

## ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE MEDIA



### The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community gathers in Podgorica, Montenegro

**Podgorica, 11 May 2018** - In the frame of the PANACeA project, a regional initiative to channel common efforts towards an effective protection of natural resources in the Mediterranean, major key environmental stakeholders of the Mediterranean and Adriatic-Ionian area will gather from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May in Podgorica, Montenegro to stimulate a debate on ecosystem-based management and biodiversity conservation.

**WHAT:** Empowering the Mediterranean Community with tools for ecosystem-based management – Download agenda [here](#).

**WHEN:** 16-18 May 2018

**WHERE:** **CentreVille Hotel**, Cetinjska 7 The Capital Plaza 81000, Podgorica 81000, Montenegro

**WHO:** national, regional governments, EU officials, research institutes, universities, international organizations and protected area managers

**WHY:** An Open Seminar to highlight and transfer latest knowledge, practical methodologies and tools developed by current EU and Mediterranean research, management and policy projects.

The open seminar will assess and address the challenges of climate change and marine litter impacts on biodiversity and the communities in and nearby protected areas; test participatory governance mechanisms for a sustainable management of natural resources and its services related particularly to wetlands and small-scale fisheries; and the meta-analysis of land and sea interactions and economic activities towards integrated ecosystem monitoring and management approaches.

This seminar welcomes national representatives such as Sustainable Development and Tourism Minister and European affairs Minister representatives of Montenegro, environmental institutes and international organisations such as MedPan, WWF, MedCem, Coastal Zone management institute of Montenegro, IUCN, UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC, European Union institutions, strategies and programmes related entities such as European MSP platform, EUSAIR, ADRION and Interreg MED programmes representatives.

All interested media a particularly invited to attend the Open seminar, where high level institutions and national representatives will welcome participants.

A site visit to Skadar Lake, a Ramsar site and National Park between Montenegro and Albania, will also be organised to showcase an example of transboundary management towards protection. After the Open Seminar, an interactive workshop will follow on 17 May afternoon and 18 May 2018, the last day will be restricted to the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Community and its Advisory Board.

**For registration and further information please visit:**

<https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/media-calendar/events/detail/actualites/empowering-the-mediterranean-community-tools-for-ecosystem-based-management/>

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**Notes to editor:**

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

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

PANACeA builds a community of nature conservation stakeholders in the Mediterranean and acts as the Communication and Capitalisation instrument of the projects dealing with protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Through its tool, the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform, PANACeA ensures the transfer of synthesised projects' outcomes and their dissemination across and beyond the region.

The main thematic focus areas include coastal and marine management, biodiversity monitoring, sustainable use of natural resources, management of protected areas, global changes, governance and cooperation and scientific and innovative methodologies., under the umbrella of a series of projects: ACT4LITTER (marine waste in marine protected areas) and additional projects to be included in the coming period, AMAre (marine spatial planning and PAs), CONFISH (network of fish stock recovery areas), ECOSUSTAIN (water quality monitoring solutions in protected wetlands), FishMPABlue2 (governance of artisanal fisheries in PAs), MEDSEALITTER (marine waste management), MPA-ADAPT (adaptation of MPAs to climate change), POSBEMED (strategy for joint management of Posidonia beaches and dunes), WETNET (wetland governance), PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs (Marine Litter in MPAs) and PHAROS4MPAs (Blue Economy and Marine Conservation).