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## 2nd Mission for Natural Heritage Institutional Dialogue

### 'Marine and Coastal Restoration: Discussing Policy Solutions for the Euro-Mediterranean Region'

#### CONCEPT NOTE

**Date and Time:** 28 November, 2024 | 9:00 - 18:00 CET

**Venue:** [Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga IEO-CSIC](#), Málaga (Spain)

#### Organisers:

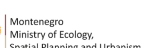
- **Organising Partner:** IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
- **Supporting Partners:** Plan Bleu, Marine Institute, MedCities, Region of Crete, Region of Sardinia, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Urbanism from Montenegro
- **Framework:** Dialogue4Nature Project (Interreg Euro-MED Programme). Under the [Mission for Natural Heritage](#), Dialogue4Nature project acts as a platform to upscale best practices and knowledge to Mediterranean and EU policy levels, engaging with decision-makers and authorities at the science-policy interface.

In collaboration with the **6th International Marine Science Communication Conference** ([CommOcean](#)).

#### Description:

Marine and coastal ecosystems in the Euro-Mediterranean region are among the most diverse and productive in the world, providing invaluable services including food supply, climate regulation, tourism, and cultural heritage, among others. However, these ecosystems, and the biodiversity that they support, are under severe threat due to pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction, and the impacts of climate change. The urgency of restoring these vital ecosystems has led to significant policy initiatives, particularly within the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and other related policies such as the European Union's Nature Restoration Law, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the SAP-BIO of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

With the goal of restoring at least 20% of the world's land and sea areas by 2030 under Target 2 of the GBF, it is crucial to address knowledge and capacity gaps and foster cross-border collaboration for successful restoration actions.



This event aims to bring together a diverse group of relevant stakeholders to discuss the challenges and promote solutions associated with marine and coastal restoration efforts in the Euro-Mediterranean region. These stakeholders come from different territorial perspectives and contribute to the successful implementation of restoration initiatives that align with key regional and international policies.

One of the outcomes of the event will be to gather insights from the experts around policy obstacles and solutions for an effective restoration in the EuroMed area. These insights will be collected into a joint policy statement from the community of the Mission for Natural Heritage. This statement will be circulated to key policymakers and promoted within the activities of Dialogue4Nature project.

This institutional dialogue is part of a series of events organised by the Dialogue4Nature project under the Interreg Euro-MED Mission for Natural Heritage. The Mission aims to upscale knowledge and results produced within the Euro-Mediterranean region and to transfer and mainstream them into effective policies. The Dialogue4Nature project hosts an annual policy symposium that addresses a key thematic area relevant to the Mediterranean natural context. This event is designed to promote the best solutions emerging from the Interreg Euro-MED community and beyond, supporting policymakers in strengthening the implementation of current or new policies, as well as addressing governance gaps.

**Key Audience:** Policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and environmental NGOs from the North and the South of the Mediterranean. Authorities at macro-regional, national and sub-national levels responsible for restoring ecosystems in their area of influence.

### Objectives:

- Foster debate and share examples from Interreg Euro-MED projects around marine and coastal restoration within the Mission for Natural Heritage.
- Promote regional cooperation and knowledge sharing about restoration among Euro-Mediterranean countries, bringing the perspective from both North and Southern stakeholders.
- Gather insights and expert advice from the participants regarding the definition of a common position for the Mission for Natural Heritage around restoration

## Event Structure and Outline:

Time	Session	Context	Speaker
8:45 - 9:00	<b>Registration and Welcoming</b>		
9:00 - 9:45	<b>State of the Art of Coastal and Marine Restoration: From Policies to Implementation</b>	A high-level panel debate setting the scene on the policy context and the main obstacles in policy adoption at the global level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IUCN</li> <li>- European Commission</li> <li>- Academia</li> </ul>
9:45 - 10:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
10:15 - 11:45	<b>Roundtable: Euro-Mediterranean Restoration Policy Context</b>  Facilitator: David Johnson (TBC)	Discussion on the adoption of the restoration agenda at the Mediterranean regional level, including perspectives from regions and cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repr. from Bern Convention</li> <li>- Repr. from Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP (SPA/RAC)</li> <li>- Med Country technical repr.</li> <li>- Med Region technical repr.</li> <li>- Med City technical repr.</li> </ul>
11:45 - 13:15	<b>Roundtable: From Policy to Action</b>	Creating a cohesive framework to transfer knowledge from project research to practical restoration action. Highlights from Interreg Euro-MED projects and funding mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examples from related Interreg Euro-MED thematic projects</li> <li>- Public donor: Interreg</li> <li>- Private donor</li> </ul>
13:15 - 13:45	<b>Conclusions</b>	Identifying gaps, opportunities, and lessons learned. Position of the Natural Heritage Mission on coastal and marine restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitator</li> </ul>
13:45 - 15:00	<b>Lunch Break &amp; Networking</b>		
15:00 - 16:00	<b>Policy Context of Marine Restoration in Spain*</b>	A detailed exploration of the policy context of restoration in Spain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academia</li> </ul>
16:00 - 18:00	<b>Roundtable: Case Studies of Restoration Practices*</b>	Presentation of best practices for restoration in coastal areas, shallow waters, and deeper marine environments from the Spanish national context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intertidal (salinas)</li> <li>- Lagoons</li> <li>- Shallow waters</li> <li>- Beyond shallow</li> <li>- Deep-sea</li> </ul>

\*Event in Spanish