

UNFCCC COP 27

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

WATER and Gender DAY Nov 14th
10:00-11:10 a.m (Egypt time zone)

Session title

Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation

Lead organisation – PRIMA

Session coordinators – Antonella Autino (antonella.autino@prima-med.org) and Fabrice Dentressangle (Fabrice.Dentressangle@prima-med.org)

Short description

The European Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change strongly embeds Nature-based (NbS) components as positive and cost-efficient ways of supporting ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. These nature-based components are embedded in UfM Ministerial Declarations on Environment and Climate Action and the Sustainable Blue Economy at the Mediterranean level.

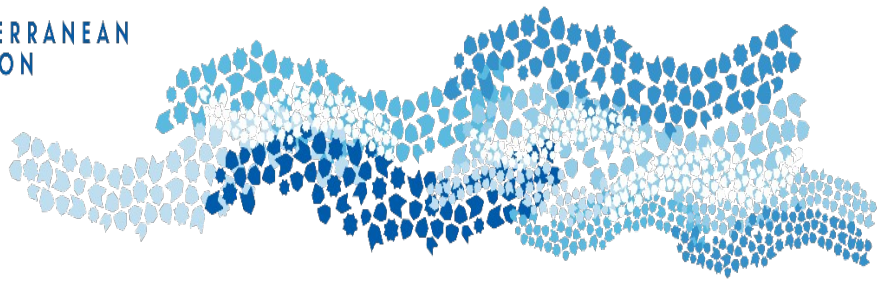
Several initiatives have made NbS a priority within the Mediterranean region, including PRIMA, UfM, FAO, Interreg NEXT MED, EFI, MEDWET and many more.

This session will focus on three urgent and essential Nature-based Solutions to the Mediterranean region's most pressing challenges – wetlands; agroecology; marine and coastal protected areas - based on solid experience and cooperation.

Background -

Nature-based Solutions (NbS)¹ promoting the use of ecosystem services through conservation or restoration interventions are key to addressing global societal challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disaster risk reduction.

¹ Nature-based Solutions comprise "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits" (IUCN).



Harnessing natural capital by adopting nature-based solutions - in contrast to conventional engineered solutions - can help tackle these challenges contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda.

This session will focus on the following Nature-based Solutions:

Wetlands (natural and constructed)

Wetlands are some of the world's most biologically diverse and productive natural ecosystems, vital habitats for wildlife and essential for water regulation and carbon storage.

Despite their vital roles, wetlands are among the most vulnerable ecosystems, with up to 48% of Mediterranean wetlands lost since 1970. The effects of climate change, population growth and increasing economic development are expected to exacerbate the loss and degradation of many wetlands and their associated species. There is an urgent need to conserve and restore the natural wetlands and promote the establishment of newly constructed wetlands to maximize the ecosystem services these areas provide as an eco-friendly, cost-effective and technically feasible approach.

Agroecology as nature-based solutions

The Mediterranean region holds over 80 million hectares of degraded land. Effective joint mitigation and adaptation approaches are critical to achieving climate and restoration goals in the Mediterranean region. PRIMA nature-based solutions (NbS) enhance the resilience of ecosystems to climate change and help accelerate the transition toward more sustainable food and systems through agroecological measures. The PRIMA projects integrate these approaches in different agro-systems by promoting polycultures, agroforestry, and crop-livestock mixed systems.

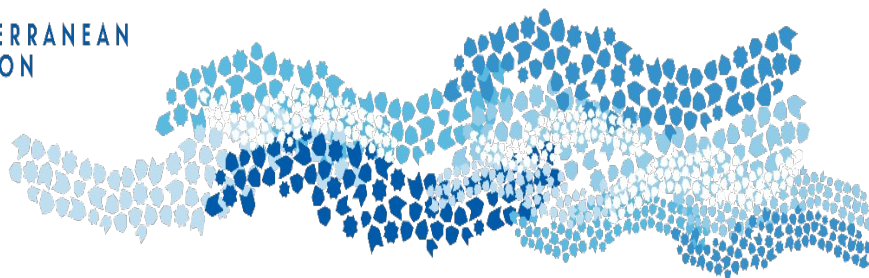
Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

The Mediterranean coastal ecosystems are under wide and intensive pressure. While the most populated areas in the Mediterranean region, marine and coastal areas are threatened by increased sea levels and erosion.

At the UNFCCC COP 26, Governments recognized the need for cross-cutting incorporation of the ocean under the work of all relevant constituted bodies and workstreams. The Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Framework, Ministerial Declarations on Environment (Athens, 2014) and Blue Economy (Brussels, 2015) recognize strong links between the marine ecosystem and climate change concerns.

Event objectives -

The event aims to:



- 🌱 Showcase the key processes and tools related to wetlands, landscape restoration and marine protected areas as nature-based solutions at the Mediterranean level, including the related policy papers;
- 🌱 Present these nature-based solutions as a successful example of cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership.
- 🌱 Link with the overall green, blue and circular transition of the Euro-Mediterranean region
- 🌱 Identify Opportunities for wider and strengthened regional collaboration and support for nature-based solutions at the Mediterranean level.

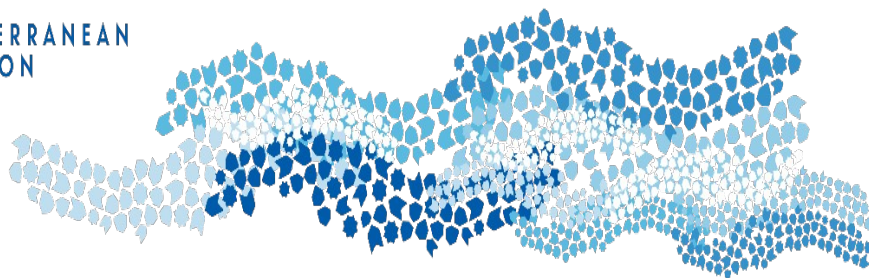
Type of event carried on - Panel debate

Session format -: Hybrid

Speakers & Show Flow

Moderator. **Alessandra Sensi**. UfM Head of Sector Environment and Blue Economy

Time	Activity	Speaker
5 minutes	Welcoming remarks	Octavi Quintana Trias, Director PRIMA Foundation (in person)
5 minutes	Panel	Moderator (in remote) Alessandra Sensi, UfM Water Environment and Blue Economy Division, Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy
5 minutes	Topic 1 - Agroecology as nature-based solutions	Speaker 1 - Roberto García Ruiz, coordinator of the PRIMA project SUSTAINOLIVE (in remote)
15 minutes	Topic 2 - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Speaker 2 - Carole Martinez, Project Manager MEDPAN Speaker 3 - Joaquim Garrabou, Institut de Ciències del Mar - ICM-CSIC (in person) Speaker 4 - Romain Renoux, Director, The MedFund Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
5 minutes	Topic 3 - Landscape restoration	Speaker 5 - Christophe Besacier, Senior Forestry Officer, Coordinator Forest and Landscape Restoration at FAO (remote)
5 minutes	Topic 4 - Forestry	Speaker 6 - Michele Bozzano, Magda Boudagher, Head Mediterranean Facility (EFIMED,) European Forest Institute (EFI) (remote)



5 <i>minutes</i>	Topic 5 - Wetlands	Speaker 7 - Alessio Satta. Coordinator at MEDWET (in person)
5 <i>minutes</i>	Topic 6 - Constructed wetlands	Speaker 8 Atef JAOUANI, partner of the PRIMA project FIT4REUSE, ISSBAT Tunisia (in person)
5 <i>minutes</i>	Q/A session	Octavi Quintana Trias, Director PRIMA Foundation (in person)
5 <i>minutes</i>	Final remarks	Octavi Quintana Trias, Director PRIMA Foundation (in person)