



MARLICE 2022

II International Forum on Marine
Litter and Circular Economy



MARLICE 2022. SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

MARLICENATURA: MEDITERRANEAN SESSION. IMPACTS IN BIODIVERSITY, POLICY AND PREVENTION ACTIONS.

FOCUS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN: PIONEER SCIENCE AND ACTIONS ON THE FIELD



MARLICE 2022
II International Forum on
Marine Litter and Circular Economy
Seville 18 - 20 May



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

MARLICENATURA. MEDITERRANEAN SESSION. IMPACTS IN BIODIVERSITY, POLICY AND PREVENTION ACTIONS

FOCUS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN: PIONEER SCIENCE AND ACTIONS ON THE FIELD

 AQUARIUM OF SEVILLE - MEDITERRÁNEO ROOM

 19/05/2022  10:00-13:00

Chairperson: Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA MBPC / Magali Outters, SCP/RAC

DESCRIPTION

This session aims at taking stock of the recommendations raised via collaborative work between the Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) and BeMedIslands and to check progress in the implementation of the resulting 9 key recommendations discussed during MARLICE 2019. In particular, on 4 June 2021, as part of the EU Green Week, the Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community brought together scientists, decision-makers, NGOs and civil society in an online workshop on “Mediterranean Pollution, Biodiversity and Health” to discuss how to enhance existing efforts to reduce marine litter, and ways to mitigate its impacts on marine biodiversity and health for a cleaner and healthier Mediterranean.

CHAIRPERSON

PhD. Dania Abdul Malak

 European Topic Centre
University of Malaga
(ETCUMA)

 Director



Ms. Magali Outters

 MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP
Regional Activity Centre for
SCP

 Team Leader Policy Area



Furthermore, two reports on the impacts of litter on marine biodiversity have been published by the MBPC initiative, the first one in 2019 and the latest in March 2022.

The objective of the roundtable session on 19 May 2022 is to come back together to check achievements and solutions to mitigate its impacts on our marine biodiversity and health, with a focus on coastal areas and islands. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experience and perspectives, which will help prioritize key recommendations, and learn about transferable practices from several initiatives ongoing in the region. Although this session focuses on marine litter monitoring and management in the Mediterranean, other regions are welcome to attend to share their views and best practices.

Discussions will be organized in 2 lively roundtables giving the chance to attendants to share their views and experiences on:

- latest advances on understanding the impacts and ways of monitoring marine litter, and
- unveiling pioneer actions in coastal areas and islands that prevent marine litter generation, including actions in the HORECA sector, market restrictions by public authorities, sea-based sources and waste management schemes

The session is part of “MARLICENATURA” block of sessions included in Marlice 2022 Forum. It has been developed with the support of the Fundación Biodiversidad.



SECRETARY

Mr. Pedro Fernández Bautista

Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Project manager



Ms. Carolina Pérez Valverde

MedCities

Project Officer



Ms. Sonsoles San Román

ETC-UMA

Communication officer



PROGRAMME

(See the available presentations of this session by clicking on the presentation title)

10:00 - 10:05 h - Welcome and introduction Moderator

10:05 - 10:15 h - Setting the scene: Major contributions from two regional initiatives supporting Mediterranean efforts to find solutions to marine litter challenges

Latest contributions by the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC)

Dania Abdul Malak - Senior environmental researcher and Director of ETC-UMA

Latest contributions by Beyond Plastic Med capitalisation process in islands (BeMed)

Magali Outters - Policy Area Team Leader. MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP

10:15-11:25 Roundtable 1: Scientific findings in the Mediterranean: marine litter monitoring and impacts on biodiversity

Moderated by: MBPC - Carolina Perez - Project Officer, MedCities

MedBioLitter - Research efforts on marine litter impacts

Sonsoles San Roman - Communication officer, ETC-UMA

The legacy of Plastic Busters MPAs

Cristina Fossi - Professor in Ecology and Ecotoxicology, University of Siena

Monitoring impact on large cetaceans

Morgana Vighi - MedSeaLitter Project, University of Barcelona

Standardised tools for monitoring the impacts of litter on marine fauna as bio-indicators: Indicit II

Olfa Chaieb - Research Associate, Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer, Tunis (INSTM)

SPEAKERS

PhD. Cristina Fossi

University of Siena

Professor in Ecology and Ecotoxicology



PhD. Morgana Vighi

Biodiversity Research Institute (IRBio), University of Barcelona

External collaborator



Ms. Olfa Chaieb

Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer

Assistant Professor



Science-policy interface in the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention)

Christos Ioakeimidis - Associate Programme Management Officer-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Ground speaker: David León -Hombre y Territorio asociación / Intemares-ArtesPerdidos

11:25-11:40 h - Coffee break

11:40 - 12:50 h - Roundtable 2: How bottom-up initiatives are contributing to the fulfilment of regional policies

Moderated by: Pedro Fernández, Project manager, MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP

Focus on HORECA sector: Plastic-free Balearic certification scheme

Tupa Rangel, Save the Med Foundation, Balearic Islands

Focus on sea-based sources: Recovery and recycling of derelict mussel nets in MPA Thermaikos Gulf

Anastasia Charitou, iSea NGO, Greece

Focus on waste management: A reward system to increase recovery of beverage containers and enhance extended producers' responsibility in Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, Spain

Gloria García Hoyo, Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park-Geopark, Spain

Focus on scaling up initiatives: Blueprint and Community of Practice.

Mercedes Muñoz Cañas, IUCN Nature Conservation & Food Systems Manager, Spain

Ground speakers: Josep Canals, MedCities/INCIRCLE; Rubén Rodríguez, Asociación Vertidos 0 / RepescaPlas

SPEAKERS

PhD. Christos Ioakeimidis



UNEP/MAP

Associate Programme Management Officer

Ms. Tupa Rangel



Save The Med

Coordinator

Ms. Anastasia Charitou



Environmental Organisation
iSea

Director of "Human and aquatic ecosystems" department, iSea

12:50 -13:00 h - Conclusions and take home messages

Challenges ahead for the Mediterranean Biodiversity protection community

Dania Abdul Malak, ETC-UMA MBPC

Recommendations for further actions

Magali Outters, MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP

SPEAKERS

Ms. Gloria García Hoyo

 Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park -Tragsatec

 Scientific Advisor



Ms. Mercedes Muñoz Cañas

 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

 Nature Conservation and Food Systems Programme Manager



Key message

The objective of the roundtable session on 19 May 2022 is to come back together to check achievements and solutions to mitigate its impacts on our marine biodiversity and health, with a focus on coastal areas and islands. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experience and perspectives, which will help prioritize key recommendations, and learn about transferable practices from several initiatives ongoing in the region. Although this session focuses on marine litter monitoring and management in the Mediterranean, other regions are welcome to attend to share their views and best practices.

Short list of the main topics discussed

- Latest advances on understanding the impacts and ways of monitoring marine litter, and unveiling pioneer actions in coastal areas and islands to help monitor and prevent marine litter generation, including policy, research and field actions in the HORECA sector, market restrictions by public authorities, sea-based sources and waste management schemes.
- Testing and field work experiences: There have been quite some advancements on harmonising monitoring tools. Beach and marine litter assessments in recent years show alarming results going way above the thresholds set by the EU Mediterranean Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). MEDSEALITTER experiences: technology can support efforts in monitoring marine litter but there are still bottlenecks in automation and machine learning algorithms. Furthermore, such technologies, i.e. drones, are feasible when monitoring relatively small areas.

- Further scientific evidence on the impacts and sources of marine litter require funding support for research and to provide a sound basis for regional policies and measures to be adopted which could address health issues related to pollution and plastics.
- Prevention, mitigation and reduction measures are being devised at marine protected area level, though marine litter is having impacts both inside and outside protected areas. These experiences have proven a great potential to be upscaled and extended to other areas.
- The tourist and HORECA sectors are getting engaged in addressing the marine litter challenge by applying solutions related in particular to single-use plastics in coastal areas, waste management measures, and awareness raising among beach users and goers.
- Working together as communities and across sectors is more effective than working in silos. Engaging civil society actions and the private sector including fisheries and aquaculture can assist in clean up campaigns and in finding solutions to waste becoming marine litter.

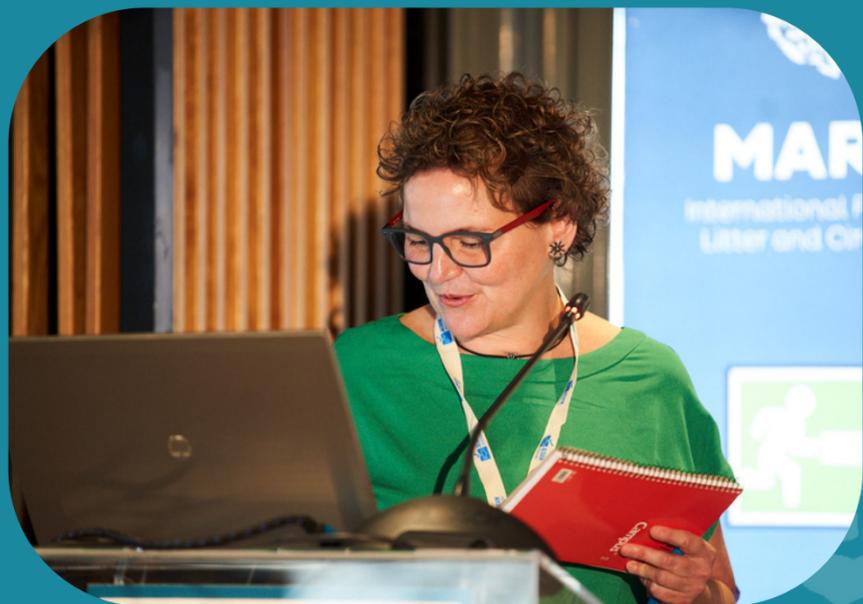




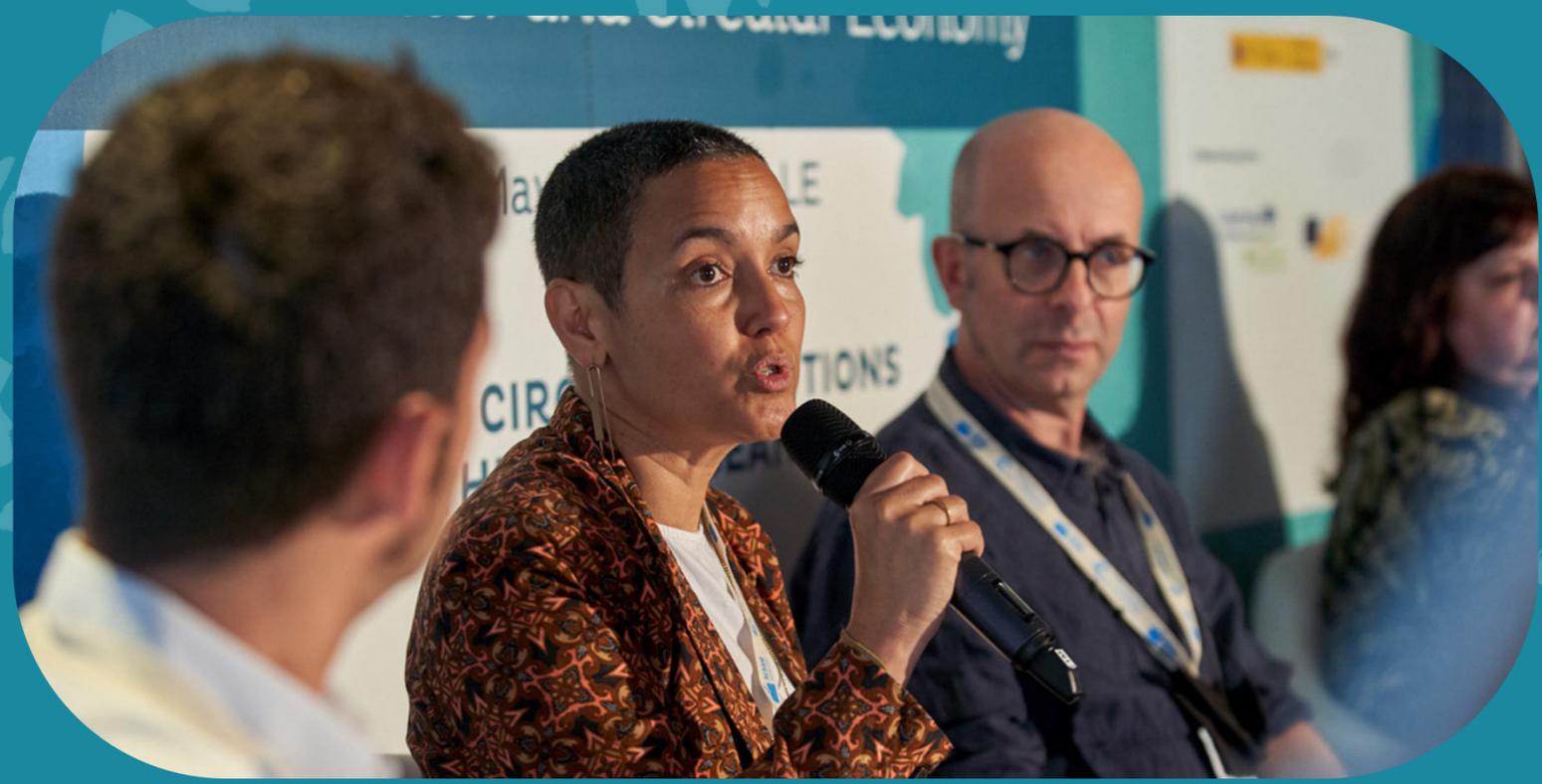
Conclusions

- The current policy framework at international, EU and Mediterranean levels is fostering an harmonized approach to monitor marine litter and its impacts on biodiversity and habitats but there is still a need to strengthen national capacities to adopt and implement monitoring protocols to obtain a regional perspective based on common bioindicators. There is an uptake on systems for monitoring with UNEP MAP and Barcelona Convention moving forward to harmonise systems, protocols and indicators for the all Mediterranean countries.
- Harmonising data: MedBioLitter is filling a knowledge gap on the presence of marine litter hotspots and their impacts on marine fauna and flora. Mechanisms to have measures to act in these areas to reduce such pressure and subsequently the impacts on biota need to be ensured.
- Indicit project experiences: The harmonization of indicators on marine litter across regions can be transferred with efforts from OSPAR in the Atlantic and IMAP Systems in the Mediterranean









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