

Project description

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the biggest biodiversity hotspots of the world but also one of the most polluted seas worldwide.

Over 260 species ingest plastic debris, monofilament line, rubber and aluminium foil. The problem particularly affects fishes, cetaceans and marine turtles, animals in whose digestive tracts accidentally ingested micro and macro plastic debris are commonly found.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive considers marine litter one of the most serious pollutants of the sea, stating that the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean sea would be reached only when "properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment".

Also the Barcelona Convention, signed by many Mediterranean Countries, underlines the need to control the marine pollution to reduce the risk for Mediterranean biodiversity.

Many Mediterranean organizations are working on this issue, but commonly accepted protocols to assess pollution by marine litter are still far to come. For this reason, the project MEDSEALITTER aims at networking representative MPAs, scientific organizations and environmental NGOs for developing, testing and applying efficient, easy to apply and cost-effective protocols to monitor and manage litter impact on biodiversity.

The project could also improve networking among MPAs in order to promote a shared and common policy to protect nature and biodiversity at a Mediterranean level.



MEDSEALITTER

Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols to protect biodiversity from litter impact at basin and local MPAs scales



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



Capo Carbonara MPA
Comune di Villasilimus - ITALY

Role in the project: institutional (networking)

Capo Carbonara is a Marine Protected Area established in the 1998 by decree of the Ministry of Environment and managed by the Municipality of Villasilimus. The area is located on the South East of Sardinia, in the Municipality of Villasilimus (42 kilometres south of the city of Cagliari). It covers a marine area of 14.000 hectares and it is extended from Capo Boi (Western sector) to Punta Is Prozeddus (North East), including the two main islands, Cavoli and Serpentara, and several rocky islets and submerged reefs. The MPA aims at protecting sea and beaches including vegetal and animal species. The important natural values, enriched by a spectacular landscape, make this area of international importance for conservation.

www.ampcapocarbonara.it

Municipality of Favignana - Managing Body of Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area - ITALY

Role in the project: associated partner

Egadi Island MPA is experienced in macro marine litter monitoring between Sardinia and Sicily in network with Capo carbonara MPA and can contribute to the project in institutional activities and in building a network with Mediterranean MPAs, thanks to previous contacts and relationship with foreign ones.

www.ampisoleegadi.it

Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area - ITALY



Role in the project: institutional - Lead Partner

The Cinque Terre National Park and Marine Protected Area was established with a decree of the Ministry of Environment in 1997, and it includes the municipalities of Riomaggiore, Vernazza, Monterosso and a small part of Levanto.

enhance the natural, chemical and physical characteristics and the marine as well as coastal biodiversity, especially through environmental recovery measures, with the collaboration of the academic and scientific world. For these reasons, the Park promotes constant scientific research programs and environmental safeguard actions, aiming at checking the area and fostering an environmental sustainable development. The Park and MPA pays particular attention to the enhancement of the traditional activities, of the local cultures, of the eco-friendly tourism and to the use of the socially sensitive categories.



Legambiente ONLUS - ITALY

Role in the project: operational (communication)

Born in 1980, Legambiente is one of the most important Italian environmentalist organization and it is strongly engaged on a wide front of environment issues like water quality, waste management, air pollution sustainable mobility.



www.international.legambiente.it

the problem.

and citizens in general, in order to reduce and solve also to improve the role of the Italian MPAs, institutions for Legambiente, which is working hardly on marine litter

www.parconazionalesterre.it

ISPRA - Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research - ITALY



Role in the project: scientific (study)

ISPRA is a governmental research institute that acts under the vigilance and policy guidance of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, and possesses scientific skills to integrate science with management and policy. The institute carries out research and monitoring activities on marine ecosystem related to biology and ecology of marine organisms (vertebrates and invertebrates), the impact of anthropogenic pressures and oceanographic processes.

www.isprambiente.gov.it

University of Barcelona - SPAIN



Role in the project: scientific (testing)

The University of Barcelona (UB) is the second largest institution of higher education in Spain. Within the University of Barcelona, the biodiversity Research Institute (IRBio) gathers the personnel involved in the assessment and cataloging of living forms and ecosystems, as well as the proper management and conservation of biodiversity including the identification and mitigation of threats.

www.ub.edu



des Hautes Études (EPHE) - FRANCE



Role in the project: scientific (training, testing)



The École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE), established in the Sorbonne in 1868, is one of France's grands établissements where research is undertaken in Life and Earth Sciences. Historical and Philological Sciences, and Religious Sciences. The EPHE is developing research skills through immersion in research practice and tailors its programs to today's ever-changing global scientific landscape. Its faculty members and its doctoral students are part of an interdisciplinary international network. Many of its teams have contracts with the CNRS and other renowned French organizations; it is part of PSL (Paris Sciences et Lettres) Research Institute international network.

www.ephe.fr

MEDASSET - GREECE



Role in the project: operational (networking, communicating)

MEDASSET is a not-for-profit organization established in 1993, active in the study and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats throughout the Mediterranean. It is a partner to the UN Environmental Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and a Permanent Observer-Member to the Bern Convention. MEDASSET's mission is to win a place for sea turtles in the hearts of the public and to establish them as a flagship species for the conservation needs of marine and coastal biotopes throughout the Mediterranean region. It achieves its goals through scientific research, environmental education, lobbying relevant decision makers, and raising public awareness.

www.medasset.org

University of Valencia - SPAIN



Role in the project: scientific (study)

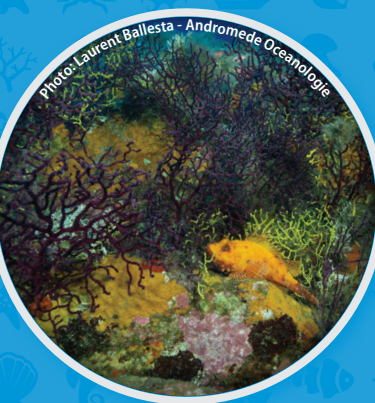
The University of Valencia (UV) is the outcome of more than five centuries of history that have led to the accumulation of knowledge and unique documentary treasures, making it one of the top Spanish universities. The Cavallies Institute of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology (ICBiB) headquarters reside in the Science Park of the UV. The Marine Zoology Unit (MZU) is a research group from the ICBiB. The MZU research is concentrated on two main topics: conservation biology and parasitology

study for identifying MPAs for cetaceans and marine turtles in Spain. In addition, the MZU has been coordinator of a EU's Natura 2000 Network Region and hosts the Mediterranean Database of Cetacean Stranding authority monitoring stranding of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Valencian cetaceans and sea turtles. Since 1988, the MZU has acted as the scientific (http://zoomablogs.uv.es). Research on conservation biology focus on



Project main activities

- Training
- Lead & Associated Partner
- Communicating
- Networking
- Studing
- Testing



Info

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MEDSEALITTER

Developing Mediterranean-specific protocols
to protect biodiversity from litter impact
at basin and local MPAs scales



Photo: Laurent Ballesta - Andromède Oceanologie

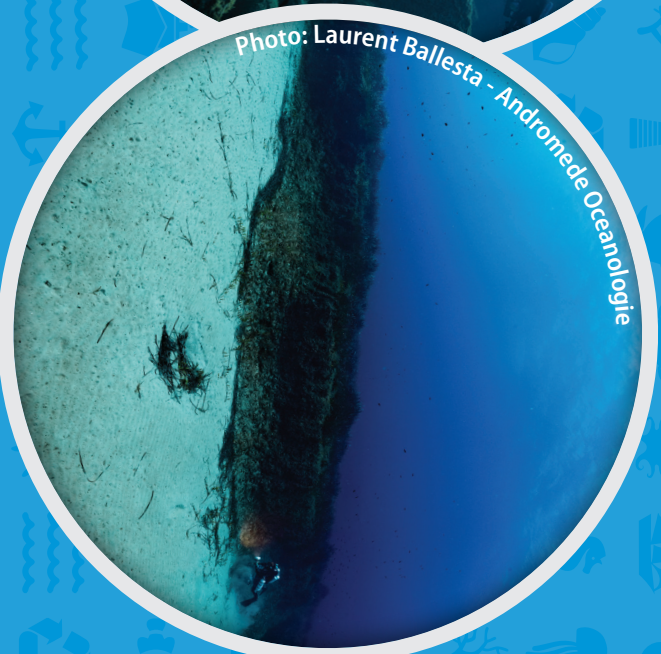


Photo: Laurent Ballesta - Andromède Oceanologie

MEDSEALITTER project aims

at developing and validating, within the Mediterranean basin,
systematic protocols for monitoring marine litter
and its potential effect on key biodiversity species.

This will allow to strengthen effective management within
MPAs by coordinating conservation measures across MPAs.

Moreover the project will create a MPAs
Mediterranean network for carrying out integrated
and shared measures to provide effective solutions
to the impact of marine litter on biodiversity.

Project main activities



Photo: Laurent Ballesta - Andromède Oceanologie

Info

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