Terms of Reference

Technical assistance to develop a “Policy Paper & Factsheet” on Marine Litter Management based on results and in collaboration with PANACeA and its Modular Projects.

1. Brief description of PANACeA project

MedCities¹ is participating in the Interreg MED Horizontal project PANACeA - Streamlining Management efforts in Protected Areas for enhanced nature conservation in the Mediterranean², funded by Interreg MED Programme.

PANACeA fits in the Interreg MED Priority Axis 3: “Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources”; specifically contributing to the Specific Objective 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.

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

The project aims at ensuring synergies between relevant Mediterranean stakeholders – including managers, policymakers, socio-economic actors, civil society and the scientific community -, and to increase the visibility and impacts of their projects’ results towards common identified strategical targets.

PANACeA features the Interreg MED “Biodiversity Protection Community” engaging nature conservation stakeholders in the Mediterranean and acting as the Communication and Capitalisation instrument of the projects within the Interreg MED dealing with protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Through its tool, the Interreg Med Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform, PANACeA ensures the transfer of synthesised projects’ outcomes and their dissemination across and beyond the region.

The main thematic focus areas of the “Biodiversity Protection Community” include coastal and marine management, biodiversity monitoring, sustainable use of natural resources, management of protected areas, climate change, governance, cooperation and scientific and innovative methodologies, under the umbrella of a series of Modular Projects (MPs): ACT4LITTER (marine litter management in Marine Protected Areas - MPAs), AMAre (Maritime Spatial Planning and Protected Areas _PAs), CONFISH (network of fish stock

¹ The Association MedCities is a network of Mediterranean cities which pursues urban sustainable development as a way to improve living conditions in the Mediterranean region www.medcities.org.
² https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/
recovery areas), ECOSUSTAIN (water quality monitoring solutions in protected wetlands), FishMPABlue2 (governance of artisanal fisheries in MPAs), MEDSEALITTER (marine litter impact on biodiversity), MPA-ADAPT (adaptation of MPAs to climate change), POSBEMED (strategy for joint management of Posidonia beaches and dunes), WETNET (wetland governance), PHAROS4MPAs (impacts of economic activities to biodiversity) and PlasticBustersMPAs (marine litter monitoring and management in MPAs).

A Factsheet with a brief description of all Community's MPs is attached as Annex 1.

2. Background information on the scope of this work

Under the PANACeA partnership agreement, and following the approval of the Work Plan of the MED “Biodiversity Protection Community” (Annex 2), MedCities has agreed to take responsibility for the successful implementation of a number of Tasks related to animating one of its Working Groups, Working Group 1 (WG1) on “Biodiversity Management and Protection”. MedCities will focus on those MPs achievements addressing marine litter (ML) management to produce concrete joint outputs in order to capitalize results addressing this pressure.

In order to do so, MedCities and lead partner ETC-UMA are working together with the following projects from the MED Biodiversity Protection Community:

- ACT4LITTER
- MEDSEALITTER
- PLASTICBUSTERSMPAs
- AMARE
- PHAROS4MPAs
- And to a lesser extent, POSBEMED

Moreover, projects of other relevant Interreg MED Communities, such as BlueIslands and to a lesser extent DestiMED are involved in this effort.

As a result of the Community building event organized in Montenegro on 18th May 2018:
- Projects participating on WG1 have validated the Work Plan annexed to these ToRs (Annex 3)
- Based on the Work Plan, MedCities is the partner responsible for producing the ML Product 1.1, the subject of this assignment.
- It was agreed that Product 1.1 would be finalized and made available prior to the 3rd Capitalization Event of PANACeA project, foreseen for the 4th and 5th December in Brussels.

The event will aim to increase policy impact of the results of the Modular Projects (MPs). It is also the moment when the priorities for the next Interreg MED Programing period undergo definition and therefore a crucial moment to give visibility to the work performed, current gaps and priority issues to be addressed by upcoming programs.

Following the adopted Work Plan, a concept note (Annex 4) was prepared in June 2018 and was made available for comments to the relevant ML projects. Furthermore, a hands on
workshop was organized in July 12th in Barcelona with the presence (online or in present) of 6 projects. The workshop aimed to foster exchanges with the projects whose activities and results will feed Joint Product 1.1, to define the scope of the product and the contributions on behalf on each project and to plan adequately towards the Brussels Capitalization Event. The report of the Workshop is attached as Annex 5.

3. The scope of these Terms of Reference is

To select an expert(s) for the development of one PANACeA collaborative Policy Paper & FactSheet with the tentative title of “Contribution to knowledge and tools for marine litter management from a Mediterranean MPA perspective” (Joint Product 1.1.)

In this context, the main product is a Policy Paper consolidating the knowledge and tools addressing ML management generated (or under generation) by the MED Biodiversity Protection Community from a technical point of view and pinpointing most pressing needs and gaps to be addressed in the near future by EU Policies and programs on this field as well as by other Policy frameworks.

The tentative format and content, to be further refined with PANACeA Partners and Modular Projects is:

- Format: One Policy Paper (proposed length 20 pages) accompanied by a Factsheet of 4 pages highlighting main results in order to use it as an executive summary or communication tool.

- Tentative title to be adjusted later on: "Contribution to knowledge and tools for marine litter management from a Mediterranean MPA perspective”

- Priority target public: EU Parliament Members, DG Env, DG Mare, DG Regio, Barcelona Convention Contracting parties, Union for the Mediterranean.

- Possible structure/ tentative chapters:
  - An introduction which emphasizes the current marine litter management challenges
  - A chapter that presents and analyses the concrete results of the modular projects that contribute to the improvement of marine litter management in MPAs (AMARE GIS, ACT4LITTER Governance Plan, etc)
  - A chapter that establishes the link with policies of relevance and proposes concrete policy recommendations.
  - A conclusion which identifies further gaps and needs for intervention

4. Proposed methods and activities

The result will be collaborative products, based on previous projects and knowledge but focusing on the Community achievements and recommendations. The consultant is expected to use the following methods of work:
1) Desk review of:
- Relevant ML Guidelines and scientific publications selected jointly with the PANACEA partners and Modular Projects
- PANACEA general documents addressing the project Policy Targets.
- PANACEA Working Group 1 Work Plan, Concept Note Product 1.1. and all related working documents. Especially the documents related to the Marine Litter Workshop (Barcelona 12th July)
- Modular Projects deliverables and publications

2) Interviews (Skype, phone) and communication with the Community (PANACEA and Modular Projects)

3) Community joint webinars/skypes to fine tune and consolidate projects inputs and conclusions

4) One face to face workshop back to back to another event, most probably the PlasticBustersMPA Workshop on Monitoring protocols (Bonifacio, 6th to 8th November 2018)

5) Participation to the PANACEA Event in Brussels (4th and 5th December, tbc) presenting the document and its conclusions.

5. Outputs of this assignment
- One policy document (approx. 20 pages).
- One executive summary or factsheet (4 pages) (Design and layout supported by PANACEA)
- One PPT for the presentation of the work

6. Expected Schedule
The expert(s) is expected to start working on the assignment on 4th September 2018. A tentative schedule, which can be refined in the applicants’ offers is the following:

- Collection of documents, first screening and outline of the “LIST OF CONTENTS” and possible concrete INPUTS by partners (Concept note 1.1. upgraded) by 19th September
- Comments by partners and projects by 28th September
- Introducing comments and developing the FIRST DRAFT Policy Document by 19th October (interviews and joint skype meetings/webinars in between as needed)
- Second round of comments by 1st November
- SECOND DRAFT by 6th November to be consolidated at a face to face Workshop (tbc 9th November)
- THIRD DRAFT 15th November (comments till 20th November)
- FINAL POLICY DOCUMENT 23rd November
- FACTSHEET contents by 27th November (design and layout by PANACEA)
- PPT for the Brussels Event 30th November
- Participation to the Brussels event (4th and 5th December)
7. Selection of the expert

The selection of the expert will be based on the evaluation of the technical and financial offer.

- Evaluation of methodological approach, maximum 30 points.
- Evaluation of the experience and CV of the candidate. Special emphasis on the understanding of the latest research and policy developments on marine litter management at European and Mediterranean basin level, and experience and capacity in drawing policy recommendations. Maximum 40 points.
- Evaluation of the economic offer including a breakdown of number of days needed for the completion of the work and the daily rate, maximum 10 points.

The offer that gathers the maximum score will be selected.

8. Contractual and financial terms

Administrative details of the Contracting Authority:

ASSOCIACIO MEDCITIES I/O MEDCITES
C/ 62, 16-18, EDIFICI B, ZONA FRANCA
08040 BARCELONA – SPAIN
VAT number: ESG66401258

The maximum amount available for this service is 6.000,-€
- For offers received by experts with fiscal residence in Spain this amount is excluding VAT.
- For offers received by experts with fiscal residence outside Spain the amount includes all taxes in the country of residence and excludes VAT obligations in Spain.

The travel costs for the participation of the expert in the workshops and events relevant to the scope of this contract will be assumed by MedCities.

The acceptance of the offer of the successful tender will implicate the acceptance of the conditions and schedules detailed in this ToR.

A duly-issued invoice will be required for payment at the presentation and approval of all outputs. The payment term for the invoice will be: bank transfer 30 days after the acceptance of the invoice (bank account details should be detailed). MedCities maintains the right to require additional fiscal documentation if considered needed.

The tax legislation in force at the date of acceptance of the offer will be applied.

9. How to apply

The bids must be sent in one file on PDF format to the following e-mail address: 'cperezv@amb.cat' with the following subject: ‘Technical assistance to develop a “Policy Paper & Factsheet” on Marine Litter Management based on results and in collaboration with
PANACeA and its Modular Projects” by 23h59 of the 29th of August 2018 at the latest. The successful candidate will be notified on 3rd September 2018.

10. Intellectual property

In the spirit of cooperation and exchange, the ownership of the work covered by the contract related to this ToR and co-funded by the Interreg MED Programme is open to the public and free of rights.

The deliverables and results of the project should be accessible and available for free to the general public in a usable format. The MA/JS and any other relevant Programme stakeholder can use them for information and communication purposes.

The authorship of the work covered by the contract related to this ToR is co-shared between the author and all the partners of the engaged projects.

11. Confidentiality clause

Despite the public execution of the project, part of the information exchanged for the development of the purpose of this contract between MedCities and the selected expert, may be confidential. On this basis, only the documents and other pieces of information provided explicitly with the statement "confidential" will be dealt with as such.

The selected expert ensures that respect its confidentiality and do not disseminate it, forward it to third parties or use it without prior written consent from the MedCities.

12. Annexes

- Annex 1: PANACeA FactSheets on MPs
- Annex 2: PANACeA FactSheet on General targets
- Annex 3: PANACeA FactSheet on WG 1 Work Plan
- Annex 4: Product 1.1. Concept Note
- Annex 5: Barcelona ML Workshop (July) Report

A series of additional documents will be facilitated after selection of the candidate.
MODULAR PROJECTS on BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION
The Biodiversity Protection community of projects featured by PANACeA partnership

Eleven thematic projects, approved by the steering committee of the Interreg Med programme 2014-2020 are now under way in the programme’s priority axis 3 ‘Natural & cultural resources - Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources’ and particularly to reach the specific objective 3.2 ‘To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas’.

All these projects gather in the overall Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection community animated by the horizontal project PANACeA, an initiative to create synergies and new partnerships among Mediterranean stakeholders. PANACeA puts in place activities and actions to increase the visibility and impacts of the work implemented by a biodiversity protection community of projects.

This factsheet provides insight into the initial 11 projects that belong to the “Biodiversity Protection community” in the Mediterranean

ACT4LITTER: Joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in Mediterranean Protected Areas

ACT4LITTER aims at reviewing the most promising proposed measures to effectively tackle the issue of Marine Litter and select those that could be implemented in MPAs, considering particularly the ecosystem services. The selection of measures will result in the development of MPA-specific action plans for implementation in a future project. Those plans will be complemented by a realistic and operational governance plan at transnational level.

MPA stakeholders and key experts on the management cycle of marine litter will be involved through the process to validate the outputs together. The action plans will have a strong focus on preventive measures, using circular economy and sustainable consumption and production approaches. The issue of Marine Litter is global but MPAs are directly affected by its increasing amount, restraining highly the achievement of the conservation goals.

Keywords: marine litter, marine protected areas, action plan, governance, preventive measures, circular economy, sustainable consumption, natural conservation.

Led by: Catalan Waste Agency - Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), Spain - Project manager: Magali Outters, SCP/RAC - Communication officer: Thomas Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE - Duration: 18 months
**AMAre: Actions for Marine Protected Areas**

AMAre aims at reinforcing the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) to maintain their biodiversity and natural ecosystems. It targets a more integrated management of the maritime space, considering MPAs can be an efficient tool to achieve Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) goals. The development of shared methodologies and geospatial tools will foster the resilience of the Mediterranean MPA network, as well as concrete MSP applications in selected MPAs. The improvement of the information exchange among MPAs will be done by best practice dissemination; it will enable common solutions to enhance management strategies and governance mechanisms.

**Keywords:** Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), methodologies, geospatial tools, environmental monitoring, best practices, data access, ecosystem-based approach, Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

**Led by:** National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CONISMA), Italy - Project manager: Simonetta Fraschetti, University of Salento, Italy - Communication officer: Federica Foglini, CNR, Italy - Duration: 36 months

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**ConFish: Connectivity among Mediterranean fishery stakeholders and scientists resolves connectivity of fishery populations**

ConFish aims at delivering a framework to promote knowledge transfer and capacity building between local fishermen and scientists, in order to improve the exploitation, conservation and management of Mediterranean fisheries, through a bottom-up approach including evolutionary tools. Critical fishing areas for protection will also be identified, in relation with scientific advice and local culture.

**Keywords:** Sustainability, fisheries, network, sociologists, fishermen, scientists, management, connectivity, adaptation, capacity building, knowledge transfer.

**Led by:** Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia - Project manager: Anamaria Stambuk, University of Zagreb - Communication officer: Miguel Baltazar Soares, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel - Duration: 18 months

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**EcoSUSTAIN: Ecological sustainable governance of MPAs**

EcoSUSTAIN represents joint transnational action towards maintenance of biodiversity and natural ecosystems by means of stronger management and networking of protected areas obtained through capacity building, innovative technologies and improved management knowledge base. The overall objective of the action is to improve monitoring, management and networking of protected areas through supporting scientific, technical and management knowledge in order to tackle the problem of incoherent and segregated management of protected areas as self-sustained units, which is believed to hamper protection and promotion of Mediterranean natural resources, as well as maintenance of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Management and networking of protected areas will be improved by capacity building activities and pilot implementation of innovative water quality monitoring solutions in several protected wetland locations across the programme area.

**Keywords:** Stronger management and networking of protected areas, capacity building, innovative technologies, improved management knowledge base, Pilot implementation of innovative water quality monitoring solutions, protected wetland locations, use of state-of-the-art ICT technology, long-term monitoring.

**Led by:** University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime studies, Croatia - Project manager: Ivan Dovadžija, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies - Communication officer: Ada Lipovača, Rausk, Bosnia and Herzegovina - Duration: 30 months

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**FishMPABlue2: Fishing governance in MPAs: potentials for Blue Economy**

FishMPABlue2 is the continuation of the FishMPABlue 2007-2013 project. This initiative builds on the analysis carried out on the management of small-scale fisheries within and around MPAs, identifying suitable changes - reinforcing MPA management capacities - to be achieved through a concrete response: an innovative governance toolkit. FishMPABlue2 aims at testing the governance toolkit to demonstrate its effectiveness to obtain as a result the strengthening of the management and networking capacities of Mediterranean protected areas.

**Keywords:** marine conservation, fishing governance, Blue economy, small scale fisheries, marine protected areas, networking.

**Led by:** Federparchi – Europarc Italy - The Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves - Project officer: Luca Santarossa, Federparchi - Communication officer: Anne Remy, WWF Mediterranean - Duration: 36 months
MEDSEALITTER: Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols to protect biodiversity from litter impact at basin and local MPAs level

MEDSEALITTER addresses the issue of marine litter, a global threat for living marine organisms. The problem particularly affects fishes, cetaceans and marine turtles, animals in whose digestive tracts commonly appear accidentally-swallowed micro and macro plastic debris. Although many Mediterranean organisations are working on this issue, widely-accepted and finetuned protocols to assess pollution by marine litter are needed. For this reason, the project proposes to network representative MPAs, scientific organisations and environmental NGOs for developing, testing and delivering efficient, easy to apply and cost-effective protocols to monitor and manage litter impact on biodiversity.

Keywords: marine litter, protocols, pollution assessment, monitoring, impact management, biodiversity, network, marine protected areas, scientific organizations, NGOs.

Led by: Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area, Italy - Project manager: Patrizio Scarpellini, Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area - Communication officer: Simone Nuglio, Legambiente Onlus - Duration: 35 months

MPA-ADAPT: Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: Building resilience and adaptation

MPA-Adapt is aiming to develop collaborative and site-specific adaptation plans for MPAs to enhance resilience to Climate Change impacts. This will be achieved by building capacity for effective management, assessing risks, and exploring potential actions and priorities needed to ensure the adaptability and the resilience of biodiversity and the local communities. It also aims to incorporate Climate Change vulnerability assessments and nature-based adaptation planning into their existing management framework, and provide guidance to MPA managers and local stakeholders to implement and test climate change approaches. This project is a first of its kind for the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment and will also foster networks by improving the dialogue and coordination between MPA managers and scientists to create the first line of Mediterranean MPA sentinel sites.

Keywords: adaptation plans for MPAs, climate change, building capacity, assessing risks, adaptability, resilience, biodiversity, local communities, vulnerability assessments, MPA managers, local stakeholders, Mediterranean MPA sentinel sites.

Led by: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain - Project manager: Joaquim Garrabou, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - Communication officer: Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN - Duration: 30 months

PHAROS4MPAS - Blue Economy and Marine Conservation

The development of Blue Economy and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) represents a transnational challenge for marine protected areas (MPAs). Maritime sectors have started to operate more and more frequently inside and in the vicinity of MPAs with expected growing environmental impacts, while at the same time, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires to reach Good Environmental Status of the European Seas by 2020. PHAROS4MPAS project will deliver a regional integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors. Approach and outputs include delivering common capitalization baselines, recommendations and policy tools adapted to the MedPAN network, MSP Authorities, the European Commission, the Barcelona Convention and the various maritime sectors.

Keywords: Marine protected areas, good ecological status, blue economy, maritime spatial planning, coastal management and marine issues, sustainable management of natural resources.

Led by: WWF, France - Project manager: Catherine Piante, WWF France - Communication officer: Anne Rémy, WWF Med. Duration: 18 months

PLASTICBUSTERS MPAS - Preserving biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas

The impacts of Marine Litter (ML) on marine biota within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including endangered species, remain poorly addressed, however it is clear that prevention and mitigation measures are needed in the Mediterranean Sea. This project entails actions that address the whole management cycle of ML from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation, as well as actions to strengthen networking between and among pelagic and coastal MPAs located in Italy, France, Spain, Croatia, Albania and Greece. A joint governance plan will be defined through a participatory approach and the concretized commitment of Med MPAs (MoUs) to implement it will result in an increased surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status.

Keywords: marine litter, biodiversity, marine protected areas, monitoring, management, policy, basin, good ecological status, coastal management and marine issues, governance, waste and pollution.

Led by: ISPRA, Italy - Project managers: Teresa Romeo, ISPRA; M. Christina Fossi, University of Siena-UNISI - Duration: 48 months
POSBE MED: Sustainable management of posidonia banquettes and dune beaches in the Mediterranean

**POSBE MED** aims at tackling the lack of public awareness of the benefits of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows natural capital and replies to a strong need for strengthening PA management capacity with adequate guidelines on how to effectively manage them. Several local studies and EU projects have evaluated the ecosystem services that *Posidonia oceanica* and its structures, called banquettes, offer, and developed tools for the management of banquettes and new ways to use them. By integrating these results and providing a transnational overview of the management practices and the perceptions of stakeholders across Mediterranean, POSBE MED aims to define a transnational joint management strategy for *Posidonia* beach/dune systems. It also aims to offer common sustainable tools for local administrators and PA managers and develop a strategic model of integrated governance, linking blue local growth to the conservation of this natural asset and enhancing the integrated management of these coastal habitats (meadows-beaches-foredunes) within PAs.

**Keywords:** seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* tourism, leaf debris, seedbank, coastal / dune resilience, tools for local administration, integrated governance, integrated management, nature conservation.

**Led by:** Entente Interdépartementale de Démoustication Méditerranée (EID), France - Project manager: Maria Eugenia Ciunta, EID - Communication officer: Maria del Mar Otero, IUCN - Duration: 18 months

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WETNET: Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

**WETNET** tackles the issue of implementing multilevel governance for Mediterranean wetlands in order to achieve overall and network effects on wetland ecosystems as well as on connected local systems. The project aims at ensuring higher coordination between different levels of spatial planning and authorities in charge of their management, whilst limiting conflicts between conservation issues and economic activities. By defining common priorities for Mediterranean wetland conservation, WETNET builds a common territorial strategy for their integrated management. Building on previous EU experiences (River Contracts), WETNET seeks to test and transfer ‘Wetland Contracts’, acting through broad participatory processes where users, private and public entities are committed in mainstreaming wetlands preservation into their ordinary activities.

**Keywords:** Wetlands preservation, governance, integrated management, river contracts, networks, water, ecosystem services.

**Led by:** Veneto region, Italy - Project manager: Franco Alberti, Veneto Region Giancarlo Cusmaroli, CIRF, Italy - Communication officer: Alicia Sánchez-Valverde, Sociedad Aragonesa de Gestión Agroambiental (SARGA) - Duration: 30 months

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Biodiversity Protection Community

PANACeA Biodiversity Protection

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**Biodiversity Protection**

**STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS**

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
A ROADMAP FOR ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

Sharing ecosystem services and natural resources offered by a Sea neighbouring more than 20 countries requires territorial cooperation and a common vision towards protection and sustainability. Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity, both marine and inland, constitute a regional natural capital and a basis for livelihoods and the economy in the region, namely quality tourism, food production, human health benefits and cultural heritage. However, the Mediterranean landscapes and its natural resources are changing rapidly. The population and its needs are increasing and therefore, there is more demand for clean water, food and better infrastructures. On the other hand, climate change is modifying species distributions and weather events, with multiple economic sectors competing commercially to make use of natural resources especially along the coastal and sea areas.

THE MED BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION COMMUNITY AND ITS OBJECTIVES

A collaborative EU Interreg MED community of 11 modular projects (ACT4LITTER, AMARE, CONFISH, ECOSUSTAIN, FISHMPABLEU2, MEDSEALITTER, MPA-ADAPT, PHAROS4MPA, PLASTICBUSTERSMPA, POSEMED, WETNET) and a number of environmental organizations in the Mediterranean region are bringing together their work to identify the most effective mechanisms to manage and protect Mediterranean biodiversity. The coordination efforts in close collaboration with the modular projects is led by PANACeA Interreg MED horizontal project.
So far, three working groups have been established to focus on:

- **WG1. Biodiversity management and protection**, with an emphasis on comprehensive ecosystem-based management approaches that addresses increasing cumulative and transboundary threats including climate change and marine litter;
- **WG2. Sustainable use of natural resources**, with an emphasis on co-management practices and small-scale fisheries;
- **WG3: Integrated ecosystem monitoring and management**, with an emphasis on the connections and integrated management between inland (freshwater), coastal and marine ecosystems.

As such, the PANACeA project strives to establish a direct dialogue with the main policy and management stakeholders to highlight the need for science-based management practices for the maintenance and growth of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services.

PANACeA has reviewed the ongoing work of different stakeholders and prioritised existing policy and legislative frameworks at different scales relevant to the thematic content of the 11 modular projects:

For a full picture of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community analysis of relevant policies and instruments, click on the WG1, WG2 and WG3.
THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

The activities of the Biodiversity Community are based on a holistic and ecosystem approach towards the effective monitoring, management, and protection of Mediterranean Sea biodiversity and habitats, and includes:

- Integrating knowledge and data on current pressures and impacts, including significant biodiversity features, to help define priority measures and management plans towards protection and conservation
- Synthesising metadata and information from different sources, existing databases and formats, using INSPIRE standards and specifications and making them available through an online MED Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform as a repository and analytical tool for the community and the Interreg Med programme.
- Disseminating common guidelines for monitoring and assessing major pressures at regional and local scales
- Promoting transfer and adoption of participatory methods and best practices for protected areas benefiting from existing human networks of protected area managers for an effective ecosystem based approach to biodiversity protection and management
- Advocating for an ecosystem approach (EcAp) to resources management by raising awareness on and addressing cumulative transboundary impacts and fostering co-management solutions at multiple sectors and geographical scales, with particular attention to the integration of several ecological domains, EBSAs (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas according to the Convention on Biological Diversity) and relevant ecological functioning units.
- Providing guidance for the prioritization of actions towards a more coherent, representative, and effective network of MPAs in line with the UN Environment/MAP SPA/RAC 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap

The main thematic outputs by PANACeA and its community will include:

- Scientific syntheses with clear messages and recommendations for use in management and to inform and influence current policy (Fact-sheets, technical and policy papers, including media materials)
- The use of spatial tools and databases to generate new knowledge and better integrate past and current datasets from related projects (GIS related products)
- Enhancing communication and learning through networking and showcasing the outputs of the 11 community projects (presentations and side events)
### MILESTONES

The MED Community on Biodiversity Protection will be showcasing its work during the next two years in the following key events:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Malaga</td>
<td>Autumn 2019</td>
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PANACeA partners and biodiversity protection projects, with guidance from its advisory board and strategic regional stakeholders, will actively participate in external events and will contribute to key environmental publications (see below):

- Interreg MED and PANORAMED events
- Ramsar COP Europe – 2018
- CBD COP 14 - 2018
- UN Environment / MEDPOL Meetings on Marine Litter - 2018/2019
- DG MARE Maritime Spatial Planning events 2018/2019
- FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) events - 2018/2019
- COP 21 Barcelona Convention – 2019
- IUCN World Conservation Congress - 2020
- Mediterranean MPA Forum 2020 (organized by MedPAN and SPA/RAC)

A **shared calendar** is promoted to provide opportunities to participate and organize joint activities.

### KEY PUBLICATIONS:

- MedPAN article and updated catalogue on tools for protected area management available on the MedPAN website virtual library - summer 2018 / autumn 2019
- 2020 Evaluation of the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap (MedPAN & SPA/RAC)
- UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication– 2019

You can join and follow us on

https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/
THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

Considered a biodiversity hotspot, the Mediterranean basin includes a semi-enclosed sea that is surrounded by more than 20 countries, each of them with different levels of resource use, and protection and management practices. There are 1231 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean covering 179,798 km², a surface of 7.14% under legal designation, including only 0.04% of fully and strongly protected areas. Most of these are not effectively managed due to low human, material and financial capacities. These MPAs also vary widely in size, purpose and management depending on various factors. However, they all face the common increasing pressures of growing population rates, changing climate, rapid economic development, high competition across regions, and unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Climate change and marine litter are some of the emerging concerns to Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity putting key ecological areas in need of urgent protection.

THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The MED Biodiversity Protection Community is seeking solutions to bridge science, practice and policy to address priority threats through an action roadmap for its working group 1 which focuses on protected areas, namely MPAs, and biodiversity management (WG1). After consultation with members of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community and the advisory board, the policy landscape targeted by this group reaches different levels of environmental policy, management practices and networks converging in the region and has been defined as follows:

WORKING GROUP 1: BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Other stakeholders to involve in the activities and dissemination of key messages include the overall Interreg MED Community; Joint Secretariat; Axis 4 - PANORAMED and other horizontal and modular projects active in protected areas and biodiversity related issues, such as BlueIslands and Destimed among the MED Sustainable Tourism projects. Working Group 1 aims to increase understanding, knowledge and awareness of multiple environmental threats and promote best practice guided by Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) tools as a response to address the cumulative pressures and impacts in protected areas, focusing on functional ecosystem units.

In brief, WG1 will work to:
- Monitor and promote standardised sampling methodologies and management tools to allow for a common regional approach to address major environmental pressures, including marine litter (ML) and climate change (CC), and build the capacity of protected areas to tackle cumulative impacts.
- Collect data to integrate them into the MED Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform and regional databases for protected areas at Mediterranean level (see MAPA-MED database led by MedPAN and SPA/

For a full picture of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community analysis of relevant policies and instruments, see here

Global
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

EU
- Blue Growth Strategy
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- EEA Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) strategy
- European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy
- Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)
- Nature Directives (Natura 2000)

Mediterranean
- Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols
- Barcelona Convention EcAp and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)
- Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter in the Mediterranean
- Barcelona Convention Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean

KEY NETWORKS AND STAKEHOLDERS
- AdriaPAN - Adriatic MPA Network
- Emerald Network
- EMODNet
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)
- MedPAN - Mediterranean MPA Network
- UN Environment/MAP SPA/RAC Mediterranean - Platform on Marine Biodiversity
- UN Environment/MAP PAP/RAC
- UN Environment/MAP SCP/RAC
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Task Force on Environment and Climate Change

- Mediterranean - Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols
- Barcelona Convention EcAp and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)
- Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter in the Mediterranean
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RAC), and ultimately, identify environmental risks and management priorities in need of urgent action at different regional scales.

- Provide added value knowledge by integrating results from modular projects (MPs), spatial information and indicators to showcase current efforts to policy-makers and stakeholders in pilot sites.
- Promote the integration of the Community knowledge into Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and provide transferable best practices among protected areas and at transboundary level.

The main Interreg-MED modular projects currently involved in WG1 are:

- **ACT4Litter**: Development of a decision making tools and pilot actions towards joint measures to address marine litter in Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
- **AMAre**: Actions for Marine Protected Areas, through the development of shared methodologies and spatial tools to concrete MSP applications for managing protected areas.
- **MedSeaLitter**: Common methodologies for monitoring floating macro litter and biodiversity impacts in the Mediterranean Sea.
- **MPA-Adapt**: Building resilience and adaptation to Climate Change impacts in Marine Protected Areas.
- **POSBEMED**: Sustainable management of Posidonia oceanica beaches and dunes in the Mediterranean coastal region.
- **PlasticBusters MPAs**: Actions that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation.
- **PHAROS4MPAs**: Regional integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors, as well as to evaluate the environmental risks of the Blue Growth strategy.

Other projects in the community might contribute to the WG1 activities according to their scope and planned actions (CONFISH, ECOSUSTAIN, FISHMPABLUER, WETNET).
## THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

### 1. From science to management and policy: Factsheets and technical papers featuring pressures, impacts and responses in protected areas and transboundary regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate change (CC)</th>
<th>Means and main steps</th>
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<tr>
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<td>- Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030 Goals 13, 14.2</td>
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<td>- EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive</td>
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<th>Marine litter (ML)</th>
<th>Means and main steps</th>
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<td></td>
<td>- EU MSFD Directive Descriptor 10 and the 2017 decision of GES</td>
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<td>- UN Environment / MAP ECAp and IMAP Ecological Objective 10 on Marine litter</td>
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<td>- UN Environment/MAP Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean</td>
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<td>- European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy</td>
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<th>Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)</th>
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### 2. Spatial data and new knowledge

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<th>Demonstration sites</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marine litter</td>
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<td>Fisheries</td>
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<td>Wetlands</td>
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<td>EBSAs</td>
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<td>- PLASTICBUSTERS</td>
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<th>Marine litter coordinates (CC)</th>
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<td>- AMARE</td>
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### 3. Networking and showcasing

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Transfer and adoption of best practices to protected areas and biodiversity practitioners, managers and policy-makers</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Policies and frameworks identified by all stakeholders</td>
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<td>- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)</td>
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<td>- UN Environment/MAP Roadmap for a network of MPAs in the Mediterranean</td>
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<td>- UN Agenda 2030 for SDGs</td>
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<td>- MedPAN – SPA/RAC Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Forum 2020</td>
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<td>- Interreg MED -PANORAMED (Governance)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Review on available tools for Biodiversity protection and management</td>
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<td>- Side events during PANACEA Capitalisation events (2018 and 2019)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- External events and side activities related to policies’ development</td>
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<td>- Contribution to MedPAN MPA Forum 2020</td>
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<td>- Fostering the participation and networking of protected area and biodiversity managers in training workshops and webinars</td>
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<td>- Workshop on challenges to EBM and EBSAs in the Mediterranean</td>
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<td>- Communication Actions</td>
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</table>
The working group on Biodiversity Management will be showcasing its work during the next two years particularly through EU and Mediterranean events and publications such as:

- MedPAN article and updated catalogue on tools for protected area management - summer 2018 / autumn 2019
- UNEP MAP State of the Environment and Development (SOED) publication - 2019

An online shared calendar of events is available and regularly updated with opportunities to participate and organize joint activities.

### MILESTONES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International events</th>
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<th>WG1 partnership actions</th>
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<td><strong>Union for the Mediterranean events 2018/2019</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Interreg MED and PANORAMED 2018/2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>Promotion of environmental protection as priority</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>DG MARE MSP events 2018 onwards</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentation of PANACeA and its platform capitalising on project results</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18-19 April – “MADE in MED”, Rome</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exhibition and participation in the panels</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16-18 May - PANACeA in Montenegro</strong></td>
<td><strong>Factsheet and sub-action plans for WG1 validation: EBM tools, Marine Litter and Climate Change</strong></td>
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| 5th International Marine Conservation Congress, Malaysia, 24-29 June 2018 | | **Start compilation of data for the PANACeA platform 2018/2019** |


| CBD COP 14 - Egypt, 10-22 Nov. 2018 | | **Review document /factsheet on Marine Litter measures and tools for management: MPAs perspective** |

| MSFD Technical Group Marine Litter | | **Expert Working Group and Consultation workshops on EBM in 2 priority EBSAs.** |
| October - MedPAN Annual workshop | | **Policy document/Technical paper/factsheet on climate change adaptation for MPAs** |
| Barcelona Convention Mediterranean meeting of the ML Cooperation Platform, October 2018 | | **Policy document/Technical paper/factsheet on marine litter pressures in the Mediterranean Sea (initial)** |

| Nov-Dec - PANACeA Mid Term Review in Brussels | | **Technical document/factsheet on marine litter impact on aquatic life (includes maps)** |

| Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group CORMON on Marine Litter Monitoring, March 2019 | | **Position paper and Synthesis Prospectus identifying priority management activities in 4 priority EBSAs in the Mediterranean** |

| Apr-May - PANACeA in Rome | | **CBD Workshop on challenges to EBM of Marine Litter, Climate Change impacts in EBSAs in the Mediterranean** |

| 2019 | | **Policy review/Factsheet/Report on measures to address ML management in MPAs (continuation)** |
### International events

- **UN Environment MAP/MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting, May 2019**
- **COP 21 Barcelona Convention – 3-6 December 2019**
- **IUCN World Conservation Congress, 11-19 June 2020**
- **MAP/MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting, May 2019**
- **Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, Spring 2019**
- **November - PANACeA final conference in Malaga**
- **Mediterranean MPA Forum 2020 (led by MedPAN and SPA/RAC)**
- **Regional meeting on marine litter pressures in the Mediterranean (continuation)**
- **Presentation of WG1 recommendations and new data in the BP Platform**
- **Policy paper/factsheet on cumulative impacts assessment in MPAs (includes maps)**
- **Updated catalogue on tools for protected area management**

### Events in EU/MED area

- **Scientific report on the utility of and challenges to EBSAs as EBM units in the most impacted sea, the Mediterranean**
- **Update policy/technical document/ factsheet on marine litter pressures in the Mediterranean (continuation)**
- **You can join and follow us on**
  - [https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/](https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/)
  - @MEDCommunity3_2
  - Biodiversity Protection Community - Interreg Med
  - PANACeA Biodiversity Protection

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**You can join and follow us on**

[https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/](https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/)
PRODUCT 1.1. DRAFT CONCEPT: Marine Litter management from a Marine Protected Area (MPA) perspective

Context

The joint product 1.1. predefined in the WGI Action Plan is to be developed for the upcoming event of the Biodiversity Protection Community and Mid Term Review in Brussels (end November – beginning December 2018).

The event is envisaged to include a session at the European Parliament and will aim to increase the policy impact of the results of the Modular Projects (MPs). It is also the moment when the priorities for the next Interreg MED Programming period undergo definition and therefore a crucial moment to give visibility to the work performed, current gaps and priority issues to be addressed by upcoming programmes.

In this context, the initial proposal for Product 1.1. from our point of view would be a Position Paper consolidating the knowledge and tools generated (or under generation) by the community and pinpointing most pressing needs and gaps to be addressed in the near future by EU Policies and programs on this field.

Below, you can find our tentative approach to be discussed and agreed in Barcelona on the 12th (by answering the surveys sent). At the meeting the online and extended survey results (submitted by you) will help to conclude the way forward, as well as your contributions to these products.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT 1.1</th>
<th>What form/s should it take? Please, tick one or more</th>
<th>Which project/s do you think could contribute?</th>
<th>What source/s of information do you think are needed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Litter measures and tools for management: Mediterranean MPAs perspective</td>
<td>( ) Policy document ( ) Review document ( ) Technical paper ( ) Factsheet ( ) Joint scientific publication ( ) Other: Position Paper</td>
<td>(x) AMARE (x) PLASTICBUSTERS (x) MEDSEALITTER (x) ACT4LITTER (x) Others: Posbemed? Blueslands?</td>
<td>(x) MPs only ( ) Scientific research ( ) ML Guidelines ( ) Past ML Projects (x) Others: Please, cite. For the Intro</td>
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</table>
Format and content

*Format*: To be decided between a Policy Paper “document” (as a starting proposal) or select an alternative based on the survey’s results and discussion, such as, for example, giving it the shape of a FactSheet (4 pages max).

Please, note, the format should be proportional to the inputs received from MPs

*Tentative title*: Biodiversity Protection contribution to knowledge and tools for marine litter management from a Mediterranean MPA perspective

*Priority target public*: EU Parliament Members, DG Env, DG Mare, DG Regio, UN Environment/MAP Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

A) Possible structure/ tentative chapters:

1) **Intro, the challenges for ML management in Mediterranean MPAs**
Introduction to the topic and the baseline state of the question, prior to the MPs. The information can come partly from the Application Form (AF) of the MP stating the state of the question and from key literature (scientific and regional stakeholders).

Examples of proposed literature: Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean (MedPol2015), Marine Litter Assessment in the Adriatic (DeFishGear 2017), SPA/RAC MedPan Marine Protected Areas Forum 2017 Report, and others.

*Additionally, literature suggested by MPs and MPs deliverables accordingly.*

2) **The body of knowledge of the Biodiversity Protection Community**
Synthesizing results of the MPs in terms of:

- **ML assessment** in MPAs: Enhanced monitoring protocols and tools, increased knowledge on presence, composition, distribution and impacts
*Question: we need to have a Protected Area (PA) perspective. How to deal with data coming from non-protected areas as BluesIslands and MedSeaLitter?

- ML and debris management in MPAs: Analysis of measures, decision support tools, management plans...

*Inputs by: Plastic Busters, Act4Litter, Destimed, Posbemed, BluesIslands. Others?

PANACeA has identified the following knowledge, tools and resources being generated by the MPs and therefore we would request, at least, a 250 words contribution from each MP:

- MEDSEALITTER: Monitoring Floating and Ingested ML Protocols / Management
- AMARE: Monitoring, Modelling, Management and MSP (Geospatial) Tools
- PLASTICBUSTERS MPAS (continuation from PLASTICBUSTERS): 3 TIER Monitoring protocol, Bioindicator species selection, Management, Governance
- ACT4LITTER: Monitoring (Litter Watch Campaigns), Management Plans, Measures and Decision support tools
- POSBEMED: Beach litter management as separated from Posidonia oceanica banquets
- BluesIslands: Monitoring (especial attention to microplastics) beach and adjacent floating and seabed compartments

* Question: Is the list complete? The first step will be to define those more concretely to be able to find a good structure and story line.

3) What is NEXT?

Conclusions and synthesizing “recommendations” on what are the most pressing issues and the gaps to be resolved through EU Policies and programmes to address Marine Litter from a MPA perspective.

Some examples coming from Montenegro:

- Increasing the human and technical resources and capacity of MPA managers to address marine litter
- Adapting MPAs monitoring protocols to be able to make them ML related to assess the policy implementation and impact (e.g. Single Use Plastics Directive). This is not only MPA relevant but adaptation can be considered.
B) The Message for Policy and decision-makers

Input: All MPs

*Question: Ideas on how to organize the recommendations to address either specific Policies, specific authorities or programs? Are there any specific targets by MPs?
PANACeA Working Group 1 - Biodiversity Management and Protection / Marine Litter Subgroup

Notes from the Med Marine Litter Workshop – 12 July 2018
(afternoon)
Barcelona, SCP-RAC offices

Meeting objectives

- Update on activities of the Med Biodiversity Protection Community featured by PANACeA
- Focus on defining the first 3 joint products towards PANACeA Mid Term Review event in Brussels (possibly 4 and 5 December 2018)

Update on Interreg Med Modular Projects and related partners’ agendas:

- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) – Alessandra Sensi:

  Alessandra Sensi, UfM suggested to include the UfM as target for marine litter (ML) products and to consider participation in UfM events to which this WG1 and PANACeA could contribute:

  - 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change: 12-13 November 2018 - Contribution is sought from PANACeA. This WG is meant to propose priorities for the 2nd Ministerial Declaration on environment and climate change (due for early 2020). Marine Litter and Plastics are already in the agenda. PANACeA to suggest more inputs if interested. A possible new pillar could be for example: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a potential tool for nature-based solutions to climate change.

  - CBD COP14 Egypt (second half November 2018): Joint side event (UfM and PANACeA). ETC-UMA through Dania is following up on this issue with UfM. The side event aims at presenting potential solutions towards a more effective reduction of impacts on coastal and marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. Area Based Management is proposed as an effective tool to foster Mediterranean protection, through a more effective management of exogenous environmental pressures such as pollution (including Marine Litter) and climate changes. Representatives from Modular projects as well as 3-4 representatives from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean are expected to participate.
UfM proposes to add them as target in particular for the Med Biodiversity Protection Community Policy Paper (ML product 1) and that policy recommendations are included in the rest of the products produced by PANACeA WG1.

- **Act4Litter**: Other events to be taken into consideration

  - **Act4Litter Final event: 23 and 24 October 2018 in Athens.** Back to back to the EU SWIM-H2020 Training on ML-Horizon 2020 and the MIO ECSDE General Assembly. It will be a two-day event: One day for associated partners and one day of conference with 4 sessions. Activities will run from 22 to 26 October 2018.

  - **Event at the European Parliament, Brussels**: The final Act4Litter project will move to Athens, but MIO-ECSDE will organise its annual meeting with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from South and North Europe to exchange on Marine Litter in European regional seas between 11 and 16 October 2018. This event is organised together with the SEARICA Intergroup. The meeting will not have a project focus but will rather be an in-depth exchange. MIO-ECSDE will highlight PlasticBusters MPAs and Act4Litter results. This is not an open event.

**Med Modular Projects’ presentations on inputs for the first Marine Litter joint products:**

**ACT4LITTER:**

**Contribute to ML Product 1**: Resumes/Extracts of: Mapping of measures and effectiveness assessment; Decision Making Tool (DMT); Regional Governance framework based on 3 top measures (no-regret measures); Results of the 20 MPAs Marine Litter Watch.

**Contribute to ML Product 2**: Resume of results of the 20 MPAs Marine Litter Watch: The project will also formulate an online survey to consolidate the selected top measures extended to Med MPAs. This can be a contribution both to product 1 and 2.

**MEDSEALITTER:**

The project works with a multiple focus: Micro- and macro- litter; “floating” / “ingested” litter at two spatial scales: Local-within MPA scale and Basin-wide scale. It will deliver 2 main products: “State of the art on monitoring techniques for floating and ingested litter” and “Proposals for enhanced protocols”.

ISPRRA already provided datasets to ETC-UMA which are now available through the PANACeA Biodiversity Protection Knowledge platform.
**Contribution to ML Product 1 (resumes/extracts):** Revision of floating litter EU Protocol / JRC Guidance on monitoring / Results of 3 MPAs involved on ML management (STNP, Capo Carbonara, Egadi) / Results from ML assessment through floating and ingested ML monitoring protocols -> presence, composition, distribution and impacts of marine litter in MPAs and open sea. Cost benefit analysis of different monitoring methods for floating and ingested litter.

**Contribution to ML Product 2:** Identification of overlapping areas with high presence of litter and marine fauna / Results from monitoring through the ingestion protocol / Maps on high risk and impacts (areas where high density of floating litter overlaps with sensitive marine species / habitats). Recommendations for management according to the types of indicators selected. Additionally, results from ML assessment through floating and ingested ML monitoring protocols -> presence, composition, distribution and impacts of marine litter in MPAs.

The project is also trying to solve the issue of the minimum sample sites and how to assure standardised results between experienced scientists versus volunteer citizen science processes.

**BLUEISLANDS:**

This initiative focuses on monitoring the seasonal variation of marine litter on sandy beaches in Mediterranean islands as an effect of tourism. Ready to contribute to Product 1 (Policy Paper), as well as to take it into account for Product 3.

An important aspect BluesIslands considered when looking at the results obtained during the monitoring is the accumulation rates of ML. Such approach could be considered, at least for the beaches, when we are talking about ML management and tools.

Presentation of the Waste characteristics study in 8 islands - 2018

- 150 ML surveys – 3 types of beaches (touristic, used by locals and remote)
- No clear seasonal pattern by number of items collected
- Instead, when using the accumulation rate, it does show a seasonal pattern – limitations are acknowledged
- Clean coast index (snapshot) vs Accumulation index (accumulation rate is higher in high season)
- Gaps identified: Weight of ML not recorded / Proportion of ML coming from sea and released in sea
- Added value: Accumulation rate / Index
- Foreseen for September 2018: Action plans to reduce some items, for example cigarettes butts (though less quantity, higher accumulation has been registered)
- Provide ML surveys results to the community / Compare ML surveys results in a beach next to an MPA where Act4Litter did a survey
PLASTICBUSTERSMPAs:

PlasticBustersMPAs has just been launched in MPAs and it is planned to further support both monitoring and management measures in Mediterranean MPAs at a larger scale (e.g. including the Archipelago Toscano). No specific contribution foreseen at this point as the project just started. The project will provide input to upcoming products.

The project addresses knowledge gaps such as the impact of ML on biodiversity; Identification of Bioindicator species; Identification of hotspots; Impact on MPAs; Impact on fisheries and Impact on human health.

Briefly, the project will work on:

- Testing in 5 MPAs (targeted marine litter management actions related to monitoring and surveillance, prevention and mitigation measures) – Transferring 10 MPAs
- Design a common monitoring approach for macro and micro plastics – end of the year
- Identification of ML accumulation areas, “ML Hotspots” within the surveyed areas
- Demo projects for ML prevention and mitigation measures
- Harmonised approach to ML in Med MPAs (whole management cycle from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation)

PHAROS4MPAs

The project aims to produce recommendations on interactions between MPAs and 9 blue economy sectors related to energy, transport, tourism and fisheries. Sectors that have a relation with ML are: maritime transport, cruises, leisure boating, recreational fisheries and artisanal fisheries.

**Contribution to ML Product 1:** The need to draft lobbying strategies was mentioned i.e. they propose incentive taxation depending on the number of waste you bring on port as a measure to reduce ML. In October-December 2018 they will have the recommendations on 9 sectors published. Another example: make suggestions that leisure boating is used to fish for litter.

The project contributions will need to be refined at a later stage, as the project just started.

AMARE

AMARE is developing guidelines and recommendations to monitor Marine Litter within Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas. This will provide a strategy and the technical/scientific basis to better understand trends and impacts of ML and support management measures. The project has tight links with PlasticBustersMPAs and Act4Litter.

To contribute to **ML Product 1**: Report on monitoring protocols for MPAs. Modelling: Modelling the transport of marine litter, importance for MPAs / New methods for monitoring litter drones and wave gliders.

To Contribute to **ML Product 2**: Monitor ML in selected MPAs / Temporal spatial trends and potential impact of ML.

**General considerations for developing the products:**

1. For ML Product 1: Avoid talking about new monitoring protocols when the projects’ protocols are aiming to define and reinforce the applicability of existing legally binding protocols. Refer to “fine-tuning” or “enhancing” or “promoting”
2. For ML Product 2: the aim should be to consolidate existing knowledge and establishing impacts. Try to extract recommendations using the biodiversity community expert knowledge and go beyond review only.
3. For ML Product 3: Need to have a clearer idea of the content of the product to fully understand the aim and scope.

**Next steps:**

PANACeA team to review the concepts according to the received inputs and the workshop discussions, identify potential different positions among projects, draft a new concept with a developed structure in terms of contents and a first story line for product 1 (policy document).

For products 2 and 3 (knowledge documents including maps), PANACeA team to start preliminary versions to circulate among key participants on this subgroup and experts.

The product 1 draft should be sent out early September. Reviewed concepts for products 2 and 3 to be ready by end of September.

**Participants:**

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Carlos Guitart - PANACeA
Carolina Pérez - PANACeA
Ignasi Mateo - Act4Litter/PlasticBusters MPAS
Konstantia Nikopoulou - PANACeA
Magali Outters - Act4Litter/PlasticBusters MPAS
Michaël Grelaud - BluIslands
Morgana Vighi - MedSeaLitter
Roberto Crosti - MedSeaLitter
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Hola Copani: - PHAROS4MPAs
Laura Marot: PHAROS4MPAs
Simonetta Fraschetti: AMARe

PARTICIPANTS BY QUESTIONNAIRE (not present at the meeting)

François Galgani (Extended Questionnaire): AMARe

ANNEXES

- ANNEX 1: Draft concept notes for the 3 ML products discussed with comments.
- ANNEX 2: PPTs delivered during the workshop, including a summary of the online survey results.

To access, please, follow the link below:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_GMCAWO_vdf-uEXx17vMADP5u-N4LbFC