

Empowering the Mediterranean Community: Tools for Ecosystem-based Management

**Report of the MED Biodiversity Protection
Community Open Seminar**

Podgorica, Montenegro, 16-17 May 2018

Project co-financed by the European
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Executive Summary

- > Existing and new Marine Protected Areas are important tools for biodiversity conservation and management, but other tools are necessary to manage impacts beyond MPA or national boundaries. Working beyond MPA boundaries is necessary for sound Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) and requires consideration of the relevant scales that allow for a transboundary and eco-regional approach to biodiversity management and protection.
- > Ecosystem-based Management should be the basis for decision-making in natural resource management and biodiversity protection. EBM allows decision makers to address global and transboundary challenges. Sound ecosystem-based management requires considering scales that are larger than Marine Protected Areas boundaries.
- > Working beyond PA's boundaries to support sound EBM at a relevant scale requires international cooperation, as the underlying condition that allows for a transboundary and eco-regional approach to biodiversity management and protection.
- > EBM also requires an integrated approach that, unfortunately, cannot be uniformly applied across different ecosystems and sites. Having harmonized protocols and methodologies that can be adapted to local conditions is key, as is the availability of multi-scale and comparable data.
- > Cumulative Impact Assessment, Monitoring and Metadata Synthesis Tools that support better management within and beyond PAs will lead to more comprehensive EBM at different scales. Monitoring tools that support the compilation of multi-scale data sets can contribute to addressing current data challenges, but a long-term vision needs to be applied to develop and evolve these tools.
- > Co-management is rising as a powerful tool for participatory decision-making. Financial resources are required to nurture a proactive, effective culture of co-management through capacity building.
- > Collaboration and networking amongst existing efforts are key to foster and promote the transferability of EBM tools to a wider Mediterranean scale, in support of an effective management of MPAs





About this Report

This Report summarizes the results and conclusions of the open seminar **“Empowering the Mediterranean Community: Tools for Ecosystem-based Management”**, held in Podgorica (Montenegro) on May 16th – 17th, 2018 in the framework of project “PANACeA: Streamlining Management Efforts in Protected Areas for an Enhanced Nature Conservation in the Mediterranean Sea” (“PANACeA”). The open seminars are knowledge-sharing events that are amongst the key tools that have been articulated to advance the shared goals of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community.

The event was built on the results and conclusions of the first knowledge sharing event organized by PANACeA in Barcelona (October 24th – 25th, 2017), which focused on linking the needs of regional biodiversity conservation practitioners to those of researchers, and facilitating evidence-based policy making in support of biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean. It therefore addressed three cross-cutting issues:

- > Emergent transboundary impact management and biodiversity protection challenges in Protected Areas, with a focus on climate change and marine litter impacts.
- > Sustainable resource management, with a focus on fisheries.
- > Integrated ecosystem monitoring and management with a focus on freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems.

Feeding on these previous discussions, the open seminar looked deeper into developing a comprehensive vision of practical strategies, methodologies and tools that can contribute to addressing biodiversity protection challenges across the above cross-cutting issues, promoting ecosystem-based management and decision-making processes at all relevant scales in the Mediterranean, in support of effective biodiversity conservation.

The key messages and conclusions stemming from the open seminar are the subject of this Report.

LIST OF ACRONYMS FREQUENTLY USED IN THIS REPORT

CBD: UN Convention for Biological Diversity

CIA: Cumulative Impact Assessment

CEA: Cumulative Environmental Assessment

EBM: Ecosystem-based Management

EBSAs: Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

EcAp: Ecosystem Approach

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

GES: Good Environmental Status

ICZM: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

IMAP: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

MPA: Marine Protected Area

MSP: Marine Spatial Planning

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals





Objectives and key points of discussion of the Open Seminar

The open seminar of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community aims to highlight and transfer the latest knowledge, practical methodologies and tools stemming from current EU and Mediterranean Research, Management and Policy related to Biodiversity Protection, stimulating a Mediterranean debate on ecosystem-based management and biodiversity conservation.

The Seminar also sought to showcase practical solutions developed and/or tested by the MED Biodiversity Protection Community in the Mediterranean through a wide range of ongoing Projects. Project representatives and key players including technicians, protected area managers, and regional policy makers within and outside the Community had the opportunity to present and to learn from one another on best practices under way to protect Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity, with a special focus on the Adriatic region.

An introductory framing session and a set of three thematic sessions were planned to address these objectives, bringing together policy makers, researchers and practitioners engaged in biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean:

- > Setting the Framework: **“Ecosystem-Based Management to support Mediterranean and Adriatic Processes: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation science and practice into policy”**. This session sought to provide a framework reference for discussion throughout the event, addressing the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation science and practice into policy and the role that ecosystem-based management can play towards that end. The session was chaired by Dr Dania Abdul Malak (Director of ETC-UMA) and engaged representatives from the Mediterranean Center for Environmental Monitoring (MedCEM) and the Institute for Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro.
- > Session 1: **“Regional Networks and Actions to foster Ecosystem-based Management and Evidence-based Policies”**. This session looked at efforts currently underway towards multi-scale assessment, monitoring, and management of transboundary and cumulative impacts on biodiversity, with a focus on the importance of coherent and collaborative networks and an integrated approach to tackle common impacts at the basin, eco-region and Marine Protected Area level. The session was chaired by Dr Ameer Abdulla (Associate Professor of Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the University of Queensland and member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas), and featured representatives of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, the European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform, Shoreline, Porto Cesareo Protected Area and the University of Venice.





- > Session 2: **“New data, strengthened instruments for an Ecosystem-based Approach”**. This session focused on sharing the latest research findings concerning available instruments and data gathering efforts seeking to foster a sustainable use of natural resources at different scales, following an ecosystem-based management approach. This session was chaired by Alyssa Clavreul (Project Officer at UNEP/MAP – Plan Bleu) and gathered participants from the Italian National Research Council - ISMAR Institute of Marine Sciences, NAPA Albania, RGO Communication, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, ISPRA and Brijuni National Park.
- > Session 3: **“Innovative Tools to support Sustainable Resource Management in the Mediterranean”**. This session sought to identify best practices and new management models for natural resource management, including fisheries and wetland-related resources. The session was chaired by Sergi Tudela (Director General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Government of Catalonia) and included representatives of FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro, CIRF, WWF Adria, University of Zagreb, the Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro and the ADRION programme.

After these sessions, an additional interactive session was organized to facilitate a technical exchange of information around specific tools for ecosystem-based management, bringing together projects from the MED Biodiversity Protection Community that are currently working to develop these tools across a broad range of themes and challenges. The main objective of this interactive session was to share an overview of the applicable uses of these tools, reflect on potential synergies with other tools, as well as to identify transferability opportunities that could be addressed by the Community. The results of this session will feed a dedicated publication.

In between sessions, a field visit to National Park Skadar Lake was organized, giving all participants the opportunity to learn about the management challenges of this trans-boundary lake between Montenegro and Albania, as well as to understand the level of protection the Government of Montenegro is implementing in it and the level of environmental pressures affecting the lake. This visit was also an opportunity to facilitate networking amongst the Seminar’s participants.

The full and detailed Agenda of the Open Seminar, including access to presentations delivered during the event, is available [here](#).





Key messages and conclusions of the Open Seminar

1_ Existing and new Marine Protected Areas are important tools for biodiversity conservation and management, but other tools are necessary to manage impacts beyond MPA or national boundaries

- > Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are an effective, important mechanism to support biodiversity conservation at a local scale. The designation of new areas and effective management of existing ones should therefore be sustained. There is consensus around the need to further develop MPAs (towards the UN Convention on Biological Diversity target of protecting 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020 - one of the so-called “Aichi Targets”), but designation is not enough to address regional and transboundary environmental challenges. Current evidence shows that over 50% of PAs in the Mediterranean are under high pressure and many are not managed effectively. Also, managing impacts beyond MPAs is critical to maintaining the values and benefits of these areas. Ecosystem-based management of eco-regions will utilise a network of individual MPAs as one of a number of tools to address impacts that may compromise biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- > Recent research shows that **cumulative environmental pressures** have been underestimated in the Mediterranean region. Current knowledge shows that climate change and other transboundary pressures, including pollution, are undermining Mediterranean ecosystems within and outside MPAs. While establishing MPAs reduces pressures on biodiversity from specific site and local impacts, protected areas are still exposed to impacts beyond their management boundaries. Thus, there is a need to act at other relevant geographical scales.
- > Ecosystem services are necessary to maintain human life. If we do not preserve ecosystem functionality, we are putting our own welfare and lives at risk (e.g. without healthy “habitats” for marine species, we will not have nursery areas for fish stocks that people harvest). We are currently reducing the capacity of ecosystems to deliver these services. If we continue this trend, the livelihoods of Mediterranean communities will be at risk. This fact – that humans are part of a natural ecosystem that must be sustained - should be at the centre of all policies and management actions.
- > As mentioned, there is a clear need to sustain and upscale the designation of new MPAs at the Mediterranean level, while considering cross-border impacts and using approaches that ensure the integrity of eco-regions. In the Adriatic Sea, for example, which has been





identified as a sensitive area by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has three Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) identified by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for its important biodiversity, efforts to designate MPAs face a number of different obstacles, including:

- + Administrative barriers and fragmentation of competences: Delays in assigning administrative responsibilities to the management of PAs and lack of coordination amongst responsible authorities at different levels (cross-border involving multiple country commitments, national and local).
 - + Financial barriers: The funds allocated to marine and coastal protection are not always used for that purpose, as local governments apply those resources to other priorities.
 - + Development pressures: The development of economic activities such as agriculture, fishing, tourism and real estate investment in coastal areas or oil drilling compete with designations of MPAs.
- > These obstacles need to be addressed. Supporting MPA Managers and helping them to overcome common challenges is key.

2_ Working beyond MPA boundaries is necessary for sound Ecosystem-based Management and requires consideration of the relevant scales that allow for transboundary and eco-regional approaches to biodiversity management and protection.

- > Transboundary approaches can support the management of highly connected marine ecosystems, often also requiring the adoption of a **multi-sector approach** to address the full range of activities occurring within an area. Transboundary approaches have a wide remit, incorporating both terrestrial and marine impacts to support holistic management. It has been suggested that the ecosystem approach presents a possible lens through which to view sustainable management of the marine environment, as healthy, fully functioning natural ecosystems support many socioeconomic benefits that society receives. Transboundary cooperation is a necessary condition for real environmental management in the Mediterranean.
- > Sometimes, as researchers and managers, we over emphasise the need for more data as a precondition for action. This is counter-productive, as precautionary management decisions can be robust in situations of some uncertainty or when lacking complete data or information. There is a need to act with the information that is available and to act across borders through cross-border platforms and cooperation.
- > Managing “**eco-regions**” (the spatial boundaries of species diversity and functioning ecosystems) and fully protecting a proportion of these eco-regions is key, as these regions define the space where critical processes must be managed and maintained to allow





marine resources and biodiversity to persist into the future. Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas can be used as representative “Planning Units” of these eco-regions, as they are scientifically and politically accepted through formal consensus processes under the CBD and UN Environment.

- > However, EBSAs are not legally binding and do not currently have a legal framework. The development of roadmaps and the implementation of transnational planning and management processes require cross-border cooperation platforms. Consequently, international organizations and institutions can play a key role in facilitating and advancing this cooperation. The United Nations’ Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“Barcelona Convention”), the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UN CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and EBSAs provide a framework for this transnational cooperation.

3_ Ecosystem-based Management should be the basis for decision-making in natural resource management and biodiversity protection. EBM allows decision makers to address global and transboundary challenges. Sound ecosystem-based management requires considering scales that are larger than Marine Protected Area boundaries.

- > The ecosystem approach (EcAp) and ecosystem-based management are important and powerful tools that should be widely communicated and used. In a planning process, they provide a conceptual framework and identify practical tools for impact monitoring assessment and management, they are also key to environmental decision-making processes.
- > MPAs, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) are all tools that support ecosystem-based management. ICZM and “Ridge to Reef” approaches are tools with a wider geographical remit that included both land and sea areas, and thus adopt an ecosystem-based management approach. These tools facilitate the use of inland, coastal and marine management measures to support holistic conservation outcomes and can thus contribute to a range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Targets, including the reduction of pollution in marine ecosystems from land-based sources (Target 14.1), sustainable consumption and production (Targets 12.2 and 12.4) and integration of ecosystem values into national and local planning and development processes (Target 15.9). EBM uses quality, accurate and comparable data that allows a sound understanding of the environmental status, in order to make robust and rational decisions at the eco-regional scale.
- > In MPAs, applying EBM will require the consideration of surrounding areas around the MPA to properly consider both ecosystem processes (connectivity, species movement and





migration) and transboundary threats (pollution, invasive species, poaching, etc.) that might occur on scales beyond the boundaries of the MPA.

- > In best practice EBM, a hierarchical nested approach is necessary to connect the different scales. This needs to be done in the visioning, assessment and planning stages of MPAs, ICZM, and MSP and should include all relevant institutions and stakeholders. Different processes will be important at different scales, and these processes need to be road-mapped and systematically planned beforehand.
- > Ensuring or increasing stakeholder participation is key to engaging communities and individuals in the development and implementation of an area-based management tool and can help build stakeholder buy-in and support, thus potentially increasing tool effectiveness. Existing regional or transnational structures can support transboundary area-based management approaches. For example, coordinating bodies set up under UN Regional Seas Programmes and UN Conventions have supported collaboration between countries.

4_ Ecosystem-based Management requires an integrated approach that, unfortunately, cannot be uniformly applied across different ecosystems and sites. Having harmonised protocols and methodologies that can be adapted to local conditions is key, as is the availability of multi-scale and comparable data.

- > There are currently a great number of tools and methodologies under development that support EBM. However, the transferability of these tools from their “testing grounds” to other Mediterranean areas remains a challenge. Developing harmonised protocols, widely applicable methodologies, and flexible tools that can be adapted to different local conditions is key to ensure this purpose.
- > Since 2012¹, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have adopted the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and have agreed on a roadmap for its implementation in the Mediterranean Sea with the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea. The Contracting Parties also agreed to design an

¹In 2012, during the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the **Barcelona Convention (COP17)**, the Contracting Parties agreed (through Decision IG.20/4) on an overall vision and goals for the ecosystem approach (EcAp), on 11 ecological objectives, operational objectives and indicators for the Mediterranean. A six-year cyclic review process of EcAp implementation was established with the next EcAp cycle set to cover 2016-2021. At **COP18**, in 2013, the targets for achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone by 2020 were adopted. The Contracting Parties also agreed to design an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) by **COP19**, which would, for the first time, ensure a common assessment basis for the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. At **COP19**, in 2016, the IMAP was adopted. The IMAP provides guidance to the parties on how to practically implement quantitative monitoring and assessment of the ecological status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast in line with the EcAp. The COP19 Decision IG. 22/7 implies that “the existing national monitoring and assessment programmes will be reviewed and revised as appropriate so that national implementation of IMAP can be fulfilled in a sufficient manner”. The core of the IMAP are the common indicators, belonging to 11 Ecological Objectives (EOs), that summarise data into a simple, standardised and communicable figure and are applicable in the whole Mediterranean basin, monitored by the Contracting Parties.



Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) to ensure a common regional assessment basis for the marine and coastal environment. The core of the IMAP are the common indicators, belonging to 11 Ecological Objectives (EOs), operational objectives and indicators that summarize data into a simple, standardized and communicable figure and are applicable in the whole Mediterranean basin, monitored by the Contracting Parties.

- > Horizontal, international networks such as the MED Biodiversity Protection Community also provide an important added value, as they encourage knowledge sharing and collaboration towards that end. However, whereas there is a clear willingness to transfer these tools and methodologies both within and outside the EU, the lack of comprehensive data sets that can be used for multi-scale analysis remains the most important obstacle to transferability.

5_ Cumulative Impact Assessment, Monitoring and Metadata Synthesis Tools that support better management within and beyond PAs will help lead to more comprehensive EBM at different scales.

- > Traditional methods of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - a key management tool used in most countries - has evolved into Cumulative Environmental Assessment (“CEA”) or Cumulative Impact Assessment (“CIA”). CEA and CIA undertake a spatial assessment of aggregated pressures and impacts where intensity and extent are key variables that need to be measured in order to fully understand:
 - + the intensity of individual impacts (punctuated intense short-term vs longer term diffuse impacts); and
 - + the extent, footprint and overlap with other impacts and when or where they actually become transboundary.
- > There is a great potential to utilise different types of data (observational, remotely sensed, or modelled) to assess cumulative impacts and ecosystem vulnerability to transboundary pressures. Geoportals and data platforms are useful technological advances that can support complex assessments and inform and support a science-based approach to management and decision-making.
- > Geoportals and data platforms, however, are difficult to maintain, as they require the intensive application of human capital and financial resources. Securing the long-term sustainability of existing tools is a challenge. Making these tools operational to support implementation of various policy frameworks (i.e. Maritime Spatial Planning and the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive) could be a way forward in addressing that challenge. Using open data schemes and supporting the interconnectivity of different platforms is also critical towards this end. The possibility of involving the private sector needs to be further explored.





- > Management plans & measures, guidelines for ecosystem management and decision-making support tools can be extremely valuable to bolster the expansion of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation. There is an extensive portfolio of tools currently under development by the MED Biodiversity Protection Community that is building to become a comprehensive catalogue of tools for biodiversity protection in MPAs (see Section 4 of this document).
- > Management plans should include an obligation to be regularly reviewed based on evidence from monitoring programmes and data collection in the designated area. Data collection allows managers to gain insight into tool effectiveness and to monitor progress towards tool objectives and international targets, such as Good Environmental Status and Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, data sharing can support tool reviews and help to maintain and create a sense of ownership of a particular tool amongst stakeholders.

6_ Co-management is rising as a powerful tool for participatory decision-making. Financial resources are required to nurture an effective culture of co-management through capacity building.

- > In view of the absence of local data, and given the fact that EBM is an issue of scales, we need to adapt current data and methodological approaches to gather data from alternative sources that may help us build a more realistic picture of the state of the Mediterranean's natural capital. This requires shifting the decision-making power from top-down to bottom-up approaches, while combining both to maximise results.
- > Co-management is a great example of a bottom-up approach that is rising as a powerful tool for participatory decision-making. Co-management, or the joint management of natural resources, is often formulated in terms of some arrangement of power sharing between the Government and a community of resource users or stakeholders. It is a continuous problem-solving process, involving extensive deliberation, negotiation and joint learning amongst key stakeholders, allowing scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge to complement each other to inform better, locally adapted and accepted decision-making. In Catalonia (Spain), for example, its application has resulted in considerable improvements in the management of specific fisheries and it has been used as the guiding framework to develop an effective marine governance strategy.
- > The complexity of bottom-up approaches requires investing in capacity building to empower a wide range of different actors to understand their role in these processes and to inspire a culture of participation and co-management to support decision-making processes. It is important to take into account not just the conservation dimension, but also social dimension, in those processes. The power of local populations to be involved in the nature conservation and protection challenges must not be underestimated. Local populations see natural resources as a priority. In that sense, co-management appears as





a powerful means for better using natural resources. For example, local fishermen can advise on developing local management plans or support scientists in their monitoring or assessment of resources missions. Co-management has various aspects and the need for capacity building and sharing experiences is a clear priority. Financing means through funding platform or programmes can be helpful.

7_ Collaboration and networking amongst existing efforts are key to foster and promote the transferability of EBM tools to the wider Mediterranean, in support of more effective management of MPAs.

- > Successful case studies of MPAs that are addressing biodiversity conservation challenges guided by EBM Tools provide real evidence of the value of these tools to effectively manage MPAs. Sharing data, experiences and practical applications to management challenges are key factors that improve the governance capacity of MPAs and beyond, generating a perspective of cooperative management.
- > Funding is required to undertake research and data collection, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and review processes, enforcement activities, as well as to provide staffing and resources for implementing institutions. Self-generated funding can support the ongoing implementation of area-based management tools. For example, income from tourism or “user fee” systems are options for the sustained, independent financing of Marine Protected Areas in many locations around the world.
- > Project PANACeA will continue to foster collaboration and networking amongst all members of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community, following its recognition as a useful and valuable mechanism to support knowledge exchange on existing and new tools currently under development by the Community.





Agenda: Empowering the Mediterranean Community Tools for Ecosystem-based Management

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2018

09h00 **Arrival of participants: Registration**

09h20 **Welcome address**

Master of Ceremony:

Srna Sudar, Regional Environment Centre (REC) – Montenegro

- [Mr. Saša Radulović, State Secretary for Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro](#)
- Mr. Miodrag Raceta, Head of CBC body (Crossborder and Transnational Cooperation Programmes)

10h00 **SETTING THE FRAMEWORK: ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT MEDITERRANEAN AND ADRIATIC PROCESSES - Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation science and practice into policy**

- > Making management applicable: best practices and innovative tools bridging Science - Practice - Policy gaps.
- > Recent management developments and gaps in biodiversity protection in the Eastern Mediterranean / Adriatic: establishment and management of a coherent MPA network.
- > A look into instruments for biodiversity protection in the region

Speakers:

- [Dania Abdul Malak, Director European Topic Centre – University of Malaga \(ETC-UMA\)](#)
- [Dusan Varda, Mediterranean Center for Environmental Monitoring \(MedCEM\) - Mediterranean Protected Areas Network \(MedPAN\)](#)
- Dragan Marković, Deputy Director, Institute for Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro

10h30 **Greening our practices - Exhibition and coffee break**





11h00

SESSION 1 - REGIONAL NETWORKS AND ACTIONS TO FOSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES

This session will look at current efforts towards a multi-scale assessment, monitoring, and management of transboundary and cumulative impacts on biodiversity, with a focus on the importance of coherent and collaborative networks and an integrated approach to tackle common impacts at Mediterranean, basin, ecosystem and Protected Area level.

Chair: [Ameer Abdulla, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas/University of Queensland](#)

- > *Towards ecosystem-based assessments of cumulative threats and identification of hot and cold spot areas at various scales.*
- > *Supporting the prioritization of actions and the involvement of different stakeholders for an ecosystem-based management approach to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea – where, when, why and how.*

Speakers and panelists:

- Milena Batakovic, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism (previously Agency for Nature and Environment Protection), Montenegro
- Carlo Franzosini, Torre Guaceto Protected Area, AMARE project
- Elisabetta Manea, University of Venice
- Emiliano Ramieri, European Maritime Spatial Planning platform, Thetis SpA
- Ivana Stojanovic, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Directorate General of Climate Change and Mediterranean Affairs, Division of Mediterranean Affairs, Montenegro

13h30

Mediterranean flavours cocktail lunch

15h00

FIELD VISIT: National Park Skadar Lake and Ramsar site

A bus will take participants to the National Park Skadar lake, where a 2 hour boat tour around the lake will be organized to have an overview on the current co-management of the National Park, Ramsar site and wetland area across two countries and aspects related to mitigation of climate change and sustainable development.

Speaker: Mr. Nenad Ivanovic, Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro/National Park Skadar lake





DAY 2: THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018

09h00 WELCOME TO DAY 2 AND CONCLUSIONS DAY 1

09h10 SESSION 2: NEW DATA, STRENGTHENED INSTRUMENTS FOR AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH

This session will highlight latest research findings concerning the necessary knowledge and data to foster a sustainable use of natural resources at different scales, in particular concerning an ecosystem-based management approach (EBM) with a focus on the Land-Sea interface (i.e. freshwater, coastal, marine continuum) and the relevant systems in place to support these efforts, with a focus on the Adriatic.

Chair: [Ms Alyssa Clavreul, UN Environment, Mediterranean Action Plan, Plan Bleue](#)

- > Monitoring data and actions for cumulative and cross-cutting stressors: marine litter and climate change and its impact in the Mediterranean
- > A Mediterranean digital repository for biodiversity protection knowledge: what's on offer for protected area managers and policy-makers; geoportals and spatial data in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic

Speakers and panelists:

- [Stefano Menegon, Italian National Research Council - ISMAR Institute of Marine Sciences](#), ADRIPLAN, PHAROS4MPAs
- Nataša Štrok, RGO Communication, ECOSUSTAIN
- [Biljana Aljinovic, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, POSBEMED](#) and [MPA-ADAPT](#)
- [Age Martini, NAPA Albania, DESTIMED](#)
- [Mirka Černi/Andrea Blaškovič, Brijuni National Park, MPA-ADAPT](#)

11h00 Greening our practices - Exhibition and coffee break

11h30 SESSION 3: INNOVATIVE TOOLS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

This session will help Identify best practices and new tools to foster participatory processes in governance models around natural resource (co)management including fisheries and wetland related resources in terms of sustainable use in the Mediterranean, linking with possible implementation in the Adriatic region to support an integrated ecosystem monitoring and management.

Chair: [Sergi TUDELA, Director General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Government of Catalonia · Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food](#)

- > New management models for natural resource management
- > Multi-user and participatory approaches to better conserve ecosystem services
- > Funding tools supporting Biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management in the Mediterranean





Speakers and panelists:

- Anna Carlson, FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Slavica Pavlovic, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro
- Giancarlo Gusmaroli, CIRF, WETNET
- Patrik Krstinic, WWF Adria, FISHMPABLUE2
- Anamaria Stambuk, University of Zagreb, CONFISH
- [Stevan Maric, Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro/National Park Skadar lake](#)
- Barbara di Piazza, ADRION programme Joint Secretariat (video conference)

13h30

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SESSIONS

A synthesis of ecosystem-based management practices and tools by the MED Biodiversity Community – reaching to practitioners and policy makers.



EVENT'S PHOTOGALLERY



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS





The MED Biodiversity Protection Community featured by PANACeA

MED Biodiversity Protection Community brings together a comprehensive network of experts from public & private institutions actively working to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems in Mediterranean Protected Areas. Filling the current gap between Science, Management, and Policy is one of the priority targets of the Biodiversity Protection Community.

The Biodiversity Protection Community seeks to identify and generate synergies amongst the work of relevant Mediterranean stakeholders, including Protected Area managers, policymakers, socio-economic actors, civil society and the scientific community. The initiative undertakes actions to increase the visibility and impacts of the results of different thematic biodiversity protection projects that are being undertaken by members of its Community, also with the financial support of the Med programme, reaching a common and pre-identified strategic target audience.

Several policy aspects are addressed under the umbrella of these thematic projects, covering biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem-based management approaches - including Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) - as well as governance mechanisms. The Community is working to advance more effective biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean through enhanced monitoring and management of coastal and marine ecosystems, specifically targeting more sustainable fisheries, better adaptation to climate change effects, better prevention of marine litter and improved waste management.

PANACeA supports the MED Biodiversity Protection Community by:

- > Offering support as well as communication and capitalization opportunities to the MPs.
- > Seeking interconnectivity amongst MPs and offering networking opportunities.
- > Helping MPs achieve their results by creating opportunities to exchange and transfer methodologies, tools, practices and knowledge.
- > Ensuring adequate deployment of the activities, services, and tools it develops by involving its Advisory Board throughout the project lifetime.
- > Mobilizing experts from outside the MED Programme, especially from the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean region, who focus on biodiversity protection, in order to make possible communication with a wider community of experts and a broader dissemination of the Community's results.
- > Building upon the individual projects' needs to create a unique and adapted tool, the MED "Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform" (BPKP), as both a community building and a long-term capitalization tool that allows a one-entry-point access to all the knowledge generated by the biodiversity protection community.

The community's Open Seminars / Knowledge Sharing & Community Building meetings are amongst the key tools that have been devised to achieve the above-mentioned objectives. Open Seminars are knowledge-sharing events that seek to share information, advance knowledge, and enhance collaboration on relevant topics amongst Community members, also engaging stakeholders and experts outside the Community





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