

*Sustainable management of the systems Posidonia-beaches in the Mediterranean region*

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

**Project Partners:** EID Méditerranée (Lead), International Union for Conservation of Nature, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, ECO-logica srl, Foundation IMC – International Marine Centre

**Associate partners:** Agence française pour la biodiversité; Municipality of Larnaka; Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and Environment; Govern de les Illes Balears, Conselleria de medi ambient, agricultura i pesca Municipality of Giovinazzo; Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

**SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

*Posidonia oceanica* is a Mediterranean endemic marine flowering plant (seagrass) forming extensive underwater meadows which are important contributors to the bioremediation of coastal waters and shoreline protection. *Posidonia* residues (withered leaves, fibers and rhizomes) are regularly stranded and beached ashore, where they help reduce wind and swell wave energy and act as seedbanks for dune formation, increasing thus the overall resilience of the coast to natural and climate change effects. This natural capital, however, is often perceived as an aesthetic problem, especially in highly-frequented tourist zones. To ensure that the coasts and beaches remain attractive for tourism, various and sometimes destructive practices (tractors and heavy machinery) are used to remove tons of this material, even in protected areas with fragile sandy beaches and dune systems.

POSBEMED is looking at the management, conflicts and opportunities of the Mediterranean coast, particularly in coastal protected and Natura 2000 areas where interdependence between seagrass meadows, dunes and beaches occurs, with a view to provide a Mediterranean strategy and governance model for enhancing management effectiveness of these areas and beyond. By integrating the results of several past projects and examining management practices, stakeholders' perception and expectations, guidelines with innovative management tools will be produced to enhance local administrations and coastal managers' capacity across the Mediterranean. The results will assist in improving protection measures and enhancing management effectiveness on these connected habitats, while promoting local blue growth and nature-based solutions on the use and sustainable management of the seagrass banquettes.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES :**

- To identify and analyse the current management practices of *Posidonia* beaches/dunes systems and banquettes in Mediterranean countries and provide a socioeconomic evaluation synthesis of its ecosystem services.
- Integrate and adapt tools for management of *Posidonia* beach/dunes in local sustainable growth and good practice guidelines for a holistic and integrated approach in conservation and management efforts.
- To propose a model of governance and a common strategy for the management of *Posidonia* beach/dune systems in the Mediterranean Natura 2000 sites and other coastal protected areas.

**MEETING AGENDA**  
**FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2018**  
**09:00 – 17.00**

*Hellenic Centre for Marine Research*  
46.7 km Athens-Sounio Avenue, 19013  
Anavissos, Greece

**A. Opening of the Advisory Panel and presentation of each member**

IUCN – 15min

**B. Presentation of the POSBEMED project objectives and progress to advisory group panel**

IUCN – 30min

**C. Discussion on results on:**

- Qualitative assessment of present Posidonia beaches/dune management (facilitated by EID, 30min)

*Coffee break*

- Posidonia-beach/dunes socio-economic evaluation (facilitated by IMC, 30min)
- Review of existing guidelines for sustainable beach and stranded seagrass management (facilitated by ECO-logica, 30min)

*Lunch break*

- Definition of a strategy and action plan for Mediterranean regions (facilitated by IUCN, 30min)
- Synergies with other existing initiatives

