to strengthen exchanges among researchers, experts and decision-makers on environmental, socio-economic and regulatory issues. The outcomes were disseminated in a dedicated edited volume, accompanied by an executive summary for decision-makers.

Strengthened dialogue on the blue economy in the Pelagos Sanctuary

In September, Plan Bleu co-organized the first workshop of the Adapt-Pelagos project at the Yacht Club de Monaco, dedicated to the sustainability of shipping and cruise activities in the Pelagos Sanctuary. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders to exchange on impacts, legal frameworks and sustainable management tools, and made it possible to identify priority actions and indicators to support a more sustainable trajectory.



Strengthened the One Health approach in the Mediterranean

In October, Plan Bleu organized a regional workshop in Nice on the One Health approach with its scientific partners. The discussions helped to better analyse the links between health, ecosystems and environmental pressures. The workshop highlighted the need for strengthened regional cooperation to develop shared responses.

Strengthened the sharing of environmental data

In October, Plan Bleu Observatory brought together around twenty experts for a workshop on the use of geospatial data in support of environmental governance. The discussions provided an opportunity to present the MapX tool and to identify synergies to improve data sharing and valorization. This meeting strengthened prospects for collaboration in support of environmental policies in the Mediterranean.



Participated in COP24

In December, in Cairo, Plan Bleu took part in COP24 of the Barcelona Convention, dedicated to the sustainable blue economy. Through several side events, it showcased its analyses, indicators and tools supporting public policies, particularly for monitoring the MSSD. The meeting also marked the 50th anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan, reaffirming the importance of regional cooperation.

Revision of the Mediterranean
STRATEGY
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MSSD

Towards a Revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the 2026–2035 Period

In 2025, the revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was adopted. This adoption marks the culmination of two years of work coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

Plan Bleu contributed significantly to this collective effort by carrying out a quantitative assessment of **the implementation of the Strategy for the 2016–2025 period**, using the indicators from its dashboard. Drawing on its **statistical observatory**, Plan Bleu first reviewed the **past decade** and identified the major trends affecting the Mediterranean basin in terms of environment and development.

The revised **MSSD** takes into account new **sustainable development** challenges faced by the ecosystems and populations of the basin, particularly **climate change**, which is reaching alarming levels.

Its impacts are increasing both air and sea temperatures, reducing freshwater availability, and increasingly affecting coastal economies.

KEY

INFO

The year 2025 was marked by the adoption of the MSSD 2026–2035, a key pillar of Plan Bleu’s mandate to provide a common framework and strategic guidance structured around six priority themes at the scale of the Mediterranean basin: climate change adaptation; integrated coastal and marine management; biodiversity conservation; sustainable cities; circular economy and sustainable finance; and strengthened regional governance. This framework enhances Plan Bleu’s capacity for foresight, enabling it to support countries in adapting to the evolving realities of a basin that is heavily impacted by the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution).



The **revised MSSD for the 2026–2035** period therefore places strong emphasis on adaptation to **climate disruptions**.

Following numerous consultation meetings bringing together representatives from Mediterranean countries and their respective areas of expertise, the **MSSD 2026–2035** was validated by **MCSD** members in June 2025 and subsequently adopted by **the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP24, held in Cairo from 2 to 5 December 2025**.

Plan Bleu notably facilitated the working group dedicated to defining a common regional framework for the development of a **taxonomy of “green” economic instruments** aimed at ensuring a sustainable transition of socio-economic activities across the basin.

By building on regional multilateralism, the MSSD 2026–2035 serves as **the reference programmatic framework**, setting out shared objectives, targets and indicators for all States and economic stakeholders of the Mediterranean basin.

PARTNERS

UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), and Regional Activity Centres.

Environmental Assessments to **INFORM** *DECISION-MAKING*

Observatory

Analyse the state of the environment and the development of Mediterranean societies to inform decision-makers

In 2025, the Mediterranean Observatory on Environment and Sustainable Development, integrated within Plan Bleu, continued to play a central role as a **platform for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and knowledge necessary to monitor the state of the environment and sustainable development dynamics in the Mediterranean**. Designed to inform policymakers and the scientific community, the Observatory relied on a wide range of **indicators, statistics, datasets and interactive tools** to make knowledge accessible and operational for addressing regional challenges.

Plan Bleu notably published a **synthesis based on data from its Observatory**, drawing on **ten key indicators of sustainable development in the Mediterranean**. This analysis highlights recent trends and tipping points in key areas such as the Human Development Index, water resources, biodiversity, natural resource management and anthropogenic pressures, providing valuable analytical support for regional assessments and the revision of the MSSD 2026–2035.

Drawing on its **expertise in cartographic and statistical analysis**, the Observatory also contributed to the production of thematic reports on topics such as **desalination activities, marine biodiversity and the blue economy**, by providing consolidated data and statistical analyses that enriched these studies, as well as the thematic projects in which Plan Bleu is involved.

KEY

INFO

In 2025, Plan Bleu Observatory strengthened environmental monitoring in the Mediterranean through 10 key indicators, interactive MapX maps and a participatory workshop, supporting decision-makers and scientists in the planning and governance of seas and coastal areas.



A particularly significant milestone took place on 16 October 2025 in Marseille, with the organization of a **regional workshop for international and national data providers**. The workshop focused on the use of geospatial data to strengthen environmental governance in the Mediterranean. Hosted at Plan Bleu's headquarters, the event highlighted **the Observatory's role in enhancing the value of geospatial information and integrating it into decision-making processes**, particularly to support planning, policy monitoring and the evaluation of regional sustainability efforts.

In parallel with these activities, the Observatory strengthened digital access to data through its interactive interface on the **MapX** mapping platform, which now offers more than **400 open-access interactive thematic maps**, facilitating the spatial and temporal visualization of environmental and socio-economic phenomena.

Finally, the Observatory's data and analyses were widely used during **COP24 of the Barcelona Convention**, held in December 2025, where Plan Bleu presented contributions during a dedicated side event, integrating these indicators to support the implementation of regional sustainability policies.

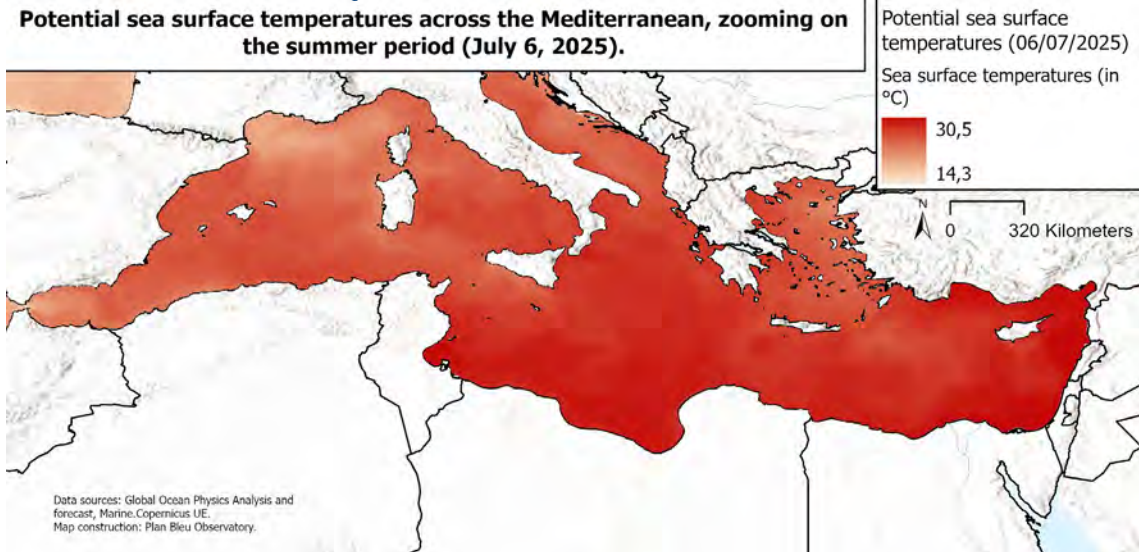
PARTNERS

UNEP/MAP, UNEP/GRID-Geneva, Tour du Valat, Wings of the Ocean, EMODnet, OECD, NSTO Hub, Blue Tourism Initiative, SDSN, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Florent Taureau, Manuel Chevalier, Mercator Ocean International, FAO (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean), Data Sharp Academy, FAO AQUASTAT, ETC-UMA, UNEP GRID, European Environment Agency, MerTerre, Institut des sciences de l'Océan, Clean My Calanques, MedPAN, World Bank, Mediterranean Posidonia Network, Office français de la biodiversité

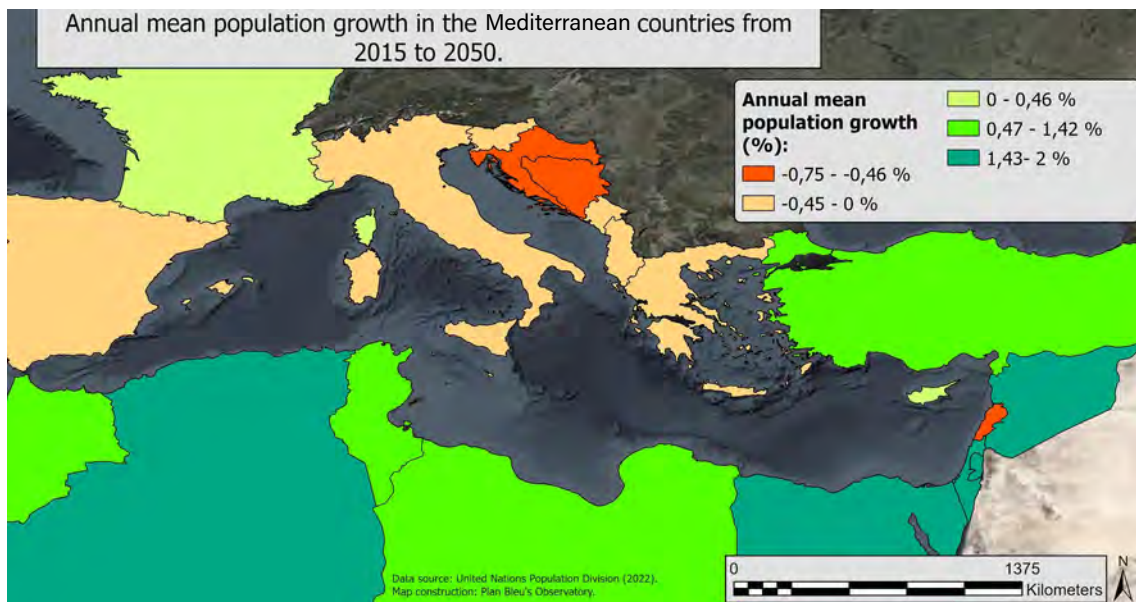


MAPS OF THE YEAR

Potential sea surface temperatures across the Mediterranean, zooming on the summer period (July 6, 2025).



Sea surface temperatures (SST) are increasing significantly, with more pronounced seasonal extremes, particularly during the summer season when certain Mediterranean regions may experience marine heatwaves. These peaks in SST disrupt marine ecological interactions as well as physico-chemical processes.



Population growth trends in the Mediterranean by 2050 are expected to vary widely depending on each country's socio-economic characteristics. Northern shore countries are projected to experience a significant population decline, with the exception of France, while countries in the eastern and southern Mediterranean are expected to continue demographic growth, with the exception of Lebanon.

Foresight and Future Scenarios for Sustainable
DEVELOPMENT
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

MED2050

Exploring possible futures for the Mediterranean

In 2025, a major milestone marked Plan Bleu's activities: the publication of the report "The Mediterranean by 2050: A Foresight by Plan Bleu". The report was officially released during a **press conference** held in Paris in January, which generated significant media attention.

MED2050 is a foresight exercise led by Plan Bleu, whose main objective is to **explore possible futures for the Mediterranean** (both as a sea and as a region) **by 2050, in order to inform political decision-making on ecosystem protection, particularly marine ecosystems and on the region's transition towards sustainable development.**

In a context marked by **intensifying environmental, climatic and socio-economic pressures**, the study analyses **multi-scale dynamics affecting the Mediterranean basin and proposes six contrasting scenarios** describing possible trajectories for the region over the next thirty years.

This work is the result of a **collaborative effort involving numerous experts from several Mediterranean countries and across multiple disciplines.** To facilitate the dissemination and uptake of these findings, **a summary of the report was produced in French, English and Arabic.** In the same spirit, **communication and outreach tools were developed** to make the key results of the foresight exercise accessible and to strengthen the dissemination of its main messages to decision-makers, institutional stakeholders and the general public.

KEY

INFO

In 2025, the summary of the MED2050 report was translated into Greek, Italian, Spanish and Turkish, with publication planned for 2026. An educational booklet bringing together sketch-notes and illustrations of the six scenarios was also developed for outreach purposes, to facilitate their appropriation by the general public, particularly younger generations.



MED2050
Building the Mediterranean future together
Construissons ensemble l'avenir de la Méditerranée
لتبني معاً مستقبل المتوسط



Building on this work, Plan Bleu organized **foresight workshops on transition pathways to promote regional dialogue around the scenarios and to identify concrete policy action levers in the short, medium and long term.** **Three workshops** were held in **Tangier (Morocco)**, in partnership with the **Royal Institute for Strategic Studies**; in **Tunis (Tunisia)**, with **Saison Bleue**; and in **Dubrovnik (Croatia)**, with the **French Embassy**. Bringing together experts, **institutional actors and national stakeholders**, these meetings provided an opportunity to present and discuss the MED2050 scenarios, identify priority actions at different scales, and support the necessary transitions towards a sustainable and resilient Mediterranean.

Several additional **events and presentations** of the **MED2050** report were also held throughout 2025, including: **an online webinar "Rendez-vous du Plan Bleu"** gathering over one hundred participants; **the foresight conference "Aix-Marseille-Provence in the Mediterranean in 2050"**, organized as part of the metropolitan foresight cycle "Conversations du Futur" led by the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolis in partnership with the urban planning agencies AGAM and AUPA; **a workshop in Marseille in partnership with the City of Marseille**; **the "Tribunal for Future Generations" in Essaouira**, organized with Usbek & Rica and the French Embassy in Morocco; **a hearing with the Development Council of the City of Toulon as part of its territorial project**; and **a public conference in Bastia in partnership with the Corsican Assembly**. These events contributed to disseminating the MED2050 findings and to fostering medium- and long-term reflections on the transformations needed at the local level across Mediterranean territories.

PARTNERS

Global Environment Facility (GEF), Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency), Aix-Marseille Université, Interministerial Delegation for the Mediterranean of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE / DiMed), Ministry for the Ecological Transition, United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Région Sud (South Region), Moulouya Hydraulic Basin Agency, Institut Royal des Études Stratégiques (Royal Institute for Strategic Studies), Saison Bleue, French Embassy in Croatia, MED2050 Foresight Group and Steering Committee.

Economy, Finance and Society
IN SUPPORT
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Green Finance

Financing Sustainable Development: Towards “Green and Sustainable Economic Instruments and Finance” in the Mediterranean

In 2025, as part of its work on sustainable finance and in response to the growing interest of UNEP/MAP in these issues, Plan Bleu launched an ambitious initiative on green economic and financial instruments. The Edited Volume published in October, bringing together contributions from more than 20 experts, constitutes a comprehensive reference on financial levers tailored to Mediterranean specificities. It builds on previous work on reducing environmentally harmful subsidies, served as a foundation for the revision of the MSSD 2026–2035, and informed three “Sustainable Finance” Working Group meetings with ministries, illustrating the strong policy relevance of this work.

The objective is to transform environmental imperatives into economic opportunities through well-calibrated green economic and financial instruments. The report promotes tailored solutions adapted to the specific contexts of both the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, and is structured around four pillars, developed across 13 chapters.

1. Energy and Climate: The report shows that environmental taxation significantly reduces emissions only when embedded within strict regulatory frameworks.



It also highlights that, in Southern Mediterranean countries, energy taxes are a powerful lever for innovation and transformation of industrial practices, particularly in energy-intensive sectors such as metal production, the chemical industry, and machinery and equipment manufacturing.

2. Marine Biodiversity: In response to the urgency of Nature Restoration policies, the report assesses instruments such as Conservation Trust Funds, tourism user fees and blue bonds to sustainably finance Marine Protected Areas.

3. Water: The report analyses the effectiveness of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), blended finance and innovative mechanisms such as crowdfunding to address the region’s critical water stress.

4. Air and Public Health: It demonstrates that green bonds—particularly those with maturities of 5 to 10 years—are the most effective in reducing air pollutants (CO₂, methane, N₂O), as this timeframe aligns optimally with investment cycles in renewable energy and industrial modernization. For example, Egypt’s sovereign green bond issued in 2020 led to an 18% reduction in PM_{2.5} fine particles linked to road traffic in Cairo through the financing of Metro Line 3, while a port electrification project in Italy in 2021 reduced NOx emissions by 25%.

The report also explores the local level by modelling the impact of climate change on municipal tax revenues, proposing cadastral reforms and climate-related tourism taxes to strengthen urban resilience. It further examines social implications by estimating the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) for each country, recommending differentiated taxation based on national fiscal capacities. In conclusion, it calls for the creation of a Mediterranean Taxonomy to harmonize sustainable investments.

KEY

INFO

- **Biodiversity:** Conservation Trust Funds are identified as the most effective tool to ensure sustainable and targeted financing.
- **Water:** For critical infrastructure, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and blended finance are the most effective mechanisms to mobilize capital.
- **Social Cost of Carbon (SCC):** Ranges from USD 750–800/tCO₂ in the North to USD 400–600 in the South. A uniform tax is unrealistic and should be adapted to national fiscal capacities.
- **Cities:** Climate change threatens local revenues; urban toll systems could help finance resilience.

PARTNERS

13 research and academic teams from the Southern, Eastern and Northern Mediterranean mobilized through Plan Bleu’s call for proposals, UNEP/MAP, Contracting Parties, OECD, European Commission, MedCities

Socio-economic analysis

Analysing socio-economic challenges in support of the ecological transition and marine conservation in the Mediterranean

In 2025, Plan Bleu carried out in-depth analytical and consultative work to assess, on the one hand, the impacts of establishing a Mediterranean NOx Emission Control Area (Med NOx ECA) and, on the other hand, the socio-economic and environmental implications of listing nine species of sharks and rays under Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol, combining scientific expertise with dialogue with decision-makers.

Med NOx ECA: Plan Bleu was a key partner of REMPEC in conducting the **Technical and Feasibility Study** requested by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It participated in the **Technical Committee of Experts** established in 2023 and provided targeted expertise on **socio-economic impacts**, contributing to the review and validation phases.

In parallel, Plan Bleu published in **November 2025** a **dedicated report on sectoral implications for fisheries and tourism**. Based on surveys, the analysis highlights significant impacts on small-scale fishing fleets and underscores the need for targeted support mechanisms, while the tourism component points to opportunities to enhance the Mediterranean's sustainable image.



Two events held in Marseille and Malta provided opportunities to **present these findings, foster dialogue with stakeholders**, and contribute to **the roadmap towards the official designation of the Med NOx ECA**.

KEY

INFO

- **NOx:** In certain high-traffic port areas, maritime transport is responsible for more than half of total nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, underscoring the urgency of designating an emission control area.
- **Cartilaginous species:** The report recommends a phased implementation over five years (Scenario B), requiring between LYD 4 and 6 million, with priority support for the most vulnerable households and the protection of critically endangered species, while highlighting that more than 80% of fishers are willing to adopt alternative practices.

Cartilaginous species: A Plan Bleu report focusing on the **Gulf of Sirte** assessed the impacts of listing **nine species of sharks and rays under Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol**. The study covered all **43 landing sites** and surveyed **66 fishers, representing up to 38% of the seasonal workforce**. It shows that **94% of fishers interact with these species, mainly as bycatch**, and estimates annual losses at **LYD 5.25 million (approximately €834,000)**, affecting more than **2,200 people**. The impact is particularly critical for 27 families highly dependent on these catches.

In parallel, Plan Bleu organized a workshop in Tunis with **the SPA/RAC, WWF Mediterranean, WWF North Africa, as well as Tunisian and Libyan authorities**, to present these results, support voluntary conservation measures and promote alignment with Libya's National Action Plan for cartilaginous fish, while closely engaging sector experts and practitioners.

PARTNERS

NOx: eco-Union, Oceanogami, UNEP/MAP (Barcelona Convention), REMPEC, International Maritime Organization, MED POL, European Union (DG Environment, European Maritime Safety Agency), national authorities (Technical Committee of Experts – NECA TCE), City of Marseille, Grand Port Maritime de Marseille, Mediterranean Interregional Directorate of the Sea (DIRM Méditerranée), AtmoSud, CITEPA, Pelagos Sanctuary, Yacht Club de Monaco

Cartilaginous species: SPA/RAC, UNEP/MAP, FAO, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, CITES, Plan Bleu, Libya – Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Environment General Authority, General Committee for Marine Resources, WWF Mediterranean, WWF North Africa, conservation and fisheries professionals

For more information

[NECA](#),
[Cartilaginous species](#)

Climate Change at
THE CORE
OF PRIORITIES

MedECC

«Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change»

In 2025, MedECC launched the preparation of the **Second Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR2)**. Since then, several key milestones have been achieved, including the launch of a self-nomination call, the conduct of a scoping survey, the online scoping meeting held in April, and the appointment of authors. **The MAR2 author team consists of more than 100 experts.**

The table of contents of MAR2 was also subject to consultations with stakeholders, including the **Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group, the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WG ENV-CC), the UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu focal points, as well as members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).**

The first in-person meeting of MAR2 authors took place in November 2025 in Marseille, France. **The Zero Order Draft (first draft)** of the report was finalized at the end of December 2025.

The contract with the **European Commission's Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA)** was signed for the period from September 2025 to February 2029.

KEY

INFO

In 2025, MedECC reached 2,738 followers on LinkedIn, including 846 new followers. At least 125 press articles referred to MedECC's work, and its reports were presented at no fewer than 25 events, including two at COP30 of the UNFCCC (11–15 November, Belém, Brazil).



This agreement provides dedicated funding to support the production of MAR2. This action is part of the **European Union's Action Document for Climate Action Package for the Southern Neighbourhood (CAP-Med)**, which falls under the Multiannual Action Plan (Part I) supporting the Southern Neighbourhood region.

At the **24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP24)** to the Barcelona Convention (5–8 December 2025, Cairo, Egypt), the Contracting Parties formally adopted **Decision IG.27/10 approving the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the MedECC Special Report on the links between climate change and the Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean basin.**

The **Summaries for Policymakers of the MedECC Special Reports on the WEFE nexus and on coastal risks in the Mediterranean** were translated into **Arabic, French, Spanish and Catalan. Four-page summaries and infographics for both reports** were also published in **English, Arabic and French.**

PARTNERS

The MedECC Secretariat is officially hosted by Plan Bleu under a partnership with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). MedECC receives financial support from the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as from the GREC-SUD (formerly AIR Climat), the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) through the Mediterranean Trust Fund, and targeted financial support from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

GEF MEDProgramme

Strengthening climate resilience in the Mediterranean

In 2025, Plan Bleu continued its work on **environmental security and climate resilience in the Mediterranean**, issues that are becoming increasingly pressing across the region. Since 2020, Plan Bleu has been working under the **GEF MedProgramme** to support **climate change adaptation along Mediterranean coasts, secure water resources and strengthen the involvement of local communities**.

Understanding **climate risks** is a key step in strengthening resilience, particularly by taking into account differences in vulnerability across genders. In early 2025, Plan Bleu updated and translated into French **the gender-sensitive climate risk assessment of the Bay of Kotor (Montenegro)**, making it accessible to a broader audience.

As the Mediterranean is recognized as a climate change hotspot, adaptation remains a regional priority. Beyond acknowledging the need for adaptation, the focus is now on effective design and implementation approaches. In this context, **nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation** are increasingly promoted, as they provide practical ways to enhance climate resilience while delivering co-benefits for biodiversity and livelihoods. As part of the **SCCF project**, Plan Bleu published a **report on nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation**, incorporating lessons learned from two regional training sessions held in October and November 2024.



Mobilizing financing remains a major challenge to implement and scale up these approaches in the Mediterranean. In response, Plan Bleu conducted in 2025 a rapid assessment of financing capacities for coastal adaptation in Morocco and produced a report on mobilizing climate adaptation finance, drawing on contributions from a webinar and a regional roundtable co-organized in 2024 **with Global Water Partnership Mediterranean and the EU-funded Water and Environment Support Programme project**.

Under sub-project 2.1, Plan Bleu updated previous **Climagine reports** and deployed the participatory **Climagine approach in Lebanon**, in support of **the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the Damour area and the new national ICZM strategy**. The participatory process was officially launched in July 2025 with the first “Climagine” workshops for both the national strategy and the Damour plan, followed by second workshops in October. Through a series of workshops and associated reports (including the initial report on Climagine sustainability indicators and a rapid stakeholder assessment for the Damour area), Climagine helped structure a **multi-stakeholder dialogue on climate risks, coastal development pressures and priority adaptation options for the Damour area and the Lebanese coast**.

KEY

INFO

Plan Bleu ensured strong visibility and coordination of these initiatives by participating in major events, including the third Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM) of the GEF MedProgramme in Istanbul (April 2025) and COP24 of the Barcelona Convention in Cairo (December 2025).

PARTNERS

PAP/RAC, Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme

Sustainable Access to
WATER
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Water

Ensuring sustainable access to water for future generations

In 2025, Plan Bleu continued its efforts to promote **sustainable water management in the Mediterranean** in the face of **climate change challenges**. Its activities focused on three main strategic areas.

Plan Bleu conducted in-depth work on **desalination**. Following a call for scientific contributions launched at the end of 2024, several innovative studies were selected, **examining the economic viability, environmental impacts and governance of desalination**. A restitution workshop was held in September 2025 to synthesize these findings, which will guide decision-makers towards more sustainable practices in response to increasing water scarcity.

Plan Bleu also continued to **analyse non-conventional water resources**, particularly **the reuse of treated wastewater**. It critically assessed the sustainability of these approaches in light of their rapid expansion in the Mediterranean region, where pressure on water resources is intensifying.

In addition, Plan Bleu pursued its work **on climate change adaptation under the GEF MedProgramme**. As water is a key resource heavily impacted by climate change, it was addressed as a cross-cutting issue across activities.

A report on **nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation** was published, incorporating lessons learned from two regional training sessions held in October and November 2024.

KEY

INFO

In 2025, Plan Bleu strengthened its efforts towards sustainable water management in the Mediterranean: in-depth analyses of desalination, wastewater reuse, climate change adaptation, key indicators, and contributions to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026–2035.



In the Mediterranean, adaptation to climate change, particularly with regard to water, often lacks adequate financing. In response, Plan Bleu developed in 2025 a **report on mobilizing finance for climate adaptation**, based on contributions and lessons learned from a webinar and a regional roundtable organized in 2024 in collaboration with **Global Water Partnership Mediterranean and the Water and Environment Support Programme project**.

Furthermore, Plan Bleu supported **the development of the national strategy and law on integrated coastal zone management in Lebanon**, as well as **the integrated management plan for the Damour region**. This support was provided through **the application of the participatory foresight methodology Climagine**, which emphasizes local community engagement. **A “source-to-sea” approach was adopted**, using water as a connecting element between sectors and stakeholder groups.

Plan Bleu Observatory continued its mission of monitoring quantitative and qualitative trends in **water resources**, producing key indicators published throughout 2025. This work forms part of the 2024–2025 work programme and contributed to the revision of the Mediterranean **Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2026–2035**.

All these activities were showcased at **major international water-related events**, most notably the preparation of the **Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum in Barcelona (November 2025)** and participation in the **19th World Water Congress in Marrakech (December 2025)**.

PARTNERS

UNEP/MAP, Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau, UNEP/GRID-Geneva, Tour du Valat, AVITEM, International Water Resources Association, Global Water Intelligence, Global Water Partnership, WestMED Initiative, One Provence, Africa 21, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Université de Tlemcen, Université Ziane Achour de Djelfa, Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, Université de Montpellier

Biodiversity Protection to
ENSURE
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

DIALOGUE4NATURE

Promoting ecosystem restoration in the Mediterranean

In 2025, Plan Bleu continued its engagement in coordinating the transfer activities of the **Dialogue4Nature project** as leader of **Work Package 2 (WP2)**, focusing on **ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions**.

This year, Plan Bleu notably presented and promoted **policy recommendations on the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems developed under the Natural Heritage Mission in 2024**, including during a side event organized on the occasion of **the United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2025**.

Plan Bleu also co-organized **several webinars under the Natural Heritage Mission**, bringing together thematic projects. This year, in connection with the development of **national restoration action plans under the EU Nature Restoration Regulation**, these webinars focused on the restoration of **terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, with particular emphasis on forests and wetlands**, as well as on the legal and policy frameworks governing these actions at both **European and Mediterranean levels**.

These exchanges made it possible to gather project achievements, identify transferable practices, and structure common policy messages.

KEY

INFO

Developed under the Natural Heritage Mission, the **10 policy recommendations** promote **integrated planning, inclusive governance and innovative financing for ecosystem restoration, with a view to strengthening resilience and cooperation in the Mediterranean**.



Natural
heritage

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union



The 3rd Annual Institutional Dialogue of the Natural Heritage Mission, held in Barcelona in November 2025, brought together the entire project community, ecosystem restoration stakeholders from across the Mediterranean, and local and regional policymakers. **It helped consolidate these messages into ten policy recommendations for the restoration of freshwater and forest ecosystems**, illustrated by concrete solutions developed by Mediterranean restoration projects and practitioners to support their implementation across the region.

These recommendations were further promoted during a side event at **COP24** of the Barcelona Convention, held in Cairo in December 2025, and continue to be disseminated in 2026.

PARTNERS

Region of Crete (Greece), IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (Spain), MedCities (Spain), Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development (Montenegro), Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy), Marine Institute (Croatia).

ARTEMIS

Restoring seagrass meadows in the Mediterranean

In 2025, Plan Bleu carried out a particularly intensive year of activities under the **ARTEMIS project**, for which it serves as lead partner. With the project set to conclude in **June 2026**, this period focused on the **implementation of restoration activities, the development of innovative financial mechanisms to support the conservation and restoration of seagrass meadows, as well as the analysis of existing regulatory frameworks and the identification of legislative gaps in this area.**

In this context, Plan Bleu was actively involved in coordinating project activities, notably through **the organization of two consortium meetings at pilot sites:** in Crete (Greece) in March, and in Monfalcone (Italy) in October 2025.

Plan Bleu also contributed to the deliverables developed by partners, in particular **restoration plans, the assessment of ecosystem services provided by seagrass meadows, especially in terms of biodiversity and carbon sequestration, as well as the development of payment for ecosystem services tools tailored to each pilot site.**

Plan Bleu is particularly involved in **producing maps identifying seagrass restoration projects across the Mediterranean, with the support of its Observatory, as well as in analysing regulatory frameworks and identifying gaps for the conservation and restoration of these ecosystems.**

KEY

INFO

Payments for ecosystem services represent an innovative lever to support the restoration of Posidonia seagrass meadows. By valuing the ecosystem services they provide, they mobilize both public and private financing and contribute to the long-term sustainability of conservation actions.



ARTEMIS



Co-funded by the European Union



Plan Bleu also presented and promoted ARTEMIS activities at international events, notably during the United Nations Ocean Conference (**UNOC**) in Nice in June 2025, where a peer-learning workshop was organized on scaling up conservation and restoration efforts for Posidonia in the Mediterranean, and at the Barcolana regatta in Trieste (Italy) in October 2025, where the project hosted a dedicated stand.

The project and its results were also presented at **the Annual Institutional Dialogue of the Natural Heritage Mission under the Interreg Euro-MED programme.**

Finally, Plan Bleu participates in the task force **of the Mediterranean Posidonia Network**, within which ARTEMIS activities are regularly presented to Mediterranean stakeholders involved in the conservation of Posidonia seagrass meadows.

PARTNERS

Plan Bleu (lead partner and WP4 coordinator) (FR), Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (co-coordinator of WP1) (GR), ISPRA (co-coordinator of WP1 and WP2) (IT), MedSea Foundation (co-coordinator of WP1) (IT), Institut d'Estudis de Menorca (ES), Municipality of Monfalcone (IT), ECOACSA (co-coordinator of WP2 and coordinator of WP3) (ES), denkstatt (BG), Bax & Company (ES), The Green Tank (GR)

WaterLANDS

Wetland restoration

In 2025, Plan Bleu continued its activities to promote studies and work on the role of governance and adaptive management in wetland restoration. The WaterLANDS project is entering its final phase and will conclude in December 2026. In this context, Plan Bleu is leading two activities, including the development of technical factsheets covering the project's six action sites, with the aim of showcasing local results and providing advocacy materials targeting European and national policymakers.

Plan Bleu is also leading, together with the Michael Succow Foundation (Greifswald, Germany), the development of a final policy brief addressing the need to ensure consistent and long-term financing for the restoration of wetlands and peatlands, and to translate European and national policies into effective on-the-ground implementation, building on the lessons learned and results of the WaterLANDS project.

KEY

INFO

Wetlands are among the most dynamic ecosystems on the planet and constitute complex socio-ecological systems. More than 40% of the world's species live in freshwater wetland habitats, which are essential not only for resident species but also play a vital role for migratory species. In the Mediterranean, these environments are often located at the interface between land and sea and perform crucial ecological functions: regulating water quantity and quality, maintaining biodiversity, sequestering carbon, and protecting against increasing risks linked to climate change.



Plan Bleu is further involved in the organization of the project's final conference, scheduled to take place in Venice, Italy, in November 2025, in partnership with University College Dublin and We are here Venice.

In May 2025, Plan Bleu participated in the 4th General Assembly of the WaterLANDS project in Leeds, United Kingdom, where it facilitated a working session to launch the development of the technical factsheets (WP7) and co-facilitated, with the Michael Succow Foundation, a session on the final policy brief (WP3).

In terms of dissemination, Plan Bleu presented the results of its study on governance models to accelerate ecological restoration of wetlands in Europe, published in March 2025 in Springer Nature's Environmental Management journal, at several international events, including the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP24) to the Barcelona Convention in December 2025 in Cairo, Egypt. Finally, Plan Bleu contributed to analytical and scientific review work on best practices for wetland restoration in Europe, which resulted in a publication released in July 2025 in the Springer Nature journal Wetlands Ecology and Management.

PARTNERS

AS Tootsi Turvas (Estonia), Balkani Wildlife Society, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Centrum Ochrony Mokradel, Community Wetlands Forum, ERINN Innovation, Doñana Biological Station, Estonian Fund for Nature
Estonian State Forest Management Centre, Geological Survey of Finland, IUCN UK Peatland Programme, Landscape Finance Lab, Michael Succow Foundation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Natural England
University of Galway, Plan Bleu (France), Prospex Institute, Province of Groningen, Radboud University Nijmegen, Staatsbosbeheer, Tour du Valat, University of Eastern Finland, University of Leeds, University of Tartu
University of Warsaw, Uppsala University, Wageningen University & Research, We Are Here Venice, Wetlands International, WWF Bulgaria

INCORE-MED

Co-developing climate adaptation

In 2025, Plan Bleu contributed to the launch of the **INCOREMED project**, which aims to **adapt and test participatory methodologies, Scenario Workshops and Adaptation Pathways (SWAPs) and Democracy Labs (DLABs)**, to co-develop climate change adaptation strategies and action plans in coastal areas. The project is implemented across four pilot sites: the region of Catalonia (Spain), Sardinia (Italy), the Algarve (Portugal), and the city of Kaštela (Croatia).

Plan Bleu is involved in the project as leader of **Work Package 3**, dedicated to the analysis of governance frameworks and participatory processes, and as a supporting partner in the implementation of **SWAPs and DLABs** approaches at the pilot sites. It also contributes to the **capitalization of experiences**, with the aim of **facilitating the replication and transfer of these methodologies to other coastal areas**.

The project's launch year was structured around several key milestones. **The first consortium meeting took place in Cagliari (Sardinia)** in September 2025, marking the start of initial activities and the training of partners in the SWAP methodology.

KEY

INFO

Democracy Labs and the SWAP methodology support stakeholder participation in governance and climate adaptation. They foster dialogue, collective solution-building and the definition of adaptation pathways, providing decision-makers with operational frameworks for long-term strategies.



INCORE-MED

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the European Union



In December, **Democracy Labs simulation workshops** were organized in Kaštela and Faro, with the participation of Plan Bleu, to test and adapt the tools of this methodology to local contexts and objectives.

In parallel, Plan Bleu conducted in 2025 a **study analysing the local governance frameworks of the pilot sites and their past experiences with participatory processes**, particularly in the context of **coastal planning and climate change adaptation**. This analysis aims to capture lessons learned, identify success factors, limitations encountered and conditions for transferability, in order to inform and strengthen the implementation of the SWAPs and DLABs methodologies within the INCOREMED project.

PARTNERS

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (project lead), PI RERA (Croatia), IUAV University of Venice (Italy), Sciaena (Portugal), Tallinn University (Estonia), eco-Union (Spain), Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy), PAP/RAC (Croatia)

Sustainable Development of
MEDITERRANEAN
CITIES

Sustainable Cities

Strengthening sustainable development in Mediterranean cities

In 2025, in line with its mandate to foster dialogue and support public policies, **Plan Bleu continued to strengthen its programme on resilient cities.**

One of the defining features of the Mediterranean basin lies in **the density of its coastal cities**, which serve as **key economic, social and cultural drivers of the region.** In a context of sustained population growth and increasing climate hazards, illustrated in 2025 by flash floods in Albania, major wildfires in Greece, and an exceptional heatwave affecting southern Italy, managing urban development has become more than ever a central issue for resilience and population safety.

Building on the flagship report published in 2024 on nature-based solutions (NbS), which highlighted pioneering examples such as **the rehabilitation of the Qortin landfill in Malta and Barcelona's green corridor network**, 2025 was dedicated to the operational dissemination of this knowledge.

This momentum was notably reflected on 19 June 2025, during **the General Assembly of the Tethys Consortium in Aix-en-Provence.** On this occasion, Plan Bleu demonstrated, supported by concrete evidence, how international cooperation and scientific synergies (notably with **MedECC**) enable the co-construction of sustainable territories.



In the same spirit, during the **Mediterranean Urban Projects Forum**, Plan Bleu facilitated a technical workshop on **integrating nature-based solutions into local policies.** Concrete examples of ecological restoration and sustainable water management were presented as direct responses to urban heat islands and flood risks.

Finally, the strategic partnership with **AVITEM** was further strengthened, combining Plan Bleu's expertise on coastal risks with spatial planning approaches. This enhanced cooperation, enriched by the diversity of expertise across the Mediterranean, reflects the shared conviction that the region's future depends on renewed solidarity—grounded in knowledge, the sharing of experience, and confidence in the collective capacity to build a more resilient, equitable and liveable future for all.

PARTNERS

AVITEM, Consortium Téthys, Aix-Marseille Université, MedECC, École Nationale d'Architecture de Rabat

Sustainable Tourism as a

MAJOR

CHALLENGE

Community4Tourism

Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation for sustainable tourism



In 2025, Plan Bleu contributed to the implementation of the **Community4Tourism (C4T) project**, a governance project under the **INTERREG Euro-MED programme**, launched in 2023 for a duration of seven years. Its objective is to **capitalize on, promote and disseminate the results of previous community projects** (the Sustainable Tourism Community and BlueTourMed), as well as those of **ongoing thematic projects (TPs)** supported by the community across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The year 2025 was marked by the consolidation of the **Working Group (referred to as the Cluster)** dedicated to **climate change adaptation in the tourism sector**, as well as by the integration of four new thematic projects. These new projects expanded the scope of the cluster to address pressing issues, notably **water management in island contexts and regenerative tourism**. In this context, a thematic paper entitled **“Climate Resilience of Coastal Tourism Destinations: Nature-Based Solutions and Cultural Heritage”** will be produced in 2026 to consolidate and showcase the solutions developed by the cluster’s member projects.

The project’s annual conference, held in Tirana (Albania), brought together all member projects of the community and included a capacity-building workshop based on the Catalogue of Practices **“Harnessing the Potential of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning Instruments for Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean.”**



KEY INFO

Plan Bleu is also part of the **“MED Blue Tourism Flagship Initiative”**, endorsed by the **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)** under the **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**. This initiative helps promote policy recommendations and field-based practices at the political level.

Finally, 2025 was marked by numerous capitalization and dissemination events. The **“Paths That Last”** event, organized by the **Multi-Programme Mechanism for the Mediterranean in Split**, provided a platform to share lessons learned from the current programming period, strengthen cooperation, and contribute to defining priorities for the next programming cycle.

Participation in the **United Nations Ocean Conference** in Nice, during the event **“Reconciling Natural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism: Euro-MED Perspectives on Maritime and Coastal Policies”**, further helped anchor the C4T project within the Mediterranean governance landscape.

PARTNERS

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

NaTour4CChange

Harnessing nature to support climate adaptation in coastal tourism destinations



NaTour4CChange

Interreg
Euro-MED



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the European Union

In 2025, Plan Bleu contributed to the implementation of the **Natour4CChange project**, a thematic project under the **INTERREG Euro-MED programme**, launched in 2024 for a duration of 33 months. Its objective is to **improve governance and foster climate change adaptation in five regions and six coastal tourism destinations, through ecosystem-based approaches**. The project supports five regions: Andalusia (ES), Sardinia (IT), Crete (GR), Zadar (HR), and Neretva (BA), along with six pilot coastal destinations across the Mediterranean within these regions.

The year 2025 marked a pivotal stage for the project, enabling the **development of a comprehensive methodology to enhance governance and resilience in partner tourism destinations**. Several key approaches were developed:

1. **A methodological framework** to assess the climate vulnerability of the tourism sector at both regional and destination levels;
2. **A toolkit** to support the development of Climate Action Plans for tourism, addressing identified vulnerabilities;
3. **A manual** for implementing nature-based solutions (NbS) to respond to climate challenges identified in pilot sites;
4. **A guide** to develop communication, marketing and visitor engagement strategies around NbS.



KEY

INFO

As part of this approach, Plan Bleu is supporting a French pilot site: the Cap Ferrat Marine Protected Area, managed by the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis.

Partner regions and their pilot destinations have already begun applying this integrated approach in practice. Throughout the year, **the five regions and pilot destinations** carried out climate vulnerability assessments and developed their Climate Action Plans using the methodologies produced. In this context, **Plan Bleu is supporting the Cap Ferrat Marine Protected Area, managed by the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis.**

PARTNERS

Institute for Tourism (Chef de file) (HR); Plan Bleu (coordonateur du WP1) (FR); CPMR (coordonateur du WP2) (FR); IUCN-MED (coordonateur du WP3) (SP); Région d'Andalousie (SP); Région de Crète (GR) Région Sardaigne (IT); HSPN (GR); MPSV HNZ (BA); NATURA-JADERA (HR).

Adapt' Pelagos

Supporting the transition towards a sustainable blue economy in the Pelagos Sanctuary

In 2025, Plan Bleu coordinated the **Adapt-Pelagos project**, launched in April 2024 for a duration of three years. **Adapt-Pelagos** is coordinated by Plan Bleu, with the support of the **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and ADEME**. It aligns with the priorities of the **Pelagos Management Plan 2022–2027**, particularly the “**Pelagos against pollution**” and “**Slow tourism**” components.

The Adapt-Pelagos project aims to strengthen the capacity for action of stakeholders in the Pelagos Sanctuary and to foster the emergence of concrete solutions for a more sustainable blue economy in the area. Its objective is to consolidate knowledge and expertise among stakeholders through a series of thematic workshops, promoting the sharing of best practices and the development of tools tailored to the Sanctuary's challenges.

The year 2025 marked the organization of the project's first workshop, held on 16 September 2025 in Monaco and forming the basis of this report. It focused on the sustainability of the cruise and recreational boating sectors. Its objectives were to:

- Strengthen participants' knowledge and capacities to manage environmental impacts related to recreational boating and cruise activities within the Pelagos Sanctuary;
- Share tools and methodologies to better address the impacts of maritime traffic on marine ecosystems and cetaceans, particularly within the Sanctuary;
- Foster collective reflection on priority actions and indicators for the blue economy within the Pelagos Sanctuary.

KEY INFO

The Pelagos Sanctuary is an internationally significant marine protected area covering more than 87,000 km², dedicated to the protection of marine mammals in the Mediterranean. This biodiversity-rich area faces multiple pressures, particularly those linked to the intensification of human activities.



The workshop took place at the **Yacht Club de Monaco**, bringing together nearly **30 participants from public, private, civil society and scientific sectors**, representing the three countries signatory to the Pelagos Agreement (France, Monaco, Italy). Through a participatory approach combining plenary sessions and breakout group discussions, the workshop enabled the emergence of concrete proposals, the sharing of local expertise, and the establishment of a first set of sustainability indicators to support the adaptation of the Pelagos Sanctuary.

PARTNERS

ACCOBAMS, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Interregional Directorate of the Mediterranean Sea (DIRM), Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, MedPAN, Yacht Club de Monaco Sea Index, Université Côte d'Azur, University of Toulon – LAB HOMER

Communication of Plan Bleu

In 2025

Plan Bleu’s communication efforts strengthened the promotion of its activities in the Mediterranean on environmental and sustainable development issues, reaching a diverse audience through a multi-channel strategy.

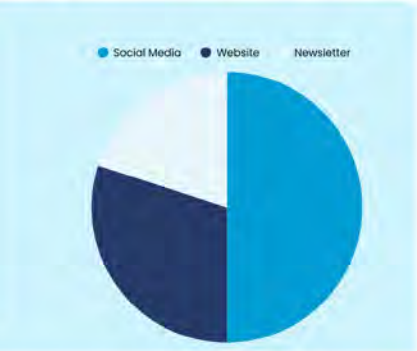
KEY FIGURES



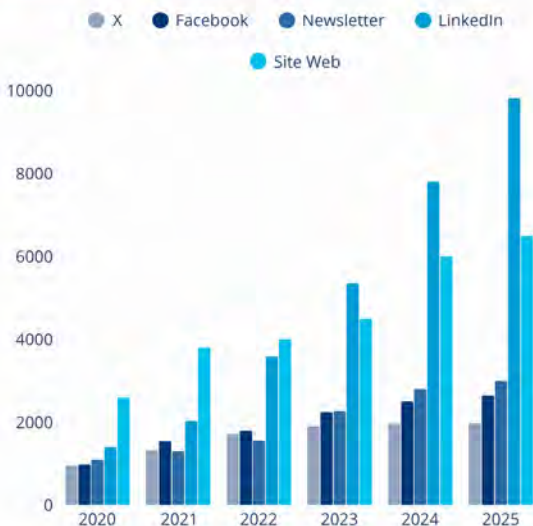
CONTENT DISSEMINATION

WHAT'S NEW

Launch of an Instagram account to broaden content dissemination and enhance event coverage



EVOLUTION



PRIORITIES

- ▷ Strengthen Plan Bleu’s visibility among decision-makers
- ▷ Promote the results of projects and studies
- ▷ Develop digital presence
- ▷ Disseminate knowledge on environmental issues in the Mediterranean

Administration of Plan Bleu

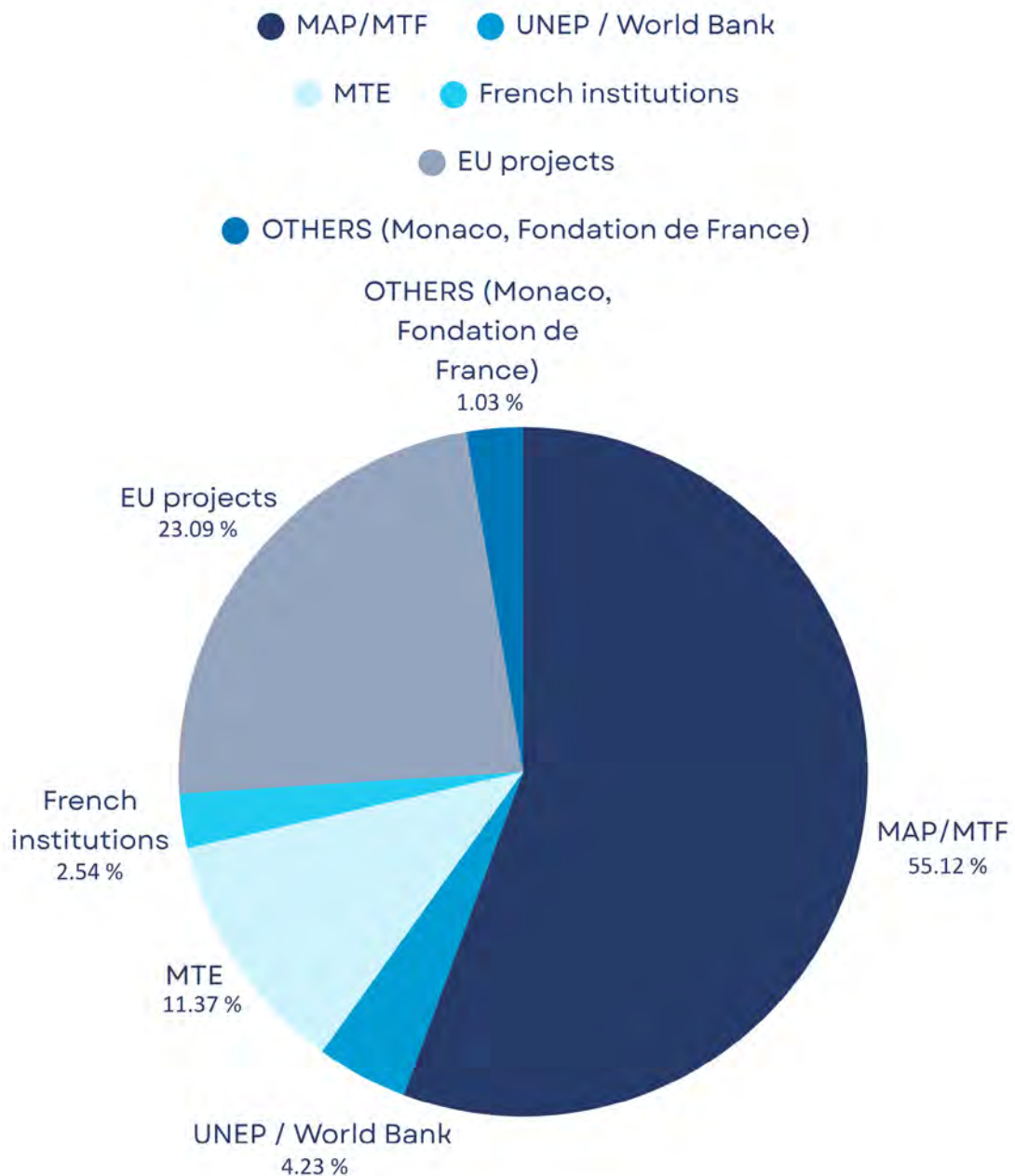
In 2025

Plan Bleu's funding is provided through five main sources: Mediterranean countries and the European Union, a grant from the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition, and contributions to joint activities and projects from various institutions and partners.

Total operating grants for Plan Bleu in 2025 amounted to **2 058 388.22 €**

The 2025 operating result was positive, at **+ 73 768.48 €**

Breakdown of Plan Bleu's resources in 2025



In 2025

Activities were carried out by a dedicated team, supported by Mediterranean experts. Diverse in terms of gender and age, the team works alongside the Board's volunteers to promote, develop and energize the Plan Bleu association.

Team Composition in 2025

MANAGEMENT:

Robin Degron, Director
Antoine Lafitte, Deputy Director

EXPERTS:

Alice Wittevrongel, Biodiversity and Forest Project Officer
Arnaud Terrisse, Biodiversity Programme Officer
Chloé Martin, Tourism Programme Officer
Constantin Tsakas, Chief Economist
Eloïse Leguérinel, Foresight Project Officer
Khadidja Amine, Head of Foresight, Fundraising and Partnerships
Katarzyna Marini, Climate Change Programme Officer
Samson Bellieres, Green and Blue Transitions Project Officer

ADMINISTRATION:

Sandra Dulbecco, Executive Assistant
Isabelle Rossi, Head of Accounting
Anne-Dominique Chalmet, Head of Human Resources
Christelle El Selfani, Head of Communication

APPRENTICES:

Insa Behrens, Water Management and Climate Change Adaptation Project Officer
Saif Salmi, Communication Officer

OTHER STAFF PRESENT IN 2025:

PHD & POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER:

Guillaume Barnouin

INTERNS:

Sophie Bayle
Alik Sofos
Léo Le Scour

AS OF 31/12/2025

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Members : Patrick Baraona (Institut Français de la Mer - Marseille Fos Calanques), Alexandre Iaschine (Fondation de la Mer), Emmanuel Noutary (ANIMA Investment Network), Patricia Ricard (Institut Océanographique Paul Ricard), Isabelle Terrier (Office français de la biodiversité)

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ACRONYMS

- AMU:** Aix-Marseille University
- CASA:** Sophia Antipolis Agglomeration Community
- C4N:** Community for Nature
- C4T:** Community for Tourism
- COP24:** 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
- CPMR:** Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- D4N:** Dialogue for Nature
- DIRM MED:** Mediterranean Interregional Directorate of the Sea (France)
- DMO:** Destination Management Organization
- EHS:** Environmentally Harmful Subsidies
- EIB:** European Investment Bank
- EBRD:** European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- EbA:** Ecosystem-based Adaptation
- EU:** European Union
- FEMISE:** Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences
- GEF:** Global Environment Facility
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- GWP-Med:** Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
- HCMR:** Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
- IAGF:** Initiative for the Future of Major Rivers
- ICZM:** Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- IME:** Mediterranean Water Institute
- IRES:** Royal Institute for Strategic Studies
- ISPRA:** Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
- LYD:** Libyan Dinar
- MAR2:** Second Mediterranean Assessment Report
- MCSD:** Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
- Med NOx ECA:** Mediterranean Nitrogen Oxides Emission Control Area
- MedECC:** Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change
- MPA:** Marine Protected Area
- MPN:** Mediterranean Posidonia Network
- MSP:** Maritime Spatial Planning
- MTF:** Mediterranean Trust Fund
- MSSD:** Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- MTE:** French Ministry for the Ecological Transition
- MEAE:** French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- NbS:** Nature-based Solutions
- OFB:** French Biodiversity Office
- OECD:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- PAP/RAC:** Priority Actions Programme / Regional Activity Centre
- PES:** Payments for Ecosystem Services
- RACs:** Regional Activity Centres
- SCC:** Social Cost of Carbon
- SCCF:** Special Climate Change Fund
- SCoT:** Territorial Coherence Scheme
- SDC:** Sustainable Development Council
- SoED Report:** State of the Environment and Development Report
- SPM:** Summary for Policymakers
- SRADDET:** Regional Scheme for Planning, Sustainable Development and Territorial Equality
- STERE:** Territorial Ecological Restoration Scheme
- TPs:** Thematic Projects
- UfM:** Union for the Mediterranean
- UNEP GRID Geneva:** UNEP Global Resource Information Database Geneva
- UNEP/MAP:** United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan
- UNESCO-IHP:** UNESCO International Hydrological Programme
- UNOC3:** 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference
- WEFE:** Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems
- WESR:** World Environmental Situation Room
- WG:** Working Group
- WP:** Work Package



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