



FACTSHEET by PANACeA featuring the MED Biodiversity Protection Community

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, agriculture, etc.).

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

Face 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 approach should be supported by policy makers’ in-depth understanding of the existing interdependencies and reciprocal influence between natural resources on one hand and needs for economic growth on the other hand.

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 comprehensive set of rules as well as financial support through the European Fund for Maritime and Fisheries affairs – (EMFF). 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:

- enhance data collection and scientific evaluation
- 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.

objectives. Other targets of the working group include Interreg MED Communities: Joint Secretariat, Axis 4 - PANORAMED project, Horizontal Projects; The Modular Projects of the MED Community on Biodiversity Protection and the Community's WGs 1 and 3 can be considered as key targets as well.

PANACeA Advisory board and associated partners, who are contributors and key stakeholders interested in WG2 activities: The European Fisheries Areas Network (FARNET), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Mediterranean Protected Areas Network, UNEP-MAP PAP/RAC, IUCN-MED, Tour du Valat, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Region of Crete, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), WWF Mediterranean.

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			
Co-management Role of FLAGS Wetlands	-Interreg MED Communities and programme -Modular projects -PANACeA advisory board -GFCM -EU/national/regional level regulations	FishMPABlue2 CONFISH POSBEMED WETNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical paper production on co-management of natural resources
2. Spatial data and new knowledge			
Harmonised and exhaustive data Fisheries	-Interreg MED Communities and programme -Modular projects -PANACeA advisory board -MPA managers -FAO-GFCM -Farnet	FishMPABlue2 CONFISH POSBEMED AMAre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial data and cartography on habitat surface for pelagic fishes • Database
3. Networking and showcasing			
Participatory and multi-stakeholder governance	Interreg MED Communities and programme PANORAMED Modular projects PANACeA advisory board GFCM Farnet EU/national/ regional regulations	FishMPABlue2 CONFISH POSBEMED WETNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO - GFCM side event preparation • Biodiversity Protection Community events • Promotional stands for FARNET and MedPAN events • Webinar for MPA managers • Videos interviews with natural resource managers (fishing sector and wetland managers)

The Sustainable Use of Resources working group has set up an action plan to address its identified issues. The work is developed through the monitoring and participation of the Med

Biodiversity Protection modular projects closely involved in sustainable use of resources. FISHMPABLUE2, CONFISH for example are mainly concerned by the issues on small-scale fisheries. Other modular projects and/or partners in their consortium are also taking part in to the activities of the working group, such as AMARE, POSBEMED, WETNET.

Through the identification of common thematic interests in the community, sustainable resource management practices including participatory governance models for fisheries and species harvesting in protected areas are being addressed. Practitioners are being encouraged to exchange tested methodologies and present evidence-based solutions through networking activities and capacity building workshops. Those experiences are meant to enable the community to identify potential gaps and prepare policy recommendations to address multilevel policies and structural governance issues in various countries. The working group on the Sustainable use of resources aims to support the GFCM management plans, 2017 Malta declaration for sustainability for Mediterranean fisheries and the EU Common fisheries policy.

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

MILESTONES

The working group on the Sustainable use of natural resources will be showcasing its work during the next two years particularly through EU and Mediterranean events as below and contributing to relevant publications.

- 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	WG2 activities
European Maritime Days - 30 May -1 June 2018, Burgas Farnet event FAO GFCM FishForum – December 2018 MedPAN/RAC-SPA Marine Protected Areas Forum 2020	18-19 April – “MADE in MED”- Rome		Participation in a panel
	16-18 May – PANACeA in Montenegro		
			Webinar for MPA managers Preparation of technical paper on interactions between the scientific and fishing communities for the sustainable use of natural resources Promotional stands/campaigns Video interviews with natural resource managers fishermen on co-management
	November - PANACeA in Brussels		Cartography and database Presentation Technical paper
			Promotional stands/participation in roundtables
		2019	
	Apr-May - PANACeA in Rome		Promotional stands/participation in roundtables
	Sept-Oct - PANACeA final conference in Malaga		Technical paper on co-management as governance models for multiple users UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication - 2019