



Regione Siciliana

PRESIDENZA

DIPARTIMENTO DELLA PROGRAMMAZIONE

P.I.C. INTERREG III B ARCHIMED**GENERAL INFORMATION**

TITLE OF THE PROJECT	BLUECONET Shared scheme of Marine Ecological Networks: an integrated approach for sustainable use of Mediterranean sea resources
PRIORITY AXIS	Axis 3: Integrated and sustainable management of cultural and natural resources and of landscapes and risk management
MEASURE	Measure 3.1. Protection, planning and management of natural resources and landscapes
LEAD PARTNER	ARTA: Territorial and Environment Assessorate, Sicilian Regional Government (Regione Siciliana)
OTHER PARTNERS	<p>Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COPPEM -Steering Committee for the Euromediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities; - AGCI-Pesca- General Association Italian Cooperatives of Fishing; - APAT- National Agency for the Protection of the Environment and for Technical Services; - Zoological Station "Anton Dohrn", Naples ; - ATA- Territorial Agency for Environment of Nord Barese/Ofantina area*; - University of Palermo, Dept. City and Territory, Palermo *; <p>(*): ORSA-Net members</p> <p>Greece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KEPEMEP – Med Regio, Athens - Center of EuroMediterranean Regions for the Environment; <p>Malta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LCA: Local Councils Association of Malta; - BICREF: The Biological Conservation Research Foundation; - CBRS: Conservation Biology Research Section, University of Malta <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mediterranean Third Countries</u></p> <p>Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governatorate of Qalyubiya; - Arab Network for NGOs; <p>Jordany (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater Amman Municipality; <p>Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipality of Tripoli; <p>Turkey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kars Municipality; - Maltepe Municipality; - International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation.
ERDF FUNDING	50% for Italy and Cyprus 75% for Greece and Malta
DURATION	30 months



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SYNTHESIS OF THE PROJECT

GENERAL OBJECTIVE	<p>The project aims to define a strategy for the integrated and co-ordinated management of the Mediterranean as a marine space in which the socio-economic requirements of human populations is balanced with the need to conserve marine biodiversity. The approach is based on the paradigm of ecological networks, an integrated planning concept that is well-known in the practice of land-based spatial planning and that can be usefully applied as a model for marine environments.</p> <p>Data-gathering and the identification of the areas where a group of selected target species reproduce, feed and migrate will be confronted with those human activities – both in coastal areas and in the open sea – that have the greatest impact on these organisms. This in turn provides a framework to define instruments for political concertation and administrative management that can regulate anthropic marine activities in a way that is compatible with best practice in sustainable use of Mediterranean biodiversity.</p> <p>A GIS-based knowledge base will be created to map the principle areas of presence (riproduction, feeding, nursing) and their inter-connections (migration routes). It thus constitutes the common platform for planning methods and political agreements appropriate for the protection of these species at the national and international levels.</p> <p>The main species that the project will focus on in the identified pilot areas include: Striped dolphin (<i>Stenella ceruleoalba</i>), Common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>), Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) and Posidonia (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>)</p>
EXPECTED OUTCOMES	<p>Expected outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation of the BluEcoNet International Agency incorporating the set of local protocols into an international agreement for shared stewardship of the Mediterranean, its habitats and species and its coastal environments.• Realisation of a knowledge base modelled on a GIS platform supporting planning choices, containing a mapping of a) the areas with greatest presence and activity of the selected endangered species and b) the main migration routes, as well as the identification and geo-referencing of the main sources of disturbance (ex. Shipping routes, drilling platforms, tourist villages, shipping ports) for the species being considered.• Census of the main regulatory and legal frameworks at the different levels, which are directly or indirectly involved in the dynamics under consideration, together with a directory of the responsible institutions and organisations.• Simulation in the pilot areas of best management practice for safeguarding the value of ecological connectivity in marine environments, leading to concrete policy recommendations for protocols for inter-institutional cooperation and regulatory instruments for human activities.• On the basis of the work of participatory work groups and concertation tables, development of best practice Guidelines of tools and methods for control and management and the reduction of disturbance on the endangered species.• Dissemination and diffusion of project results through a multimedia communication strategy including web-based resources, technical and awareness publications, and workshops and seminars.