



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

WEBINAR

Organized by: IUCN, MedPAN and UfM

“Addressing Restoration of marine and costal ecosystems in the Mediterranean: Building Together for a Common Goal”

Dates: 27 January 2026, 10 am

Duration: 1.5h

- This webinar is organized within the framework of the [REST-COAST](#) project activities -

BACKGROUND

Globally, ecosystem restoration has become a strategic necessity to ensure climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and human well-being. This is particularly critical for Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystems facing severe threats from the triple planetary crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution - while warming 20% faster than the global average. At the regional level, natural ecosystems are under severe threats. Remarkably, natural wetlands have decreased and reduced to more than half of their original area (MWO3, 2025) and 34% of Posidonia Meadows have been lost in the last 50 years (MPN, 2025).

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF Target 2), and the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) have established international and European frameworks for action. Notably, the NRR has introduced for the first time legally binding obligations for EU Member States, marking a turning point toward effective implementation of restoration measures. These developments, along with existing environmental policies, underscore the urgency of fostering regional integrated movements that approach restoration in a holistic and collaborative way. At the regional level, the Barcelona Convention system includes also restoration objectives particularly in the SPABIO. In 2025, the Ocean Pact and the Med Pact were also launched, reinforcing the need to coordinate efforts across the Mediterranean.

Within this context, intergovernmental organizations with broad regional impact, such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), IUCN Med, MedPAN and MedWet, play a pivotal role in advancing cooperation across the region. Their ability to foster dialogue among member countries, agencies, experts, and institutions, combined with partnerships inspired by blue economy principles, positions this collaboration as a unique opportunity to create a space for exchange and define joint action. Additionally, their strong relationships with relevant bodies such as the CBD Secretariat, the European Union or the Regional Activity Centres under the UNEP/MAP (e.g. Plan Blue, SPA/RAC) further enhance their capacity to mobilize coordinated efforts for effective restoration across the Mediterranean.

The aim of this dedicated webinar on restoration is to contribute to shaping a coherent policy framework that supports effective restoration and resilience of marine and costal ecosystems in the region and to enable coordination of national efforts benefiting for both nature and people.



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The webinar offers a timely opportunity for policy makers and stakeholders as it is well-framed in the context of the recent outcomes from the UN Climate COP in Belem (Brazil), UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7, Nairobi), the UfM Regional Forum and related events, the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention in Cairo (Egypt), the next submission cycle of the CBD 7th National Reports due by February 2026 as well as the upcoming UN Water Conference that will take place in Dakar.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Reflect on the Role of Restoration of marine and costal ecosystems in the Mediterranean Context:** Discuss with key decision-makers and practitioners the strategic importance of ecosystem restoration in addressing the Mediterranean's accelerated climate and biodiversity crisis.
2. **Support UfM Members in their efforts for science-based policy-making:** Share insights and recommendations from relevant projects, to inspire and support the continuation of long-term coastal restoration initiatives.
3. **Encourage Policy Coherence:** Promote alignment and coherence among international, EU, and national policies related to coastal ecosystem restoration.
4. **Highlight the Contribution of Coastal Ecosystems:** Emphasize the critical role coastal ecosystems play in achieving climate and biodiversity commitments under international and EU agreements.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Mediterranean Climate Vulnerability & Restoration Needs: Integrating the NbS perspective.** Why restoration is critical given the region's accelerated warming and biodiversity loss. The role of coastal/marine ecosystems and Marine Protected Areas as Nature-based Solutions for meeting climate and biodiversity commitments.

Moderator: Pilar Marín, IUCN Med, Marine and Coastal Project Officer

Speakers:

- Coastal wetlands, MedWet (TBC)
- Seagrasses, Mediterranean Posidonia Network (TBC)
- Coralligenous, University of Barcelona (TBC)
- Marine Protected Areas, MedPAN

- **Policy Frameworks & Coherence.** Aligning international, EU, and national restoration policies for coastal ecosystems.

Moderator: Alessandra Sensi, UfM, Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy

Speakers:

- DG ENVI
- DG MARE
- DG MENA (TBC)
- IUCN EURO



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- **Insights from Flagship Projects.** Lessons learnt and Policy recommendations from projects and initiatives to scale up restoration.

Speakers:

- REST-COAST project
- RESCOM project

- **Regional Cooperation & Next Steps.** How regional organizations can catalyse collaboration and define priority actions.

Moderator: Alessandra Sensi, UfM, Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy

Speakers:

- SPA/RAC (TBC)
- Plan Bleu (TBC)

DRAFT AGENDA

10:00 to 10:05	5 min	Opening & Welcome Remarks
10:05 to 10:25	20 min	Mediterranean Climate Vulnerability & Restoration Needs
10:25 to 10:45	20 min	Policy Frameworks & Coherence
10:45 to 11:05	20 min	Insights from Flagship Projects
11:05 to 11:25	20 min	Regional Cooperation & Next Steps
11:25 to 11:30	5 min	Closing Remarks

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/e2411791-a69e-4ade-a0dd-6bfbf7673576@c97d0f97-825f-4aeb-95a5-51b65b8beb9d>