IUCN Congress - Campus session

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

Sunday 10th January 2021
16:00 - 18:00
Room: H8-F Forêt d'Orient
Parc Chanot114 Rond-Point du Prado, 13008 Marseille (France)

Description of the campus session and objectives

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

Unsustainable touristic models in the Mediterranean region represent a major source of pressure to habitats’ resilience in all Mediterranean countries by affecting water resources, increasing the amount of waste and all sorts of pollution. The use of ecosystem-based approaches (EBM), both within and outside protected areas, can help ensure ecological integrity, structure, and function. It should be at the heart of any decision linked to sectoral activities and is key to the long-term development of sustainable local economies in the Mediterranean.
Under high anthropogenic pressure and impact, the Mediterranean is in urgent need of efficient solutions to protect effectively its biodiversity and reduce impacts and threats to natural ecosystems and resources. Tourism should be at the forefront of the transition from the fuzzy concept of sustainability towards proactively supporting ecological resilience as part of any business model.

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

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

- Governance and management models to ensure resilient coastal systems
- Co-creation among local actors to ensure benefits for local communities and nature
- Re-thinking ways for waste management through production and consumption patterns
In each session, **problems and transferable solutions** will be presented, and interactive training will be organized to build the participants’ capacity to use specific tools (data repositories, methodologies, protocols). This will **engage the participation of people involved** in these initiatives and make use of their hands-on knowledge on techniques, objectives, problems and potentialities.

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

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

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

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

16.00 – 16.15h – Welcome speech

Presentation on the state of play concerning the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and the need for transformative changes towards the adoption of ecosystem-based solutions found to urgent environmental threats facing the Mediterranean region and affecting its resilience.

- The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Tourism communities

16.15- 16.45h - Session 1: Ecosystem-based governance in coastal and marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean

The involvement of regional authorities in the effective regulation and management of natural resources is key to achieve an ecologically safe use of our ecosystems. Collaborative governance models that address the impact of sectoral activities like tourism will show the benefits of an ecosystem-based approach to safeguard Mediterranean natural, social and economic sustainability.

- Integrating an ecosystem-based approach in planning and execution: multilevel governance models and best practices for Mediterranean ecosystems *(10 min Q&A after the presentation)*
  - How to increase social and ecological resilience in coastal ecosystems
    - POSBEMED2
    - CO-EVOLVE

16.45 -17.45h - Session 2: Hands-on training on practical solutions to increase ecosystem resilience and reduce pressures from Tourism in sensitive biodiversity hotspots

This part of the campus session will provide an opportunity to learn from and explore various methodologies and negotiation techniques to address the needs of the different stakeholders making use of biodiversity and ecosystems while taking into consideration the urgent need to rationalize and reduce the human footprint on natural resources ensuring ecosystems’ ecological functions and benefits for people.
• Approaches and methods to strengthen a multi stakeholders’ approach to conservation challenges: connecting users, natural resources and impacts
  ▪ WETNET / TUNE-UP
  ▪ DESTIMED/DESTIMED+/MEET
  (10 min Q&A after the presentation)

• Tools and measures to understand and counteract the impact of tourism activities in significant areas impacted by this sector – reducing the impacts of waste.
  ▪ PLASTICBUSTERSMPAS/ACT4LITTER
  ▪ BLUEISLANDS
  (10 min Q&A after the presentation)

17.45-18.00h – Conclusions and a common framework for future action: steps ahead for better streamlining Mediterranean biodiversity conservation in in sectoral development

Conclusions will focus on the need to collaborate among sectors to achieve an ecosystem-based approach to biodiversity conservation for a more inclusive, collaborative and resilient Mediterranean region.

Conclusions will be presented by a representative of the INTERREG MED Joint Secretariat

Practical information

You can find all the session information here.

The online registration to the IUCN Congress is already open.

If you have any doubt, please contact us by e-mail: panacea-med@uma.es

An event organized by: