



FACTSHEET by PANACeA featuring the MED Biodiversity Protection Community

WORKING GROUP 1: BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

Considered a biodiversity hotspot, the Mediterranean region conforms around a closed sea surrounded by more than 22 countries, each of them with different levels of protection and management practices along their territories. According to the MedPAN and RAC/SPA 2016 assessment on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures, there are 1231 MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean covering 179,798 km², a surface of 7.14% under legal designation. These MPAs vary in age, surface, purpose and management depending on various factors, though they all face the increasing pressures imposed by an increasing population, a changing climate landscape and competition across regions and sectors as users of the same limited and precious natural resources. Climate change and marine litter impacts are some of the increasing threats impacting Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity, with protected areas and key ecological areas under increasing cumulative risks.

THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The MED Biodiversity Protection Community is seeking solutions to bridge science, practice and policy, to develop the action plan for its working group 1 focusing on protected area and biodiversity management (WG1). After consultation with members of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community and the advisory board, the policy landscape targeted by this group has been defined as follows:

- General policy frameworks at various geographical scales;
- Targeted policies/instruments; and
- Informal and formal networks and instruments

EU LEVEL

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
Policy on Blue Growth

MEDITERRANEAN

UNEP MAP Barcelona Convention, its Regional Activity Centres and Protocols
UNEP MAP Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
UNEP MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)
Union for the Mediterranean – Task Force on Environment and Climate Change

NETWORKS

MedPAN
Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)
EMODNet
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
Natura 2000
Emerald Network
UNEP MAP Regional Cooperation platform for Marine Litter in the Mediterranean – MED POL

GLOBAL

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



For a full picture of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community analysis of relevant policies and instruments, see [here](#)

Other stakeholders to involve in the dissemination of key messages include the whole Interreg MED Community; Joint Secretariat; Axis 4 - PANORAMED and other Horizontal and modular projects active in protected areas and biodiversity related issues as BlueIslands and Destimed in the MED Sustainable Tourism community.

Working Group 1 aims to increase understanding and awareness of multiple environmental pressures and best practice Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) tools to address their cumulative impacts, focusing on functional ecosystem units.

In brief, WG1 will work to:

- a) Standardise monitoring and management tools to allow for a common regional approach to address major environmental pressures including marine litter (ML) and climate change among others, and build the capacity of protected areas to tackle cumulative impacts.
- b) Collect data and recommendations generated by thematic projects to integrate into the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection Community Platform and ultimately identify management priorities in need of urgent action.
- c) Provide spatial datasets and indicators to showcase current efforts by participating research institutions and pilot sites to integrate into Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and provide transferable best practice among protected areas and beyond.

Main MED projects currently involved in WG1 are:

- **ACT4Litter:** Decision making tools and tailored measures to address marine litter in Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
- **AMAre:** Development of shared methodologies and spatial tools to foster the resilience of a Mediterranean MPA network as well as concrete MSP applications for managing protected areas.
- **MedSeaLitter:** Common methodologies for monitoring floating macro litter in the Mediterranean.
- **MPA-Adapt:** Building resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts in marine protected areas.
- **POSBEMED:** Sustainable management of Posidonia beaches and dunes in the Mediterranean region.
- **PlasticBusters MPAs:** Actions that address the whole management cycle of ML, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation
- **PHAROS4MPAs:** Regional integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors.

Other projects in the Community will contribute to the WG activities according to their scope and planned actions (CONFISH, ECOSUSTAIN, FISHMPABLUE2, WETNET).

THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

		Means and main steps	
Focus	Targets	Relevant Projects	Tools
1. From science to management to policy: Factsheets and technical papers featuring pressures, impacts and responses in protected areas and beyond			
Climate change (CC)	Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030 Goals 13, 14.2 EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy UNEP MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme Union for the Mediterranean	MPA-ADAPT AMARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-Disciplinary Working Group Synthesis Prospectus and Technical Paper Thematic factsheets on CC impact, mitigation, and adaptation
Marine litter (ML)	MSFD Descriptor 10 and the 2017 decision of GES on the introduction of "thresholds"(and data gaps) UNEP MAP Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean IMAP (EcAp) EO 10 on Marine litter PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme Union for the Mediterranean	ACT4LITTER MEDSEALITTER PLASTICBUSTERS MPAS AMARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-Disciplinary Working Group Synthesis Prospectus and Technical Paper Thematic factsheets on ML assessment, impact and management
Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)	Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030 EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive Barcelona Convention PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme Union for the Mediterranean	ALL PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-Disciplinary Working Group Scientific manuscript on the utility of and challenges to EBSAs as EBM units in the Mediterranean Technical paper and Synthesis Prospectus identifying priority management activities in 4 priority EBSAs in the Mediterranean
2. Spatial data and new knowledge			
Demonstration sites Marine litter Climate change Fisheries Wetlands EBSAs	UNEP MAP Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy UNEP MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) SEIS, EMODNet, MAPAMED, Mediterranean Platform on Biodiversity (MPB) EU Plastics Directive Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD) Union for the Mediterranean PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme	Med-IAMER ACT4LITTER MEDSEALITTER MPA-ADAPT POSBEMED PHAROS4MPAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate key spatial data into the PANACeA platform Cartography on geographical coverage of MED projects, study areas, and relevant Mediterranean project results Presentation of recent developments in regional spatial data and environmental indicators Update and validation of cumulative impacts findings in the Mediterranean Development of new knowledge relevant to MSP Mapping of biodiversity vulnerability (to cumulative and transboundary impacts) in demonstration EBSA Social survey on main transboundary management challenges in demonstration EBSAs
3. Networking and showcasing			
Transfer and adoption of best practices to Protected area and biodiversity managers and policy makers	All stakeholders and identified policy frameworks Union for the Mediterranean MEDPAN Marine Protected Area Forum 2020 PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme	ALL PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review on available tools for Biodiversity protection and management Side events during PANACeA Capitalisation events (2018 and 2019) External events and side activities related to policies' development Contribution to MedPAN MPA Forum 2020 Fostering the participation and networking of protected area and biodiversity managers in training workshops and webinars Workshop on challenges to EBM and EBSAs in the Mediterranean Communication Actions



MILESTONES

The working group on Biodiversity Management will be showcasing its work during the next two years particularly through EU and Mediterranean events and publications such as:

- MedPAN article and updated catalogue on tools for protected area management - summer 2018 / autumn 2019
- UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication– 2019
- An online [shared calendar](#) of events is available and regularly updated with opportunities to participate and organize joint activities.

International events	Relevant events in EU/MED area	2018	WG1 activities
Union for the Mediterranean events 2018/2019	Interreg MED and PANORAMED 2018/2019		Promotion of environmental protection as priority
	DG MARE MSP events 2018 onwards		Presentation of PANACeA and its platform capitalising on project results
	18-19 April – “MADE in MED”, Rome		Exhibition and participation in the panels
5th International Marine Conservation Congress, Malaysia, 24-29 June	16-18 May – PANACeA in Montenegro		Factsheet and action plan for WG1: EBM tools
			Start compilation of data for the PANACeA platform 2018/2019
	MSFD TG ML - Cyprus 26-27 June		Draft Action Plan and workshop for impact management in demonstration EBSAs
	November - PANACeA in Brussels		Technical paper/factsheet on ML management tools: MPAs perspective
			Workshop and survey on EBM and EBSAs
			Technical paper/factsheet on climate change adaptation for MPAs
			Technical paper/factsheet on marine litter pressures in the Mediterranean
Ramsar COP13 – Dubai, 21-29 Oct.	Oct.- MedPAN Annual workshop		Technical paper/factsheet on marine litter impact on aquatic life
			Document on lessons on measures to tackle marine litter
			Scientific manuscript on the utility of and challenges to EBSAs as EBM units in the most impacted sea, the Mediterranean
CBD COP 14 – Egypt, 10-22 Nov.		2019	
	Apr-May - PANACeA in Rome		Factsheet/Report on measures to address ML management in MPAs
COP 21 Barcelona Convention – 2019			Technical paper and Synthesis Prospectus identifying priority management activities in 4 priority EBSAs in the Mediterranean
	November - PANACeA final conference in Malaga		Update Technical paper/ factsheet on marine litter pressures in the Mediterranean
			Presentation of WG1 recommendations and new data in the BP Platform
MedPAN/RAC-SPA Marine Protected Areas Forum 2020			Policy paper/factsheet on cumulative impacts assessment in MPAs
		2020	Updated catalogue on tools for protected area management