



PANACEA: A regional initiative of streamlining management efforts in Protected Areas for an enhanced Protection in the Mediterranean Sea

The objective of PANACeA is to streamline networking and management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas (PAs) as a mechanism to enhance natural conservation and protection in the region.

The project aims at assisting relevant Mediterranean stakeholders, ensuring synergies among this community, and increasing the visibility and impacts of their projects' results towards common identified strategical targets.

PANACeA acts as a Science-Policy-Interface (SPI) to foster the exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing and thus, influences a behavioural and policy change in the Mediterranean region.





Context : Interreg MED Programme

PANACeA project, coordinated by the European Topic Centre for Spatial Information and Analysis at the University of Malaga, is one of six Horizontal Projects approved from the first call of the Interreg Med programming period 2014-2020.

PANACeA fits in the Interreg Med Priority Axis 3: “Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources”; specifically contributing to the Specific Objective (S.O.) 3.2 of the programme: “To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected Areas”.

The Interreg Med programme is a transnational European Cooperation Programme for the Mediterranean area. It is co-financed by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), an instrument of the EU regional policy and of its new programming period.

Main Objectives of PANACeA

- 1) Synthesizing outcomes on natural protection and biodiversity conservation efforts;
- 2) Engaging a stakeholders' community and transferring knowledge beyond the project's lifetime;
- 3) Implementing a communication and dissemination strategy;
- 4) Developing a long term capitalization tool ensuring evidence based policy enforcement.

Expected results of PANACeA:

PANACeA will:

- engage its stakeholders in the tailoring of their outcomes as synthesized evidence based tools that support multi-level management and policy;
- provide a series of recommendations based on the results of the Interreg Med Modular projects focusing on S.O. 3.2 emphasizing the importance of increasing the Protected Areas implementing management strategies in the MED region and beyond;
- provide means to reinforce regulations & enhance the effectiveness of protection awarded by legal means in the Mediterranean, supporting the efforts done so far to prevent deterioration & enhance the conservation of both natural and cultural resources;



- guide the legal management measures of natural resources in the Mediterranean Sea that actually protect biodiversity but whose main purpose is not strictly biodiversity conservation; and
- address transboundary cooperation and integration of PAs in territorial development strategies to achieve interconnected protection measures to tackle current and future pressures on coastal and maritime ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

Project Partners

ETC-UMA, University of Malaga (SPAIN)
Plan Bleu (France)
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, CPMR (France)
UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union (Italy)
Barcelona Metropolitan Area, acting as MEDCITIES General Secretariat (SPAIN)
Regional Environmental Centre - REC (MONTENEGRO)

Key figures

Budget: 1,461,073.48 €

Duration: November 2016 – October 2019