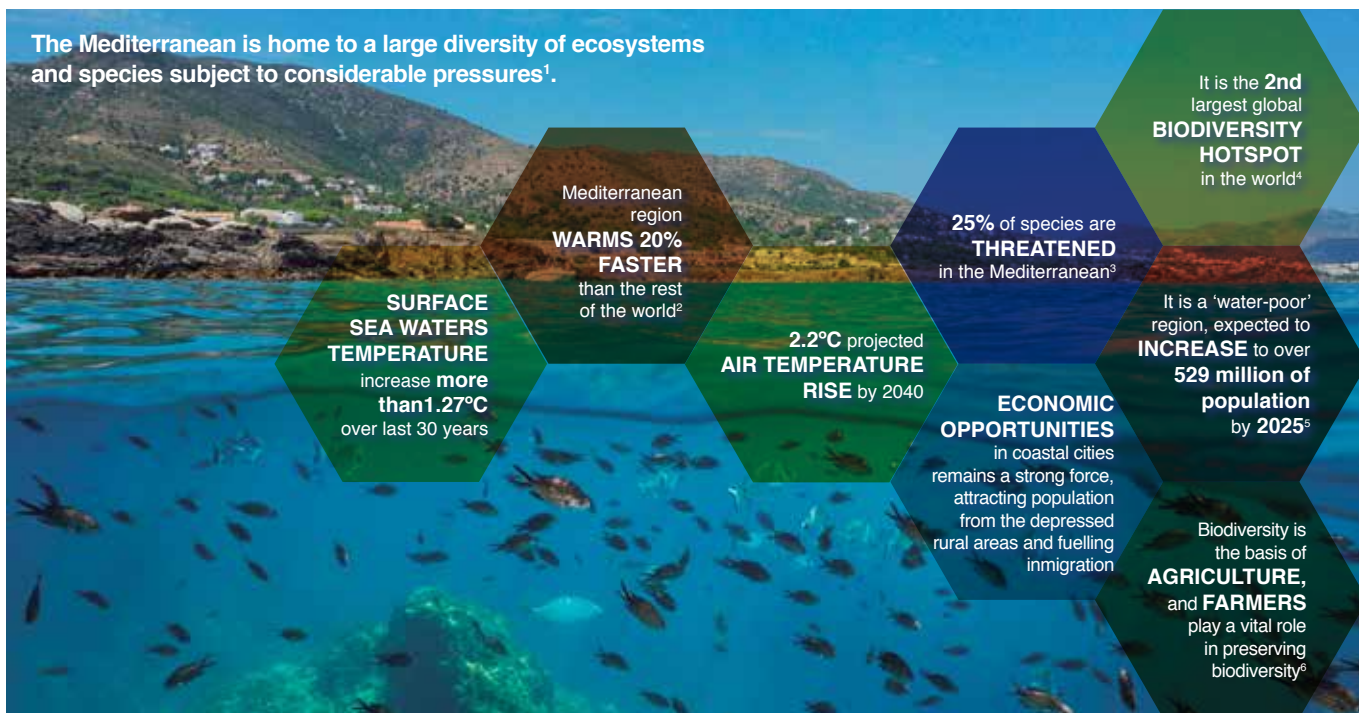




Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean

Making the case for Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean



Why is it important?

Nature-based Solutions implemented in the Mediterranean through **restoration** and improving **conservation** of ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and seagrass meadows, can help communities to address the climate and **biodiversity** crisis and **societal needs** in a post Covid19 era.

Forests and other types of vegetation help lower air temperature in urban areas or stabilise slopes. **Wetlands** can regulate floods and sea level rise. Coastal vegetation and natural features such as **sand dunes** and **Posidonia-beach** systems can provide protection against storm surges and strong winds. **Agro-biodiversity** practices can enhance food production.

Nature-based Solutions also aim to generate **local employment** and new **economic opportunities** in a fair and equitable way.

What Are Nature-based Solutions?

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are defined as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits” (IUCN, 2016).

IUCN has been leading a collaborative effort in designing the **Global NbS Standard**. This standard is intended to be a simple yet **robust hands-on tool** that enables the translation of the concept into targeted actions for **implementation** and enables **verification** of whether an action is NbS or not.

SOCIETAL CHALLENGE/S:

- Climate Change
- Disaster Risk
- Food Security
- Human Health
- Water Security
- Economic and Social Development



¹ Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025

² MedECC (2019): A preliminary assessment of risk associated to climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region by the MedECC network in collaboration with decision-makers

³ IUCN, 2018

⁴ Ecosystem profile (2017)

⁵ UNEP/MAP (2013) State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment, UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention, Athens

⁶ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2008). Biodiversity and Agriculture: Safeguarding Biodiversity and Securing Food for the World. Montreal

What are the main objectives of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation?

Aligned with the IUCN Global Programme, IUCN-Med's strategy advocates for **the integration of biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into policy, management** and sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and areas as coastal and marine environment & climate change, and in urban environments.

We aim to support **ecosystems multifunctionalities** as to improve local communities and ecosystems resilience by:

- Promoting the NbS standard in Mediterranean, including **capacity building** in NbS.
- Supporting the deployment and uptake of NbS in the **public and private sector**.
- Enhancing the framework conditions for Nature-based Solutions at **policy level**, including **economic incentives**.

IUCN CURRENT WORK in the Mediterranean on NbS



1



2



3



5



4

1 Promoting the role of Mediterranean MPAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation

2 Improving managing Posidonia beach-dune systems against coastal erosion

3 Promoting retain, maintain and restore natural coastal carbon sinks (Posidonia meadows and coastal wetlands)

4 Integration of NbS into the National Determined Contributions in 2 North Africa countries (Morocco and Tunisia)

5 Dissemination of the NbS concept in cities and mapping NbS interventions in Mediterranean cities

JOIN US TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER

- To apply the NbS concept framework and standards to improve in projects of climate change adaptation and mitigation in **wetlands management and restoration**.
- To develop local NbS clusters of public and private stakeholders in **Mediterranean cities** to promote concrete applications in several countries urban areas.
- To enhance the role that NbS can have on improving **coastal resilience** and **coastal management**.
- To integrate NbS measures within **national climate plans** in pilot North African countries.
- To apply NbS to agricultural landscapes to ensure food security and maintenance of **cultural landscapes**.

...by 2024



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