

Time to draw a line in the sand:
A reflection for healthier
Mediterranean coasts

Monday 27 September 2021

09:00 to 11:00 (CET + 1)

Concept note and agenda

About Mediterranean Coast Day

Mediterranean Coast Day, which is celebrated on 25 September, is an initiative to promote the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as the optimal policy framework for achieving sustainable development of coastal areas, and the PAP/RAC, the Coastal Management Centre of UNEP/MAP, is the promoter of this action in the Mediterranean Region.

This initiative aims to increase environmental awareness among policy makers, academics, media, civil society and local populations, but also to promote and implement activities that, at the same time, consider fragile, ecological, social and cultural contexts and lead to sustainable coastal development.

Greece is the host of the 2021 edition of Mediterranean Coast Day.

Background

The Mediterranean is the most densely populated closed sea in the world. The total population of the Mediterranean countries grew from 276 million in 1970 to 512 million in 2018. It is predicted to grow by an additional 182 million inhabitants by 2050. In 2019, the percentage of built-up areas has

reached an astounding rate. The coastal zone is becoming increasingly populated and built up and concentrates most of the major cities, many transport routes (roads, ports, airports), as well as industrial and energy infrastructure. This concentration is intensifying year after year and generates more pollution and disturbance leading to environmental degradation and increased risks for coastal populations and infrastructure. Besides these pressures in coastal areas, natural hazards such as storms and flooding add to the overall challenge. As their frequency, occurrence and intensity increase, they pose a real threat and weaken the resilience of ecosystems, human populations and coastal infrastructure. (UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu, 2020)¹.

The webinar

As part of the celebration of Mediterranean Coast Day, the proposed reflection will take place on the 27 September 2021, and will address two crucial and connected issues: coastal urbanisation and tourism. Both issues will be approached through in the prism of the post-Covid era and the changing climate. Pathways to promote sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean and to address related challenges will be presented.

The reflection will take the shape of a moderated webinar.

The programme

Monday 27 September 2021 - A 120 minutes reflection for healthier Mediterranean coasts	
09:00 – 09:05	Opening of the webinar by Mrs Veronique Evers, moderator
09:05 – 09:15	Welcome statement by the Host of Mediterranean Coast Day 2021 Professor Konstantinos Aravossis, Secretary-General for Natural Environment and Water– Greece
09:15 – 09:20	Opening statement Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat
09:20 – 09:30	Setting the scene: Mediterranean Coast Day - what’s at stake? Mrs Zeljka Skaricic—Director, PAP/RAC
09:30 – 09:50	How a pandemic of concrete and steel is dangerously tampering with coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean Mrs Daria Povh Škugor, senior officer at PAP/RAC
09:50 – 10:05	Online tool for the protection of maritime property through education, information and mobilization of citizens and institutions Mrs Matea Dorčić, Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia
10:05 – 10:25	Tapping the potential of the blue economy sustainably – reengineering tourism in the Mediterranean in the post-covid era



¹ United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan and Plan Bleu (2020). State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean. Nairobi.

	Mrs Gloria Lazaro, Programme Officer at Plan bleu
10:25 – 10:40	Open debate
10:40 – 10:45	Announcement of the Ambassador* for the Mediterranean Coast Mrs Zeljka Skaricic—Director, PAP/RAC
10:45 – 10:55	Message from the Ambassador for the Mediterranean Coast 2021
10:55 – 11:00	Closing

**The Ambassador for the Mediterranean Coast*

By this title PAP/RAC honours, for the duration of one year, persons that inspire, through their work but also through their personal engagement, the people from the Mediterranean and beyond, to better understand and respect the coasts and their environment. They help raise awareness of the value of the Coast and of the importance to protect it and to develop it soundly. This year ambassador, who will be revealed during the webinar, is particularly active among fishermen, and found creative solutions for collecting and recycling plastic marine litters in the Mediterranean.

Panellists

<p>Daria Povh Škugor is a senior programme officer at PAP/RAC, dealing with ICZM and adaptation to climate change for more than 15 years. In her work she is committed to creating enabling environment for action towards sustainable development.</p> <p>She was among others responsible for preparation of the Coastal Plan for the Šibenik – Knin region, project awarded in 2019 as the best Mediterranean adaptation initiative during the “Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Award” organized by the French Environment Agency (ADEME) and their 3 partners. The coastal plan was awarded in the competition of 28 projects for the category “Methods for designing and implementing public policies”, but also for the overall award. Recently PAP/RAC has been involved in preparation of 10 more Coastal plans around Mediterranean, ranging from the role of participating in the Advisory board to the implementing agency.</p>	
<p>Matea Dorčić, a law graduate, has recently become Head of the Administrative Department for Tourism and Maritime Affairs of the Split-Dalmatia County in Croatia. She has been working for the Split-Dalmatia County since 2014, after gaining extensive experience in the private sector. In 2019 she co-founded the “Maritime Domain is Good – Pomorsko je dobro” Project, created with the aim of achieving more transparent, responsible and efficient maritime domain management and valorisation, providing support for local self-government units, bringing order to how that valuable resource is used, and protecting and preserving it.</p> <p>In 2020, the project received the most prestigious professional award in Croatia – the Grand Prix 2020 – namely for the category of public relations in regional and local self-government units, awarded every year by the</p>	

Croatian Public Relations Association.

Gloria Lazarao is programme officer at Plan Bleu, coordinating a portfolio of projects with focus on sustainable tourism and biodiversity protection. With a background on environmental sciences, Gloria has worked for over 10 years on sustainable development initiatives related to ecosystem restoration, flood risk prevention and water management.

She worked in a consultancy for 4 years in the implementation of the Water framework Directive and in the River Restoration National Strategy, in Spain. Before joining Plan Bleu, Gloria worked in climate change adaptation, mainly focused on floods: for the Algerian flood risk prevention National Strategy and for the European centre for flood risk prevention – CEPRI- (Orléans, France). Gloria has contributed to the H2020 AMBER project which has completed the first European Atlas of rivers barriers and recently published an article on river fragmentation in Europe in Nature.



Registration, connection details and technical specifications

We invite all those interested in the themes of sustainable tourism, the urbanisation of the coast and climate change in the Mediterranean coast to follow the live streaming of the webinar on our YouTube platform on the following [link](#).