

THE ACT4LITTER PROJECT

Supporting Mediterranean MPAs to fast-track actions against marine litter

ACT4LITTER, AN INTERREG MED FUNDED PROJECT, HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER MPA MANAGERS AND MARINE LITTER EXPERTS TO FIND NEW WAYS TO TACKLE THIS THREAT



Source of the picture: © M.Cebolla, Arxiu PNDE

MPA managers at the forefront of the marine litter threat

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the most affected areas by marine litter worldwide. Marine litter is found lying on the shores, as well as floating anywhere from the surface to the bottom of the sea. Even in pristine environments of the Mediterranean, such as coastal and marine protected areas, marine litter is building up threatening habitats and species. MPA managers stand at the forefront of the issue, but sadly they often lack the tools, knowledge and resources to effectively tackle it.

Within a period of almost two years, ACT4LITTER, an Interreg Med funded project, has provided essential support to managers of marine protected areas to fast-track actions against marine litter. Within this period, MPA managers and marine litter experts from 26 entities and 11 different countries – namely Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia – have been brought together and evolved into a taskforce with a joint mission to curb marine litter.

THE ACT4LITTER MAIN LINES OF ACTION

1 FILLING OUT THE KNOWLEDGE GAPS ON THE AMOUNTS, COMPOSITION AND SOURCES OF MARINE LITTER IN MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS VIA A PARTICIPATORY-SCIENCE CAMPAIGN.

2 IDENTIFYING TARGETED MEASURES TO ADDRESS MARINE LITTER IN MEDITERRANEAN MPAS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON UPSTREAM PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

3 SETTING UP A DECISION-MAKING TOOL TO HELP MANAGERS IDENTIFY THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND FEASIBLE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS.

4 DEVELOPING NINE ACTION PLANS TO FAST-TRACK ACTIONS AIMING TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE MARINE LITTER.

5 ELABORATING A JOINT PLAN THAT SETS THE BASELINE FOR A COMMON URGENT RESPONSE BY MEDITERRANEAN MPAS TO DEAL WITH THE LURKING MARINE LITTER THREAT.

ACT4LITTER in numbers

4 IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	4 EDITIONS OF THE MARINE LITTER WATCH MONTH
26 MPAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED	9 MARINE LITTER ACTIONS PLANS
ACTIONS CARRIED OUT IN 9 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES	3 ASSOCIATED PARTNERS MEETINGS TO SHARE EXPERIENCES
21 MONTHS OF PROJECT DURATION	2 CONFERENCES BRINGING TOGETHER SOME 250 PARTICIPANTS
SOME 100 MARINE LITTER MEASURES FULLY MAPPED	1 JOINT PLAN FOR ACTION AGAINST MARINE LITTER
1 DECISION-MAKING TOOL TO HELP MPA MANAGERS	



SAMANTA MAKOVAC
STRUNJAN LANDSCAPE PARK, SLOVENIA

“To date no coherent, consistent and targeted measures were taken in our areas in order to tackle marine litter. We, as MPA managers, benefited tremendously from the ACT4LITTER results and outputs as these have enabled us to react quickly and effectively”



JAVIER LLORENTE
TRAGSATEC- MARINE RESERVE OF THE LEVANTE OF MALLORCA- CALA RATJADA, SPAIN

Coastal and marine protected areas are ideal observatories for studying the global problem of marine litter”

THE ACT4LITTER TASKFORCE

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- A** Catalan Waste Agency - Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARC-SCP/RAC), *Spain*
- B** Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies (SSSUP), *Italy*
- C** Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), *France*
- D** Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), *Greece*

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Association for the Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania, <i>Albania</i> | 9 Mediterranean Centre for Environmental Monitoring, <i>Montenegro</i> | 17 Public Institution Nature Park Lastovo Islands, <i>Croatia</i> |
| 2 Autonomous University of Barcelona, <i>Spain</i> | 10 MerTerre / Observatoire des Déchets en Milieux Aquatiques, <i>France</i> | 18 Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, <i>Tunisia</i> |
| 3 Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation, <i>Croatia</i> | 11 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, <i>Spain</i> | 19 Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia, <i>Spain</i> |
| 4 City of Marseille, <i>France</i> | 12 Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, <i>Cyprus</i> | 20 Shoreline, <i>Italy</i> |
| 5 City of San Benedetto del Tronto, <i>Italy</i> | 13 Nice Cote D'Azur Metropole, <i>France</i> | 21 Spanish Association of Marine Litter, <i>Spain</i> |
| 6 Consortium for the Management of Portofino MPA, <i>Italy</i> | 14 PlasticsEurope, <i>Belgium</i> | 22 Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas Management Authority (former Axios – Loudias – Aliakmonas Management Authority), <i>Greece</i> |
| 7 French Agency for Marine Protected Areas, <i>France</i> | 15 Public Institute Landscape Park Strunjan, <i>Slovenia</i> | |
| 8 Management Body of Samaria National Park, <i>Greece</i> | 16 Public Institution National Park Kornati, <i>Croatia</i> | |





Source photo: @ Thomais Vlachogianni

How Bad is it?

Marine litter is ‘building up’ in what should be pristine coastal and marine protected areas of the Mediterranean, according to the preliminary results of the ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month (winter edition 2017). More than one fourth of the twenty two beaches surveyed were characterized by high litter densities ranging from **430 to 12,896 items** per 100-metre stretch. Some 14% of the beaches were moderately littered while the rest of the beaches were rather clean.

A total of **22,867** marine litter items were recorded at 20 coastal and marine protected areas located in Albania, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey. This amounts to a relatively high average litter density of **1.2 items per square meter**. The majority of litter items were made of artificial polymer materials and accounted for 82% of all litter. Litter from shoreline sources, such as tourism and recreational activities and poor waste management practices, accounted for 26.5% of all litter collected; while the amount of litter from fisheries and aquaculture was in the range of some 10%. The most frequently found items included small plastic and

polystyrene pieces (23%), plastic caps and lids (11%), mussel nets (5.6%) and single-use plastic items (5.3%) such as drink bottles and shopping bags. is a concrete participatory-science showcase, where MPA managers have become a taskforce that provides reliable, accurate and comparable marine litter data. The project provided a set of well-designed and well-tested webinars aiming to enhance the managers’ skills on how to monitor marine litter in a harmonized way by using a standardized beach litter monitoring protocol.

The ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month

The ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month has altogether connected some 20 MPA management bodies, NGOs and other organizations, which joined forces in order to shed light on the marine litter threat in Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas. It was launched in 2017-2018 and counts to date 4 editions (winter, spring, summer, autumn). The initiative will carry on within the framework of a follow-up project, namely the Plastic Busters MPAs, also funded by the Interreg Med.



GLORIA GARCIA,
TECHNICAL ADVISOR AT THE CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR
NATURAL PARK/ UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK, SPAIN

During our first ACT4LITTER beach litter monitoring survey we really felt like going into the wild. We had done nothing similar before and we were not certain of the quality of the end result. Nevertheless, we followed closely the methodology provided by the project and we realized how feasible it is to put it into practice”



MARTINA MARKOV,
MARINE BIOLOGIST, KORNATI NATIONAL PARK,
CROATIA

This project changed our approach to the marine litter issue. We are combating with that problem for a long time but focusing mainly on clean up campaigns, completely leaving prevention activities out of the scope of action. As part of project team, we’ve made a whole list of action which may also reduce quantity of marine litter generated in Kornati National Park”

The ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month has been an effective tool to gather essential marine litter data. Not only does it provide valuable baseline information on the amounts and the full spectrum of marine litter deposited on the beaches of protected areas in the Mediterranean, but it also serves as a useful blueprint for the setup of participatory-science campaigns”



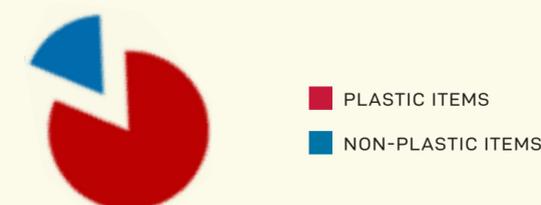
THOMAIS VLACHOGIANNI,
PROGRAMME OFFICER OF THE MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT,
CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MIO-ECSDE)

CLEANLINESS OF THE SURVEYED BEACHES OF MED MPAs RESULTS FROM THE WINTER EDITION (2017)

Coastal and marine protected areas	Beach name	Clean Coast Index (CCI)	Cleanliness
Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (GREECE)	Alyki Kitrous	129,0	Very dirty
MPA Pelagie Islands (ITALY)	Cala Palme	21,4	Very dirty
MPA Punta Campanella (ITALY)	Tordigliano	20,3	Very dirty
MPA Pelagie Islands (ITALY)	Cala Pisana	17,2	Dirty
MPA Miramare (ITALY)	Miramare	17,1	Dirty
MPA Punta Campanella (ITALY)	Marina del Cantone	10,6	Dirty
Strunjan Landscape Park (SLOVENIA)	Strunjan	6,5	Moderately clean
Strunjan Landscape Park (SLOVENIA)	Bele Skale	6,3	Moderately clean
Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park/UNESCO Global Geopark (SPAIN)	Embarcadero de los Escullos	5,9	Moderately clean
Gulf of Lion MPA (FRANCE)	Crouste	5,9	Moderately clean
MPA San Marco Nature Reserve (ITALY)	Capo San Marco	5,4	Moderately clean
MPA Levante de Mallorca-Cala Ratjada (SPAIN)	Cala Mesquida	5,3	Moderately clean
Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park/UNESCO Global Geopark (SPAIN)	Torre Garcia	4,1	Clean
Gökova Special Environmental Protection Area (TURKEY)	Akcapinar	3,2	Clean
Karaburun-Sazan MPA (ALBANIA)	Zvernec	2,5	Clean
Marathon and Schinias National Park (GREECE)	Schinias	2,3	Clean
Parnon and Moustos Natura 2000 (GREECE)	Cherronisi	2,2	Clean
Cote Languedocienne Natura 2000 (FRANCE)	Boucanet	1,5	Clean
Gulf of Lion MPA (FRANCE)	Fourat	1,1	Very clean
Parnon and Moustos Natura 2000 (GREECE)	Kazarba	0,9	Very clean
Espiguette Natura 2000 (FRANCE)	Espiguette	0,9	Very clean
Ebro Delta Nature Park (SPAIN)	Serrallo	0,6	Very clean

TOP 20 MARINE LITTER ITEMS FOUND ON BEACHES OF MED MPAs RESULTS FROM THE WINTER EDITION (2017) OF THE ACT4LITTER MARINE LITTER WATCH MONTH

	CODE	ITEMS NAME	ITEMS COUNT	%
1	G79	Plastic pieces 2.5 cm > < 50cm	4012	16,3
2	G82	Polystyrene pieces 2.5 cm > < 50cm	1382	5,6
3	G45	Mussels nets, Oyster nets	1221	5,0
4	G23	Plastic caps/lids unidentified	1217	5,0
5	G124	Other plastic/polystyrene items (identifiable)	1203	4,9
6	G8	Drink bottles >0.5l	946	3,8
7	G21	Plastic caps/lids from drinks	850	3,5
8	G210	Other glass items	814	3,3
9	G7	Drink bottles <=0.5l	789	3,2
10	G171	Other wood < 50 cm	731	3,0
11	G80	Plastic pieces > 50 cm	679	2,8
12	G24	Plastic rings from bottle caps/lids	579	2,4
13	G22	Plastic caps/lids from chemicals, detergents (non-food)	507	2,1
14	G73	Foam sponge	487	2,0
15	G3	Shopping bags, incl. pieces	466	1,9
16	G27	Cigarette butts and filters	464	1,9
17	G50	String and cord (diameter less than 1cm)	383	1,6
18	G95	Cotton bud sticks	329	1,3
19	G63	Buoys	322	1,3
20	G200	Bottles, including pieces	309	1,3



ACT4LITTER SHORTLISTS

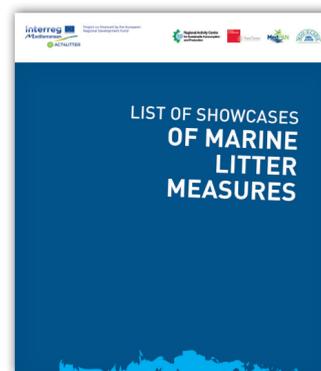
More than 100 measures to curb marine litter

We have all seen shocking images of dead whales washed ashore with their stomachs filled with plastic waste. Plastic pollution is undoubtedly a big threat for our seas, with severe impacts on a large number of marine species.

ACT4LITTER sought to offer concrete solutions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of marine litter and, specifically plastics; and in this respect, the project elaborated a comprehensive list of showcases of applied measures. Special emphasis was placed to measures that can be implemented by managers in Mediterranean Protected Areas, who sadly are at the forefront of the devastating effects of marine litter.

In close collaboration with MPAs managers and marine litter experts, ACT4LITTER identified a list of one hundred showcases of marine litter measures, with a particular focus on prevention measures. Working for and from the perspective of an MPA manager, ACT4LITTER classified the measures in three broad categories, taking into consideration the different role the MPA managers can play in their implementation, as implementers, facilitators and promoters. All identified measures were grouped into 25 categories and they were fully mapped in order to provide valuable information with regards to their operationalization on the ground.

The selected measures fed into the ACT4LITTER decision making tool which helps MPA managers to identify the most effective measures for their context. The decision making tool helped MPA managers to define priority marine litter measures that were then integrated in 9 MPA-specific actions plans and a joint plan which aims to assist other MPA managers in the region to achieve their conservation goals.



[Download the list](#)



MARINE LITTER MEASURES CLASSIFICATION BASED ON THE DIFFERENT ROLES MPA MANAGERS CAN PLAY IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTER.

The MPA manager is directly involved in the implementation of a marine litter measure, i.e. the MPA manager designs and sets up a specific marine litter measure like a clean-up operation.

FACILITATOR.

The MPA manager facilitates other actors to implement a marine litter measure by helping create the enabling conditions, i.e. the MPA manager organizes a capacity building workshop targeting a wide range of stakeholders aiming to enhance their skills to implement best practice marine litter measures.

PROMOTER.

The MPA manager advocates for and/or supports the implementation of a marine litter measure, i.e. the MPA manager carries out advocacy/ lobbying work targeting policy/ decision makers in order to promote the establishment of an extended producer responsibility scheme for cigarette butts.

THE ACT4LITTER CATEGORIES OF MARINE LITTER MEASURES

1. Adopt-a-beach scheme
2. Awareness raising campaign targeted to boaters
3. Banning specific items and activities
4. Promoting best practices for ecotourism
5. Promoting best practices for recreational fishing
6. Campaign to reduce plastic water bottles
7. Cleanup campaign and removal action
8. Deposit-refund system /reverse vending machines
9. Derelict fishing gear management scheme
10. Eco-labelling
11. Setting up an Environmental Management System
12. Imposing a fee/tax/levy
13. Implementing the fishing for litter scheme
14. Improving port reception facilities for waste
15. Improving waste management on-board
16. Improving wastewater management systems
17. Marking and retrieval of fishing gear
18. Promoting extended producer responsibility schemes
19. Promoting the replacement of single-use plastics
20. Public awareness raising campaign
21. Actions to reduce cigarette butts on beaches
22. Promoting the Responsible Beach Snack Bars initiative
23. Establishing a return-refund system for packaging
24. Campaign to phase out microplastics in cosmetics
25. Upcycling and/or recycling

The ACT4LITTER decision-making tool

AN INNOVATIVE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO MPA MANAGERS

At the heart of ACT4LITTER lays the decision-making tool, an innovative system that provides essential support to MPA managers who want to address marine litter. The decision-making tool was created in close collaboration with MPA managers and marine litter experts, building upon the ACT4LITTER list of some 100 showcases of best practice marine litter measures.

The novelty of the tool is that it helps MPA managers to identify the most effective and feasible marine litter measures for their specific context. In this respect, the tool gathers information from users by asking seven questions. Afterwards, it matches this information with the criteria of the mapped best practice marine litter measures and comes up with a short list of measures that are relevant to the MPA special needs. The tool was developed through a five-step process. Initially, best practice marine litter measures were identified and fully mapped (step 1). These measures were assessed by marine litter experts on the basis of six social-economic-environmental criteria (step 2), and a data warehouse containing the measures collected and key indicators was built (step 3). On the basis of collected information and knowledge, the

IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF BEST PRACTICE MARINE LITTER MEASURES

ASSESSMENT OF THE BEST PRACTICE MEASURES BY MARINE LITTER EXPERTS

DEVELOPMENT OF A DATA WAREHOUSE WITH THE IDENTIFIED MEASURES AND KEY INDICATORS

AUTOMATIZATION OF THE SHORTLISTING MEASURES VIA THE DEVELOPEMENT OF AN ALGORITHM

ELABORATION OF AN ONLINE AND USER-FRIENDLY INTERFACE

THE FIVE-STEP PROCESS APPLIED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DECISION MAKING TOOL

shortlisting of best practices was automated through the development of an algorithm (step 4). Then, an online user-friendly interface was designed (step 5). Have a look in the ACT4LITTER decision-making tool at: www.dmtmarinelitter.com and find out what action you can undertake in your area to combat marine litter!



XAVIER ABRIL,
EBRO DELTA
NATURAL PARK,
SPAIN

“Since my very first encounter with the ACT4LITTER project, I have been extremely curious about the decision-making tool and how it could be applicable and helpful in our day-to-day operations within the Ebro Delta Natural Park. Initially the tool seemed too abstract for me, but now that I have seen some trials, I am confident that it can empower us in taking more informed and effective decisions with regards to marine litter management priorities and ways to address them.”

Pioneering MPAs fast-track actions against marine litter in the Mediterranean

The Management Bodies of nine Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas have joined forces with ACT4LITTER to curb marine litter by committing to fast-track concrete actions which are now featured in action plans for marine litter management in their respective MPAs. The action plans were developed step-by-step, engaging all stakeholders with the aim to reflect the MPA-specific context and characteristics and define the priority measures towards preventing and mitigating marine litter effectively. At the heart of the elaboration process of the actions plans, lays the decision-making tool which facilitated the shortlisting of priority measures.

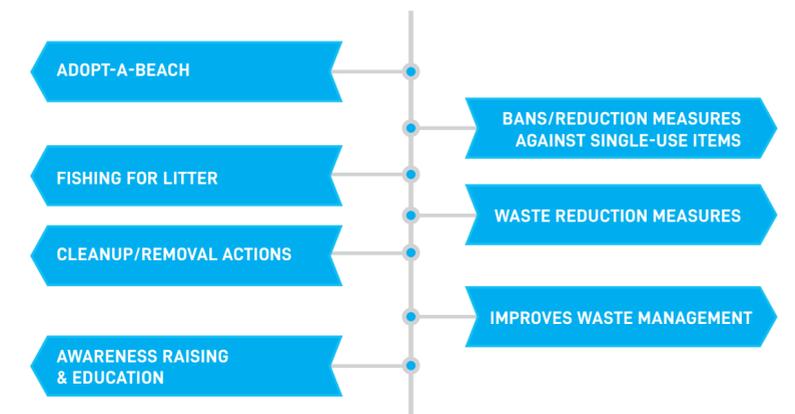
The collective experience of the pilot MPAs sets the baseline for a common urgent response by Mediterranean MPAs to deal with the lurking marine litter threat. This response along with its strategic elements is captured in a joint plan for action which aims to assist other MPA managers in the region to achieve their conservation goals. In an effort to obtain a wider consensus on what actions should be included within a set of no regret measures, the ACT4LITTER conducted a survey to gather feedback from some 110 MPA managers from 17 Mediterranean countries, namely Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and, Turkey.

“Not only did the ACT4LITTER provide us with the decision-making tool and the methodology to develop our marine litter action plan, but it assisted us throughout the implementation with necessary technical support for each different phase of the pilot action. This is yet another novelty of the project”.



“
STELLA VARELTZIDOU,
CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST
AND SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR
OF THE THERMAIKOS
GULF PROTECTED AREAS
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY,
GREECE

THE ACT4LITTER PRIORITY MEASURES



Cabo de Gata, Nijar Natural Park/UNESCO Global Geopark, Andalucia Spain	Miramare and coast of Trieste Italy	Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas Management Authority, former Axios, Loudias
Ebro Delta Natural Park Spain	Reserva Marina del Levante de Mallorca - Cala Ratjada Spain	_Aliakmonas Management Authority Greece
Kornati National Park Croatia	MPA Torre del Cerrano Italy	MPA Torre Guaceto, Italy
Miramare MPA and MAB-UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Strunjan Landscape Park Slovenia	THE ACT4LITTER PIONEERING MPAS

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS: A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH





“ Our sea is home to millions. It’s the grace of our civilization and it is a global crossroad for development and trade. Your efforts are invaluable in protecting this strategy, so let me also extend my hard felt gratitude as well.”

KARMENU VELLA,
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER
FOR ENVIRONMENT, MARINE AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES



The ACT4LITTER journey ends with a standing ovation

More than 130 dedicated marine litter practitioners attended the final conference of ACT4LITTER, held on October 24th in Athens, to celebrate the end of a successful project and spark dialogue, ideas for the future and synergies on dealing with the issue of marine litter in Mediterranean Marine Protected areas.

The European Commissioner for Environment, Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, in his recorded video message to the conference, said:

“We have developed a radical new approach. In January we put in place the most ambitious, most integrated plastic strategy in the world. We want to transform the plastic sector with dramatic improvements in recycling and steep productions of plastic waste (...). But to win this battle we cannot rely on laws. We will win through the patient dedication of people on the ground. We will win by bringing people together. Researchers and innovators, public authorities and volunteers; collecting the evidence we need and building effective strategies. You ladies and gentlemen, are a perfect example of that. Your dedicated cooperation is an example for the

whole Mediterranean. (...) Thank you to each partner in the ACT4LITTER project for safeguarding our seas for the future we want.”

The ACT4LITTER project, at its closing regional conference, drew once more attention on recent scientific advances with regards to marine litter and its impact on the region and provided an opportunity to key stakeholder groups – who are active on the science-policy-society interface – to share their compelling stories and hands-on experiences, highlighting that working together at all levels is what it takes to deal with the ‘wicked’ problem of marine litter in the Mediterranean MPAs.

ACT4LITTER came to its end leaving behind a rich and lasting legacy of high quality outputs and successful results. In fact, ACT4LITTER has been a studying project and its outcomes constitute the starting point of national and regional marine litter initiatives aiming to address marine litter in MPAs. This is the moment when MPA managers and marine litter practitioners will capitalize on everything that has been done and will consolidate their efforts in implementing concrete actions on the ground.



“ The way forward must go through forging partnerships for action that amplify the impact of the work of individual actors in government, civil society, the scientific community, private sector and international organizations; so as to effectively promote reduction and prevention measures.”

GAETANO LEONE,
COORDINATOR,
UN ENVIRONMENT/MEDITERRANEAN
ACTION PLAN-BARCELONA CONVENTION
SECRETARIAT



Photos of the ACT4LITTER closing conference, 24 October 2018, Athens, Greece Credits: O. Seferoglou/MIO-ECSDE

THE ACT4LITTER DREAM TEAM

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

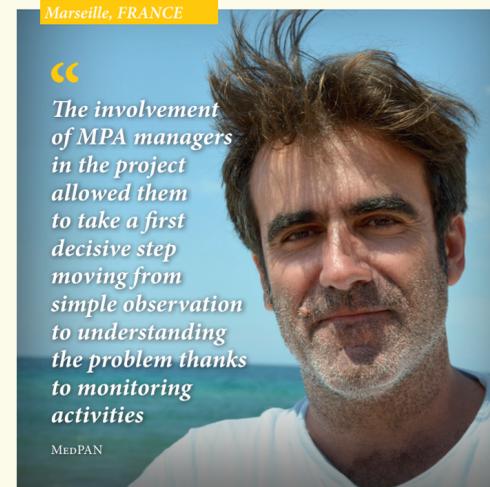
MAGALI OUTTERS

Barcelona, SPAIN



PIERRE VIGNES

Marseille, FRANCE



ALESSANDRA BORGHINI

Pisa, ITALY



IGNASI MATEO

Barcelona, SPAIN



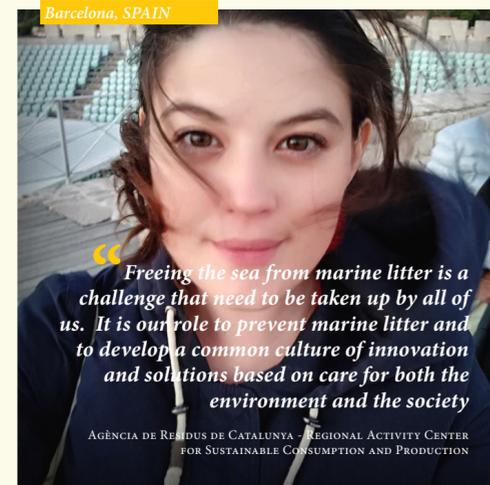
THOMAS VLACHOGIANNI

Athens, GREECE



LUCILLE GUIHENEUF

Barcelona, SPAIN



SILVIA SARTI

Pisa, ITALY



FRANCESCA MARCATO

Marseille, FRANCE



THE ACT4LITTER DREAM TEAM

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

SILA LOPEZ

Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN

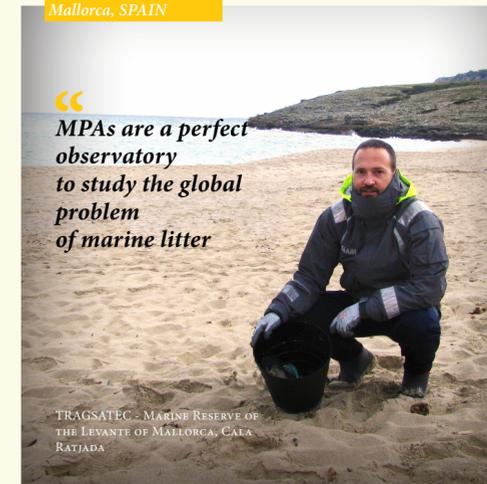


“ACT4LITTER has been an interesting project, through which we have shared experiences and joined forces to combat the problem of marine litter.”

SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LITTER

JAVIER LLORENTE

Mallorca, SPAIN



“MPAs are a perfect observatory to study the global problem of marine litter”

TRAGSATEC - MARINE RESERVE OF THE LEVANTE OF MALLORCA, CALA RATJADA

MARTINA MARKOV

Kornati National Park, CROATIA



“This project changed our approach to the marine litter issue. We are combating with that problem for a long time but focusing mainly on clean up campaigns, completely leaving prevention activities out of the scope of action. As part of project team, we've made a whole list of action which may also reduce quantity of marine litter generated in Kornati National Park.”

KORNATI PARK NATIONAL

JELENA BASTA

CROATIA



“Thanks to ACT4LITTER project I started looking at the beach clean up activities from entirely different perspective and started using beach litter analysis as an education tool for changing people's perception on marine litter and products that they use in everyday life.”

BLUE WORLD INSTITUTE OF MARINE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

SAMANTA MAKOVAC

Strunjan Landscape Park, SLOVENIA



“The project has empowered us to play an active role in raising awareness on the issue and - most importantly - in promoting concrete actions in collaboration with national and local institutions, communities, educators and schools, NGOs and other volunteers”.

STRUNJAN LANDSCAPE PARK

XAVIER ABRIL

Delta de l'Ebre, SPAIN



“The Act4litter project has taught me that we have to deal with marine litter with everything available.”

EBRE DELTA NATURAL PARK

FRANCESCO DE FRANCO

Torre Guaceto, ITALY

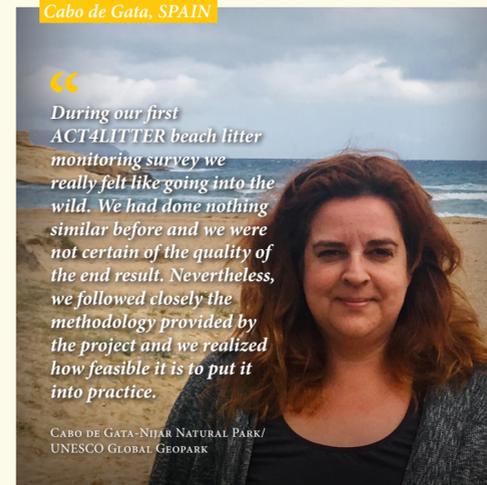


“Besides cleaning the sea, it is necessary to prevent the problem by implementing awareness campaigns and working on product innovation and on the launch of a virtuous recycling chain.”

TORRE GUACETO MARINE PROTECTED AREA

GLORIA GARCÍA

Cabo de Gata, SPAIN



“During our first ACT4LITTER beach litter monitoring survey we really felt like going into the wild. We had done nothing similar before and we were not certain of the quality of the end result. Nevertheless, we followed closely the methodology provided by the project and we realized how feasible it is to put it into practice.”

CABO DE GATA-NIJAR NATURAL PARK/ UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

FABIO VALLAROLA

Torre del Cerrano, ITALY



“How to stop plastic and pollution from rivers. That's the challenge of the Cerrano River Contract! Thanks to ACT4LITTER we reached a real involvement of stakeholders!”

TORRE DEL CERRANO MARINE PROTECTED AREA

CARLO FRANZOSINI

Miramare MPA, ITALY



“ACT4LITTER focused the attention and did intervene on this topic in a coordinated way at the regional scale, by far wider and more efficient than what our single efforts could have ever achieved”

MIRAMARE NATURAL MARINE RESERVE

STELLA VARELTZIDOU

Axios, GREECE



“The fight against marine litter requires high cooperation efforts”

THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

JOINT MEASURES
TO PRESERVE
NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS
FROM MARINE LITTER
IN MEDITERRANEAN
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

