



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Mediterranean Kick-off Seminar

Thessaloniki, 26 – 28 May 2014

Coastal Working Group



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*Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
Mediterranean Region*

Introductions

Chair:

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Key findings of the Seminar Input Document

1. Selected Habitats and their conservation status

Natura code	Description	CS
1110	Sandbanks	XX
1120	<i>Posidonia</i> beds	U1
1170	Reefs	U1
1150	Coastal lagoons	U2
1310	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals ...	U2
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows	XX
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic scrub	XX
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	U2
2230	<i>Malcolmietalia</i> dune grasslands	U1
2250	Dunes with <i>Juniperus</i>	U1



Key findings of the Seminar Input Document

2. Main issues, problems

Urbanisation

Outdoor recreation

Pollution

Agriculture

Abiotic processes



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Key findings of the Seminar Input Document

3. Management needs and practices

Development of management plans (and their implementation)

Consistent implementation of existing legislation

Communication/awareness-raising

Site/habitat restoration and management

Focused/integrated research



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Key findings of the Seminar Input Document

4. Bottlenecks and problems

Lack of awareness in the public and decision-makers

Competent authorities have competing priorities and lack resources, knowledge and skills to deliver biodiversity targets



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Key findings of the Seminar Input Document

5. Solutions and opportunities

Education and awareness-raising across all sectors

Development of effective working relationships with competent authorities

Development of integrated plans and policies at local and wider scales to integrate policy and practice across all users

Consistent, responsible use of legislation by competent authorities



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Presentation of two case studies:

- *The Kalochori Lagoon*
 - **Dr Lydia Alvanou**, Axios Delta Management Authority, Greece
- *Actions Integrated Coastal Habitat Management*
 - **Dr Graziano Caramori**, Istituto Delta Ecologia Applicata, Italy



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Specific threats and pressures by habitat type: Marine

1120-Posidonia	1170 - Reefs	1110 - Sandbanks
Land reclamation	Land reclamation	Land reclamation
Illegal + trawl fishing	Illegal + trawl fishing	
Unregulated anchoring	Unregulated anchoring	
Eutrophication	Eutrophication	Eutrophication
Hydrodynamic changes	Hydrodynamic changes	Hydrodynamic changes
Pollution	Pollution	Pollution
Invasive species	Invasive species	Invasive species(?)
Climate change	Climate change	Climate change
Illegal aquaculture		
	Sea urchin barrens	Dredging
	Invasive grazing fish species	Breakwater construction
	Changes in population dynamics	Beach protection
	Wastewater systems/thermocline	Coastal defence
	Illegal coral collection	
	Physical disturbance – divers	
	Note – complex is varied and needs to be split into more subtypes	Note – close link to sand dune habitats and turtles



General pressures – all habitats: Marine

Oil and gas drilling (especially in the Adriatic)

Blue growth and competition for space with new users – wind farms, minerals

Lack of awareness and education

Tourism/coastal development

Competition for space with established uses – tourism, fishing, conservation at the national and local level

Insufficient co-operation with other sectors (tourism, fisheries, planners)

Insufficient communication within the conservation sector

Insufficient law enforcement

Political priorities lie elsewhere

Complex issues eg Gibraltar proposes to explore measures to restore lost Posidonia beds but results elsewhere can be variable and if pursued needs twin-track approach of managing existing threats. Concerns exist that effective restoration may encourage lack of protection elsewhere



Additional issues: Marine

Vents 1180 - distribution poorly understood with new research information only becoming available now

The following habitats support highly characteristic species which should be included in future discussions:

Posidonia meadows – *Posidonia*

Reefs – *Cystoseira*

Sandbanks/coastal dunes – Marine turtles

Caves – monk seals



Lack of information		Sharing knowledge	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Sharing experiences on SEA and NIA	Collate and share best practice via Communication Platform Forum and other networks	All	Ongoing
Sharing experiences on concrete examples of managing habitats and eliminating threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build knowledge base through Communication Platform • Promote existing or adapt/develop new guidelines: habitat-threats-possible management solutions-case studies – relevant project/institutions references 	All	Ongoing
Communicate current efforts being taken on EU level to build stronger synergies among closely related directives, strategies (WFD, Marine strategy, Barcelona convention), especially related to monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop related to this will take place December 2014 • EC distribute more information through Natura 2000 platform, national focal points, NGO networks 		



Lack of information		Sharing knowledge	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Link to marine biogeographical process	Separate seminar on marine Natura 2000 will be organized by the EC in early 2015, including all biogeographical regions		Early 2015
Improved management of <i>Posidonia</i> beds	Develop large scale <i>Posidonia</i> monitoring based on upper border identified through aerial/satellite images - Joint Research Center may provide images and help on this?		
	For priority areas with good <i>Posidonia</i> meadows and reefs promote no anchoring zones and permanent mooring systems installation		
	Identify and promote no dredging zones and assessment of alternative possibilities		



Lack of awareness		Increasing knowledge	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Awareness – raising and education of communities and other sectors	Promote and encourage better involvement of other sectors in Natura 2000 management – involve them in seminars and other events such as this one, raise their awareness, understanding, build support		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote benefits of Natura 2000 in local communities • Promote benefits of management plans • Promote successful labelling schemes that can give added values to products and services from Natura 2000 sites, develop Natura 2000 label, certificates of origin etc. 		
Influence others	When there will be opportunities to improve directives lobby that tools/measure that have shown to be efficient move from status “recommended” into “obligatory” (e.g. management plans)		
ICZM	Promote it, increase awareness about it, lobby its ratification. Share ICZM examples, techniques, tools, promote data sharing (e.g. satellite images)		



Lack of awareness		Increasing knowledge	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Training (option to be paid by participants)	Training on <i>Posidonia</i> management for administration representatives from various sectors and countries – could be organized by the Greek Hellenic Institute for Marine Research		
Conferences, workshops	Workshop on experiences and possibilities of sea grasses restoration, could be organised by Gibraltar	Department of Environment, Gibraltar(?)	To be confirmed
Guidelines with management examples/case studies Study visits	Establish links with existing work, explore existing guidelines (MedPAN, RAC/SPA, other), examples from Life and other projects; promote them, if needed adapt and/or update them, strengthen their influence and number of reached users by promoting them on Natura 2000 platform, EC web site, recognition, etc.		
Note	All of these events and tools would be most effective if they dealt with only one habitat, or one habitat and very closely related priority species (eg sand banks – turtles, caves-monk seals)		



Lack of awareness		Increasing knowledge	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Raise awareness among the scientific and conservation communities	Raise awareness about Natura 2000, inform on process of biogeographical seminars on management of Natura 2000, identify experts and relevant contacts at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination for the implementation of marine strategy monitoring, June 2014, Madrid • Conference on <i>Posidonia</i> and coraligenous communities (research, monitoring), October 2014, Slovenia 		
<p>FINAL NOTE: These results were based on a working group composed of in total 8 participants, coming from Greece, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Belgium (EC) and Croatia which represent only small part of EU Mediterranean countries Representatives were scientists, NGO, government middle management administration officials Participants had no mandate to give official commitments to implement proposed actions</p>			



Specific threats and pressures by habitat type: Coastal

1150	1110	1310, 1420, 1410
1. Declining water quality, resources and dynamics		1. Land reclamation
2. Inadequate freshwater input, both too high, too low or of not good quality		2. Urbanisation
3. Erosion (natural and man-induced)	1. Erosion (natural and man-induced)	3. Artificial freshwater input
4. Negative sediment budget (ie sediment retained at the hydrographic basin or district, <i>sensu</i> Water frame Directive)	2. Negative sediment budget (ie sediment retained at the hydrographic basin or district, <i>sensu</i> Water frame Directive)	4. Unsustainable recreational activities
5. Inadequate management of water flow via artificial structures (eg dams)	3. Inadequate management of water flow via artificial structures (eg dams)	5. Unsustainable water management
6. Urbanisation		6. Overgrazing
7. Inappropriate agriculture and aquaculture		7. Garbage
8. Unsustainable recreation		
9. Invasive alien species		



Specific threats and pressures by habitat type: Coastal

2110, 2230	2250
1. Unsustainable recreational activities	1. Overgrazing
2. Lack of sediment within system (eg dams)	2. Unsustainable agriculture
3. Land reclamation	3. Illegal logging
4. Sand removal (1110)	4. Fire
5. Garbage	5. Garbage
6. Coastal defence	6. Invasive aliens
7. Invasive species	7. Sediment removed from system
8. Beach cleaning	

Common issues for applied to some or all habitats: Coastal

1150, 1310, 1420, 1410, 2110, 2230, 2250

Lack of public awareness

Need for monitoring to establish the scale, distribution and trends of the biodiversity resource

Climate change

Water Framework Directive (WFD) – the interrelationship between the Nature Directives and WFD was a constant theme throughout the workshop both in terms of the need to identify and achieve water quality standards but also the opportunity provided by the WFD to operate **at the hydrographic basin, or district, scale which links to the water quantity and quality issues.**

An overall lack of integrated (management) planning able to manage competing land uses such as industry, recreation, tourism, urbanisation and conservation

Coastal wetland habitats are closely related to other sectors in terms of supporting fisheries, agriculture, flat land for construction, recreational opportunities and other types of biodiversity eg enormous bird populations

The need to improve the management of people (especially tourists) on fragile coastal habitats especially sand dunes ,but also those supporting large populations of birds

The need for consistent implementation by competent authorities of existing domestic and European legislation to enable coastal managers to avoid the deterioration or loss of features



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Desired outcomes by habitat type: Coastal

Coasta lagoons - 1150

Pressure/threat	Action
1,2,5,7	Explore the establishment and management of multi-functional landscapes/zones/wetlands around lagoons to provide biodiversity and other benefits (eg water reserve for agricultural, recreational, hydrological) for the Natura site and other users and communities (LIFE ADICLIM) via traditional and innovative management (eg green filters)
1,3,4,9	Design of flow management structures to allow management of sediment release and flow management
6,8	Explore measures to identify the 'carrying capacity' of lagoons and other fragile habitats and the measures to manage recreational impacts eg access roads
7	Implementation of best sustainable (extensive?) aqua/agricultural practices
1-9	Secure the favourable conservation status and sustainable management of threatened coastal lagoons of northern Greece and other Counties facing similar issues along with associated sand dune habitats and bird populations. Note, this project proposed port-workshop.



Desired outcomes by habitat type: Coastal

Sandbanks - 1110

Pressure/threat	Action
1,3,4,9	Design of flow management structures to allow management of sediment release and flow management
6,8	Explore measures to identify the 'carrying capacity' of lagoons and other fragile habitats and the measures to manage recreational impacts eg access roads
7	Implementation of best sustainable (extensive?) aqua/agricultural practices
1-9	Secure the favourable conservation status and sustainable management of threatened coastal lagoons of northern Greece and other Counties facing similar issues along with associated sand dune habitats and bird populations. Note, this project proposed port-workshop.



Desired outcomes by habitat type: Coastal

1310, 1410, 1420

Pressure/threat	Action
2,4,6,7	Managing livestock and public access to site
2,4,7	Raise public awareness

2110, 2230

Pressure/threat	Action
1,5	Managing public access eg by beach zoning/management plan, limiting access points
3,5,8	Raise public awareness
2,4,9	Management of sediment cell to retain sediment within system
6	Encourage dune development techniques eg beach-cleaning, sand traps



Desired outcomes by habitat type: Coastal

2250

Pressure/threat	Action
1,3,4,5	Managing/limiting access in response to assessment of 'carrying capacity' via access points, paths, bridges(!)
1,3,4,5	Raise public awareness
6	Habitat restoration eg from <i>Pinus</i> invasion
6	Monitoring of extent , trends and types of invasive species to inform sustainable management strategies



Inadequate management		Finding best practice	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Management of multi-functional wetlands around coastal lagoons	<p>Establish LIFE project (or similar) to explore the establishment of multi-functional wetlands around Natura 2000 coastal lagoons supporting agricultural, recreational and biodiversity assets/functions eg green filters, agricultural, reservoirs, provision of freshwater/saline areas, sediment management.</p> <p>Issues to include funding, knowledge, best practice, partners, and network of experts and stakeholders.</p>	<p>To be decided but perhaps by a partnership of Greek Management Authorities.</p> <p>Initial tasks required include establishment of core group of 'activists' to scope, develop and lead the project via the Forum and then via a face-to-face workshop in the next few months.</p>	<p>Workshop(s) to be held before winter 2014 to lead to project proposals according to LIFE/INTERREG etc timetables.</p> <p>Would require contractor support to establish. Alternatives could explore support via Barcelona Convention (RACSPA)</p>
Secure sustainable management and FCS of Greek coastal lagoons	<p>Establish LIFE project designed to explore and identify best practice for the management of northern Greek coastal lagoons and associated sand dune habitats and bird populations to inform lagoon management across the whole of the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>Projects could be combined into one</p>	



Lack of information		Sharing knowledge	
Action	Outputs / mechanisms	Who	When / where
Share information on green filters	Upload examples onto Communication Platform	All	Now and ongoing
Share information on management of people on beaches	Upload examples of signs, leaflets etc to Communication Platform	All	Now and ongoing
Improve design of dams/slucices	Promote collaboration between engineers and biologists to improve design	This could possibly form a component of the proposed LIFE project to secure the management of Greek coastal lagoons	To be decided



Thank you to all the delegates!



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Thank you to the Axios Delta Management Authority and the Commission!



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