



BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION



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 others 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) process; 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 white)

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.

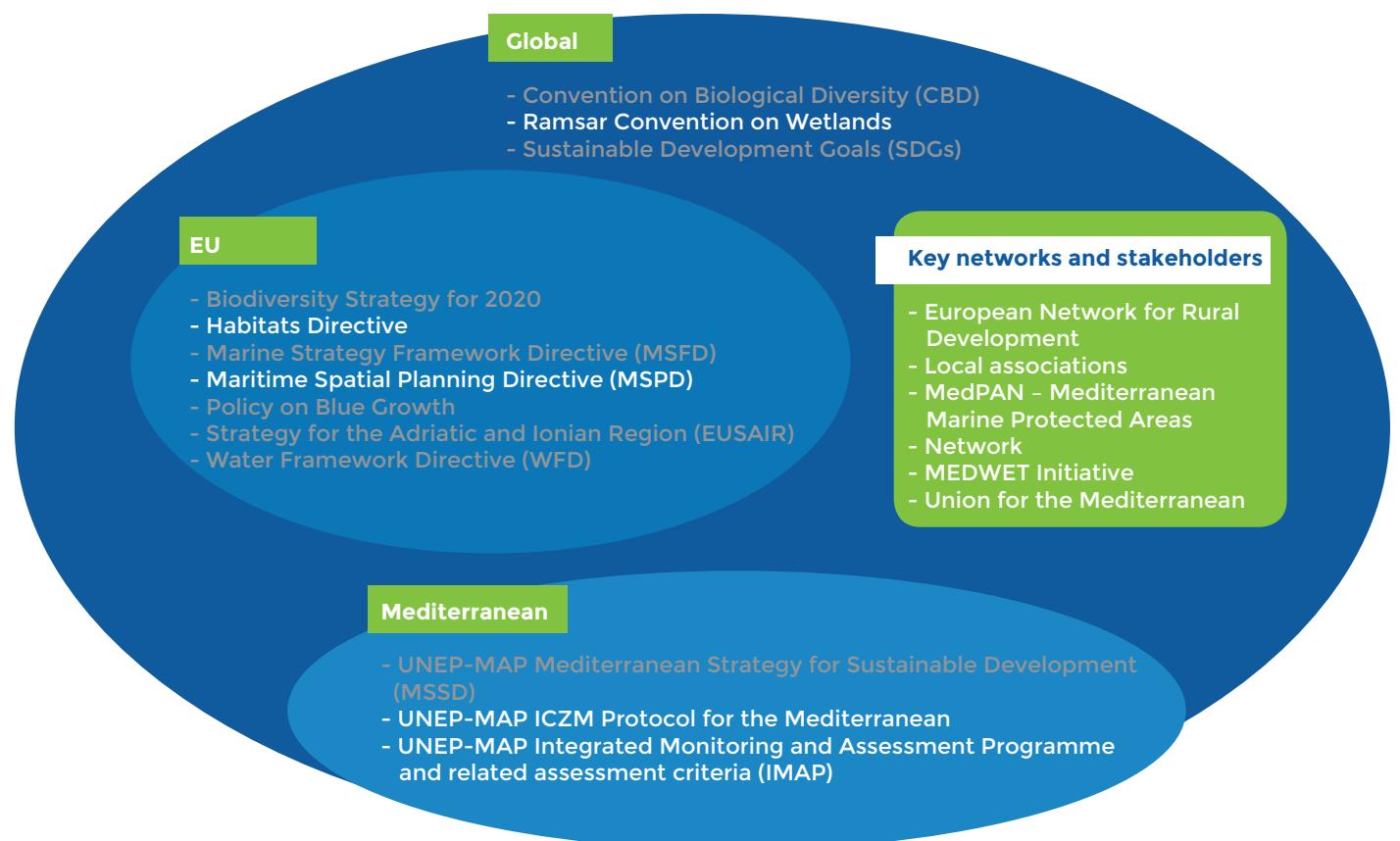
Project co-financed by the European
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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Montenegro



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:

1. 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.
2. Collecting the data generated by the projects to feed the MED Biodiversity Protection community Knowledge Platform as well as existing permanent database of protected areas at Mediterranean level (e.g. MAPAMED) and ultimately support the production of cartography for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).
3. 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.

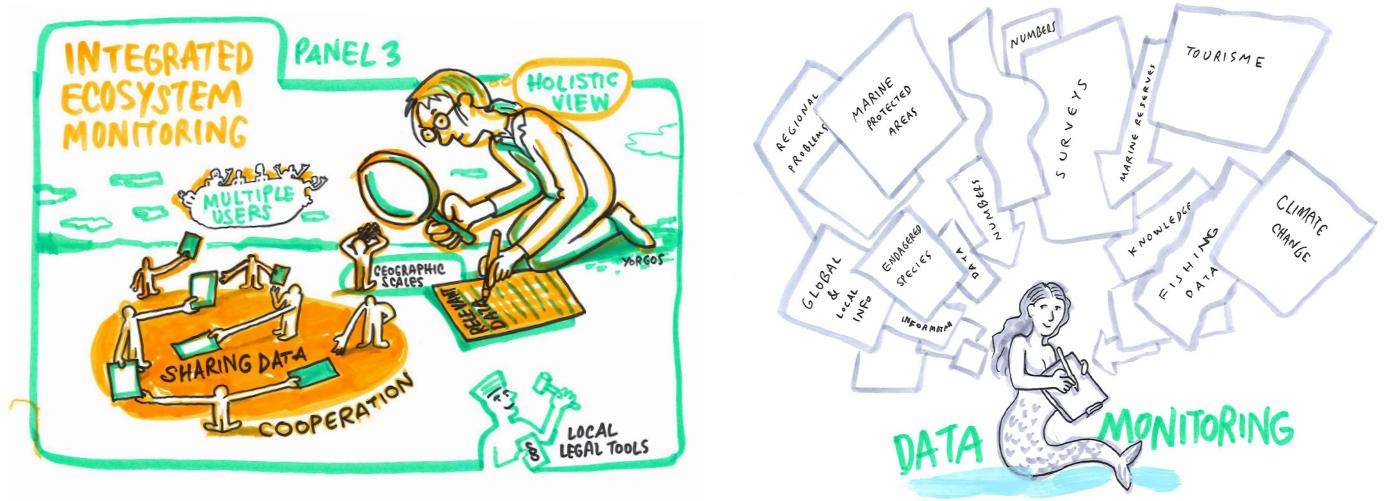
The following members of the advisory board and associated partners have been identified as relevant to WG3's activities: UNEP-MAP PAP/RAC, IUCN-MED, Tour du Valat, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Region of Crete, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK).

THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

The action plan of the working group on defined ecosystem monitoring is 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	Legal frameworks and key MED stakeholders	Relevant Projects	Actions and tools
1. From science to management to policy: Factsheets and technical papers featuring integrated ecosystem monitoring and management			
Land-Sea Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP-MAP • Regional decision makers and management bodies • EU directives: MSFD and MSP • PANORAMED • Interreg MED Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAMSAR; MEDWET • Regional decision makers and management bodies • PANORAMED • Interreg MED Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders • EU Habitats Directive • EU MSP Platform • PANORAMED • Interreg MED Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSBEMED • PHAROS4MPAs • WETNET • AMAre • ECOSUSTAIN 	<p>Collect MPs' spatial data and feed:</p> <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 and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders and previously identified policy frameworks • PANORAMED • Interreg MED Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSBEMED • PHAROS4MPAs • 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	Events in EU/MED area	WG3 partnership activities
2 Feb. World day of Wetlands 19-23 Mar. RAMSAR pre-COP Europe 21-29 Oct. RAMSAR COP13 17-29 Nov. CBD COP14 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress	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	
	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
	20-21 Sept - EU Water Conference, Vienna 25 Sept. – Coastal Day, Split	Factsheet 1 on Land Sea Interactions Factsheet 2 on Wetlands
	Nov-Dec. - PANACeA Mid Term Review in Brussels	Policy document / factsheet 2 on wetlands
	Apr-May - PANACeA in Rome	Starting Factsheet 3 on Land Sea Interactions Factsheet 4 on Wetlands
	November - PANACeA final conference in Malaga	Side events in relevant fora
	Mediterranean MPA Forum 2020 (led by MedPAN and SPA/RAC)	Technical Papers WG3 on Land Sea Interactions and Wetland Management
		UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication - 2019
		MedPAN article and updated catalogue on tools for protected area management - summer 2018 / autumn 2019

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<https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/>

 [@MEDCommunity3_2](#)

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