
WEBINAR CONCEPT NOTE

Another chance for the Planet, another chance for the Mediterranean

Other effective conservation measures (OECM) State of play and next steps for the Mediterranean Sea

10 SEPTEMBER 2024, 13H00- 15H00 CET TIME

Background

The Mediterranean basin is an important biodiversity hotspot and one of the most biodiversity rich regions in the world. However, the Mediterranean ecosystem is under alarming pressure due to pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss and overconsumption of its natural resources.

Among the main drivers of biodiversity loss on land are unsustainable agricultural practices. Monocultures, industrial-style farming, the extensive use of herbicides, and recurring tillage and land-use change negatively affect the diversity of both flora and fauna. Also, the marine biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea faces various forms of anthropogenic threats, including plastics and chemicals pollution, overexploitation of marine living resources, as well increasing water temperatures and heat waves due to climate change, and the invasions of species alien to the Mediterranean Sea.

As the world advances to implement the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and CBD Parties prepare national mechanisms for its implementation, other effective conservation measures (OECMs) are considered an important complementary tool of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to reach target 3, the conservation of 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas and to contribute to improve biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.

OECM is a new concept that allow for effective conservation outside protected areas, delivering effective and long-term in situ conservation as a by-product of other management objectives in geographically defined areas with significant biodiversity.

OECM can be governed and managed by governments, private entities, indigenous people and local communities. As such, it provides an important leverage to increase ownership by relevant stakeholders and support Mediterranean countries in reaching their conservation targets. The private sector, can and should play an important role in the process of designating, managing and financing OECMs.

At the regional level, few land-based OECMs, which could serve as good practices for other countries, have been designated so far. For marine based OECM, while the Parties of the Barcelona Convention have adopted a Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean marine conservation community has highlighted the need to harness the implementation of all the relevant tools in the Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap (Recommendation 6.4) support to the Parties is needed to define, identify and designated OECMs.

To address this need, the webinar through its expert roundtables is aiming at:

- (i) taking stock of current definitions, as well as the conceptualization of OECM and how to decide if a site can be considered for OECM,

- (ii) giving an overview on good practices and examples of how countries and other organizations implement the concept, and
- (iii) providing insights on how the private sector can contribute to improve conservation through the implementation or financing of OECM in the Mediterranean.

Programme

	Organizations	Speakers
	<p><i>Welcome remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM EU CoPresidency • UfM Jordan CoPresidency • UfM Secretariat - Water Environment and Blue Economy Division 	<p><i>Moderated by UfM</i></p> <p><i>Mr.Patrick Wegerdt, DG Environment</i></p> <p><i>Dr.Abdallah Alzyod, Director, Ministry of Environment, Jordan</i></p> <p><i>DSG Almotaz Abadi, DSG, UfM Secretariat</i></p>
	<p><i>Session 1: OECM as a means to reach GBF targets in the Mediterranean</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG ENV • FAO/GFCM • SPA/RAC • IUCN • MedPAN <p>Mentimeter or Q&A</p>	<p><i>Moderated by MEDPAN</i></p> <p><i>Speaker tbc</i></p> <p><i>FAO/GFCM (speaker tbc)</i></p> <p><i>SPA/RAC (speaker tbc)</i></p> <p><i>Carla Danelutti (tbc)</i></p> <p><i>Carole Martinez</i></p>
	<p><i>Session 2: How to implement OECM in the Mediterranean</i></p> <p>Country cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria • The Baltic region (Helcom testimony) <p>Q&A</p>	<p><i>Moderated by UfM</i></p> <p><i>Mme Hadji Karima., Inspectrice Générale de l'Environnement. Ministère de l'Environnement et des Energies Renouvelables.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker tbc</i></p>

	<p>Session 3: The role of the private sector in and implementing and financing OECM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Ocean Council • The BlueMedPartnership • MedFund 	<p><i>Moderated by UfM</i></p> <p><i>Paul Holthus, Founding CEO and president, World Ocean Council</i></p> <p><i>Andrea Tingali, UFM</i></p> <p><i>Romain Renoux, Director, MedFund</i></p>
	<p>Q&A</p>	
	<p>Closing remarks</p>	<p><i>UfM Co-Presidency, UfM Secretariat, and MedPAN</i></p>