



Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FEDER)

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# FUTURE TRENDS OF BLUE GROWTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

## MEDTRENDS

The Mediterranean Sea is increasingly exploited by a range of maritime activities, all of which are predicted to expand substantially over the next 20 years: wind farms, oil extraction, cables, shipping routes, fisheries and other human activities including tourism.

This expansion will result in:

- **Increased demand for limited space and marine resources**
- **Increased conflict between maritime sectors**
- **Increased conflict between human use and nature.**

An EU integrated approach towards EU maritime areas has recently emerged to address this issue. A Marine Spatial Planning Directive is about to be fully approved.

The MedTrends project is inspired by WWF's 2010 report *Future trends for the Baltic Sea* which highlighted the substantial growth trend expected in the Baltic region over the next 20 years and showed how the Baltic sea governance framework was clearly ill-equipped for meeting oncoming challenges.

In a nutshell

**The MedTrends project will illustrate and map the most likely integrated scenarios of marine economic growth at a transnational level in Med-EU countries for the next 20 years.**

The potential cumulative impacts of human activities at sea will be assessed and put into the perspective of the 10% Marine Protected Areas target set for the Mediterranean.

## Timeframe

- A 13-month project
- Starting June 1, 2014
- Ending June 30, 2015

## Geographical scope of the project

Territorial waters of the 8 EU Mediterranean countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Greece, Malta, Slovenia, Spain.

## Project Objectives

1. Investigate future trends for various economic sectors and assess whether these sectors are likely to overlap in terms of sea use and impacts.
2. Carry out an overall analysis of growth trends and potential cumulative impacts of human activities at sea and compare with the 10% Marine Protected Areas target set for the Mediterranean.
3. Through advisory groups, initiate a discussion with key public stakeholders on how to achieve more efficient and integrated planning and management of the Mediterranean sea.
4. Implement a feasibility study on how Mediterranean marine ecosystem services and values could be integrated in future MSP decision-making processes.
5. Provide recommendations to Programme Med, national governments, EU and Mediterranean organizations for the sustainable way forward in particular in the context of the Marine Spatial Planning directive implementation.

## General methodology

MedTrends will collect data and map integrated scenarios of maritime economy growth at a transnational level in 8 EU Mediterranean countries over the next 15-20 years.

An overall analysis of growth trends and potential cumulative impacts of human activities at sea will be carried out in the particular context of the 10% Marine Protected Areas target set for the Mediterranean and the good environmental status objective set by the MSFD.

Considered sectors include: wind energy, shipping, ports, oil and gas exploration and extraction, pipelines and cables, coastal development, sand and gravel extraction, military activity, industrial pollution, tourism and recreation, commercial fishing, aquaculture, agricultural runoff, climate change, coastal chemical plants, desalination plants.

Data collection and reporting will be shared geographically among partners.

At national and transnational levels advisory committees will be established to provide advice and data input.

A transnational report outlining scenarios for the future development of the various sectors will be produced by the lead partner. On that basis, national summary reports will be produced by partners.

## Project partners

### Lead partner

- WWF-France

### Partners

- WWF Mediterranean in partnership with WWF Italy
- WWF-Greece
- WWF-Spain
- Nature Trust Malta

### Associate partners

- WWF Baltic Programme
- Blue Plan
- MedPAN Association



### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

### WWF-FRANCE

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