



Working Group 2: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

The Mediterranean region is among the richest biodiversity hotspots both at European and world level. However, despite its great environmental importance, over the last decades political leaders, businessmen and common people have been confronted daily with the challenge of how to

sustainably and responsibly harness the enormous economic opportunities of existing and/or emerging Mediterranean economic sectors (e.g. marine energies, maritime transport, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, etc.).

Notwithstanding major efforts, due to a rapid population growth and to increased exploitation by a range of economic actors, the Mediterranean region is facing an ecological deficit: its natural resources are put at stake as habits are degraded and the demand is two and half times higher than what its ecosystems can produce.

In response to this situation, there is an urgent need to agree and implement a “New Deal” aiming to ensure the sustainable management and use of the Mediterranean natural resources. Such an innovative ecosystem-based management approach should be supported by decision makers’ in-depth understanding of the existing interdependencies and reciprocal influence between natural resources on the one hand and their economic growth plans on the other.

At European level, the Union has exclusive competencies to manage the exploitation of fish stocks as well as to regulate fishing activities and operations. In this respect,



the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) provides all EU Member States with a comprehensive set of rules as well as financial support through the European Fund for Maritime and Fisheries affairs – (EMFF). The financial instruments are expected to provide the right incentives to ensure sustainable fishing activities, something that is still far from becoming reality in the Mediterranean region.

In addition to this, in 2016, with the support of the European Commission, Mediterranean Countries launched an ad hoc political initiative (the Catania process), which led to the signature of the Malta MedFish4Ever ministerial declaration, under the Maltese six-monthly presidency in 2017. The Valletta declaration represents also a key political turning point for the sustainable use of Mediterranean fishing stocks. Indeed, Mediterranean Member States through the MedFish4Ever declaration committed to:

- establish an ecosystem-based fisheries management framework
- develop a culture of compliance and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- support sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture
- foster solidarity and coordination in the Mediterranean through a permanent network of cooperation and technical assistance with the General fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the FAO.

THE WORKING GROUP

The Mediterranean Biodiversity protection community featured by the MBPC initiative sets up three working groups in order to address the main issues faced by biodiversity in the Mediterranean and provides practical solutions and recommendations, bringing together scientists, researchers, practitioners and policymakers to support and adopt those measures.

From 2016 to 2019, the working group 2 focusing on the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean region, developed a particular insight on artisanal small-scale fisheries. Several projects of the Mediterranean Biodiversity protection community were sharing common challenges to be tackled through discussions, sharing of best practices, research, and projects' results. It mainly involved the projects CONFISH, FISHMPABLU2, WETNET and PHAROS4MPAs and other various external stakeholders. The Working group 2 currently involves the following projects:

- **MPA-Adapt / MPA-Engage** : Building resilience and adaptation to Climate Change impacts in Marine Protected Areas and raising awareness on the importance of citizen science.
- **MPA-NETWORKS** : setting strong human networks for effective Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.



- **POSBEMED (I and II)** : Sustainable management and awareness raising on the value of Posidonia oceanica beaches and dunes in the Mediterranean coastal region.
- **PHAROS4MPAs** : Regional recommendations to maritime sectors to minimise the environmental risks of the Blue Growth strategy.
- **CONFISH** : Connectivity among Mediterranean fishery stakeholders and scientists resolves connectivity of fishery populations.
- **FISHMPABLUE2** : Fishers and marine protected areas, a partnership for sustainability in the Mediterranean.
- **WETNET** : coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands.
- **TUNE UP** : Promoting multilevel governance for tuning up biodiversity protection in marine areas.

Other projects, in and outside the community, could be invited to contribute to the WG2 activities.

OBJECTIVES

POINT ONE

To exchange tested methodologies and present evidence-based solutions through networking activities and capacity building workshops.

POINT TWO

To address multilevel policies and structural governance issues in various countries.

POINT THREE

To identify, disseminate and support “sustainable management approaches” towards promoting new management schemes at local, regional and EU level.



KEY NETWORKS AND TARGETS

- EU Common Fisheries Policy
- Birds & Habitats Directives
- Water Framework Directive
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

EU LEVEL

- MedPAN/ AdriaPAN
- FARNET
- FAO/GFCM
- WWF Med
- UfM – TF on Environment/Climate change and Blue Growth
- SEARICA

MEDITERRANEAN LEVEL

- 2017 Malta Declaration for Sustainability for Mediterranean Fisheries
- GFCM Management Plans

The **Working Group 2** on the Sustainable use of natural resources aims to support the GFCM management plans, the 2017 Malta Declaration for sustainability for Mediterranean fisheries and the EU Common fisheries policy.

It pursues a transferring and capitalisation work to identify, disseminate and support further developments in “sustainable management approaches” towards new management schemes at local, regional and EU levels, contributing to relevant planning process in the Mediterranean region like the “Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap 2020-2024.

The **Working Group 2** specific EU policy targets include the monitoring and follow-up of EU maritime affairs including the EMFF and CFP, Blue Growth Strategy and the implementation of EU Directives related to maritime and environmental issues (MSFD, MSP, Birds and Habitats, WFD). Close cooperation will be maintained with MedPAN, FARNET, FAO/GFCM, WWF Med and other networks for sharing and developing common dynamics towards optimising the transferability potential of best sustainable management approaches and reaching our common policy targets

The MBPC Policy and network targets

- Directive / Policy instruments/ Networks focusing on NATURE
- Directive / Policy instruments/ Networks focusing on the use of natural resources
- Working group 1: Biodiversity protection and transboundary challenges
- Working group 2: Sustainable use of natural resources
- Working group 3: Integrated ecosystem monitoring and management

Global scale

- Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi targets 2020 + upcoming strategy)
- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs mainly SDG 14)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- New Urban Agenda-UN HABITAT - City prosperity Initiative

European scale

- Nature Directives
 - Habitat Directive
 - Birds Directive
 - Natura 2000 network
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and MAES WG
- Water Framework Directive
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- EU Common Fisheries Policy (incl. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF))
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- European Climate Pact (incl. EU Climate ADAPT action)
- Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)
- Blue Growth Strategy
- European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy
- EEA Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) Strategy
- Sea Basin Strategies (incl. Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), WESTMED)

Mediterranean scale

- Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAP BIO) (UNEP MAP / SPA RAC)
- Barcelona Convention Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean (UNEP MAP / SPA RAC)
- The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols (UNEP MAP)
- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) (2016-2025) (and its Mid-term evaluation 2020-2021) (UNEP-MAP)
- ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea (UNEP MAP / PAP RAC)
- Conceptual framework for Marine Spatial Planning (UNEP MAP / PAP RAC)
- Common Regional Framework for ICZM (UNEP MAP / PAP RAC)
- Decision on Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP Decision IG 22.7) (UNEP MAP)
- EcAp roadmap : Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with EU MSFD
- Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (UNEP MAP / MedPOL)
- 2017 Malta Declaration for Sustainability for Mediterranean Fisheries

Sub-regional territorial targets

- The Mediterranean cetaceans Corridor - MPA (Spain)
- New MPAs in Montenegro and ensure their efficient management and monitoring
- Widening the network of MPAs in the Southern Adriatic Ionian Region
- Strengthening the network of MPAs in Croatia, Spain, France & in the Pelagos area

Multi-level key networks and stakeholders

- UN Environment/MAP SPA/RAC
- MedPAN - Mediterranean MPA Network
- AdriaPAN - Adriatic MPA Network
- FARNET
- WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Area
- International Whaling Commission
- - International Convention of the Regulation of Whaling
- Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)
- The MedFund
- ACCOBAMS secretariat
- OCEANA
- MEDSea Foundation
- Emerald Network
- UN Environment/MAP Coordination Unit
- UN Environment/MAP PAP/RAC
- UN Environment/MAP SCP/RAC
- UN Environment/MAP MED POL
- UN Environment/MAP Plan Bleu
- Mediterranean Platform on Marine Litter
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas
- The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- MedWet policy task Force
- Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)
- BLUEMED initiative
- European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands & Coastal Areas (SEARICA)
- EMODNet
- Marine data and knowledge
- Interreg-Med funded networks
- Interreg Balkan-Mediterranean

MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

WG 2's action plan for integrated ecosystem monitoring is based on a definition and agreement on an array of "actions" and "outcomes" set by the MBPC. They include the following defined products:

*Ongoing projects in the table are highlighted in **bold**.

MEANS AND MAIN STEPS			
FOCUS	LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND KEY MED STAKEHOLDERS	RELEVANT PROJECTS	ACTIONS AND TOOLS
1. From science to management to policy: factsheets and technical papers featuring integrated ecosystem monitoring and management			
Fisheries / Sustainable use of natural resources / Sustainable management in fisheries / Small Scale Fisheries / Action on awareness raising on sustainable development and use of natural resources / Involvement of local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Goals – (Goal 14) Agenda 2030 Goals • EU Common Fisheries Policy • Marine Strategy Framework Directive • EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive • Interreg MED - PANORAMED (Governance) • Interreg MED Programme • Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • FAO/GFCM • FARNET WWF MED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPA NETWORKS • FISHMPABLUE2 • CONFISH • MPA ENGAGE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos/ communication material to present testimonies on fisheries, mobile species, financing, success story in MPA like Torre Guaceto, different actions on fisheries (MPA NETWORKS) • Report on Community and Relationship with Fisheries activities (CONFISH) • Reports of Local dissemination activities in the different regions involved (including seminars, press, projections, etc.) to enhance citizen awareness concerning CC on biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, etc. The reports will include local activities & CC exhibition adapted to each MPA, Fisheries and Tourism and CC dissemination Campaign. Report based on Citizen Science activities for CC monitoring, in particular divers, recreational and artisanal fishermen and schools (MPA ENGAGE) • Online platform on sustainable small-scale fishery in MPAs. Policy principles (conservation and fisheries) (FISHMPABLUE2)



FOCUS	LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND KEY MED STAKEHOLDERS	RELEVANT PROJECTS	ACTIONS AND TOOLS
2. Spatial data and new knowledge			
Water / Sustainable use of wetlands, rivers, lakes ecosystems/ Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Goals – (Goal 14) Agenda 2030 Goals • EU Common Fisheries Policy • Birds & Habitats Directives • Water Framework Directive • Marine Strategy Framework Directive • EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive • Interreg MED - PANORAMED (Governance) • Interreg MED Programme • Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • FAO/GFCM • FARNET • WWF MED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSBEMED 2 • MPA-ADAPT • PHAROS4MPAs • CONFISH • WETNET • TUNE UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring Territorial Contracts methodology: UNIROMA3 will compare the pilot experiences and evaluate the MPA Contracts' effectiveness in reference to the chosen indicators (biodiversity, water quality, protection level) (TUNE UP) • International Conference report on Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands, Wetland Contract Guidance Manual (WETNET)
FOCUS	LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND KEY MED STAKEHOLDERS	RELEVANT PROJECTS	ACTIONS AND TOOLS
3. Networking and showcasing			
Sustainable use of natural resources / Sustainable management of coastal ecosystems / coastal areas / Land-Sea Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Common Fisheries Policy • Birds & Habitats Directives • Water Framework Directive • Marine Strategy Framework Directive • EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive • Interreg MED -PANORAMED (Governance) • Interreg MED Programme • Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • FAO/GFCM • FARNET • WWF MED • GFCM Management Plans • Interreg MED Programme • Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) • FAO/GFCM • FARNET • MedPAN/ AdriaPAN • WWF MED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSBEMED 2 • PHAROS4MPA • TUNE UP • MPA Networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing and integrating genomics, fishery biology data and experience -based knowledge to assess fishery resources status and support their management - • Preliminary study for mapping the relationships between communities and marine ecosystems relations - • Stock structure and adaptation in the Mediterranean (CONFISH)- • Development of beach information panels to explain the role of Posidonia, Posidonia banquettes and dunes in coastal protection, biodiversity and good management practices Brochure on the value of seagrass meadows and banquettes on coastal resilience. (POSBEMED2) • Maps produced by CNR-ISPRA to show the priority locations of pressures, impacts or risks exerted by economic sectors on Mediterranean MPAs (PHAROS4MPAs) Joint Citizen Science involvement plan in the MPAs (1) Joint Participatory Approach



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3. Networking and showcasing			
Sustainable use of natural resources / Sustainable management of coastal ecosystems / coastal areas / Land-Sea Interactions			<p>in the MPAs (1) Local Governance and adaptation plan to CC (7) . Advocacy and Policy papers for decision makers (MPA-ADAPT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for the durability of the project's results (PHAROS4MPAS) • Report including a compendium of key recommendations for international policy makers, Report on potential sites for a similar approach, inside and maybe outside the project territories (FISHMPABLUE2) • Governance Framework "Gather key information on empirical knowledge about fishery systems" (CONFISH) • Principles, guidelines and best practices towards a common methodology for implementing wetland contracts, Technical Position Paper on the integrated governance of Mediterranean wetlands through Wetland Contracts, RiverWiki database for sharing best practices and lessons learnt for policy makers, practitioners and researchers of river restoration from around Europe (WETNET) • MBPC Capitalisation events (2021 and 2022) • External events and side activities related to policies' development • Contribution to MPA Forum 2020 and roadmap process • Contribution to IUCN WCC in 2021 • Communication and raising awareness campaigns

MILESTONES

The Sustainable use of natural resources working group (WG2) will be showcasing its work during the next two years, particularly through EU and Mediterranean events and publications identified

to date and adapting to the new Mediterranean scenario and policy agenda changes due to the COVID19 pandemics. Many of the events mentioned below might change formats and become online webinars and the like.

An [online shared calendar](#) of events is available and regularly updated with opportunities to participate and organize joint activities.

	INTERNATIONAL EVENTS	EVENTS IN EU/ MED AREA	WG2 PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES
2020	<p>UN Decade of Oceans Science for Sustainable Development events</p> <p>Union for the Mediterranean events</p>	<p>Med Webinar Revamping the Community – 12 June 2020</p> <p>EU Green Week – 20-22 October</p> <p>PANORAMED Dialogues – 6 November 2020</p> <p>FARNET, Mediterranean and Black sea online event, Transnational seminar for Fisheries Local Action Groups, 24-25 November 2020</p> <p>BlueMed, EUSAIR and Western Med key meetings/events</p>	<p>Working group 2 meetings (3rd July and 29 October 2020)</p> <p>Validation of working group 2 action plan and factsheet</p> <p>Technical note update (December 2020)</p> <p>Participation in networking sessions</p> <p>FARNET event (Mediterranean and black sea transnational seminar)</p>
2021	<p>IUCN World Conservation Congress – 3-11 September Marseille</p> <p>CBD COP15</p> <p>Union for the Mediterranean events</p> <p>UN MAP / Regional cooperation platform on Marine litter</p> <p>UN Decade of Oceans Science for Sustainable Development events</p>	<p>IUCN World Conservation Congress 3-11 September, Marseille</p> <p>Barcelona Convention COP22– December, Turkey</p> <p>Interreg Med Summer School</p> <p>EU biogeographical seminars for the Med (marine N2000 sites)</p> <p>BlueMed initiative, EUSAIR and Western Med key meetings/events</p>	<p>Joint workshop with the Sustainable Tourism community on EBM tools in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Capacity building workshops and raising awareness campaign</p>
2022	<p>UN Decade of Oceans Science for Sustainable Development events</p> <p>Union for the Mediterranean events</p>	<p>EU biogeographical seminars for the Med (marine N2000 sites)</p> <p>EUSAIR and Western Med key meetings/events</p>	<p>Working group 2 Policy recommendations paper (EU level target)</p> <p>Biodiversity Protection community at the EU Parliament/ SEARICA Intergroup – April 2022</p>



MILESTONES PREVIOUSLY ACHIEVED BY WG2

Over the previous phase (PANACeA), WG2 featured actions and analyses promoting a sustainable use of natural resources through the following publications:

- [Technical paper on Participatory approaches towards the co-management of natural resources in coastal and marine areas](#)
- [Policy paper on Participatory approaches towards the co-management of natural resources in coastal and marine areas](#)



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