



SUMMARY

- | **WHATS GOING ON**
- | **SUMMER SCHOOL: JUNE 3-7 2019 CAORLE/VENICE, ITALY**
- | **PANACeA HORIZONTAL PROJECT**
- | **FIFTH & SIXTH MEETING OF WETNET PROJECT**

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

Dear Readers,

In this issue we present an interview with **Janez Kastelic, director, Nature Park Ljubljansko Barje made by our slovenian partner ZRC-SAZU**. We hope you find it interesting!

What are the main challenges for the manager of Nature Park Ljubljansko Barje wetlands as a protected area? The main challenges are to harmonize the activities of all stakeholders who



manage or use the natural assets in the area.

How do you connect with other wetlands in Slovenia and abroad? Protected areas in Slovenia are united in the Community of Natural Parks of Slovenia, and we are actively involved in the network of parks along the Sava River "Sava Parks".

Why did you decide for an associated partnership in the WETNET project and what did you expect from it? We have joined the project in order to work together with

stakeholders to find a way to provide a balance between using and preserving the environment.

How did you decide which area to use for the pilot case study in the WETNET project and what challenges do you face in this case? For a practical implementation, we have chosen an area where natural and cultural heritage intertwines with extensive and intensive agriculture.

What are your expectations and what will be the added value for the wetlands of the Ljubljansko Barje after the signing of the Wetlands Management Agreement for the sustainable managing of the Ljubljansko Barje Nature Park? Our expectation are that the signing of the agreement will stimulate the introduction of nature-friendly practices in the exploitation of natural assets with a special emphasis on agriculture. In any case, we believe that with this we can practically demonstrate the possibilities of implementing customized agricultural practice in protected areas, thereby contributing to the formulation of measures under the Common Agricultural Policy, which will be the highest added value.

Do you think that such an agreement can become an example of good practice for other wetlands in Slovenia? Why yes or why not? Such an agreement can certainly be an example of good practice in other wetlands as they face similar problems of managing and conserving wetlands.

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SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE OF MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS: “Wetland Contracts as voluntary agreements for stakeholder engagement and empowerment”

The Wetnet project will organize a summer school in Caorle Venice (Italy) in June. The summer school aims to build capacity on sustainable governance addressing target groups involved in wetland management to facilitate the uptake of the Wetland Contract model at Mediterranean scale. This high level training event will be the opportunity to foster the coordination and networking of Mediterranean wetlands, transferring the lessons learned in the project to the larger Mediterranean community.



TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- National and regional decision makers on wetland management
- Managing directors and technical officers of Med wetlands
- International NGOs members active on wetland management at Med scale
- Practitioners and researchers on wetland governance issues
- Graduated students (PhD and/or MD) in wetland governance related topics

SUMMER SCHOOL OBJETIVES:

- to build capacity on sustainable governance of protected wetlands addressing target groups involved in wetlands management;
- to facilitate the uptake of the Wetlands Contract model by Wetlands Management Authorities at Mediterranean Scale;
- to foster the coordinating and networking of Mediterranean protected wetlands
- to set up and make available a training format replicable within the Mediterranean community.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English (English/Italian translation will be offered)

SUMMER SCHOOL FIGURES

5 days of training with of interactive classes, thematic seminars, role play games and living laboratories based on 9 case studies (WetNet Pilot Areas), and field activities.

International experts have been invited as lecturers and international students from Med Countries (Interreg Med Cooperation Area: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Gibraltar-UK, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain).

PANACEA: HORIZONTAL PROJECT INTERREG MED

Panacea “Bridging the Science-Practice_Policy Interface in Mediterranean Biodiversity Protecion” .

The objective of PANACeA is to streamline networking and management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas (PAs) as a mechanism to enhance nature conservation and protection in the region.

The project aims at ensuring synergies between relevant Mediterranean stakeholders –including managers, policymakers, socio-economic actors, civil society and the scientific community –, and to increase the visibility and impacts of their projects’ results towards common identified strategical targets.

Protecting biodiversity is crucial to ensure the resilience of the whole Mediterranean, which is facing unprecedented threats and whose resources are depleted by irresponsible practices. While the Mediterranean is a Biodiversity hotspot known for its high rates of endemism, the increasing pressures associated to a growing population are threatening the unique species and habitats in the region.

The underestimation of these growing threats on Mediterranean ecosystems linked to unsustainable management mechanisms and slow response instruments calls for better coordinated actions.

The MED Biodiversity Protection Community featured by the Interreg MED funded project PANACeA, is actively working to bridge the gaps between key actors in biodiversity protection – researchers, managers and policy makers - and creating opportunities to share knowledge, to build a community where they are all represented and, eventually, to promote their results through a strengthened network.

As a transversal and pan-Mediterranean initiative, the work of the PANACeA project focuses on three cross-cutting areas that have been identified as relevant to the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Community. Each issue is a Working Group focus point.

Working Groups bring together Modular Project (MP) partners, associated partners and external experts to work on specific topics and share their experiences, knowledge and best practices. They also gather MP partners to exchange information network and develop a sense of ownership for the initiative.



The MED Biodiversity Protection Community focuses on three strategic and cross-cutting issues: climate change and marine litter as key challenges to biodiversity; sustainable use of resources in protected areas; and integrated ecosystem monitoring approach. During the knowledge sharing and community building events our projects partners, associated partners and external experts are meeting to develop common tools and strategies in specific working groups:

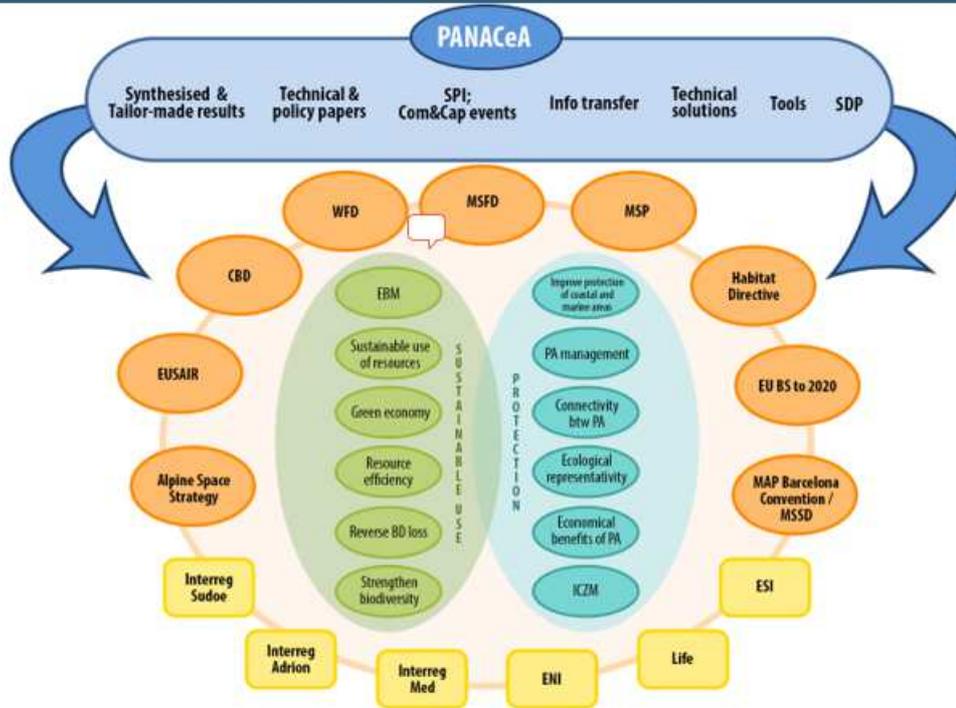
WG 1: Emergent, transboundary biodiversity protection challenges in Protected Areas, with a focus on climate change and marine litter

WG 2: Sustainable use of resources in Protected Areas, with a focus on fisheries

WG 3: Integrated Ecosystem Monitoring focusing on freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems.

PANACeA

Contribution to policies and Instruments



The biodiversity Protection Community of MED is formed by the following projects

ACT4LITTER (marine waste in marine protected areas), **AMAre** (marine spatial planning and PAs), **CONFISH** (network of fish stock recovery areas), **ECOSUSTAIN** (water quality monitoring solutions in protected wetlands), **FishMPABlue2** (governance of artisanal fisheries in As), **MEDSEALITTER** (marine waste management), **MPA-ADAPT** (adaptation of MPAs to climate change), **POSBEMED** (strategy for joint management of Posidonia beaches and dunes), **WETNET** (wetland governance).

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

WETNET PROJECT: FIFTH & SIXTH PROJECT MEETING & STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN LISBON (PORTUGAL) AND ARLES (FRANCE)



The Fifth Project and Steering Committee Meeting of the WETNET project was held by RCDI last November 28-29th 2018, in Lisbon (Portugal) and Melides Lagoon - RCDI pilot area

On the first day of the meeting partners visited the projet pilot site around the **Melides Lagoon**. Local authorities and members of ICFN (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests) explained what has been done in terms of conservation and management. In Grândola, we were then welcomed by Ms. Cristina Campos, the person responsible for sanitation services of the Municipality, on behalf of the city councilor for Environment, Water and Sanitation. She strengthened the importance of the project for the administration. Partners were then asked to present the state of the art of each pilot area.



During the second day of the meeting we discussed about project management, communication and testing of wetland contracts as a common methodology.

We decided the dates for the summer school and drafted the agenda, speakers and relavant issues.

THE SIXTH WETNET PROJECT MEETING & STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN ARLES (FRANCE)

The sixth Project and Steering Committee Meeting of the WETNET was held by Tour du Valat last April 3-4th in Arles (France).

We visited the fantastic pilot area "The Verdier Marshes" in the Natural Regional Park of the Camargue. Representatives of the local community association explained the dynamics and wetland management in the area and the project wetland restoration that has been carried out progressively.

Environmental technicians accompanied us in the visit to the area. We were able to visit a big area of the Park in order to know the management of the pilot area and the economic, environmental, and cultural interests that they have when implementing measures.



During the technical meeting, we were able to review the progress of the administrative and technical activities in the project and realign our communication activities. We also established guidelines for coordinated work for each of the pilot areas and finalized the agenda for the summer school.

In the next WETNET NEWSLETTER

PARTNERS GOING ON

SUMMER SCHOOL IN CAORLE (VENICE)

WETLAND CONTRACT