

WETNET PROJECT
Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

WP 2 - Communication

Activity 2.5 – Horizontal project event report

Project Partner: Italian Centre for River Restoration (CIRF)

Date: December, 4th – 5th 2018

Deliverable 2.5.1 - Event Report
Panacea mid-term workshop and public hearing

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1 Event Details

Title:

Ecosystem based approach: benefits for people and nature

Type:

Workshop and public hearing

Date:

4-5/12/2018

Location:

Brussel (Belgium)

Programme:

See link below and annex 1.

Link:

<https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/media-calendar/events/detail/actualites/mid-term-workshop-and-public-hearing-of-the-biodiversity-protection-community/>

Audience:

Biodiversity protection community

WetNet participation:

- Giancarlo Gusmaroli (Italian Centre for River Restoration)

2 Description of the Event

The aim of the workshop and the public hearing at the EU Parliament is to transfer the lessons learnt by the Community of Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection projects and protected areas to a wider audience, in particular EU, Mediterranean and national policy makers, public authorities at different level, environmental organizations and territorial cooperation institutions.

The findings of two years of project work will show the solutions found at protected area level in various countries and the links to other economic sectors and areas to prove the need of an ecosystem-based approach to achieve effective protection and a good environmental status for the Mediterranean.

3 Relevance for the WetNet Project and the MED territory

An integrated monitoring and management of coastal and marine areas can assist in the deployment of an ecosystem-based approach to a more effective conservation of ecosystem functions and the services they provide. The involvement of multiple users of the same territory in decisions related to the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources of their ecoregions proves essential for the sustainable use of Mediterranean ecosystems and the maintenance of the services they provide.

The Brussels workshop debates offered a collaborative platform to bring to the table solutions to main policy gaps through project experiences addressing transferable monitoring protocols for climate change, water pollution including marine litter impacts, and the use of new technologies to integrate data to better inform decisions at regional and marine protected area levels.

The objective of the public hearing has been to ensure that the key questions identified by the Med Biodiversity Protection Community, comprising around 150 institutions representing local and regional practitioners, policymakers, environmental lobbyists, and researchers and working in the Mediterranean are presented and taken in consideration in the formulation of political proposals.

A Consensus Statement towards understanding and managing transboundary and cumulative impacts in Mediterranean Ecosystems has been set.

Title:

“Ecosystem-based approaches for biodiversity protection and management” has been set

Link:

https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Sites/Biodiversity_Protection/horizontal_project/News_events/EN_PAN_EBMDDeclaration_A4_2019_final_2.pdf

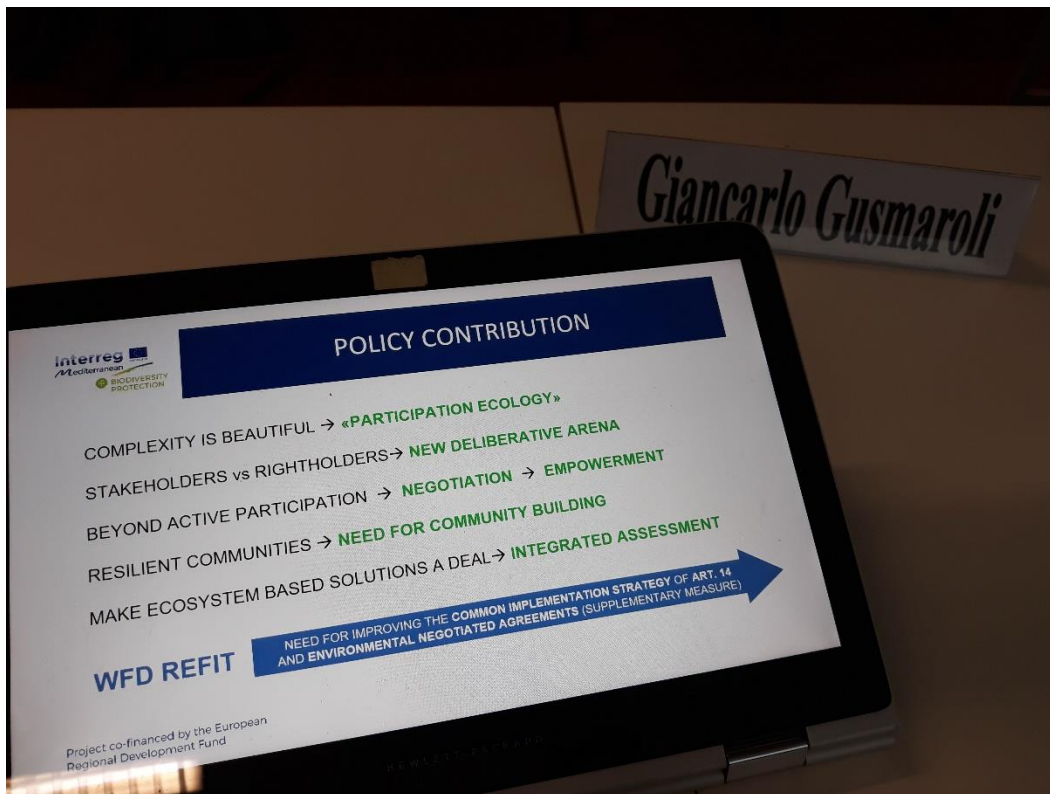
The WetNet project delegate attended and contributed to session 1 on “How to better preserve Mediterranean natural resources: the role of local communities in protection and management”. The session showcased lessons learnt towards effective mechanisms to use natural resource science results in adaptive management efforts by multiple users including managers and public authorities. The intervention has been on “negotiating water resource management in Mediterranean wetlands”.

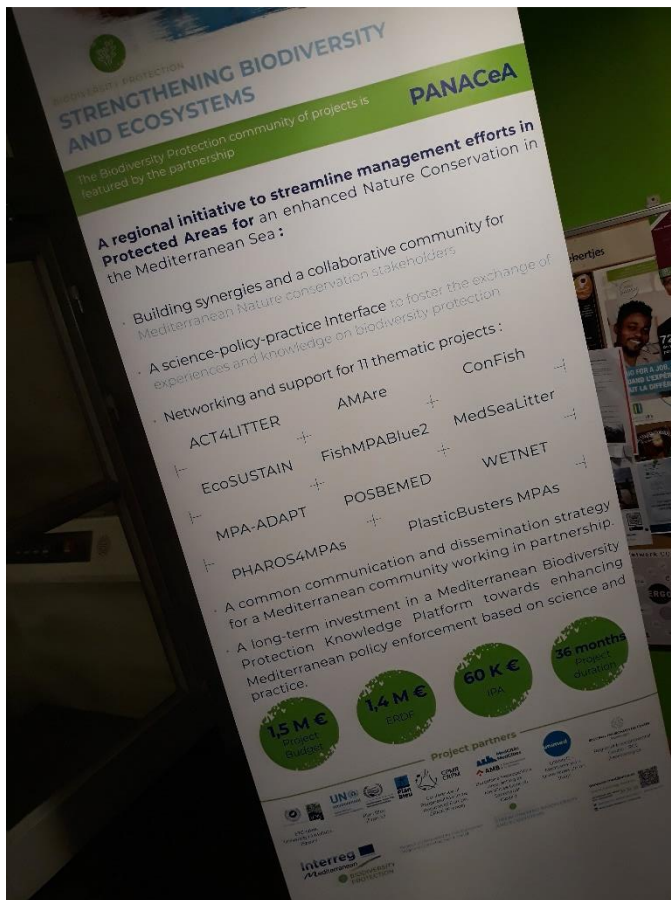
4 Concluding Remarks

The Interreg Med Community solutions to strengthen ecosystem-based management in the Mediterranean Sea are holistic approaches to conserve biodiversity and increase resilience of natural resources and key habitats. These approaches involve collaboration among public authorities, scientific institutions, regional organizations, protected area managers and the users and beneficiaries of these natural resources.

The holistic approach to biodiversity protection and management used by these projects is founded on the principle of using scientific-evidence and collaborative mechanisms to involve protected area managers, public bodies, the private sector and the society at large in the shared task of conserving and adequately managing our biodiversity hotspots and species in a sustainable fashion.

5 Photo Gallery





ANNEX 1 - Event Programme

4 December 2018

Collaborative Workshop - from 09.00 to 18.00

Venue: Mundo-b - Rue d'Edimbourg 26, B-1050 Brussels

09:00 – 09:10 WELCOME	<p>The need for cooperation and dialogue across ecoregions and economic sectors to protect biodiversity and to preserve Mediterranean biodiversity, natural resources and livelihoods:</p> <p>_/ Fleni Chatzianni, Region of Crete, Member Region of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission</p>
09:10 – 09:45 INTRODUCTION	<p>Building the Mediterranean biodiversity protection community: PANACEA mid-term review and the way forward: Video animation focusing on Ecosystem based management (EBM)</p> <p>_/ Towards understanding and managing transboundary and cumulative impacts in the Mediterranean Ecosystem, by Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA</p> <p>_/ Multiple players, one objective: PANACEA Med Biodiversity Protection Community Building, by Nelly Bourlion, UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu</p>
09:45 – 13:00 THE ECOSYSTEM BASED APPROACH: a collaborative framework to link regions, users and beneficiaries	<p>The morning sessions focus on showcasing and debating the transferable evidence-based tools, approaches and mechanisms reached by the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection Community to ensure a more effective protection of biodiversity and more sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean.</p>
09:45 – 10:30 SESSION 1: How to better preserve Mediterranean natural resources: the role of local communities in protection and management	<p>The session showcases lessons learnt towards effective mechanisms to use natural resource science results in adaptive management efforts by multiple users including managers and public authorities.</p> <p>Facilitated by Giuseppe Sciacca, CPMR</p> <p>_/ Anamaria Stambuck, University of Zagreb - CONFISH: linking genomic science to fishing practices in the Mediterranean</p> <p>_/ Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN-Med - FISHMPABLUE2: how to involve fishermen in protected area governance</p> <p>_/ Giancarlo Gusmaroli, Italian Centre for River Restoration - WETNET: negotiating water resource management in Mediterranean wetlands</p> <p>_/ Q&A by Gilles Van de Walle, EU Fisheries Network, FARNET</p>
10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 – 11:45 SESSION 2: How to ensure transferable approaches for holistic biodiversity protection: from protected key biodiversity (MPAs) to safeguard ecosystem functions (ecoregions)	<p>This session sheds the light on widely applicable Ecosystem based approaches to manage biodiversity ensuring an increased resilience of Mediterranean ecoregions facing multiple environmental threats.</p> <p>Facilitated by Sonsoles San Roman, ETC-UMA</p> <p>_/ Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN-Med - POSBEMED: improving beach management and protecting Posidonia habitats</p> <p>_/ Joaquim Garrabou, CSIC - MPA-ADAPT: enhancing Protected Areas' adaptation to climate change</p> <p>_/ Simonetta Fraschetti, University of Naples Federico II - AMARE: integrating biodiversity information for protected area planning</p> <p>_/ Catherine Piante, WWF - PHAROS4MPAS: ensuring effective mechanisms for proper ecosystem function in the face of a blue growth economy</p> <p>_/ Q&A by Salvatore Livreri, MPA Island of Ustica</p>

11:45 – 13:00 SESSION 3: How to address regional pressures to reduce impacts on Mediterranean ecosystems: gathering knowledge on pollution including marine litter threats

The session will introduce the innovative and/or enhanced pollution monitoring tools and protocols with special emphasis on their regional approach potential.

Facilitated by [Carolina Perez](#), MedCities

- / [Samir Jordanovic](#), Development Agency of Una-Sana Canton - ECOSUSTAIN: Adapting and testing technology for real time monitor of water quality
- / [Emanuele Bigagli](#) - MEDSEALITTER: Enhanced coastal and open-sea litter monitoring with the aid of technology to measure litter amounts and interactions with biota
- / [Ignasi Mateo](#), UNEP MAP SCP/RAC - ACT4LITTER: Standardised monitoring of litter on beaches, decision support tools to support MPA marine litter management action plans
- / [Cristina Panti](#), University of Siena - PLASTICBUSTERS MPAs: Holistic approach to preserve biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean MPAs
- / Q&A by Carlos Guitart, ETC-UMA

13:00 -14:30 BUFFET LUNCH ON SITE

14:30 – 17:30 INTEGRATING ECOSYSTEM BASED APPROACHES IN REGIONAL SECTORAL POLICIES: DIALOGUE WITH POLICY MAKERS

The afternoon session is expected to facilitate the transfer of key findings by the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Community as potential policy and societal solutions. Three roundtables will assist participants to benefit from thematic-oriented discussions aiming at highlighting the necessary role to be played by different sectors in achieving a good environmental status in Mediterranean ecoregions.

14:30 – 15:30 _ROUNDTABLE 1: TARGETING A MORE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES - Towards a Blue Economy

How to reach sustainable growth in the Mediterranean region while preserving our natural resources? New economy models around blue growth need to consider the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. The debate will address socio-economic aspirations and key measures to reach an environmentally sustainable development in the region.

[Presentation of the roundtable](#)

Moderated by Laurent Sourbes, MedPAN, Zakynthos National Marine Park

- / [Eleni Chatziagianni](#), Region of Crete - the PANORAMED initiative
- / [Francesca Marcato](#), Interreg Med programme Joint Secretariat
- / [Anton Gazenbeek](#), DG-MARE, EC
- / [Nikos Zampoukas](#), DG-Research & Innovation, EC
- / [Sylvain Petit](#), UNEP MAP PAP/RAC

15:30 – 16:30 _ROUNDTABLE 2: SCARCER NATURAL RESOURCES AND UNCONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS - Responding to pressures from a nature protection perspective

How are protected areas responding to environmental threats brought in by the blue economy? How is the Mediterranean addressing the current population developments and the increasing demand for natural resources? What are the present policies and management practices missing to achieve an effective protection of natural resources vis a vis an unsustainable but profitable use in the short term?

[Presentation of the roundtable](#)

Moderated by Catherine Piante, WWF

- / [Véronique Tourrel-Clément](#), Delegate General, Union of marinas of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur: Clean ports initiative
- / [Vedran Nikolić](#), DG ENV, EC, responses to pressures in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- / [Clare Waldmann](#), Sustainable projects GmbH, EU MSP Platform
- / [Eleni Fytoka](#), EKBY, A transnational ecosystem-based approach to wetland conservation – WetMainAreas INTERREG BalkanMed project

16:30 – 17:30 _ROUNDTABLE 3: ONE MEDITERRANEAN, UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS, MANY ACTORS: the need for a Mediterranean-ecosystem based territorial integration

The Mediterranean contains irreplaceable species and habitats that are present across countries. What are the current mechanisms in place to protect key biodiversity and habitats outside administrative boundaries? Which criteria are most valid for prioritizing protection of ecologically important regions? Which governance mechanisms are in place to support cooperation for an ecosystem-based management at protected area level? And at ecoregion and Mediterranean levels?

[Presentation of the Roundtable](#)

Moderated by Elen Lemaitre-Curri, UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu

- / [Miguel García-Herraiz](#), Union for the Mediterranean, Video Address
- / [Stavros Antoniadis](#), UNEP MAP Coordination Unit
- / [Christophe Le Visage](#), WestMed Assistance Mechanism
- / [Ameer Abdulla](#), IUCN WCPA
- / [Anis Zarrouk](#), UNEP MAP SPA RAC

17:30 – 18:00 CONCLUSIONS AND INTRODUCTION to the public hearing "Mediterranean Ecosystems in Danger: Enhancing EU policy response: towards an integration of ecosystem-based approaches in policies" European Parliament, 5 December, organized by the Searica European Parliament Intergroup and PANACEA project

18:00 – 19:30 NETWORKING COCKTAIL

5 December 2018 - 9.00-12.00

Venue: **European Parliament**

Bât. Altiero Spinelli, Room PHS 58001 - 60 rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels

The objective of this public hearing is to ensure that the key questions identified by the Med Biodiversity Protection Community, comprising around 150 institutions representing local and regional practitioners, policymakers, environmental lobbyists, and researchers and working in the Mediterranean are presented and taken in consideration in the formulation of political proposals.

08.30 Registration - security check

09.00 – 09.15 Opening session

Welcome speech by Ms [Gesine MEISSNER](#), MEP, Chair of SEARICA

Presentation of the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection Community, Mr [Sergi TUDELA](#), Director general de Pesca i Afers Marítims, Generalitat de Catalunya

09.15 – 10.00 Roundtable 1

Towards a transboundary and ecoregional approach for a sound biodiversity management and protection

Moderator: Mr [Marco AFFRONTI](#), MEP, Member of the Searica

Panelists:

Mr [Ameer ABDULLA](#), IUCN WPCA

Ms [Stéphanie OUDIN](#), Department of Territorial Development and Environment, Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

Ms [Valentina MABILJA](#), Policy Officer, Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, DG Mare, European Commission

Q&A

10.05-10.45 Roundtable 2

A long-term vision for the development of monitoring tools, harmonized methodologies, protocols and data

Moderator: Mr [Davor ŠKRLEC](#), MEP, Member of Searica

Panelists:

Mr [Sylvain PETIT](#), Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia

Mr [Khalil ATTIA](#), Director, Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), Tunisia ([video presentation](#))

Ms [Marijana MANCE](#), Policy Officer, Unit C2, DG ENV, European Commission

Q&A

10.45 – 11.30 Roundtable 3

Streamlining governance and cooperation to tackle Mediterranean biodiversity challenge

Moderator: Mr [Francesc GAMBUS](#), MEP, Member of Searica

Panelists:

Ms [Marie-Aude SÉVIN-ALLOUET](#), IUCN-Med Marine programme coordinator

Mr [Sergi TUDELA](#), Director general de Pesca i Afers Marítims, Generalitat de Catalunya

Mr [Gilles VAN DE WALLE](#), FARNET Support Unit team leader

Q&A

Conclusion by Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA, (PANACeA project leader)

12.00: End of proceedings