

Mediterranean Solutions

*Innovating and collaborating
for a greener region*



IUCN World Conservation Congress
Marseille, France

3-11 September 2021

Exhibition Area - Stand A28

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES →

ALL EVENTS WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED. ACCESS HERE.

The Mediterranean Solutions stand at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021 has been coordinated by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and funded by MAVA Foundation.

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WELCOME

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021 means a great deal to those of us based in the Mediterranean. This Congress comes at a critical time for our region. Climate change is happening 20% faster here than in the rest of the world, with very real consequences: the devastating wildfires we've experienced this summer show only too clearly how serious the situation has become. Meanwhile biodiversity is under greater pressure than ever before, and the natural resources that keep our societies going are reaching a tipping point in the face of rapid economic growth and overexploitation.

We're taking action.

The only way we'll guarantee a sustainable future for the region's natural resources and populations is by working together at all levels of society to understand our shared challenges, and responding to them collectively to create integrated solutions that can be shared and scaled up throughout the Mediterranean and beyond.

The **Mediterranean Solutions stand** brings together 12 organisations with complementary skills whose projects all contribute to the same goal: to kickstart a nature-based recovery across the basin, and get on course for a sustainable, equitable future that balances economic growth and the health of the natural world.

Through the projects we're involved with, we're building innovative solutions in four key areas. Our aim is to work with other stakeholders to develop their strategic application across the Mediterranean by:

- Promoting urgent science-based action to meet conservation commitments
- Implementing nature-based solutions to provide co-benefits for human well-being and biodiversity
- Widening regional and cross-sectoral partnerships to mitigate governance conflicts
- Creating new financial mechanisms for donors to promote transformational change on a regional level

This event offers an essential opportunity for participants to be a part of the discussion and work together as a community: over the three days. Please join us at the Mediterranean Solutions stand to explore in depth how collaborative action can lead the way to a sustainable future.

"Having invested in the Mediterranean for over a quarter of a century, MAVA could not miss the opportunity to showcase the work of its partners at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille. The Mediterranean Solutions pavilion programme is packed with conservation successes and hard-learned lessons that are worth sharing with a broader international audience. As our foundation is sun-setting, we want to showcase the skills and knowledge of our Mediterranean partnerships as a legacy and a source of inspiration. We are proud of the achievements of a community we helped nurture and entrust it with carrying the values of MAVA in the future and with providing many more solutions to new challenges with the support of our fellow donors."

LYNDA MANSSON,
MAVA Foundation



MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS: MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE



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As decision-makers in the Mediterranean region ponder a way out of the hardships and suffering that the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought, this is a time to focus on solutions. But the hunt for solutions starts with understanding the problem. A substantial body of knowledge has been generated by recent assessments and reports delivered by Mediterranean institutions and actors, including those taking part in the Mediterranean Solutions stand. All the findings point to the same stark conclusion: the Mediterranean region is on a collision course with nature.

It's impossible to overstate how serious the environmental situation is in the Mediterranean today: climate change is transforming the region, while biodiversity and natural ecosystems have been pushed to the brink by decades of overexploitation. Rapid population growth and continued unsustainable development are exacerbating impacts that are multiplying across the basin, threatening natural systems and human well-being alike.

Making peace with nature, a crucial undertaking that the United Nations Secretary-General has branded “the defining task of the 21st century”, must be the guiding light in the search for solutions in the Mediterranean region. Economic recovery fuelled by investment and fiscal incentives gives us the chance to implement solutions that would divert current trajectories towards new paths of sustainability and resilience – it's an opportunity we must seize.

What is needed now is concerted, multilateral action guided by the world's blueprint for sustainability, namely the 2030 Agenda and the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). This region was in fact the first to acquire a multilateral environmental agreement

of its own under the Regional Seas programme as early as 1976. **The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)** and its Protocols constitute a public good that belongs to the entire region. Their full implementation is essential to the attainment of Good Environmental Status, the achievement of the SDGs and the launch of a green renaissance in the post-COVID era. Enhancing enforcement and compliance with this legal framework must be at the heart of Mediterranean solutions.

Within this traditional framework, organisations at the Mediterranean Solutions stand are taking a new approach, bringing together people from different generations and backgrounds from all levels of civil society and the private sector to work together for biodiversity. We're involving as many people as we can in innovative grass-roots projects in the field, sharing successes and spreading knowledge in our collective regional quest.

Making peace with nature in the Mediterranean entails taking the three-headed leviathan of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss by the horns. At the national level, piecemeal solutions will not be enough to deliver that outcome. The problems we face are too big and too interconnected to be dealt with separately, so we need to work together to build networks, to gather knowledge, to share skills and to scale up

the reach of individual interventions so their impacts can spread across the basin. What is needed at this critical juncture is nothing short of transformational change. In practice, this means reengineering socio-economic systems in a way that decouples economic growth from the destruction of nature.

The challenges ahead are momentous. But the time is ripe for action and all the ingredients are in place to build an unstoppable momentum towards regional cooperation and national action. As many of the Mediterranean solutions on show at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** demonstrate, change has already begun. Now we need to make a decisive push through an all-of-society approach to accelerate change at all levels. State policy interventions and action by civil society and the private sector must be ambitious and far-reaching enough to deliver transformations at the pace and scale we need, building a sustainable future where nature and people thrive together.

The clock is ticking. Let's make this moment count.

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The clock is ticking. Let's make this moment count.

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HIGH TIME TO ACT FOR OUR MEDITERRANEAN

Promoting urgent science-based action to meet conservation commitments

Day 1 | Saturday | September 4th

PROGRAMME →

Coordinated by UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC
Room H3 – Mediterranean Solutions

09:30 – 10:30

Where are we now? Key climate and environmental issues

11:00 – 12:30

Making peace with nature – Panel 1: Addressing challenges

14:00 – 15:30

Making peace with nature – Panel 2: Promising solutions

15:30 – 16:15

All hands on deck: a call to action for conservation

16:15 – 17:00

Environment, development and Med2050: meet the experts, join the network!

18:00 – 19:00

The 30x30 approach: building convergence to achieve a transformational target for Mediterranean biodiversity

19:00 – 21:00

Zero plastic waste: towards a circular economy in the Mediterranean

HIGH TIME TO ACT FOR OUR MEDITERRANEAN

Promoting urgent science-based action to meet conservation commitments

Healthy ecosystems and natural resources are critical for the future of the Mediterranean: they support wealth and development right across the region. From tourism and fisheries to shipping and agriculture, the region's economy is inextricably linked to the state of its environment.

In theory, Mediterranean countries are pursuing a clear objective for the future: to achieve sustainable socio-economic development and Good Environmental Status. This shared aim is at the heart of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. It is also consistent with regional frameworks as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In reality though, the region is on a collision course with nature. Two seminal reports published in 2020 – [The State of the Environment and Development \(SoED\) report](#), and the first [Mediterranean Assessment Report \(MAR 1\) on Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin](#) – shed light on the impacts of the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution on the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, another report published in 2021 by a team of scientists coordinated by Tour du Valat – [The Living Mediterranean Report](#) – shows that pressures on the natural world have led to an alarming evolution of Mediterranean biodiversity since 1993, and that if current trajectories continue there's no chance at all of a sustainable future for the region.

Piecemeal measures will not be sufficient to take the Mediterranean off its current collision course with nature. As accelerating climate change exacerbates the impact of every other pressure, the urgency of the situation demands comprehensive policy interventions that cut through all sectors to flick the green switch in a decisive manner.

Today's session explores how we can begin to build immediate, integrated solutions to our common challenges, based on ecosystems. As the region strives to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, it really is high time to act for our Mediterranean.



“Biodiversity is a pillar of the green renaissance we wish to see in the Mediterranean. We must all join forces to end biodiversity loss and ensure a healthier future for all.”

Khalil Attia,
SPA/RAC Director

MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

Caught plastic in your net? Don't throw it back into the sea

Lefteris Arapakis is from a Greek fishing family. Concerned about growing marine pollution, he launched **Enaleia**, the country's first professional fishing school. As well as teaching fishers to work in an eco-friendlier manner, it enlists their help to collect marine plastic and old fishing gear to recycle into the circular economy. Today Enaleia works with 1,200 fishers from Greece, Italy and Kenya to remove around 16 tonnes of plastic from the sea each month. “The most important step is to act,” says Lefteris, who **received the title of UNEP Young Champion of the Earth in 2020**.



© UNEP

Green entrepreneurship

“Our guiding objective is to produce and sustain measurable improvements in the status of water and environmental resources,” says Hussam Hawwa. He's the founder of **Difaf**, an environmental consultancy and technical design bureau in Lebanon. Working in freshwater resources, wastewater, agriculture, energy and natural resources management, Difaf targets areas where it can make the biggest impacts. In 2019, Difaf joined the **Switchers Community**, a group of green entrepreneurs and changemakers implementing eco-innovative solutions towards sustainable consumption and production models. The Community is managed by **SCP/RAC**, a regional activity centre of UNEP/MAP.



MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

Photo by Nathan Dumlaio on Unsplash



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Implementing nature-based solutions to provide co-benefits for human well-being and biodiversity

Day 2 | Sunday | September 5th

PROGRAMME →

Coordinated by Tour du Valat, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and Plan Bleu
Room H3 – Mediterranean Solutions

09:30 – 10:30

The NbS perspective in a Mediterranean context

11:00 – 12:30

Testimonies from the field part 1: NbS in natural ecosystems

14:00 – 15:00

Testimonies from the field part 2: NbS in social and urban settings

14:30 – 15:15

Mediterranean climate and environmental change: the scientific world raises the alarm!
(Central stage A)

15:00 – 17:00

Moving forward: building and financing NbS networks

19:00 – 21:00

CSOs and biodiversity conservation in North Africa

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Implementing nature-based solutions to provide co-benefits for human well-being and biodiversity

The Mediterranean faces tremendous societal challenges, including climate change adaptation, food and water security, disaster risk prevention, and human health. These are made more severe by the constantly growing pressure on natural resources across the region, from factors including cross-sectoral economic growth, urbanisation, water scarcity and mass tourism. The situation is particularly acute in coastal areas, and it's clear that urgent action is needed on many fronts.

The natural world itself should be one of our greatest weapons. Nature-based solutions (NbS) involve working with nature to address societal challenges, providing benefits for human well-being and biodiversity alike. By protecting, restoring and sustainably managing natural and semi-natural ecosystems, we can do far more than we'll ever achieve through artificial means.

Protecting forests and wetlands can secure water supplies, defend settlements from floods and reduce erosion. Restoring coastal habitats can guarantee local community livelihoods and food supplies. Adaptive agricultural techniques

can reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

The IUCN has called on governments and civil society to implement NbS across the Mediterranean wherever possible. During this session we'll be sharing some successful examples of NbS in action, and exploring how collaboration and strong networks can create new synergies and amplify the potential of NbS across the basin.



MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

Wetland-based Solutions

As a unique NbS, our coastal wetlands need to be at the centre of our efforts to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. When healthy they're vital carbon sinks, and they protect coastlines from rising sea levels and extreme weather. They're crucial for biodiversity and socioeconomic opportunities, too. But we've lost half our coastal wetlands in the last 50 years, and we continue to destroy them. Backed by the Union for the Mediterranean, the Wetland-based Solutions project is working to restore and protect these crucial habitats for the region.

<https://wetlandbasedsolutions.org/>



© Peter Sackl

“The northern Mediterranean countries have a common framework for conservation politics led by the European Union which is promoting NbS and green infrastructures policies at research and project levels. However, it is necessary to create a common space for discussion to bring the southern countries into this dynamic. This will allow more sites to participate and improve their capacity to implement projects at a landscape scale in the region. The joint efforts of several regional organizations working within the framework of the Barcelona Convention help to promote this approach.”



Antonio Troya,
Director, IUCN Centre for
Mediterranean Cooperation

MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

Green cities

Urban populations are growing around the Mediterranean: 70% of people now live in a town or city. But health problems are increasing, and air pollution accounts for 228,000 deaths in the region each year. A concerted collective effort to green our urban spaces – designing them with nature at their heart – will bring multiple benefits, from cleaner and cooler air in the streets to improved physical and mental health for residents. The IUCN Global Standard on NbS provides an ideal framework through which to seize the opportunity.



PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE

Widening regional and cross-sectoral partnerships to mitigate governance conflicts

Day 3 | Monday | September 6th

PROGRAMME →

Coordinated by ACCOBAMS

Room H3 – Mediterranean Solutions

9:30 – 10:30	What “Nature-Positive” and “Climate Neutral” means for the Mediterranean
11:00 – 11:45	Regional and international cooperation: achieving Good Environmental Status in the Mediterranean Sea
11:45 – 12:30	Integrated approaches and tools for international cooperation
14:00 – 14:45	Networks and partnerships in the Mediterranean part 1: MPAs, biodiversity and ecotourism
14:45 – 15:15	Networks and partnerships in the Mediterranean part 2: conflict mitigation, stakeholder cooperation and cultural conservation
16:15 – 17:00	Improving Partnership and Equitable Governance of Mediterranean Natural Resources - all hands-on deck
18:00 – 21:00	27 years of MAVA partnerships’ conservation action plans for a long-term legacy
18:30 – 19:15	Governance of Mediterranean small islands (Central stage A)

PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE

Widening regional and cross-sectoral partnerships to mitigate governance conflicts

Effective governance is indispensable to ensure the conservation of important biodiversity areas, to understand and mitigate interactions between vulnerable marine resources, ecosystems and human activities. Widening regional and cross-sectoral partnerships is crucial to assess and improve governance approaches towards natural and marine resources conservation. The involvement of local communities, stakeholders and the different users of the sea is indispensable.

The day's event "Improving partnership and equitable governance of Mediterranean natural resources" is two-fold and showcases:

- the benefits of intergovernmental/regional/cross-sectoral cooperation with illustrative initiatives to conserve natural resources;
- ongoing endeavours to protect biodiversity and the Mediterranean natural heritage, on sea and on land.

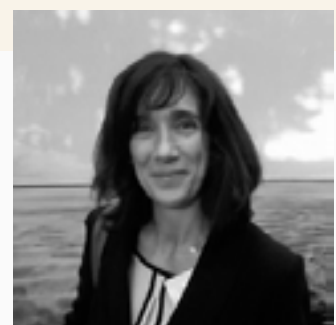
Regional organisations are working together to mitigate the apparent conflict of interests between biodiversity preservation and economic activities which benefit from the utilisation of natural resources. Cross-sectoral dialogues and knowledge sharing contribute to balanced solutions towards marine conservation and sustainable activities in the Mediterranean.

The management of Mediterranean cultural landscapes in the region – such as small islands – plays a key role in preserving our common natural heritage, while connecting land and sea. A Mediterranean region where cultural landscapes are preserved contributes to conserve biodiversity and sustain local communities.

In today's session, we'll be discussing how best to harness the true power of strong partnerships and effective governance across the Mediterranean.

"Only collaboration and effective governance can lead us to achieve Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea, which is a mandatory requirement to preserve its huge biodiversity. Widening regional and cross-sectoral partnerships is crucial to ensure conservation of important biodiversity areas, to understand and mitigate interactions between vulnerable marine resources, ecosystems and human activities. All users of the sea must join forces to build a strong and sustainable Mediterranean conservation community."

Susana Salvador,
Executive Secretary,
ACCOBAMS





MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

Networks of Marine Protected Area (MPA) managers and Forum

A new dynamic to reach targets and effectively manage designated MPAs is provided by stronger human networks of MPA managers. The MPA Forum is a unique participatory process initiated by MedPAN and SPA/RAC and their partners in 2012. Stakeholders from all Mediterranean countries gather every four years to deliver key recommendations feeding into the international CBD Aichi target 11 and UN SDG 14.5, at regional level.

<https://medpan.org/>

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MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

Regional cooperation for cetacean conservation

Protecting endangered marine species from harm by fishing activities requires a collaborative approach, to balance the need for conservation and sustainable fisher livelihoods and also to spread knowledge and solutions. A collaborative approach – ACCOBAMS-GFCM* – is in place as a cross-sectoral pathway to mitigate unwanted interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities. Joint efforts and knowledge sharing enable balanced solutions towards cetacean conservation and sustainable fisheries. Key developments towards effective cetacean conservation include a unique Survey Initiative, a new data and information platform, and the identification of Cetacean Critical Habitats.

<https://accobams.org/>



*ACCOBAMS: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
GFCM: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

© MCR Accobams



FINANCING CONSERVATION

Creating new financial mechanisms for donors to promote transformational change on a regional level

Day 4 | Tuesday | September 7th

PROGRAMME →

Coordinated by MAVA Foundation
Room H3 – Mediterranean Solutions

09:30 – 10:30

Mediterranean funding overview: how much is needed, how much is available, and how can it be secured? Panel discussion on the role of bilateral and multilateral funding.

11:00 – 12:30

Collaborative approaches to funding: donors and beneficiaries share their experiences

14:30 – 15:15

Conservation Trust Funds in the Mediterranean (Central stage B)

15:30 – 16:15

Regional small-grant programmes and their potential for upscaling conservation impacts

16:15 – 17:00

Innovative financial mechanisms for Mediterranean conservation funding

18:00 – 18:45

Take-home messages: a roadmap and call to action for conservation finance

19:00 – 21:00

Mediterranean donors' social event: meet the community, and find out how you too can get involved

FINANCING CONSERVATION

Creating new financial mechanisms for donors to promote transformational change on a regional level

Nature conservation in the Mediterranean has thus far been supported by a wide range of funding types: bilateral, multilateral, philanthropic and bottom-up approaches have all played their part in recent decades, and continue to do so. But overall understanding of the big picture is limited at best, which makes it hard to assess needs, take a holistic view of the long-term possibilities, and create strategic funding plans to address complex issues.

Recently, donors have begun to analyse the Mediterranean funding landscape in greater depth and breadth, with a view to creating new initiatives and mechanisms to meet funding requirements in innovative and more sustainable ways.

Effective collaborations between public and private donors are being made possible by a greater emphasis on common focal themes and geographies. Tools which visualise current and potential activity are being created, giving a wider perspective which helps to pinpoint operational funding gaps. Innovations need backing too: new financing models to encourage investment in green entrepreneurship will accelerate sustainable change.

Post-COVID economic recovery funding could have unintended consequences if it is not carefully allocated, but it could also be an effective driver for transformational change. Government finance does have a crucial role to play, but it must do so in line with environmental commitments under international agreements and national policies.

The more closely the conservation community work together, the more funding we can generate and the more effectively we'll be able use it. During today's session, we'll be surveying the current situation and discussing how we can embark on a strategic funding quest to achieve our collective conservation aims.

"It is well acknowledged that achieving sustainable financing at scale is critical for overcoming the climate and nature crisis. This means mobilising larger amounts than ever through traditional conservation funding, redirecting perverse subsidies, and imagining creative new approaches to financial mechanisms. With the growing realisation that preserving a healthy planet is everybody's business, we start seeing a trend for sharing the cost of maintaining ecosystems and biodiversity across all sectors of society. I wouldn't be surprised if groundbreaking financial innovation emerges from the highly diverse and incredibly resourceful Mediterranean community."

Paule Gros,
MAVA
Foundation





MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

The MedFund

Many different actors are involved in financing MPAs, aiming to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems, and improve the living conditions of local populations. But working separately limits strategic potential. With this in mind, the MedFund was created in 2015 to mobilise and bring together public and private financial partners to promote MPA development and efficiency across the Mediterranean. Today it includes six Mediterranean countries and a number of regional civil society organisations, incorporating an innovative funding mechanism geared to long-term financial sustainability. In collaboration with MAVA Foundation, the MedFund is launching the Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative at the Congress. <https://themedfund.org>

MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

MAVA-SGP Partnership for Mediterranean Conservation

Small grants programmes are an important funding mechanism in the Mediterranean. They support civil society organisations and communities with approaches of social inclusiveness, gender equality, bottom-up action, livelihood security, and cultural conservation. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), MAVA/GEF's Small Grants Programme (SGP), Programme of Small Initiatives for CSO in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN), Conservation Collective local funds and Beyond Plastic Med micro-initiatives exemplify the power of small grant initiatives to nurture grassroots initiatives and firmly anchor conservation action in the region. <http://www.ppioscan.org/>
<https://www.cepf.net>



**MEDITERRANEAN
SOLUTIONS: ACTIONS AND
PROJECTS FEATURED AT THE
IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION
CONGRESS**

TRANSFORMING SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

WWF works with coastal communities across the Mediterranean to restore the fish stocks they depend on, and secure food and livelihoods for the long term by catalyzing relationships between fishers, local authorities and scientists. By empowering fishing communities – through better access to decision-making processes, stronger legal representation, and increased recognition within society – this initiative aims to end years of mismanagement that created a culture of non-compliance and unsustainability, and ultimately led to overfishing.

www.wwfmmi.org

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AROUND OUED TINE VALLEY AREA (TUNISIA)

This project aims to increase connectivity between biotopes, allowing species to move and survive in a degraded and fragmented landscape, and ultimately contribute to the sustainability of the unique agro-systems, such as olive and carob orchards.

LIFE BLUE NATURA

This project represents an ambitious and innovative initiative to quantify blue carbon and protect coastal habitats in Andalusia, Spain. The project is contributing to a better understanding of blue sink habitats (seagrass meadows and marshes), their characterisation, state of conservation and trends for the next few decades.

<https://life-blunatura.eu/en>

POSBEMED 2

This project develops planning strategies that enhance the value of the Posidonia beach-dune environment and integrates them into the overall coastal strategy, while also addressing concerns and educating stakeholders, based on findings of the previous project (POSBEMED). It further addresses key knowledge gaps, providing information that will enhance management decisions on adaptation, policies, planning and promotion in Protected Areas.

<https://posbemed2.interreg-med.eu/>

PLASTIC WASTE-FREE ISLANDS MED PROJECT

This project is part of the IUCN's broader "Close the Plastic Tap" programme, to improve knowledge of waste generation in the two target islands, Menorca and Cyprus.

<https://www.iucn.org>

THE PETIT SAINT-JEAN ESTATE

The petit Saint-Jean estate: combining innovative agricultural practices and nature conservation in the Camargue.

<https://tourduvalat.org/en/actions/petit-saint-jean/>

THE MEDPROGRAMME: a landmark contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The GEF-supported “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (2020-2025)” is a response to the challenges affecting coastal regions and their ecosystems. UNEP/MAP led the design of this assortment of seven child projects, which will assist ten countries in meeting their environmental objectives under the Barcelona Convention and other MEAs. It will also address the high pressures exerted on water and on habitats, biodiversity and landscapes.

<https://www.unep.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects/MedProgramme>

CO-MANAGED MPA/NO-TAKE ZONES

The aim of this project is to provide solutions to improve the management and governance of MPAs and No-Take Zones in 30 areas of 10 Mediterranean countries. The project will deploy a strong investment in the field by directly working with coastal communities and small-scale fishers, in order to rebuild fish biomass and protect marine habitats. The project is implemented by WWF, HCMR, LIFE, MedPAN, Notre Grand Bleu, SPA/RAC and BlueSeeds, with the financial support of MAVA.

<https://www.togetherforthemed.org/our-actions/co-managed-mpa-no-take-zones-15.html>

CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The project Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region aims to enhance the protection and conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean region by reducing human-induced direct mortality. The project is implemented by ARCHELON, DEKAMER, MEDASSET, MedPAN, National Park of Zakynthos, SPA/RAC and WWF Greece, WWF North Africa, WWF Turkey, with the financial support of MAVA.

<https://medmarineturtles.org/>

IMAP-MPA PROJECT

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the achievement of the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas. The project is funded by the European Union, and managed by UNEP/MAP.

<https://www.unep.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects/IMAP-MPA-Project>

MEDBYCATCH

MedBycatch is the first project to develop a standardised multi-taxa approach to study and mitigate bycatch in the Mediterranean. Activities are implemented in the Mediterranean waters of Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Italy, and Croatia. The project is implemented by ACCOBAMS, FAO/GFCM, SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, Birdlife International, MEDASSET and WWF, with the financial support of MAVA.

<https://www.togetherforthemed.org/our-actions/medbycatch-8.html>

THE RESTORATION OF THE FORMER SALTWORKS IN LA CAMARGUE (FRANCE): a Nature-based Solution to adapt to sea-level rise

The Conservatoire du Littoral in collaboration with the Camargue Natural Regional Park, Tour du Valat and the Société Nationale de Protection de la Nature initiated a nature restoration project in 2011. This site is progressively becoming a stunning, functional wild coastal wetland that reconnects with surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems within the Camargue Natural Park. It hosts important biodiversity and plays an important role as a buffer against flooding from the sea.

<https://tourduvalat.org/en/newsletter-articles/the-restoration-of-the-former-saltworks-in-the-camargue-a-nature-based-solution-to-adapt-to-sea-level-rise/>

THE MEDWET MANAGERS

This is a Mediterranean membership network of wetland managers, established by MedWet, dedicated to fostering best management practices, knowledge exchange and public education about wetland values and services.

<https://medwetmanagers.net/>

MED SOX ECA

Mediterranean countries are examining the possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (SOx) Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention (Med SOx ECA) to reduce SOx emissions from ships in the Mediterranean region and address the adverse effects of SOx exposure on human health and the environment.

WETLAND-BASED SOLUTIONS

The project “Wetlands-Based Solutions” aims to:

- Restore coastal wetlands and make them work as nature-based solutions to mitigate climate impacts in the region.
- Encourage sustainable water use and reduce water abstraction.
- Reduce threats to coastal wetlands and related marine habitats.
- Create new socioeconomic opportunities based on coastal wetlands.

<https://wetlandbasedsolutions.org/>

TUNE UP

TUNE UP will build on WETNET results exploiting the flexibility and feasibility of the River/Wetland Contract methodology further developing it to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) management, assessing its effectiveness through the implementation of 10 MPA Contracts. The partnership involves different types of actors operating in MPA management, so it will allow TUNE UP to ensure high transferability of main outputs to Mediterranean countries and it brings together 12 partners from 7 countries: Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Albania, Slovenia and Montenegro. The partnership involves different types of actors operating in MPA management in the Mediterranean area.

<https://tune-up.interreg-med.eu/>

PLASTIC SMART CITIES INITIATIVE

In the Mediterranean, coastal tourist communities like Nice, Dubrovnik, Venice and Izmir are part of WWF’s Plastic Smart Cities Initiative to stop plastic leakage by 2030 and put in place effective solutions to reduce plastic consumption and pollution.

<https://plasticsmartcities.org/>

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATION MATERIAL FEATURED IN THE PROGRAMME

Status of the Mediterranean / Climate change / Biodiversity trends

- Publications:* United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan and Plan Bleu (2020). [State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean](#). Nairobi.
- MedECC (2020) [Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report](#) [Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.)] Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP, Marseille, France, 632pp.
- Galewski T., Segura L., Biquet J., Saccon E. & Boutry N. [Living Mediterranean Report – Monitoring species trends to secure one of the major biodiversity hotspots](#). Tour du Valat, 2021. France.
- Gomei M., Abdulla A., Schröder C., Yadav S., Sánchez A., Rodríguez D., Abdul Malak D. (2019). [Towards 2020: how Mediterranean countries are performing to protect their sea](#). 38 pages.
- PAP/RAC. 2019. [The Governance of Coastal Wetlands in the Mediterranean – a Handbook](#). B. Shipman and Ž. Rajković. Split, Croatia.
-

- Infographics:* SOED - [State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean](#)
1. The Mediterranean Basin, vulnerable resources under pressure [EN - FR - AR](#)
 2. The Mediterranean, a climate change hotspot [EN - FR - AR](#)

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|---|------------------------------|
| 3. The Mediterranean, a biodiversity hotspot | EN - FR - AR |
| 4. The story of SoED | EN - FR - AR |
| 5. The Mediterranean, subject to multiple forms of pollution | EN - FR - AR |
| 6. Environmental degradation, a risk for human health | EN - FR - AR |
| 7. Profound changes for sustainable development | EN - FR - AR |
| 8. A contrasted Mediterranean between the South and the North | EN - FR - AR |
| 9. The coastal zone concentrates and accumulates pressures | EN - FR - AR |
| 10. Plan Bleu, presentation | EN - FR - AR |

[Risks and impacts of environmental change in the Mediterranean basin](#)

[The Living Mediterranean Report](#)

Videos:

[State of Environment and Development in Mediterranean \(SoED\)](#)

[State of Environment and Development in Mediterranean \(SoED, 2020\) \(Interview\)](#)

Marine Protected Areas Playlist:

- [Mediterranean, Men and Sea](#)
- [Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance Playlist](#)

[The MedBycatch project](#)

[Fishing for plastics](#)

Factsheets

[Wetlands restoration: unlocking the untapped potential of the Earth's most valuable ecosystem](#)

[Wetlands and disaster risk reduction](#)

[Wetlands and carbon capture](#)

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MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP



ACCOBAMS

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) is a legal conservation tool based on cooperation. Its purpose is to reduce threats to cetaceans notably by improving current knowledge on these animals.

<https://accobams.org/>



The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was founded in 2000 to address this challenge by empowering civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots, which are some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems.

<https://www.cepf.net/>



Conservatoire du littoral

In 1975, the French government decided to create the Conservatoire du littoral, a public institution without equivalent in Europe, whose mission is to acquire parcels of coastline threatened by urbanisation or degradation in order to turn them into restored, developed and welcoming sites that respect the natural balance.

<https://www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr/>



The Medfund

The initiative is a Mediterranean cooperation platform which currently has 15 members including 6 Mediterranean countries as well as regional civil society organizations. The MedFund is composed, on the one hand, of States with an ambitious policy in favour of the creation of MPAs and having explicitly expressed their support for the initiative.

<https://themedfund.org/>



MedPAN

MedPAN is the network of Marine Protected Area managers in the Mediterranean. It gathers over 130 organisations from 21 Mediterranean countries. MedPAN aims to promote the establishment, operation and sustainability of a Mediterranean network of Marine Protected Areas. MedPAN aims to increase the knowledge and capacities of MPAs while improving awareness, MPA policy implementation and funding.

<https://medpan.org/>



MedWet

The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative brings together 27 Mediterranean and peri-Mediterranean countries that are Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). Palestine and a number of organizations and wetland centres are also part of the MedWet Initiative. The MedWet mission is to ensure and support the effective conservation of the functions and values of Mediterranean wetlands and the sustainable use of their resources and services.

<https://medwet.org/>



Tour du Valat

Tour du Valat, a research institute for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands, conducts numerous activities with partners to the north and south of the Mediterranean basin. With a team of more than forty specialists, it develops research programmes on how wetlands function, and tests management processes that are adapted to the issues and specificities of Mediterranean wetlands. The results of this research are transferred via training and the innovative projects conducted with numerous local, national, and international partners.

<https://tourduvalat.org/en/>



IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of more than 18,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation opened in Malaga (Spain) in October 2001 with the core support of the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the regional Government of Junta de Andalucía. The Centre's mission is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region and work with IUCN Members and cooperate with all other agencies that share the objectives of IUCN.

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean>



**Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention**



The UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system

The Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) is a regional cooperation platform established in 1975 as the first regional action plan under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. UNEP/MAP was instrumental in the negotiation and adoption of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols by the **Contracting Parties**: 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union. UNEP Executive Director has established within UNEP a Coordinating Unit, based in Athens, Greece, responsible for the administration of MAP. Main Secretariat functions, activities, programmes and projects are implemented by the Coordinating Unit and seven MAP Components:

- The Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (**MED POL**) based at the Coordinating Unit in Athens, Greece.
- The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (**REMPEC**) based in Valletta, Malta.
- The Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (**PB/RAC**) based in Marseille, France.

- The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (**PAP/RAC**) based in Split, Croatia.
- The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (**SPA/RAC**) based in Tunis, Tunisia.
- The Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (**SCP/RAC**) based in Barcelona, Spain.
- The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (**INFO/RAC**) based in Rome, Italy.

<https://www.unep.org>

SPA/RAC, the Mediterranean biodiversity centre of UNEP/MAP

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in order to assist the Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. Tunisia has been hosting the Centre since its establishment in 1985.

<https://www.rac-spa.org>



Plan Bleu

Plan Bleu is one of the Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), put in place by France in 1977. Plan Bleu produces studies and scenarios for the future in order to raise awareness of Mediterranean stakeholders and decision-makers regarding environment and sustainable development issues in the region.

<https://planbleu.org/>



WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative

The WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative is a concerted, coordinated effort bringing together all the WWF offices in the region to achieve healthy marine and coastal ecosystems that support vibrant economies and human well-being right across the Mediterranean. Our work ranges from influencing government policy to working with fishing communities, from shaping business models to mobilizing millions of people to conserve the Mediterranean's natural riches. We develop and foster new science and innovative approaches in partnership with academia, civil society, industry and governments to address the challenges the environment faces in the 21st century. Our focus is on creating change "in the water" for our sea and communities, through adequate management measures and policy actions that drive biodiversity protection and sustainable development. All this leads to a Sustainable Blue Economy for the region that benefits both nature and people.

For more information: <https://www.wwfmmi.org/>



MAVA Foundation

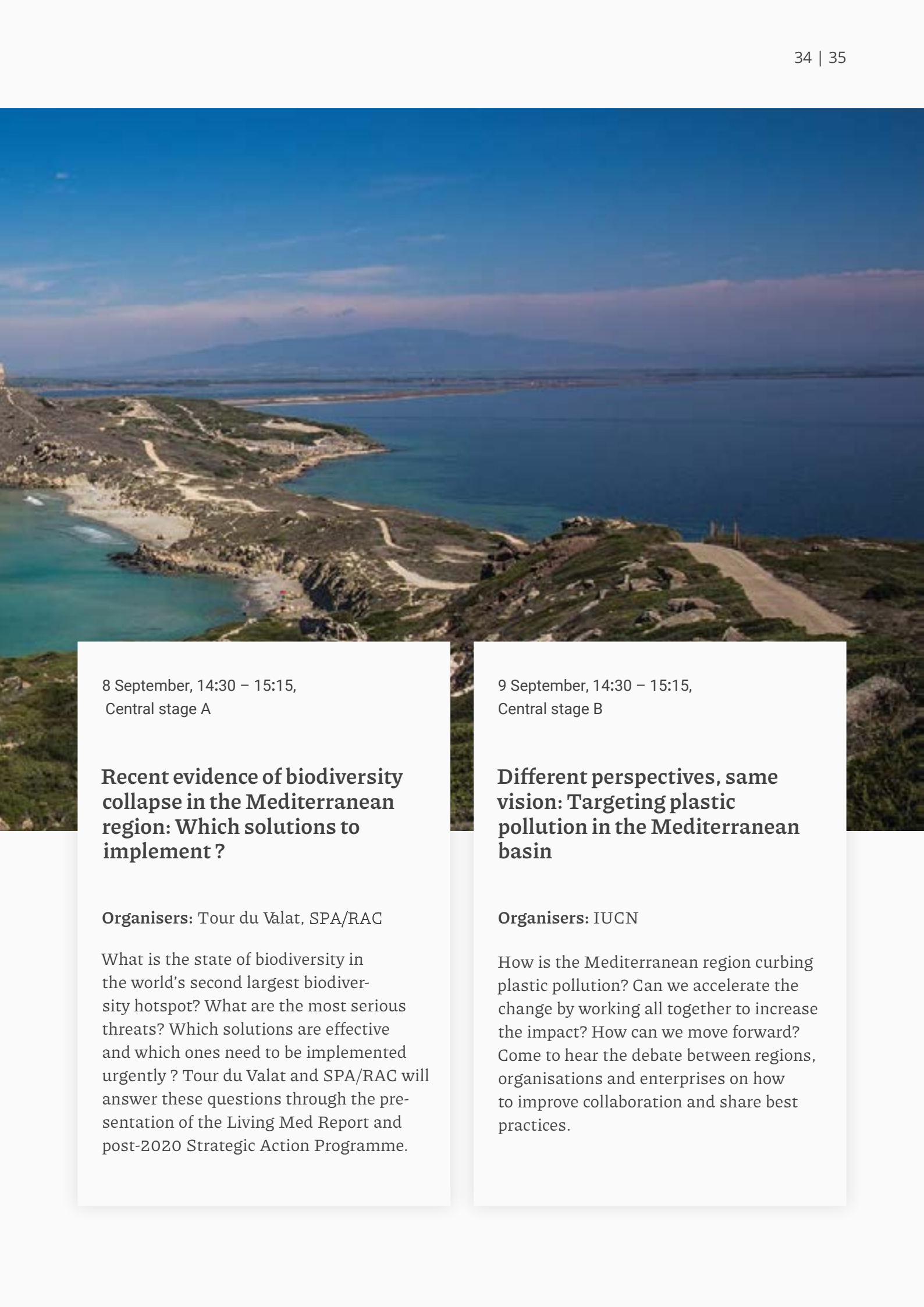
The MAVA foundation was born of the passion and vision of Dr. Luc Hoffmann. Established in 1994 to support the conservation of iconic sites such as the Camargue (France) and Doñana (Spain), MAVA has since grown into a professional, family-led, philanthropic foundation, becoming a key funder of global conservation. MAVA's mission is to conserve biodiversity for the benefit of people and nature by financing, mobilising and strengthening its partners and the conservation community. The foundation's activities are spread across three regional programmes in the Mediterranean, West Africa and Switzerland, and one thematic programme aiming at fostering a sustainable economy.

Securing a lasting impact of the projects funded within each programme, and enabling key partners to continue their work once MAVA has phased out of its funding in 2022, is a philosophy that shapes the foundation's whole approach.



EVENTS LINKED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS STAND

Central Stage A and B



8 September, 14:30 – 15:15,
Central stage A

Recent evidence of biodiversity collapse in the Mediterranean region: Which solutions to implement ?

Organisers: Tour du Valat, SPA/RAC

What is the state of biodiversity in the world's second largest biodiversity hotspot? What are the most serious threats? Which solutions are effective and which ones need to be implemented urgently ? Tour du Valat and SPA/RAC will answer these questions through the presentation of the Living Med Report and post-2020 Strategic Action Programme.

9 September, 14:30 – 15:15,
Central stage B

Different perspectives, same vision: Targeting plastic pollution in the Mediterranean basin

Organisers: IUCN

How is the Mediterranean region curbing plastic pollution? Can we accelerate the change by working all together to increase the impact? How can we move forward? Come to hear the debate between regions, organisations and enterprises on how to improve collaboration and share best practices.



IUCN World Conservation Congress
Marseille, France
 3-11 September 2021

ALL EVENTS WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED. ACCESS HERE.