



MODULAR PROJECTS on BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

The Biodiversity Protection community of projects featured by PANACeA partnership

Eleven thematic projects, approved by the steering committee of the **Interreg Med programme 2014-2020** are now under way in the programme's priority axis 3 "*Natural & cultural resources - Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources*" and particularly to reach the specific objective 3.2 "*To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through **strengthening the management and networking of protected areas***".

All these projects gather in the overall Mediterranean "**Biodiversity Protection community**" animated by the horizontal project **PANACeA**, an initiative to create synergies and new partnerships among Mediterranean stakeholders. PANACeA puts in place activities and actions to increase the visibility and impacts of the work implemented by a biodiversity protection community of projects.

This factsheet provides insight into the initial 11 projects that belong to the "Biodiversity Protection community" in the Mediterranean



ACT4LITTER: Joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in Mediterranean Protected Areas

ACT4LITTER aims at reviewing the most promising proposed measures to effectively tackle the issue of Marine Litter and select those that could be implemented in MPAs, considering particularly the ecosystem services. The selection of measures will result in the development of MPA-specific action plans for implementation in a future project. Those plans will be complemented by a realistic and operational governance plan at transnational level.

Keywords: marine litter, marine protected areas, action plan, governance, preventive measures, circular economy, sustainable consumption, natural conservation.

MPA stakeholders and key experts on the management cycle of marine litter will be involved through the process to validate the outputs together. The action plans will have a strong focus on preventive measures, using circular economy and sustainable consumption and production approaches. The issue of Marine Litter is global but MPAs are directly affected by its increasing amount, restraining highly the achievement of the conservation goals.

Led by: Catalan Waste Agency - Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), Spain - **Project manager:** Magali Outters, SCP/RAC - **Communication officer:** Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE - **Duration:** 18 months

AMAre: Actions for Marine Protected Areas

AMAre aims at reinforcing the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) to maintain their biodiversity and natural ecosystems. It targets a more integrated management of the maritime space, considering MPAs can be an efficient tool to achieve Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) goals. The development of shared methodologies and geospatial tools will foster the resilience of the Mediterranean MPA network, as well as concrete MSP applications in selected MPAs. The improvement of the information exchange among MPAs will be done by best practice dissemination; it will enable common solutions to enhance management strategies and governance mechanisms.

Keywords: Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), methodologies, geospatial tools, environmental monitoring, best practices, data access, ecosystem-based approach, Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Led by: National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CONISMA), Italy - **Project manager:** Simonetta Frascchetti, University of Salento, Italy - **Communication officer:** Federica Foglini, CNR, Italy - **Duration:** 36 months



ConFish: Connectivity among Mediterranean fishery stakeholders and scientists resolves connectivity of fishery populations

ConFish aims at delivering a framework to promote knowledge transfer and capacity building between local fishermen and scientists, in order to improve the exploitation, conservation and management of Mediterranean fisheries, through a bottom-up approach including evolutionary tools. Critical fishing areas for protection will also be identified, in relation with scientific advice and local culture.

Keywords: Sustainability, fisheries, network, sociologists, fishermen, scientists, management, connectivity, adaptation, capacity building, knowledge transfer.

Led by: Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia - **Project manager:** Anamaria Stambuk, University of Zagreb - **Communication officer:** Miguel Baltazar Soares, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel - **Duration:** 18 months

EcoSUSTAIN: Ecological sustainable governance of MPAs

EcoSUSTAIN represents joint transnational action towards maintenance of biodiversity and natural ecosystems by means of stronger management and networking of protected areas obtained through capacity building, innovative technologies and improved management knowledge base. The overall objective of the action is to improve monitoring, management and networking of protected areas through supporting scientific, technical and management knowledge in order to tackle the

Keywords: Stronger management and networking of protected areas, capacity building, innovative technologies, improved management knowledge base, Pilot implementation of innovative water quality monitoring solutions, protected wetland locations, use of state-of-the-art ICT technology, long-term monitoring.

problem of incoherent and segregated management of protected areas as self-sustained units, which is believed to hamper protection and promotion of Mediterranean natural resources, as well as maintenance of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Management and networking of protected areas will be improved by capacity building activities and pilot implementation of innovative water quality monitoring solutions in several protected wetland locations across the programme area.

Led by: University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime studies, Croatia - **Project manager:** Ivan Dovadžija, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies - **Communication officer:** Ada Lipovača, Rausk, Bosnia and Herzegovina - **Duration:** 30 months

FishMPABlue2: Fishing governance in MPAs: potentialities for Blue Economy

FishMPABlue2 is the continuation of the FishMPABlue 2007-2013 project. This initiative builds on the analysis carried out on the management of small-scale fisheries within and around MPAs, identifying suitable changes - reinforcing MPA management capacities - to be achieved

Keywords: marine conservation, fishing governance, Blue economy, small scale fisheries, marine protected areas, networking.

through a concrete response: an innovative governance toolkit. FishMPABlue2 aims at testing the governance toolkit to demonstrate its effectiveness to obtain as a result the strengthening of the management and networking capacities of Mediterranean protected areas.

Led by: Federparchi - Europarc Italy - The Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves - **Project officer:** Luca Santarossa, Federparchi - **Communication officer:** Anne Remy, WWF Mediterranean - **Duration:** 36 months

MEDSEALITTER: Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols to protect biodiversity from litter impact at basin and local MPAs level

MEDSEALITTER addresses the issue of marine litter, a global threat for living marine organisms. The problem particularly affects fishes, cetaceans and marine turtles, animals in whose digestive tracts commonly appear accidentally-swallowed micro and macro plastic debris. Although many Mediterranean organisations are working on this issue, widely-accepted and finetuned protocols to assess pollution by marine litter are needed. For this reason, the project proposes to network representative MPAs, scientific organisations and environmental NGOs for developing, testing and delivering efficient, easy to apply and cost-effective protocols to monitor and manage litter impact on biodiversity.

Keywords: marine litter, protocols, pollution assessment, monitoring, impact management, biodiversity, network, marine protected areas, scientific organizations, NGOs.

Led by: Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area, Italy - **Project manager:** Patrizio Scarpellini, Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area - **Communication officer:** Simone Nuglio, Legambiente Onlus - **Duration:** 33 months



MPA-ADAPT: Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: Building resilience and adaptation

MPA-Adapt is aiming to develop collaborative and site-specific adaptation plans for MPAs to enhance resilience to Climate Change impacts. This will be achieved by building capacity for effective management, assessing risks; and exploring potential actions and priorities needed to ensure the adaptability and the resilience of biodiversity and the local communities. It also aims to incorporate Climate Change vulnerability assessments and nature-based

adaptation planning into their existing management framework, and provide guidance to MPA managers and local stakeholders to implement and test climate change approaches. This project is a first of its kind for the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment and will also foster networks by improving the dialogue and coordination between MPA managers and scientists to create the first line of Mediterranean MPA sentinel sites.

Keywords: adaptation plans for MPAs, climate change, building capacity, assessing risks, adaptability, resilience, biodiversity, local communities, vulnerability assessments, MPA managers, local stakeholders, Mediterranean MPA sentinel sites.

Led by: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain - **Project manager:** Joaquim Garrabou, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - **Communication officer:** Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN - **Duration:** 30 months

PHAROS4MPAS - Blue Economy and Marine Conservation

The development of Blue Economy and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) represents a transnational challenge for marine protected areas (MPAs). Maritime sectors have started to operate more and more frequently inside and in the vicinity of MPAs with expected growing environmental impacts, while at the same time, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires to reach Good Environmental Status of the European Seas by 2020. **PHAROS4MPAS**

project will deliver a regional integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors. Approach and outputs include delivering common capitalization baselines, recommendations and policy tools adapted to the MedPAN network, MSP Authorities, the European Commission, the Barcelona Convention and the various maritime sectors.

Keywords: Marine protected areas, good ecological status, blue economy, maritime spatial planning, coastal management and maritime issues, sustainable management of natural resources.

Led by: WWF, France - **Project manager:** Catherine Piante, WWF France - **Communication officer:** Anne Rémy, WWF Med. **Duration:** 18 months

PLASTICBUSTERS MPAS - Preserving biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas

The impacts of Marine Litter (ML) on marine biota within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including endangered species, remain poorly addressed, however it is clear that prevention and mitigation measures are urgently needed in the Mediterranean Sea. This project entails actions that address the whole management cycle of ML, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation,

as well as actions to strengthen networking between and among pelagic and coastal MPAs located in Italy, France, Spain, Croatia, Albania and Greece. A joint governance plan will be defined through a participatory approach and the concretized commitment of Med MPAs (MoUs) to implement it will result in an increased surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status.

Keywords: marine litter, biodiversity, marine protected areas, monitoring, management, policy, basin, good ecological status, coastal management and maritime issues, governance, waste and pollution.

Led by: ISPRA, Italy - **Project managers:** Teresa Romeo, ISPRA; M. Christina Fossi, University of Siena-UNISI - **Duration:** 48 months

POSBEMED: Sustainable management of posidonia banquettes and dune beaches in the Mediterranean

POSBEMED aims at tackling the lack of public awareness of the benefits of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows natural capital and replies to a strong need for strengthening PA management capacity with adequate guidelines on how to effectively manage them. Several local studies and EU projects have evaluated the ecosystem services that *Posidonia oceanica* and its structures, called banquettes, offer, and developed tools for the management of banquettes and new ways to use them. By integrating these results and providing a transnational overview of the

management practices and the perceptions of stakeholders across Mediterranean, POSBEMED aims to define a transnational joint management strategy for Posidonia beach/dune systems. It also aims to offer common sustainable tools for local administrators and PA managers and develop a strategic model of integrated governance, linking blue local growth to the conservation of this natural asset and enhancing the integrated management of these coastal habitats (meadows-beaches-foredunes) within PAs.

Keywords: seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*, tourism, leaf debris, seedbank, coastal / dune resilience, tools for local administration, integrated governance, integrated management, nature conservation.

Led by: Entente Interdépartementale de Démoustication Méditerranée (EID), France - **Project manager:** Maria Eugenia Giunta, EID - **Communication officer:** Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN - **Duration:** 18 months

WETNET: Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

WETNET tackles the issue of implementing multilevel governance for Mediterranean wetlands in order to achieve overall and network effects on wetland ecosystems as well as on connected local systems. The project aims at ensuring higher coordination between different levels of spatial planning and authorities in charge of their management, whilst limiting conflicts between conservation issues and economic activities. By defining common priorities

for Mediterranean wetland conservation, WETNET builds a common territorial strategy for their integrated management. Building on previous EU experiences (River Contracts), WETNET seeks to test and transfer 'Wetland Contracts', acting through broad participatory processes where users, private and public entities are committed in mainstreaming wetlands preservation into their ordinary activities.

Keywords: Wetlands preservation, governance, integrated management, river contracts, networks, water, ecosystem services.

Led by: Veneto region, Italy - **Project manager:** Franco Alberti, Veneto Region; Giancarlo Gusmaroli, CIRF, Italy - **Communication officer:** Alicia Sánchez-Valverde, Sociedad Aragonesa de Gestión Agroambiental (SARGA) - **Duration:** 30 months



BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

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