



FACTSHEET by PANACeA featuring the MED Biodiversity Protection Community

WORKING GROUP 3: INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

An integrated vision of Mediterranean ecosystems and their relation with, among other, human activities, is necessary to understand better the evolution of these ecosystems, their value and how they are threatened by human activities in the Mediterranean region. Over the years, policies and instruments were implemented to monitor these ecosystems, focusing on general topics such as land-sea interactions while other are focusing on specific kinds of ecosystems, such as wetlands.

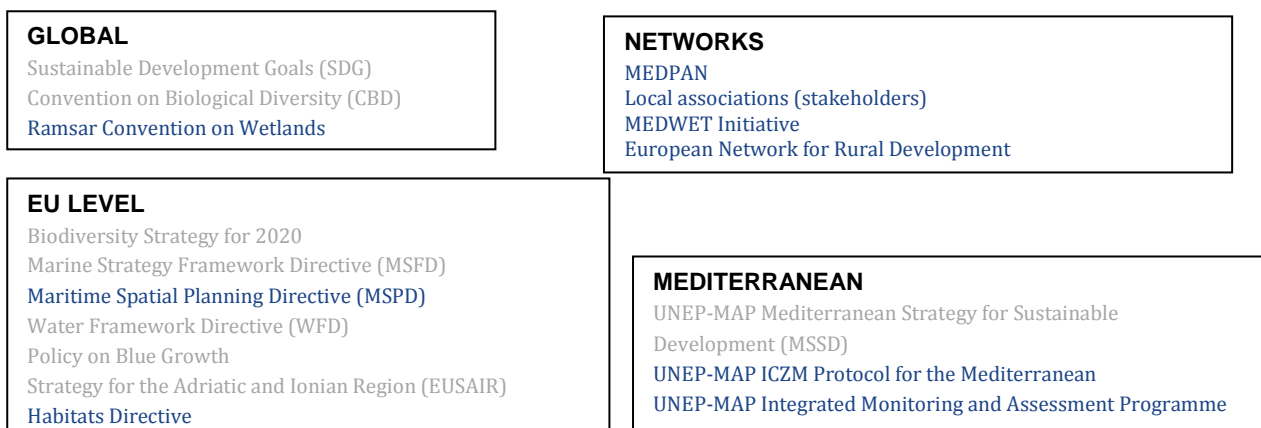
Examples of policies and instruments addressing land-sea interactions are the Barcelona Convention's Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and the Ecosystem Approach (EcAP); and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSP). Examples of instruments focusing on wetlands are the RAMSAR Convention and the MEDWET Initiative.

THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The MED Biodiversity Protection community is seeking solutions to strengthen the Science-Policy-Interface, building on these instruments to develop the action plan for its working group focusing on integrated ecosystem monitoring and management (WG3). After a round of consultation with members of the MED Biodiversity Protection community and the advisory board members, the policy landscape to which WG3 is planning to contribute has been defined as follows:

- general policy frameworks (in grey in the figure below)
- targeted policies/instruments: can be targeted by specific actions within the WG (in blue)

The list of targeted policies illustrated in the following figure is a non-exhaustive list, showing the results of the Community Building event held in Barcelona in October 2017.



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

The working group aims to address key challenges for the Mediterranean in relation to integrated ecosystem monitoring, contributing to a better understanding of land-sea interactions and wetland ecosystems. In concrete, WG3 will focus on:

- a) Strengthening monitoring and management tools and contributing to UNEP-MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) review and revision: considering its efforts to promote an integrated governance for sustainable management of Protected Areas (PAs), WG3 focuses on strengthening monitoring and management tools in PAs.
- b) Collecting the data generated by the projects to feed the MED Biodiversity Protection community Knowledge Platform and ultimately support the production of cartography for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).
- c) Providing spatial data for MSP combining conflicting priorities: based on the projects' pilot site results and their strategies for transferring these results, WG3 efforts will strive to showcase Land Sea Interaction (LSI) management tools, such as MSP and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).

The WG3 is open to all modular projects within the Community and currently involves:

- **AMAre:** Development of shared methodologies and special tools to foster the resilience of a Mediterranean MPA network as well as concrete MSP applications.
- **EcoSUSTAIN:** Improved management and networking of protected areas by building capacity and testing innovative water monitoring solutions.
- **PHAROS4MPAs:** Regional integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors.
- **POSBEMED:** Sustainable management of the systems Posidonia-beaches in the Mediterranean region.
- **WETNET:** Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands.

Other stakeholders to involve in the dissemination of key messages include the Interreg MED Communities: Joint Secretariat, Axis 4 - PANORAMED project, Horizontal Projects, Modular Projects of the MED Biodiversity Protection community, and PANACeA's WGs 1 and 2. Furthermore, PANACeA advisory board and associated partners will be contributors and key target stakeholders for WG3's activities. *The following members of the advisory board and associated partners have been identified as relevant to WG3's activities: 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).*

THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

The action plan of the working group on integrated ecosystem monitoring is set based on definition and agreement on a set of “actions” and “outcomes” set by the community. They include the four products defined below:

| | | Means and main steps | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Focus | Targets | Relevant Projects | Tools |
| 1. From science to management to policy: Factsheets and technical papers featuring integrated ecosystem monitoring | | | |
| Land-Sea Interactions | UNEP-MAP Regional decision makers and management bodies EU directives: MSFD and MSP PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme | AMAre POSBEMED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual working group Technical paper Regular factsheets (one of them focusing on multiple-user approach for biodiversity protection). |
| Wetlands | RAMSAR; MEDWET Regional decision makers and management bodies PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme | WETNET ECOSUSTAIN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual working group Technical paper Regular factsheets Side events |
| 2. Spatial data and new knowledge | | | |
| Ecosystem monitoring | All stakeholders EU Habitats Directive EU MSP Platform PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme | POSBEMED WETNET AMAre ECOSUSTAIN | Collect MPs' spatial data and feed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG3 thematic paper and factsheets PANACeA Knowledge Platform MSP Platform Other cartographic tools |
| 3. Networking and showcasing | | | |
| Ecosystem monitoring | All stakeholders and previously identified policy frameworks PANORAMED Interreg MED Programme | POSBEMED WETNET AMAre ECOSUSTAIN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible side events during PANACeA Capitalisation events (2018 and 2019) Side events during external events in correlation with the policies' development* |

**see details about events in the next figure (action plan and milestones)*

MILESTONES

The working group on Integrated ecosystem monitoring (WG3) will be showcasing its work during the next two years particularly through EU and Mediterranean events and publications such as:

- Updated catalogue on tools for protected area management - 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 | WG3 activities |
|--|---|-------------|--|
| 2nd Feb. World day of wetlands | 18 Jan. MSP « Cumulative Impact Tools Expert Roundtable », Venice | | Preparation of WG3 action plan and factsheet |
| | 22-23 Feb. JS/HP/PANORAMED coordination meeting, Marseille | | |
| 19-23 Mar. RAMSAR pre-COP Europe | 18-19 April – “MADE in MED”- Rome | | |
| | 16-18 May – PANACeA in Montenegro | | Start compilation of spatial data to feed PANACeA and WG3 products 2018/2019 |
| | | | Factsheet 1 on Land Sea Interactions Factsheet 2 on Wetlands |
| | | | Policy document / factsheet 2 on wetlands |
| 21-29th Oct. RAMSAR COP13 | November - PANACeA in Brussels | | Starting Factsheet 3 on Land Sea Interactions Factsheet 4 on Wetlands |
| | | 2019 | |
| | | | Side events relevant fora |
| | Apr-May - PANACeA in Rome | | |
| MedPAN/RAC-SPA Marine Protected Areas Forum 2020 | | | Technical Papers WG3 on Land Sea Interactions and Wetland Management |
| | Sept-Oct - PANACeA final conference in Malaga | | UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication - 2019 |
| | | 2020 | Updated catalogue on tools for protected area management |