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**Plan Bleu**

# What is the Plan Bleu?

## OUR MISSIONS

- **A Regional Activiy Centre** attached to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP – 1976), first-ever UNEP Regional Seas programme
- Created 43 years ago as a **systemic and prospective analysis centre in the Mediterranean**

☀ Observing environment and development to enlighten decision makers

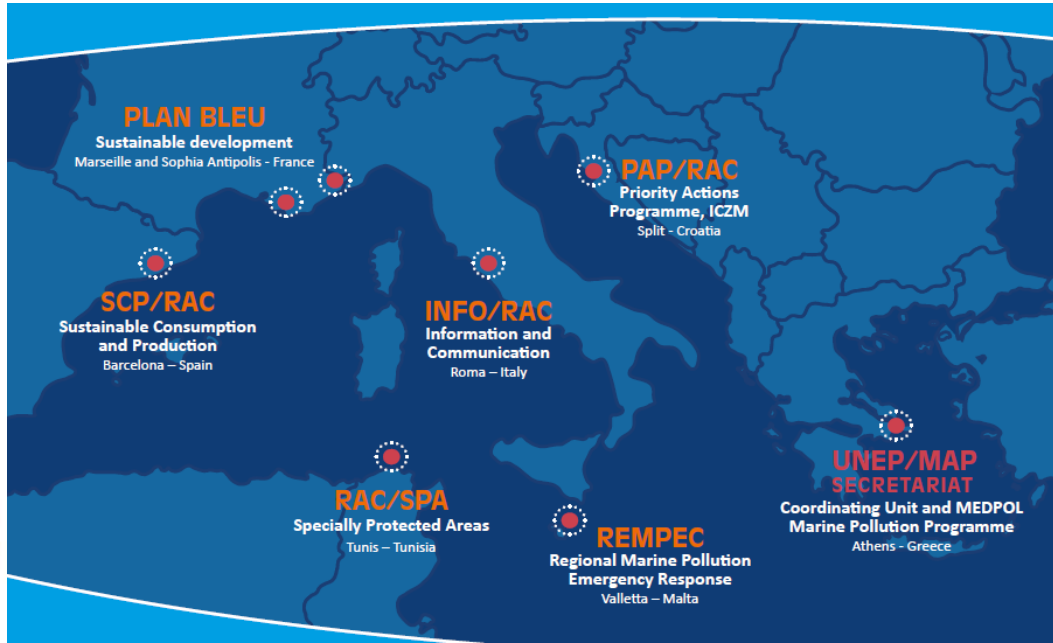
☀ Shaping possible futures for sustainable development

☀ Monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

☀ Integrating climate change as a priority

☀ Supporting the transition towards a green and blue economy

☀ Providing socioeconomic insights for the appropriate management of Mediterranean resources



# What is the MedECC?

- **An expert network on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean Basin** → Voluntary, independent initiative launched in 2015 gathering **~700 scientists**
- Supported by Plan Bleu (that hosts MedECC Secretariat), UfM Secretariat and UNEP/MAP
- Scientifically robust assessments of the risks associated with climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean Basin, **based on published research (mainly in peer-reviewed journals)**
- a regional science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean, **approved by policymakers**
- **policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive**

[www.medecc.org](http://www.medecc.org)



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



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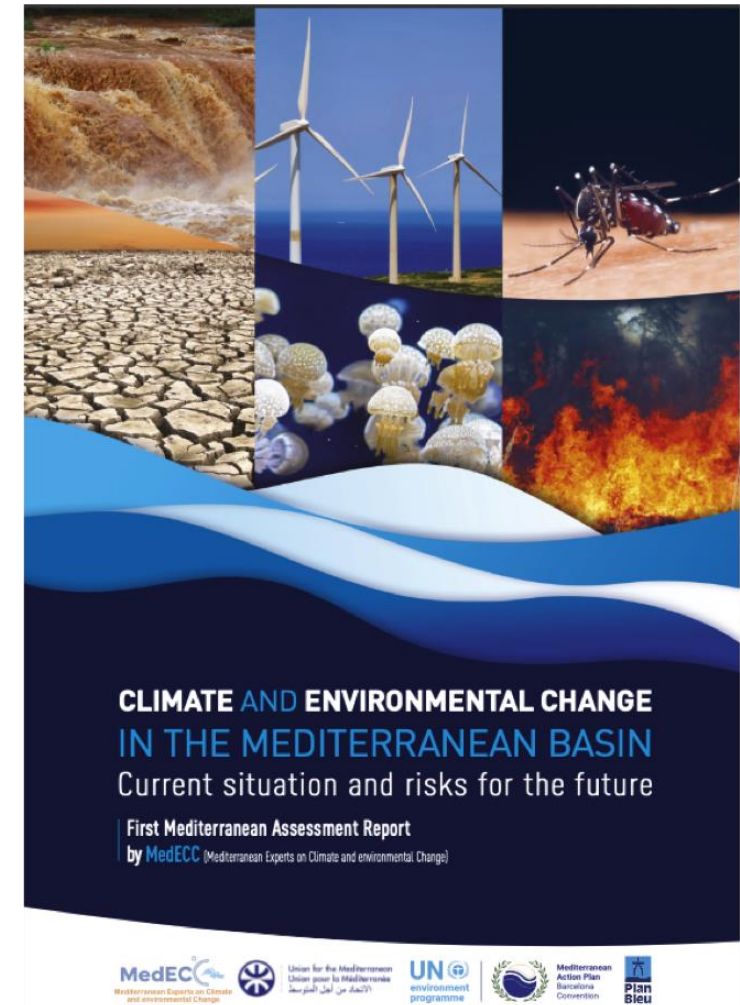
With financial support from



# What is the MedECC?

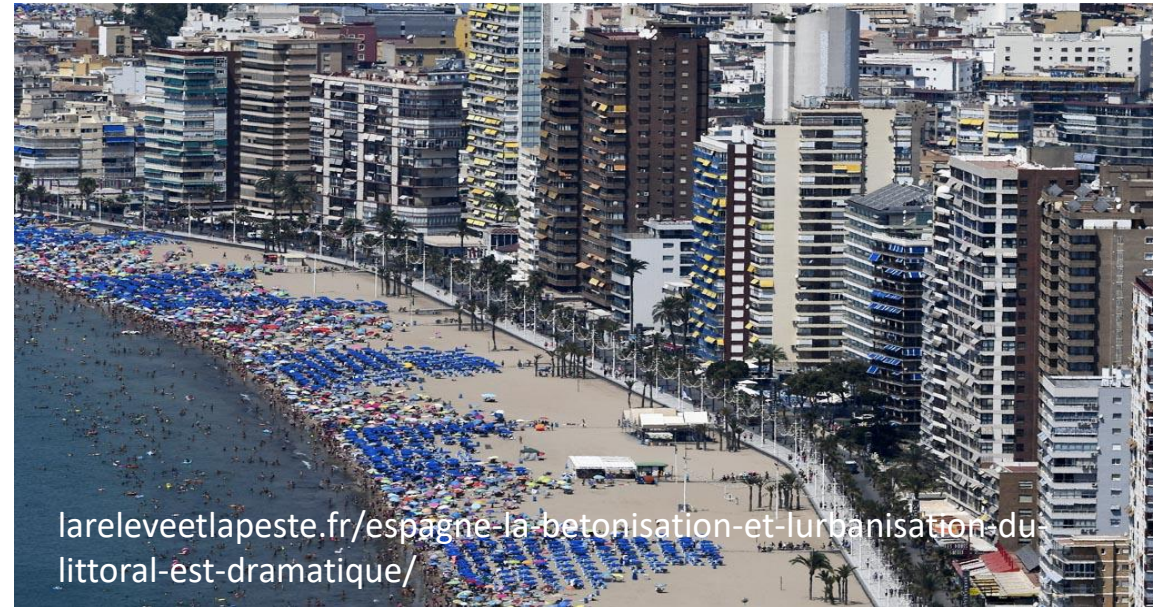
*Political responses to climate change should be based on scientific evidence*

- Contributes to the MSSD implementation and to the IPCC AR6
  - Responds to the needs expressed during the 1st UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (2014)
- **1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)**
- Released in November 2020 ([www.medecc.org](http://www.medecc.org))
  - 190 authors from 25 countries
  - MedECC was awarded **North-South Prize 2020 of the Council of Europe**
  - Thematic report on coastal risks (call for authors in April 2021)



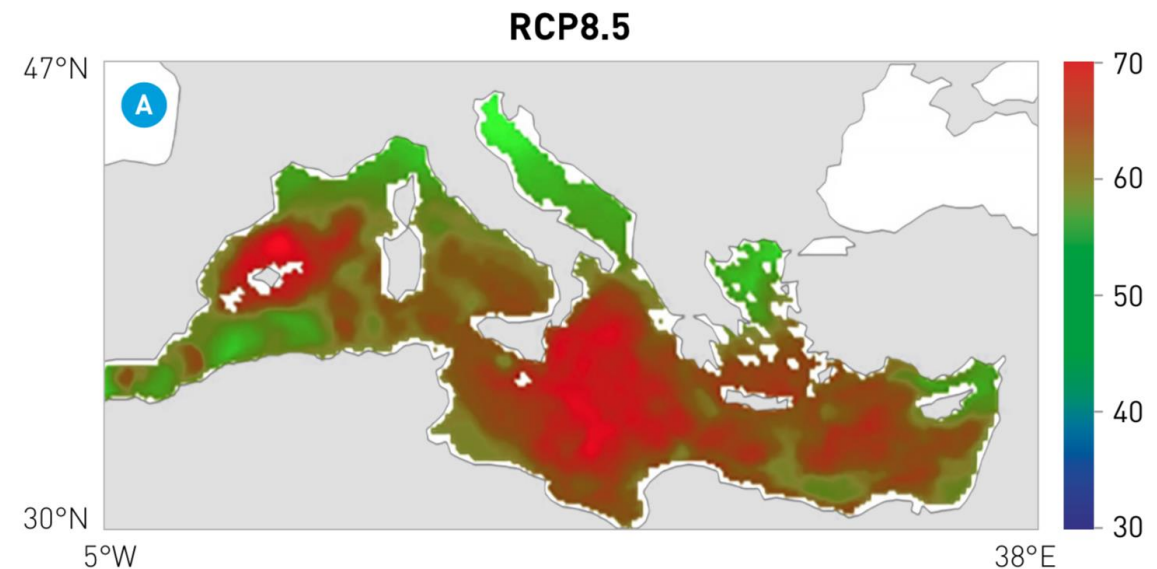
# Coastal risks in MAR1

- 1/3 Mediterranean population (~150 million people) lives close to the sea
- 20 million people live < 5 m above the sea level
- 40 % of Mediterranean coastal areas built up or otherwise modified ⇒ vulnerable to coastal flooding, erosion
- Constructions close to the mean sea level (surface sealing)



# Coastal risks in MAR1

- Sea level rise of 6 cm over the past 20 years (2.8 mm/yr)
- Accelerating trend → 43 to 84 cm by 2100 (possibly >1 m if further ice-sheet destabilization in Antarctica)
- By 2100, flood risk may increase by 50% and erosion risk by 13% across the Mediterranean region
- Damaging flash-floods (incl. Italy, France, Spain)
- Loss of agricultural land
- Decrease of groundwater quality, infiltration of seawater into coastal aquifers
- Impacts on coastal ecosystems (wetlands, estuaries)
- Impacts on tourism, trade (port operations)
- Many UNESCO World Heritage Sites directly threatened



*Projected Mediterranean sea level rise averaged in (2080-2099) with respect to present climate (1980-1999) under scenario RCP8.5.*

# How to improve socio-ecological resilience in the Mediterranean?

- Education and **raising-awareness, strengthening of capacities**
- Based on scientific knowledge (improve the **availability of data & long-term monitoring**)
- **No one-size-fits all strategy** (local scale, vulnerability maps)
- Improve and extend action to **protect and restore ecosystems** (e.g. Posidonia) and associated services
- Develop **Nature-Based solutions** (e.g. dune or wetlands restoration, beach nourishment, blue and green infrastructures)
- **Flood risk management** (implementation of warning systems, emergency management plans, improvement of drainage systems in urbanized areas)
- Development of **local climate integrated plans** (adaptation & mitigation)
- **Strengthen cooperation** between countries and stakeholders, exchange of best practices

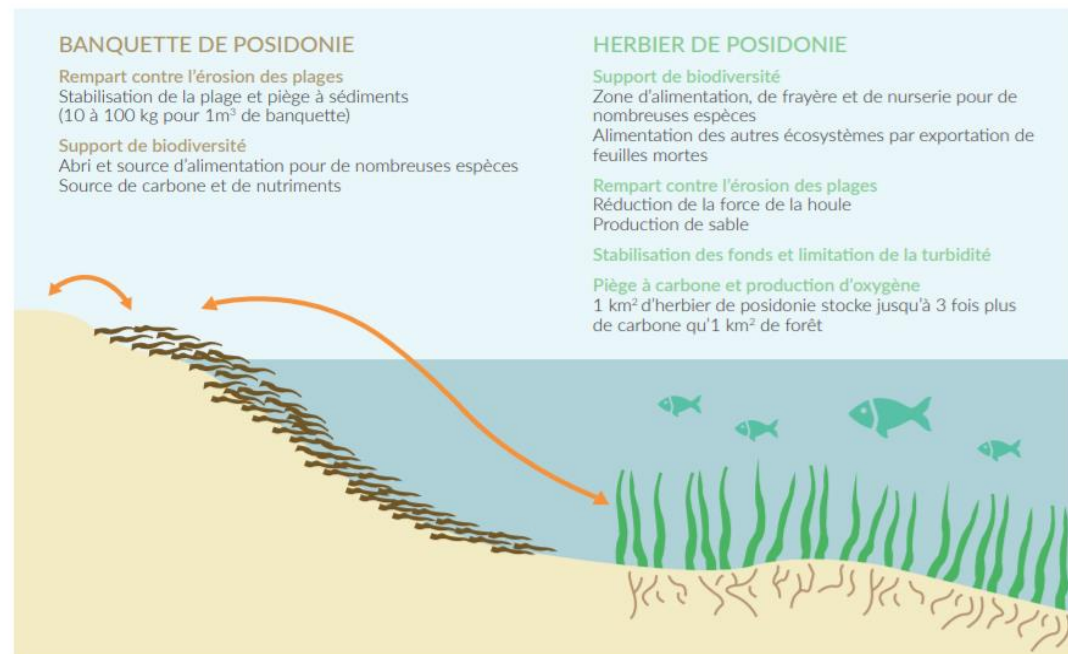
# Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community – Interreg Med



## POSidonia Beaches in the MED Region

- *Posidonia oceanica* (NBS)
- Erosion problems in the context of Climate Change adaptation: Posidonia banks preservation
- Governance and management of Posidonia beach-dune systems across the Mediterranean

### LES SERVICES ÉCOSYSTÉMIQUES FOURNIS PAR L'HERBIER DE POSIDONIE



Source : Améliorer la gestion de la posidonie sur les plages. Région Sud



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# Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community – Interreg Med



## Main goals:

- Knowledge
- Change management practices
- Stakeholders awareness raising
- Define coastline management strategies (multi-actors)



## Outputs:

- Set of policy recommendations and tools for integrated management of Posidonia littoral zone in PAs
- Joint Charter of Commitment for Mediterranean Municipalities
- Guidelines for the private sector
- Mediterranean network of actors
- European Label

**Protecting Posidonia means preserving Mediterranean beaches**



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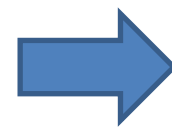
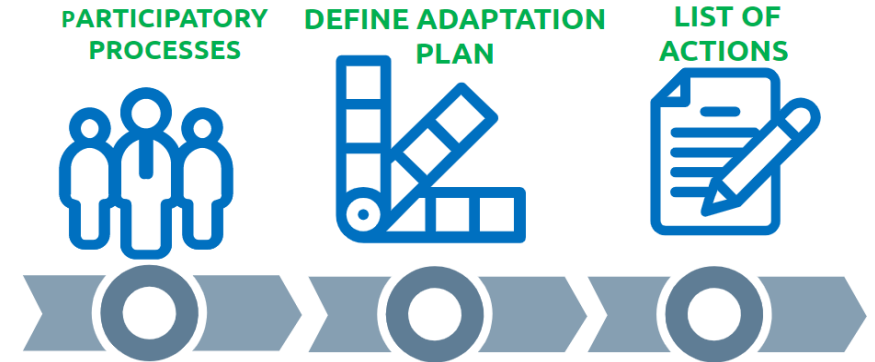
# Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community – Interreg Med



MPA-ENGAGE: To promote Marine Protected Areas at the frontline for adaptation to Climate Change in the Mediterranean and beyond!

## Objectives:

- MPAs as a network of sentinel sites for climate change
- Enhance socio-ecological resilience
- Empowering local actors in Mediterranean
- Raise awareness and engagement of society



Bottom up approach:  
ACT LOCAL, THINK MEDITERRANEAN



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# Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community – Interreg Med

HOW? collaborative approach, training activities to support the development of a climate change adaptation and mitigation action plan in MPAs

- Monitoring in a harmonized way the climate change impacts in MPAs (11 monitoring protocols, monitoring toolkit)
- Engaging local communities in citizen science activities (methodological approaches)
- Assessing climate change vulnerability in Med MPAs (Guidelines)



Effective marine protected areas to adapt and mitigate climate change

# Thank you for your attention !

More information:

[www.planbleu.org](http://www.planbleu.org)

[www.medecc.org](http://www.medecc.org)

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