



News Update

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Foreword



In January 2012, the new UNEP/MAP project “Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” was endorsed by the GEF CEO. The project so far has focused on the consolidation of national and regional data, to be included in the regional information platform under development. All information and data will be then analyzed in a regional assessment in 2014. National workshops to discuss the current status of climate variability and change assessments and data availability (coordinated by Plan Bleu) have been held in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Morocco and Palestine so far. Discussions are also underway with UNEP GRID Geneva colleagues to utilize their experience in the development of regional and global data platforms, and other tools and models developed to assess the impacts of climate variability to coastal zone.

Under the Project, two demonstration projects are envisaged in order to assess environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate variability, and then with national experts, evaluate

possible response options in specific locations vulnerable to climate variability. The Croatian demonstration is already underway with the support of PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu/RAC, whilst the demonstration in Tunisia is under final discussions.

The 4th Steering Committee will be the next opportunity to present and discuss in detail all results of both the Climate Variability and MedPartnership projects, and the proposed work-plan for the remainder of the project.

Meanwhile in the build up towards the meeting of the 22nd Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (to be held in Ankara, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013), UNEP/MAP and its regional activity centers are busy holding their Focal Points meetings, to discuss achievements and priority activities for the next biennium (2014-2015), including the continued implementation of the MedPartnership.

The MedPartnership in a few words

The MedPartnership is a collective effort of leading organizations and countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. The MedPartnership is being led by UNEP/MAP and the World Bank and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries.

The MedPartnership’s overarching goal is to enable a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.

The Project is being carried out in the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

"Together for the Mediterranean"

Virginie Hart
 Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Expert
 UNEP/MAP - MedPartnership

“Management and protection of coastal wetlands” in the Mediterranean at the heart of discussions at UNESCO, in Paris

UNESCO-IHP organized an experts meeting on the “Management and Protection of Coastal Wetlands” in the Mediterranean on 10-11 June 2013, in Paris. The meeting gathered experts from the twelve participating countries as well as international experts from organizations and projects such as European Space Agency (ESA), Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), El Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME), MedWet, PAP/RAC, and others.



This was the first meeting under the activity related to coastal wetlands. It was an opportunity for national experts to give a general overview on coastal wetlands dependent on coastal aquifers in their countries. The international experts presented projects and methodologies related to wetlands in the Mediterranean and the services they provide.

During the meeting, selected coastal wetlands were identified as case studies for mapping and more detailed presentation in the regional report.

The activity on coastal wetlands aims to undertake a hydro-geological pre-assessment of the Mediterranean coastal wetlands for groundwater dependence, with identification of current and potential threats, and the scope for hydrological management intervention. It also seeks to develop methodology and guidelines for hydro-geological management of coastal wetlands; with wetland typology and classification for genetic origin, morphology, as i.e. bays, deltas or coastal plains and fluvial activity and functions.

As a result of this work, by June 2014 a regional report including a synthesis of the status of coastal Mediterranean wetlands and the services they provide will be developed with a methodology and guidelines for the hydro-geological management of coastal wetlands and for their characterization and mapping.

National Action Plan for the reduction of pollution, status of implementation under review

Particular focus was given to the investment portfolio of the National Action Plans (NAPs) during the



The MedPartnership has launched a 10-minute version of its documentary “Together for the Mediterranean”. It provides an overview about the project and features some of its success demonstrations. The documentary was filmed in Albania, Greece, Montenegro and Tunisia.

[Together for the Mediterranean \(link\)](#)

Publications



This guide, recently published by WWF and NOAA, includes practical case studies and lessons learned from the MedPAN South Project. It provides guidance on steps and techniques for engaging stakeholders in MPA design and management.

<http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads>

third meeting of the Steering Committee of the "Update Priority Investment Projects for Protecting the Mediterranean Sea from Pollution" held on 17 April 2013 in Athens.

/stakeholder_engagement.pdf

The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in the study being undertaken on the investment portfolio. The main objective of the study is to elaborate on and identify the said de-pollution investment portfolio starting from existing plans but also including new projects or needs that have recently risen.

Participants to the meeting approved the evaluation methodology proposed for the 2nd phase of the project. The outcome of the evaluation of the NAP Investment Component - that is being carried out by UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL and implemented in the framework of the MedPartnership - would contribute to an overall evaluation of NAP implementation including its policy and regulatory aspects and effectiveness in accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol.

The evaluation of SAP and NAPs implementation was further discussed at the MEDPOL Focal Points meeting with all Mediterranean countries in Barcelona (Spain) on the 18-21 June 2013.

Upcoming meetings and events

15-19 July 2013

PCBs Management Course in Turkey
PCBs Management Course in Istanbul Turkey, under component 2.3: Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries, by CP/RAC

9-13 September 2013

PCBs Management Course in Albania
PCBs Management Course in Tirana, Albania, under component 2.3: Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries, by CP/RAC

Important sites to be declared future marine protected areas in Lebanon



Within the framework of the MedMPAnet Project, RAC/SPA and the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon organized a meeting in Beirut, on 27 May 2013, with the participation of the National Council for Scientific Research's National Centre for Marine Sciences (CNRS-NCMS) of Lebanon, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) and the University of Alicante (Spain). This meeting allowed discussing the progress made so far under the MedMPAnet Project in Lebanon, especially in assessing biological features and ecological interest of three marine sites: Enfeh Peninsula, Ras Chekaa cliffs, and Raoucheh

cliffs and caves.

This meeting served also to plan activities anticipated under the upcoming phase of the Project aiming at surveying three new important sites in Southern Lebanon (Sidon, Tyre and Nakoura). The field work will be starting in September 2013.

Climate Variability into focus in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Morocco and Palestine

Within the framework of the "Climate Variability" project, two consultants have worked with Plan Bleu to moderate national workshops in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro in April 2013 and in Morocco and Palestine in May 2013.

The main objective was to update and validate information provided by the national reports written drafted during the preparation phase of the project in 2011.

The workshops provided the opportunity to enhance the knowledge and engage in a fruitful discussion on issue related to climate variability and change data and monitoring. The topics focused on the collection and management of data gaps that need to be addressed in the process, the institutions in charge of the hosting and updating of the data as well as the existing monitoring programmes related to climate variability and change and ICZM issues. Workshops in Egypt and Tunisia will be organized at a later stage.

First sustainability workshop on Reghaia's Coastal Plan



The first of three sustainability workshops on Reghaia's Coastal Plan was held On April 29, at Centre Cynégétique de Reghaia in Algeria.

Around forty participants representing national, regional and local institutions attended the meeting. Responding to the need to build capacities in ICZM, the meeting was also open to students from the National Superior School of Marine Sciences and Coastal Development (ESSMAL).

The workshop aimed at validating and enriching, together with the stakeholders, the indicators and priority areas defined during the 1st phase of the activity. It also aimed at proposing

alternatives taking into account the priorities and their feasibility.

The second workshop meant to set an action plan was held on 19 June.

MedPartnership-MedMPAnet Project in Morocco

A joint meeting between the 'Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification' (HCEFLCD) and the RAC/SPA-MedMPAnet Project was organized on 28 April 2013, in Rabat (Morocco). The meeting was an opportunity to present the progress made and discuss the results achieved in the country. Mr. Mohammed Ribí, Head of the Natural Parks and Reserves Division (of the HCEFLCD), has expressed his satisfaction with the outcomes of the meeting and especially the results of the studies achieved under the Project.

Further to this first phase and under the MedPartnership project, it is anticipated to elaborate a management plan, including the setting-up of a sustainable financing mechanism, for the future MPA of the Cap des Trois Fourches (Northern Morocco) before the end of 2014.

Towards good governance in Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Algeria

Almost 200 participants attended three workshops held in Algeria in March and April, for the preparation of a national Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy. The workshops were organized by the Ministry of Land-use Planning, Environment and Town with the support of

PAP/RAC.

As part of the participatory approach to the development of the National ICZM Strategies, these workshops aim at integrating stakeholder's views and opinions on national priorities and identifying relevant solutions for coastal management in Algeria.

The workshops were held in three of Algeria's coastal Wilayas (Provinces), in East, Central and West Algeria, and gathered a wide span of stakeholders, including representatives of every single sector invited, as well as a number of representatives of local communities, authorities, NGOs, and media.

Participants seized the opportunity to share their experience and views about institutional functioning, participation and the relation between scientific knowledge and ICZM.

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