

Plans for future action by the MED Biodiversity Protection

Report of 2nd Community Building Event of the
MED Biodiversity Protection Community

Podgorica, Montenegro, 18 May 2018



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About this report

This Report summarises the results of the discussions held in the framework of the Second Community Building Event “Plans for Future Action by the MED Biodiversity Protection Community” held in Podgorica (Montenegro) on May 18th, 2018 as part of project “PANACeA: Streamlining Management Efforts in Protected Areas for an Enhanced Nature Conservation in the Mediterranean Sea” (“PANACeA”). Community Building events are amongst the key tools that have been set up to advance the shared goals of the INTERREG MED Biodiversity Protection Community featured by PANACeA.

The event gathered representatives of different Modular Projects (MPs) that are part of the Community and built on the results and conclusions of the 1st Community Building Event organised in Barcelona (October 26th, 2017), which laid down the framing foundations for the Community’s Action Plan. Feeding on these previous discussions and the work advanced by PANACeA’s team between November 2017 – May 2018, this 2nd Community Building Event was aimed at sharing and discussing the draft Action Plan outlined for the Community, providing input for its subsequent finalisation.

The results of these discussions are the subject of this Report.

LIST OF ACRONYMS FREQUENTLY USED IN THIS REPORT

ABJN: Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

BBNJ: Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond Jurisdiction

CC: Climate change

EBSAs: Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

FAO GFCM: Food and Agriculture Organization General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

FLAGS: EU Fisheries local actions groups

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

MP: Modular Project

MPA: Marine Protected Area

SPAMIs: Especially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance

WG: Working Group





Objectives and main points

The 2nd Community Building Event of the INTERREG MED Biodiversity Protection Community sought to share, discuss and make progress towards finalising the Community's Action Plan 2018 – 2020.

The Community's Action Plan 2018-2020 is structured around an overall roadmap organised into three distinct Working Groups (WG):

- > Working Group 1: Biodiversity management and protection
- > Working Group 2: Sustainable use of natural resources
- > Working Group 3: Integrated ecosystem monitoring & management

Building on the results of the 1st Community Building Event held in Barcelona (October 26, 2017), and prior to the meeting, the Leaders of each Working Group (ETC-UMA, CPMR and Plan Bleu, respectively) had prepared a set of factsheets introducing the context, objectives, identified relevant policy frameworks, instruments and networks to be targeted, and proposed milestones and actions to deliver on the proposed capitalisation objectives for each WG. These factsheets, which have been reviewed and validated by PANACeA Partners, Modular Projects and Advisory Board, combined represent the Community's Action Plan.

At the outset of the event, PANACeA's team introduced an overarching vision of the (draft) Community Action Plan 2018-2020, followed by a more specific description of the objectives and plans laid out for each WG. To facilitate discussions, the core components of the factsheets were simplified and visually represented on a large panel, as a working tool available for participants.





Image: Working stage set up for the Community Building Event

Participants then broke up into three working groups to review, discuss and provide feedback on the draft Action Plan of each WG. After discussions, the participants gathered again as a group to share the results of their discussions and agree the next steps.

Results and actions

Working Group 1: Biodiversity Protection and Management

The Action Plan for WG1 addresses 3 thematic blocks:

- > Cumulative and transboundary impacts, including Climate Change and Pollution (Marine Litter, etc.).
- > Transboundary management and protection tools (such as SPAMIs, EBSAs, ABNJ and BBNJ frameworks).
- > The MED Biodiversity Protection Community Knowledge Platform.

Representatives of the following modular projects participated in the discussions:

- > Project ACT4LITTER – Carlo Franzosini
- > Project AMAre – Carlo Franzosini
- > Project MEDSEALITTER – Roberto Crosti
- > Project MPA-ADAPT - Mirka Černi, Andrea Picciolo, Stefania Chiesa

PLASTICBUSTERSMPAs Project's representatives could not participate in the discussion on May 18th, but earlier contributions were transferred to the participants from previous contacts and recent meetings.





The following outline was followed to guide discussions across all thematic blocks:

- > Feedback on products to be delivered by the WG
- > Confirmation of interest and engagement
- > Virtual group communications
- > What needs to happen? What steps need to be undertaken next?
- > Establish milestones and responsibilities

The following results are of particular significance:

A) Discussions and progress on “Climate Change” (CC) related actions

The main activity related to climate change (a “Technical Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change”) was well received by the representatives of Brijuni National Park, which is Partner to Project MPA-ADAPT. The pros and cons of developing a technical document or a simpler Factsheet to streamline contributions into a 2018 policy event were discussed.

The representatives of Project MPA-ADAPT explained that material and outcomes from the project would be available, but requested a concrete guide to prepare a draft document. It was agreed that a basic document introducing the work undertaken so far would be produced by July 2018, the goal being to present it during a Midterm Review event currently planned to take place in Brussels by the end of 2018.

Conclusion: The proposed action and timeline were validated. Further fine-tuning will be needed through discussions with Project MPA-ADAPT’s consortium of Partners. The PANACeA team’s proposal to use the upcoming meeting in the European Parliament and in the context of the CLIMATE-ADAPT EU initiative to showcase the Project was welcomed.



Image: Participants during part of WG1 deliberations



B) Discussions and progress on “Marine Litter” related actions

Similarly, the four products proposed in WG1’s Factsheet and the timeline were well received by participants engaged in Projects involving “marine litter” (Projects MEDSEALITTER, ACT4LITTER and AMAre).

Project MEDSEALITTER (represented by Roberto Crosti, ISPRA) explained data collection (floating macro-litter) activities being developed through the Project in collaboration with cruise ship companies and partners. He pointed out the need to develop new indicators that could address policy actions in a shorter period, such as developing a single-use plastics indicator or indicators to assess the impact of regulations.

Project AMAre (represented by Carlo Franzosini) explained and confirmed the links between their project objectives and the products proposed in the Action Plan. Additionally, he indicated that summarised data on beach monitoring should be available from about 10 MPAs as a result of the project ACT4LITTER, to which MPA Miramare contributed. These data could be integrated towards producing the proposed mapping of marine litter’s impact on biodiversity.

Conclusion: The proposed actions/products linked to “Marine Litter” were approved. ETC-UMA, with the support of WG partners (MedCities and Plan Bleu), will follow up and coordinate with MPs to develop the timeline for the products to be delivered in 2018, including the materials to be prepared for the upcoming meeting in Brussels, as referred above.

C) Discussions and progress on transboundary conservation and management, including tools such as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)

Sonsoles San Roman (ETC-UMA) and Ameer Abdulla (IUCN WCPA and member of PANACeA’s Advisory Board) opened the discussion to tackle the concept behind the MED Biodiversity Protection Community’s strategy and the need for transboundary management protection and policy frameworks for areas beyond MPAs, leading to a discussion on EBSAs. Discussions revolved around the timely introduction of the concept and its potential utility.

Conclusion: Although EBSAs are not legally binding, they represent a strong, science-based and eco-regional approach to transboundary biodiversity conservation and impact management. To contribute to advancing this concept in the Mediterranean, potential products were discussed, such as the proposed Position Paper, which was welcomed. ETC-UMA, with the support of WG partner REC Montenegro, will follow up and coordinate this work.

Working Group 2: Sustainable use of natural resources

Representatives of the following modular projects participated in the discussions:

- > **Project AMAre** – Valentina Grande, Carlo Franzosini, Andrea Picciolo
- > **Project CONFISH** – Anamaria Stambuck
- > **Project FISHMPABLUE2** – Patrick Krstinic





The discussions held under WG2 were structured around the timeline of actions planned for the group, extending to 2020. The discussions focused primarily on the activities planned for 2018. Participants reviewed the Factsheet prepared for WG2. The different proposed actions were analysed and discussed in order to validate the objectives of the WG2 and its timeline. It was agreed that additional feedback would be welcomed up until the end of June 2018.

The following results are of particular significance:

A) Virtual working group

The possibility of setting up communication through a virtual group amongst the various MPAs of the projects was discussed and welcomed by all of the participants (Projects **CONFISH** and **FISHMPABLUE2**). The possibility of including other participants (such as Project **WETNET** and other projects pertaining to MPA management) was discussed and positively received (Torre Guaceto from Project **AMAre** asked to be included at the end of the meeting).

Agreed actions:

- > A mailing/contact list containing interested contacts from MPs and Advisory Board will be set up - June 2018.
- > A first “go-to meeting” will be organised in June/July 2018 to validate the final draft of the Factsheet and WG2 action plan, as well as to set up an initial table of contents for the technical paper.

B) Webinar

The idea of having a webinar to promote co-management, showcase good practices and train MPA managers was discussed. It was agreed to hold it in the fall of 2018. **Patrick Krstinic** from Project FISHMPABLUE2 will get the contact info from other MPAs in their network. The participation of MedPAN would be a great added value.

Agreed actions:

- > Setting the date and contact list for organising the webinar, in close contact with Project FISHMPABLUE2 (after their meeting in Croatia, mid-October 2018).

C) Technical paper

A technical paper on co-management will be produced, compiling experiences and best practices identified and proposed through the virtual group. The various elements of the paper, together with the deadlines, will be discussed. The paper will then evolve as a Policy Paper in 2019. A cartography and database will also be set up, but will not (exclusively) focus on pelagic species. MP's results will contribute to the cartographic elements of this technical paper and ETC-UMA will be in direct contact to collect data. The technical paper will be disseminated to all relevant entities concerned with co-management (FLAGS, MPAs network...) to raise awareness about the topic at multilevel policy-making bodies (national, regional, EU levels).



Agreed actions:

- > Virtual working group to discuss and validate a table of contents for the technical paper (Summer 2018)
- > Collection of documents, results, data (Fall 2018)
- > Draft of the technical paper (September 2018)
- > Review of the technical paper by WG2 MPs and Advisory Board (October 2018)
- > Delivery of the technical paper and dissemination (November 2018)

D) Video production

A video interview with fishermen will be conducted in concert with an event on October 9th (Project FISHMPABBLUE2) with Croatian fishermen. The video will be shown at the upcoming INTERREG MED Biodiversity Community's event in Brussels. It will be done in original language to encourage more participation and for maximum dissemination in the geographic area. The video will be subtitled in English. In order to be more thematic, the video will show images of the MPAs (WG members will check if the videos shot by the MP can be adapted, using a shortened version of the one produced by Project FISHMPABBLUE2). This is in line with the decision to produce videos that are more thematic.

Agreed actions (led by UNIMED):

- > Check if the videos shot by the MP can be adapted and/or used as a shortened version of Project FISHMPABBLUE2's video
- > Draft storyline of the video and questions for interviews (September 2018)
- > Review of the storyline by WG2 MPs (Project FISHMPABBLUE2) (September 2018)
- > Onsite filming (Project FISHMPABBLUE2 meeting in Croatia, 9th October, tbc)
- > Video-editing and release (end October 2018)
- > Dissemination on social media and at the MED Biodiversity Protection Community's next conference in Brussels (December 2018)

E) Promotional stands support/joint leaflet

As for other types of promotional material, the idea of producing a more "catchy" leaflet than the current factsheet was discussed to promote the WG2 co-management and the different MPs. The leaflet will be a short, descriptive document containing information already available on MPs websites, with images. The leaflet will be produced/edited during summer 2018, and serve as a basic promotional document to be available on-line and distributed if needed at some MPS and external events.

Agreed actions (led by UNIMED):

- > Gather available text and images from MPs websites
- > Draft a standardised leaflet format (Fall 2018)
- > Review by MPs (September 2018)
- > Release of the leaflet (October 2018)





F) Organisation of a workshop during FAO GFCM Fish Forum

The workshop at the FAO GFCM Fish Forum 2018 (Rome, December 14th – 18th, 2018) is not confirmed yet but seems likely. The programme will have to be sent to the MPs in September, as they will have to provide material and leaflets.

The content of the session and participation of MPs will be prepared as soon as more information is available. A first draft of the workshop content will be circulated among the MPs and discussed during a virtual working group meeting.

Agreed actions:

- > Draft content proposal for the workshop to be circulated to WG2 participants (September 2018)
- > A virtual meeting will be set as soon as more information is available

G) Contacts with FLAGs

The issue of raising awareness with fishermen involving co-management was raised and the idea of connecting directly with them, and/or reaching local, small-scale fisheries seems very challenging. The main way to start could be the national contact point of FLAGs, who could receive the information developed by the WG2. Potential contacts will be gathered through our partnership with FARNET and the possibility of finding synergies with their events, as well as other activities, will be explored.

Agreed actions:

- > Establish closer contact with FARNET (Fall 2018)
- > Prepare a common calendar of events/possible synergies of activities
- > Set up a database of FLAG national contact points



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Agreed actions:

- > Send mail by end of June to coordinators of MPs related to the WG
- > Start Virtual Group by the beginning of July
- > Send mail in July to all members involved in the WG to inform them of actions planned
- > Inform if an open platform will be available for exchanges
- > Proposal for products: To be confirmed during the first meeting of the virtual working group
- > Event contribution: To be confirmed during the first meeting of the virtual working group
- > Develop the first Factsheets on wetland management and land-sea interactions to make scientific data more understandable by policy makers



Image: Participants during part of WG3 deliberations

B) Factsheets and technical papers featuring the results of WG3

The water quality monitoring solutions developed by ECOSUSTAIN will feed the Factsheets and the technical paper related to wetlands management.

The representative of Project POSBEMED proposed to share results about their management strategy of *Posidonia* - dunes - beaches systems in order to feed the first factsheet and the technical paper related to land-sea interactions.





C) Spatial Data

- > Project AMAre will contribute to provide spatial data

D) Identification of new (event related) capitalisation opportunities

- > 12th Panhellenic Symposium on Oceanography and Fisheries (May 31st – June 3rd, 2018) – Corfu (Greece)
- > Coastal Day (September 25th, 2018) – Split (Croatia)
- > EU Water Conference (September 20th – 21st, 2018) - Vienna (Austria)
- > IMDIS Conference 2018 (Project AMAre will be promoting their geoportal and they will seek to promote the MED Biodiversity Protection Platform (November 5th – 7th, 2018) - Barcelona (Spain)
- > International Day of Wetlands (February 2nd, 2019)
- > IUCN World Congress 2020 (focusing on the Mediterranean) - Marseille (France)



Image: Participants share the results of the different WGs in plenary

The results of the Community Building Event will be distributed amongst members of the INTERREG MED Biodiversity Protection Community for further comments and follow-up.

Each Working Group will organise a series of actions to both strengthen and coordinate the Community's focused work towards the targets identified for the group through Community Building meetings and, through capitalisation events, to communicate and integrate each group's thematic findings into a common message on current management and policy measures. Some of these working group meetings will take place by the end of 2018 so that their results can feed the next MED Biodiversity Protection Community event, scheduled for Brussels in December 2018.





Agenda: Plans of future actions for the Med Biodiversity Protection Community

FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018

08h30 Welcome and introduction to the session

Julia Vera Prieto, Event facilitator

08h40 [The PANACeA Action Plan 2018-2020](#)

Sonsoles San Roman, ETC-UMA

09h00 Pitching the PANACeA Working Groups Strategies and Action Plans

- [Working Group 1: Biodiversity protection and management, by Carlos Guitart, ETC-UMA](#)
- [Working Group 2: Sustainable management of natural resources, by Lise Guennal, CRPM](#)
- [Working Group 3: Integrated ecosystem monitoring and management, by Alyssa Clavreul, Plan Bleu](#)

09h30 World Café: Defining the Ws (Who, What, When, How) of the Action Plan

Three corners and three rounds

11h00 Presenting the results

- [Working Group 1: Biodiversity Protection and Management, by Carlos Guitart, ETC-UMA](#)
- [Working Group 2: Sustainable management of resources, by Lise Guennal, CRPM](#)
- [Working Group 3: Integrated ecosystem monitoring, by Alyssa Clavreul, Plan Bleu](#)

11h30 Questions and answers

Julia Vera Prieto, Event facilitator

11h50 Wrap-up of Meeting results & next steps for the PANACeA Community

Dania Abdul Malak, PANACeA Project Coordinator, Director ETC-UMA





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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