

Enhancing EU Policies with Ecosystem-based Approaches

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4 December 2018, Brussels

*Workshop & Public Hearing by the MED Biodiversity Protection
Community, featured by PANACeA*

BACKGROUND

Monitoring and addressing the increasing cumulative impacts of threats such as overfishing, marine litter, climate change and uncontrolled development to the Mediterranean environment is crucial if we want to manage healthy and productive ecosystems and sustain the people that live on their resources.

Rapid global changes linked to human activities are happening at a regional scale, and so cross boundary challenges need to be jointly addressed through an overarching approach addressing actions at different scales (from regional and local). The socio-economic mechanisms necessary to co-manage our ecosystems and species require the support of appropriate legislation, the allocation of enough resources, public awareness and education, and regional collaboration mechanisms and networks to allow for mutual benefits and an effective implementation of measures proposed to protect Mediterranean livelihoods. Enhanced policy measures and management plans need to be deployed at protected area, ecosystem and ecoregional scales to be effective for people (in sustainable development) and for nature (biodiversity protection) at Mediterranean level.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the workshop and the public hearing at the EU Parliament is to transfer the lessons learnt by the Community of Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection projects and protected areas to a wider audience, in particular EU, Mediterranean and national policy makers, public authorities at different level, environmental organizations and territorial cooperation institutions.

The findings of two years of project work will show the solutions found at protected area level in various countries and the links to other economic sectors and areas to prove the need of an ecosystem-based approach to achieve effective protection and a good environmental status for the Mediterranean.

FEEDING POLICIES

The Regional policy review related to biodiversity protection undertaken by PANACeA has helped identify the gaps and needs to which the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection community’s findings can provide transferable solutions and recommendations in support of regional policies and management mechanisms.

Under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) developments in monitoring, measures and management plans to combat the growing threat of marine litter are in development. Particularly, for the second cycle of implementation and under Descriptor 10, filling the information gaps related to the interactions of marine litter with coastal and marine biodiversity is highly required to comprehend the dimension of the problem from an ecosystem-based management implementation. These MSFD developments are linked to the newly launched EU Plastics Strategy within the context of Blue Growth, as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

On the other hand, the changing climate and its effects on marine biodiversity are included within the EU Climate Change Program (EU Adaptation Strategy) in its priority 2 (Better informed decision-making) the

adaptation platform tool (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe. Furthermore, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approaches in terms of nature and scale are under discussion with Mediterranean countries but the operationalization of a common strategy towards maintaining coastal and marine biodiversity and natural resources is not well-defined and binding rules and linked actions for the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach are lacking.

At the EU level, economic sectors, such as fisheries and their sustainability, have been discussed recurrently by Member States and implemented through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (EU CFP). Although with tangible benefits, this is directed mainly towards large fishing fleets, fishery stock management, quotas, discards, etc. Nevertheless, the EU countries artisanal fleets still need local support to find the way out for their sustainability. This represents a knowledge gap in terms of traditional fisheries management where co-management and the link to science and conservation can play a strategic role and assist in the socio-economic adaptation of the small-scale fisheries sector and protected areas to a marine environment affected by multiple impacts.

In relation to all these EU policies, the Interreg Med Biodiversity Community experiences will demonstrate different ways and tools to gather targeted information from field surveys to assessments to support generating reliable knowledge for decision-makers.

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE MED BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION COMMUNITY

An integrated monitoring and management of coastal and marine areas can assist in the deployment of an ecosystem-based approach to a more effective conservation of ecosystem functions and the services they provide. The involvement of multiple users of the same territory in decisions related to the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources of their ecoregions proves essential for the sustainable use of Mediterranean ecosystems and the maintenance of the services they provide.

The Brussels workshop debates will offer a collaborative platform to bring to the table solutions to main policy gaps through project experiences addressing transferable monitoring protocols for climate change, water pollution including marine litter impacts, and the use of new technologies to integrate data to better inform decisions at regional and marine protected area levels.

The Interreg Med Community solutions to strengthen ecosystem-based management in the Mediterranean Sea are holistic approaches to conserve biodiversity and increase resilience of natural resources and key habitats. These approaches involve collaboration among public authorities, scientific institutions, regional organizations, protected area managers and the users and beneficiaries of these natural resources.

The holistic approach to biodiversity protection and management used by these projects is founded on the principle of using scientific-evidence and collaborative mechanisms to involve protected area managers, public bodies, the private sector and the society at large in the shared task of conserving and adequately managing our biodiversity hotspots and species in a sustainable fashion.

AGENDA

“Enhancing EU Policies with Ecosystem-based Approaches: benefits for people and nature”

4 December 2018

Collaborative Workshop - from 09.00 to 18.00

Venue: Mundo-b - Rue d'Edimbourg 26, B-1050 Brussels

09.00 – 09:10 WELCOME

The need for cooperation and dialogue across ecoregions and economic sectors to protect biodiversity and to preserve Mediterranean biodiversity, natural resources and livelihoods:

_/ **Eleni Chatzianni**, Region of Crete, Member Region of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

09:10 – 09:45 INTRODUCTION

Building the Mediterranean biodiversity protection community: PANACeA mid-term review and the way forward: Video animation focusing on Ecosystem based management (EBM)

_/ Towards understanding and managing transboundary and cumulative impacts in the Mediterranean Ecosystem, by **Dania Abdul Malak**, ETC-UMA

_/ Multiple players, one objective: PANACeA Med Biodiversity Protection Community Building, by **Nelly Bourlion**, UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu

09:45 – 13:00 THE ECOSYSTEM BASED APPROACH: a collaborative framework to link regions, users and beneficiaries

The morning sessions focus on showcasing and debating the transferable evidence-based tools, approaches and mechanisms reached by the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection Community to ensure a more effective protection of biodiversity and more sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean.

09:45 – 10:30 SESSION 1: How to better preserve Mediterranean natural resources: the role of local communities in protection and management

The session showcases lessons learnt towards effective mechanisms to use natural resource science results in adaptive management efforts by multiple users including managers and public authorities.

Facilitated by **Giuseppe Sciacca**, CPMR

/ **Anamaria Stambuck**, University of Zagreb - CONFISH: linking genomic science to fishing practices in the Mediterranean

/ **Maria del Mar Otero**, IUCN-Med - FISHMPABLUE2: how to involve fishermen in protected area governance

/ **Giancarlo Gusmaroli**, Italian Centre for River Restoration - WETNET: negotiating water resource management in Mediterranean wetlands

/ **Q&A** by **Gilles Van de Walle**, EU Fisheries Network, FARNET

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 11:45 SESSION 2: How to ensure transferable approaches for holistic biodiversity protection: from protected key biodiversity (MPAs) to safeguard ecosystem functions (ecoregions)

This session sheds the light on widely applicable Ecosystem based approaches to manage biodiversity ensuring an increased resilience of Mediterranean ecoregions facing multiple environmental threats.

Facilitated by **Sonsoles San Roman**, ETC-UMA

/ **Maria del Mar Otero**, IUCN-Med - POSBEMED: improving beach management and protecting Posidonia habitats

/ **Joaquim Garrabou**, CSIC - MPA-ADAPT: enhancing Protected Areas' adaptation to climate change

/ **Simonetta Fraschetti**, University of Naples - AMAre: integrating biodiversity information for protected area planning

/ **Catherine Piante**, WWF - PHAROS4MPAS: ensuring effective mechanisms for proper ecosystem function in the face of a blue growth economy

/ **Q&A** by **Salvatore Livreri**, MPA Island of Ustica

11:45 – 13:00 SESSION 3: How to address regional pressures to reduce impacts on Mediterranean ecosystems: gathering knowledge on pollution including marine litter threats

The session will introduce the innovative and/or enhanced pollution monitoring tools and protocols with special emphasis on their regional approach potential.

Facilitated by **Carolina Perez**, MEDCITIES

/ **Samir Jodanovic**, Development Agency of Una-Sana Canton - ECOSUSTAIN: Adapting and testing technology for real time monitor of water quality

/ **Morgana Vighi**, University of Barcelona - MEDSEALITTER: Enhanced coastal and open-sea litter monitoring with the aid of technology to measure litter amounts and interactions with biota

/ **Ignasi Mateo**, UNEP MAP SCP/RAC - ACT4LITTER: Standardised monitoring of litter on beaches, decision support tools to support MPA marine litter management action plans

/ **Cristina Panti & Ilaria Caliani**, University of Siena - PLASTICBUSTERS MPAs: Holistic approach to preserve biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean MPAs

/ **Q&A**

13:00 -14:30 BUFFET LUNCH ON SITE

14:30 – 17:30 INTEGRATING ECOSYSTEM BASED APPROACHES IN REGIONAL SECTORAL POLICIES: DIALOGUE WITH POLICY MAKERS

The afternoon session is expected to facilitate the transfer of key findings by the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Community as potential policy and societal solutions. Three roundtables will assist participants to benefit from thematic-oriented discussions aiming at highlighting the necessary role to be played by different sectors in achieving a good environmental status in Mediterranean ecoregions.

14:30 – 15:30 _/_ ROUNDTABLE 1: TARGETING A MORE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES - Towards a Blue Economy

How to reach sustainable growth in the Mediterranean region while preserving our natural resources? New economy models around blue growth need to consider the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. The debate will address socio-economic aspirations and key measures to reach an environmentally sustainable development in the region.

Moderated by **Laurent Sourbes**, MedPAN, Zakynthos National Marine Park

/ **Eleni Chatzigianni**, Region of Crete - the PANORAMED initiative

/ **Francesca Marcato**, Interreg Med programme Joint Secretariat

/ **Anton Gazenbeek**, DG-MARE, EC

/ **Nikos Zampoukas**, DG-Research & Innovation, EC

/ **Sylvain Petit**, UNEP MAP PAP/RAC

15:30 – 16:30 _ROUNDTABLE 2: SCARCER NATURAL RESOURCES AND UNCONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS - Responding to pressures from a nature protection perspective

How are protected areas responding to environmental threats brought in by the blue economy? How is the Mediterranean addressing the current population developments and the increasing demand for natural resources? What are the present policies and management practices missing to achieve an effective protection of natural resources vis a vis an unsustainable but profitable use in the short term?

Moderated by **Catherine Piante**, WWF

/ **Véronique Turrel-Clément**, Delegate General, Union of marinas of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur: Clean ports initiative

/ **Vedran Nikolić**, DG ENV, EC, responses to pressures in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

/ **Manuel Carmona-Yebra**, DG CLIMA, EC, Climate change adaptation policies, EU Climate Adapt

/ **Eleni Fytoka**, EKBY, A transnational ecosystem-based approach to wetland conservation – WetMainAreas INTERREG BalkanMed project

/ **Stefania Petrosillo**, Europarc

16:30 – 17:30 _ROUNDTABLE 3: ONE MEDITERRANEAN, UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS, MANY ACTORS: the need for a Mediterranean-ecosystem based territorial integration

The Mediterranean contains irreplaceable species and habitats that are present across countries. What are the current mechanisms in place to protect key biodiversity and habitats outside administrative boundaries? Which criteria are most valid for prioritizing protection of ecologically important regions? Which governance mechanisms are in place to support cooperation for an ecosystem-based management at protected area level? And at ecoregion and Mediterranean levels?

Moderated by **Elen Lemaitre-Curri**, UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu

/ **Miguel García-Herraiz**, Union for the Mediterranean, Video Address

/ **Stavros Antoniadis**, UNEP MAP: MSSD / EcAp, efforts to foster ecosystem-based approaches

/ **Christophe Le Visage**, Ecorys, WestMed initiative

/ **Ameer Abdulla**, IUCN WCPA

/ **Anis Zarrouk**, UNEP MAP SPA RAC: Ecological units for effective protection

17:30 – 18:00 CONCLUSIONS AND INTRODUCTION to the public hearing “Mediterranean Ecosystems in Danger: Enhancing EU policy response: towards an integration of ecosystem-based approaches in policies” European Parliament, 5 December, organized by the Searica European Parliament Intergroup and PANACeA project

18:00 – 19:30 NETWORKING COCKTAIL