



Streamlining biodiversity in sectoral development: a sustainable touristic model in the Mediterranean that ensures resilient coastal and marine ecosystems

Innovative tools & practices to ensure a healthy Mediterranean biodiversity and sustainable tourism

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP

06/09/2021 from 11.00 to 13.00

Virtual Channel 6 - [REGISTRATION HERE](#)

Organised by:



BACKGROUND

DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMPUS SESSION AND OBJECTIVES

Mediterranean biodiversity and ecosystems provide a numerous amount of ecosystem services and are at the core of all economic activities; particularly they are the foundation of the tourism sector. This sector is a high-income generator in the Mediterranean with the potential for powerful knock-on effects in local economies. However, as important as it is economically and socially, **tourism can have a negative impact on the natural, cultural and social environment**, affecting the ecosystem health, its function and the local wellbeing in the long term. Such pressures can **synergise with global challenges**, like climate change and population growth to further impact the natural capital in these areas.

Unsustainable touristic models in the Mediterranean region represent a major source of pressure to habitats' resilience in all Mediterranean countries by affecting water resources, increasing the amount of waste and all sorts of pollution. The use of **ecosystem-based management (EBM)**, both within and outside protected areas, can help ensure ecological integrity, structure, and function. It should be at the heart of any decision linked to sectoral activities and is key to the long-term development of sustainable local economies in the Mediterranean.

Under high anthropogenic **pressure**, the Mediterranean is in urgent need of efficient solutions to effectively protect its biodiversity and reduce impacts and threats to natural ecosystems and resources. Tourism should be at the forefront of the transition from the fuzzy concept of sustainability towards proactive support of ecological resilience as part of any business model.

More than **28 projects** funded by the **EU programme INTERREG MED** are working on finding innovative solutions to reduce the pressures of sectoral activities in the region and to increase the resilience of Mediterranean ecosystems. This includes projects looking at tourism and the increase of sustainable opportunities for local populations and healthy environments, finding tools to better preserve biodiversity in terrestrial, coastal and marine environments.

*“This campus is an **opportunity to raise awareness** about coastal challenges and streamline solutions through concrete governance approaches and actions, monitoring and participatory tools among natural resource managers, policy makers and tourism sector stakeholders. It will provide insight into **integrated EBM approaches** to protect and **conserve ecosystem functions in the Mediterranean** while ensuring recreational services and attractiveness for a sustainable long-term **touristic model.**”*

This campus session focuses on matching environmental problems generated by unsustainable tourism affecting biodiversity as well as show-casing tools and methodologies tested by the **Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Tourism communities**, co-funded by the **INTERREG MED programme**, to solve them. Thematic sessions will focus on problem and solution finding matches through showcasing achievements and mainstreaming best practices from both communities in transferable tools, actions, and models to transfer. The main topics prioritised in these sessions will be around:

Governance and management models to ensure resilient coastal systems

Collaborative actions among local actors to ensure benefits for local communities and nature

Re-thinking ways for unsustainable production and consumption patterns - the circular economy

In each session, **problems and transferable solutions** will be presented, and interactive training will be organized to build the participants' capacity to use specific tools (data repositories, methodologies, protocols). This will **engage the participation of people involved** in these initiatives and make use of their hands-on knowledge on techniques, objectives, problems, and potentialities.

Participants will thus benefit from first-hand training on successful and already tested innovations to aid **transference to other regions suffering** from similar pressures. Interested parties will learn from existing nature-based solutions to manage more effectively **ecologically sensitive areas** and/or develop tourism activities with limited human footprints on nature.

The proposed campus workshop is in line with the principles of the **Post 2020 Global Biodiversity** framework aiming at ensuring resilient ecosystems, as it will increase the capacity of participants to use evidence-based and tested tools to ensure that **ecosystem-based approach** is at the heart of decisions linked to sectoral activities affecting ecosystem services and natural resources.

The **session is interactive**, participants will have hands-on practical training on the tools with access to online resources. It will be a live training and demonstration where participants will be actors able to **explore the proposed tools**, and trainers will ensure interactions with the audience.

After an initial introduction of projects and topics, participants will have access to “speed training” activities on the various tools followed by a common wrap up to receive feedback and comments from participants and future needs if needed.

AGENDA

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6 SEPTEMBER 2021	
11.00 – 11.10	Welcome speech
	<p>Moderator: Anouska Kinahan, Moderator, Independent Consultant</p> <p><i>(video messages)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA, Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community • Josep Rodríguez, Barcelona Provincial Council, Sustainable Tourism Community

11.10 - 11.50	PART 1: Ecosystem-based governance in coastal and marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean
<p> Integrating an ecosystem-based approach in planning and execution: multilevel governance models and best practices for mediterranean ecosystems </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to increase social and ecological resilience in coastal ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ POSBEMED2 – Stéphanie Oudin, Project Officer, Sud Region, France ○ WETNET/ TUNE-UP – Giancarlo Gusmaroli, Technical director, CIRF Centre for River Restoration, Italy 	
11.50 - 12.20	PART 2: Hands-on training on practical solutions to increase ecosystem resilience in highly impacted tourist sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approaches and methods to strengthen a multi stakeholders' approach to conservation challenges: connecting users, natural resources, and impacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MPA ENGAGE - Carlo Cerrano, Professor, Department of Life and Environmental Sciences - DiSVA, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy ○ DESTIMED/DESTIMED+/MEET - Arnau Teixidor, Ecosystem programme Officer, IUCN MED, Spain 	
12.20 - 12.50	PART 3: Hands-on training on practical solutions to reduce pressure from tourism in sensitive biodiversity hotspots through fostering a participative circular economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tools and measures to understand and counteract the impact of tourism activities in areas highly impacted by this sector – reducing the impacts of waste and fostering the circular economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLASTICBUSTERS MPAS - Thomais Vlachogianni, Senior Policy and Programme Officer, MIO- ECSDE, Greece ○ INCIRCLE - Enrico Longato, Research Assistant, Area Science Park of Trieste, Italy 	
12.50 - 13.00	Conclusions and a common framework for future action: steps ahead for better streamlining Mediterranean biodiversity conservation in sectoral development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curzio Cervelli, INTERREG MED JS Coordinator, Region Sud, France 	

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