



MARLICE 2022
16 - 20 MAYO
SEVILLA

FOCUS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN: PIONEER SCIENCE AND ACTIONS ON THE FIELD

International forum on marine litter and circular economy

19/05/2022 from 10.00 to 13.00

Aquarium of Seville - EN - ES interpretation provided

Co-organized by the [Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community of Interreg Mediterranean](#) and [BeMed-Islands](#)

With the support of:



BACKGROUND

The Mediterranean Sea is considered one of the regions of the world most affected by marine litter. Today, plastic represents 95 per cent of the waste floating in the Mediterranean and lying on its beaches (WWF, 2018). The Mediterranean Sea is turning into a dangerous plastic trap, with record levels of pollution from microplastics threatening marine species and human health. With 1 to 10 million plastic particles per square kilometre, it is probably the most polluted sea in the world. These concerns are even more worrying on island sites, limited in their space and with often large quantities of plastics waste and insufficient resources to set up complete sorting and recycling channels. Nevertheless, small islands remain resilient territories. Striving to propose solutions, from reduction to recycling, they are leaders of change.

In order to have a long-term impact on marine waste reduction, the results of these solutions must be capitalised and shared. That is the aim of the collaborative work of the Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) and Beyond Plastic Med capitalisation process in islands (BeMed-Islands) that started several years ago and built on several previous exchanges.

This session aims at taking stock of the recommendations raised via collaborative work between MBPC and BeMedIslands and to check progress in the implementation of the resulting [9 key recommendations discussed during MARLICE 2019](#). In particular, on 4 June 2021, as part of the EU Green Week, the Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community brought together scientists, decision-makers, NGOs and civil society in an online workshop on “[Mediterranean Pollution, Biodiversity and Health](#)” to discuss how to enhance existing efforts to reduce marine litter, and ways to mitigate its impacts on marine biodiversity and health for a cleaner and healthier Mediterranean. Furthermore, two reports on the impacts of litter on marine biodiversity have been published by the MBPC initiative, the first one in [2019](#) and the latest in [March 2022](#).

In brief, the following premises have been generally agreed:

1. A healthy and functioning marine ecosystem is **ESSENTIAL** to biodiversity and for our socio-economic sustainability, health and overall wellbeing.
2. Good **COMMUNICATION** between policy makers and scientists is a crucial requirement for developing policies and solutions to effectively address the marine litter problem.
3. We have **MORE TO LEARN** about marine litter but it is clear that we **ALL** contribute to the marine litter problem in the Mediterranean.
4. We need synergies and **HARMONIZATION** of knowledge and solutions among scientists to help identify knowledge gaps and to mitigate the impacts of marine litter.
5. There is a need for a new **GLOBAL** treaty to tackle plastics to mobilize parallel actions at all levels (upstream and downstream) and across the **ENTIRE PLASTIC LOOP** - from extraction and production, to the use and post-use of plastic.
6. The Mediterranean is a **SHARED ECOREGION** with immense natural capital; projects in need to converge efforts to apply a **SYSTEMIC APPROACH** to marine litter across the region.
7. Decision-makers are not the only responsible to prevent and reduce marine litter; we are **ALL** part of the problem and must **ALL** be part of the solution.
8. It is never too little or too late to change our behavior; we must all **ACT NOW**.
9. The sustainability of achievements needs to be **ENSURED** by all.

The objective of the roundtable session on 19 May 2022 is to come back together to check achievements and solutions to mitigate its impacts on our marine biodiversity and health, with a focus on coastal areas and islands. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experience and perspectives, which will help prioritize key recommendations, and learn about transferable practices from several initiatives ongoing in the region. Although this session focuses on marine litter management in the Mediterranean, other regions are welcome to attend to share their views and best practices. Discussions will be organized in 2 lively roundtables giving the chance to share their views and experiences on:

- latest advances on understanding the impacts and ways of monitoring marine litter, and
- unveiling pioneer actions in coastal areas and islands that prevent marine litter generation, including actions in the HORECA sector, market restrictions by public authorities, sea-based sources and waste management schemes.

AGENDA

19 MAY 2022	
10:00 - 10:05	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>MODERATOR</p>
10:05 - 10:15	<p>Setting the scene: Major contributions from two regional initiatives supporting Mediterranean efforts to find solutions to marine litter challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest contributions by the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) - Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA • Latest contributions by Beyond Plastic Med capitalisation process in islands (BeMed) - Magali Outters, SCP/RAC
10:15-11:25	<p>Roundtable 1: Scientific findings in the Mediterranean: marine litter monitoring and impacts on biodiversity</p> <p>MODERATED BY: MBPC - Carolina Perez, MedCities</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MedBioLitter - Research efforts on marine litter impacts - Sonsoles San Roman, ETC-UMA • The legacy of Plastic Busters MPAs - Cristina Fossi, University of Siena • Monitoring impact on marine vertebrates - Morgana Vighi, Institut de Recerca de la Biodiversitat, Universitat de Barcelona • Standardized tools for monitoring the impacts of litter on marine fauna as bio-indicators: Indicit II - Olfa Chaieb, INSTM • Science-policy interface in the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) - Christos Ioakeimidis, UNEP/MAP <p>GROUND SPEAKERS:</p> <p>David León, Asociación Hombre y Territorio/ Intemares-ArtesPerdidos</p>
11:25 - 11:40	Coffee break – MedBioLitter Tour (optional)

11:40 - 12:50	<p>Roundtable 2: How bottom-up initiatives are contributing to the fulfillment of regional policies</p>
	<p>MODERATED BY: Pedro Fernández, SCP/RAC</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on HORECA sector: Plastic-free Balearic certification scheme - Tupa Rangel, Save the Med Foundation, Balearic Islands ● Focus on sea-based sources: Recovery and recycling of derelict mussel nets in MPA Thermaikos Gulf - Anastasia Charitou, iSea, Greece ● Focus on waste management: A reward system to increase recovery of beverage containers and enhance extended producers 'responsibility in Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, Spain - Gloria García Hoyo, Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park-Geopark, Spain ● Focus on scaling up initiatives: Blueprint and Community of Practice. - Mercedes Muñoz Cañas, IUCN Nature Conservation & Food Systems Manager, Spain <p>GROUND SPEAKERS:</p> <p>Josep Canals, MedCities / INCIRCLE</p> <p>Rubén Rodríguez, Asociación Vertidos 0 / RepescaPlas</p>
12:50 -13:00	<p>Conclusions and take home messages</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenges ahead for the Mediterranean Biodiversity protection community - Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA ● Recommendations for further actions - Magali Outters, SCP/RAC

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