

Navigating Policy with Evidence: Conservation and Restoration of Mediterranean Coastal Wetlands

Webinar

29th SEPTEMBER

10.00 – 13.30 AM (CEST)

BACKGROUND

Coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean are vital ecosystems that buffer storms and sea-level rise, store carbon and regulate greenhouse gases, and sustain rich biodiversity. Yet they face growing threats from pollution, unsustainable land use and tourism, and climate change. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action informed by science and integrated policy frameworks.

This webinar will review their current status, present recent scientific evidence, and discuss ways to integrate findings into nature, climate, and sectoral policies. It will contribute to advancing regional commitments under the Barcelona Convention, particularly the Post-2020 SAPBIO, as well as the Paris Agreement, Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Green Deal.

Focusing on the role of wetlands in climate mitigation, discussions will address:

- Integrating scientific evidence into national and regional policies.
- Presenting tools and solutions for wetland conservation and restoration to enhance climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Developing harmonised information to support evidence-based policy recommendations.

The meeting targets experts from national and sub-national authorities, research institutions, and organisations engaged in evaluating or implementing coastal wetland policies at country level in the Mediterranean.

The webinar is organised by the European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis—University of Malaga (ETC-UMA) in the framework of RESTORE4Cs and Wetland4Change projects in close collaboration with the Regional Activity Centers, PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the Barcelona Convention, MedWet, University of Valencia and Tour de Valat.

The Working language of the webinar is English and French.

AGENDA

- 10:00 – 10:10** Welcome and Introduction
UNEP-MAP RAC, ETC-UMA

Session Policy Measures

- 10:15 – 10:25** Presentation on the main findings from State and trends of Mediterranean wetlands 2025
Anis Ghelmani, Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, Tour de Valat
- 10:25 – 10:45** Cross-road policies and targets for Protecting and Restoring Coastal Wetlands in the Barcelona Convention
UNEP-MAP PAP/RAC and RAC/SPA
- 10:45 – 10:55** Feedback from the Ramsar COP
Chris Rostron, MedWet
- 10:55 – 11:05** Q&A

Session Tools to assess and track progress

- 11:05 – 11:20** Monitoring and Reporting Framework for Wetland Policy Assessment at National, EU, and Mediterranean Levels
Mar Otero, Christoph Schröder, European Topic Centre-UMA
- 11:20 – 11:40** Q&A

SHORT BREAK (11:40 – 11:50)

Session Tools to support national wetland assessments

- 11:50 – 12:05** Protecting Algeria's coastal wetlands and advancing knowledge with Earth Observation tools
Ms. Nadjiba Bendjedda, Ramsar/MedWet focal point in Algeria
- 12:05 – 12:20** Assessment Tools for GHG monitoring and accounting
Carlos Rochera, University of Valencia
- 12:20 – 12:35** Q&A
- 12:35 – 12:50** Assessment Tool for Flood
Anis Ghelmani, Tour de Valat
- 12:50 – 13:05** Coastal Wetland Information Portal
Christoph Schröder, European Topic Center-University of Malaga
- 13:05 – 13:20** Q&A
- 13:20 – 13:30** Closing Remarks