



## RESOURCE PACK FOR EDUCATORS

BeMED

A COMMITMENT FOR A PLASTIC-FREE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

**Nature Trust – FEE Malta**  
**2021**



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The lessons/activity plans and accompanying resources are the responsibility of the respective authors/contributors.

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Project Coordinator: Marvic Refalo

Education consultant in Education for Sustainable Development: Prof Paul Pace

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## Introduction

### Caring for the sea – Caring for our wellbeing

Covering more than 70% of our planet the sea is all around us. It is the place where millions of years ago the first lifeforms appeared and from where they eventually colonised the land. The wide range of marine habitats and ecosystems it offers are home for billions of creatures ranging from the smallest organisms to the largest animals to ever inhabit the Earth.

The sea moderates our planet's climate and plays an important role in supporting the cycles that maintain life ... particularly the water cycle that ensures that life sustaining water flows through the various ecosystems and the atmosphere. It also provides us with considerable supplies of food and is indispensable for the fishing industry. Humans have learned to use the sea for leisure, travelling, trading, warfare, mineral extraction and to generate power.

The Mediterranean is a sea that is almost completely enclosed by land. Being at the crossroads of three continents, it has always been a theatre for various forms of human interactions: languages, cultures, religions, politics, conflicts, trade and migration. The history of the Mediterranean region played a central role in determining western civilization and is crucial to understanding the origins and development of many modern societies. Specific environmental issues together with the varied socio-economic conditions that characterise the Mediterranean had – and are still having – a significant impact on sustainable development in the region.

All the activity – from land and sea – has made the Mediterranean Sea the most polluted sea in the world. It is subjected to all forms of pollution that, together with overfishing, are drastically decreasing marine biodiversity. One of the greatest culprits is plastic pollution that, besides taking ages to decompose, it is killing millions of creatures who either by ingesting plastic objects mistaking it for food or by getting entangled and suffocating in drifting waste. However, the damage doesn't end there: the sun breaks down plastic into tiny fragments called micro-plastics that find their way into food-chains gradually unleashing poison in the bodies of the fish that ingest them ... and finally ending up in our plates.

The Beyond Plastic Med initiative (BeMed) was set up to support and bring together whoever is committed towards halting plastic pollution by coming up with and implementing innovative, effective and sustainable solutions. Besides being committed towards disseminating best practices BeMed is committed towards raising public awareness about the issue and, most importantly, empowering citizens to take action.

In line with this goal, Nature Trust – FEE Malta has embarked in this project, Clean Seas by Eco-Schools Malta, aiming to develop an educational pack for educators to teach about marine pollution and biodiversity. The pack seeks to adapt to the various needs of learners in different school realities. Consequently, the pack provides a set of activities and resources that span various ages, learning abilities and curriculum subjects, while addressing the cross-curricular theme of Education for Sustainable Development. The pack was developed by teachers for teachers and is therefore sensitive to the needs and resources available at the grassroots hence improving the pack's chances of implementation. The pack will be disseminated among all schools in Malta and Gozo and through the Eco-Schools global network.

*Prof Paul Pace*

*Eco-Schools National Operator*

## Contributors

Samantha Abela	Maria Baldacchino	Saviour Bonnici
Cynthia Caruana	Valeria Caruana	Neville Dimech
Johann Gatt	Audrey Gauci	Sharon Giordimaina
Mariella Grech	Melissa Grima	Ramona Mercieca
Anita Muscat	Amanda Pace	Anthea Pisani
Christian Saliba	Esther Sammut Carbone	Lino Xerri

## Age guide

KG1 (Kindergarten): 3–4 years	KG2 (Kindergarten): 4–5 years
Year 1: 5-6 years	Year 2: 6-7 years
Year 3: 7-8 years	Year 4: 8-9 years
Year 5: 9-10 years	Year 6: 10-11 years
Year 7 (Form 1): 11-12 years	Year 8 (Form 2): 12-13 years
Year 9 (Form 3): 13-14 years	Year 10 (Form 4): 14-15 years
Year 11 (Form 5): 15-16 years	

## The Sustainable Development Goals

Each of the lessons/activities within this educational resource pack are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (<https://en.unesco.org/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>).

