



NEWSLETTER

April  
2012



FIRST MEETING OF ARTISANAL FISHERMEN AND MPAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, MARINE RESERVE OF TORRE GUACETO, ITALY © R. DUPUY DE LA GRANDRIÈRE / WWF

# MEDITERRANEAN ECHO

## Newsletter of the WWF Mediterranean Initiative • Issue 8

Generate a sea change in Mediterranean marine management • Equip Mediterranean ecosystems to adapt to climate change • Secure Mediterranean water resources • Build a future for Mediterranean landscapes

### A CONSTITUENCY FOR ECOSYSTEM-BASED MARINE MANAGEMENT IS EMERGING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Since 2007 the WWF Mediterranean marine team has carried out capacity building, technical assistance, gap analyses, exchanges of good practices and guidelines, lobbying and advocacy pursuing the objectives of the Marine Strategic Framework of the Mediterranean Initiative. As part of that strategy we have worked to facilitate the establishment of two networks: an ecologically representative and effectively managed network of MPAs (the MedPAN association) and a network of sites where fishermen promote a sustainable way of fishing (the Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishermen). We also intended from the outset that these two networks should become mutually supportive and that a constituency should develop from the cross fertilization of these two — a constituency able to influence politics, policies and markets. The results of this strategy were made clear at the first meeting of Artisanal Fishermen and Marine Protected Areas of the Mediterranean, held at the Marine Reserve of Torre Guaceto, Italy, on March 16 and 17, where an amazing exchange of ideas led to a clear vision for the future. The alliance between the two networks came together in a series of messages from fishermen, scientists and MPA managers to the EC to save the Mediterranean, to save Artisanal fisheries, to support MPAs and to avoid the commercialization of discarded fish. In a few words the newly created constituency tried to influence decisions made at the March meeting of the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council. Thus the Torre Guaceto meeting was an unqualified success, and it was amazing to see the tangible results of our work, carried out through various project over the past 5 years.

Marco Costantini, WWF Mediterranean Initiative Marine team

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### EC Commissioner Damanaki tweets with Mediterranean Artisanal Fishermen

Artisanal fishermen from the Mediterranean chose to communicate with the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, recently through Twitter, and their messages were answered. The fishermen's appeal — FISHGREEN! We fish in a sustainable way! — was launched following the first meeting of Artisanal Fishermen and Marine Protected Areas of the Mediterranean. "We want to

thank Commissioner Damanaki for having replied to us in such a brief time and for having paid attention", said Miquel Sacanell, Spanish representative of the Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishermen. "We sincerely hope that the 'virtual' contact we have made with Commissioner Damanaki will lead to a face-to-face meeting in one of the areas where we work".

See <http://mediterranean.panda.org/news>

## FIRST MEETING OF “MEDITERRANEO — ARTISANAL FISHERIES IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS”

For several hundred years artisanal fisheries have been a crucial economic activity and one of the pillars of Mediterranean culture. The MedPAN network supports artisanal fishermen working within Mediterranean MPAs and considers that MPA artisanal fisheries can be sustainable. The European Union, however, does not give Mediterranean artisanal fisheries the recognition and support they deserve. While Mediterranean artisanal fisheries are in decline there are many positive case studies of sustainable artisanal fisheries, particularly working within Mediterranean MPAs. The MedPAN network, through the MedPAN North project, decided to address this issue by bringing together small-scale artisanal fishermen and MPAs of the Mediterranean. 25 artisanal fishermen and 17 MPAs from 6 countries — Croatia, France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Slovenia — attended the meeting at the Marine Reserve of Torre Guaceto, in Carovigno, Italy, in March.

Participants agreed that artisanal fishermen and MPAs both work towards ecological monitoring of the sea, that they share a common vision and objectives and that collaboration between MPAs and artisanal fishermen, through innovative activities, saves public money and contributes to the economic sustainability of artisanal fisheries. The meeting concluded that the specificity and the sustainability of artisanal fisheries should be recognized and taken into account by public fisheries policies at European and national levels, and in particular by the Common Fisheries Policy Reform, otherwise the survival of artisanal fisheries could be compromised. Three refusals and four requests to the EC were formulated:

### 4 requests to the European Commission

- Support the multi-functionality and the diversity of the various occupations and crafts covered by Mediterranean artisanal fisheries
- support the co-management (between fishermen, marine protected areas, researchers and decision makers) of artisanal fisheries in long-term action plans and open up a specific funding line for artisanal fishing
- Take recreational fishing into account in the management of halieutic resources
- Support a policy of establishing marine protected areas in the Mediterranean for the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, as well as the protection and increase of halieutic resources.

MedPAN North is an EU-funded project coordinated by WWF France  
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### 3 “nos” to the European Commission

- No to Individual Transferable Quotas.
- No to a development of aquaculture that threatens artisanal fisheries.
- No to the commercial use of fisheries discards.

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© C. PLANTE / WWF FRANCE



## Torre Guaceto - a success story

For several years, Torre Guaceto has featured a co-management approach between the MPA authority and local fishermen. Roughly one-tenth of the 22-km<sup>2</sup> site is no-take, while the remainder allows fishing with certain gears at certain times. This approach has allowed high revenues for the fishermen who work there while meeting conservation targets for the MPA. Most importantly the fishermen have taken ownership of this achievement and their entire community has benefited from the experience.

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## Mediterranean artisanal fishermen appeal to the EU in the lead up to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy



“In the lead up to the Common Fisheries Policy reform, a policy which has obviously so far been a failure, we cannot fail again... Fisheries co-management and the co-management of natural resources is a path we should take to emerge from this situation. In the near future we are going to put forward solutions to the structural problems that fishing is facing right now. Those problems are: the destruction of fishing resources and the non-viability of fishing economies. Finding a solution is in all our hands.”

Mauricio Pulido, Arenys de Mar, Barcelona, Spain

“Fisheries resources are in an alarming state and we have to commit ourselves to ensuring that the resources will recover. Without resources, without fish, no fishing will be possible. It is therefore necessary to focus the financing lines from the EU on effective models for its recovery.”

Miquel Sacanell, Estarrit, Girona, Spain



“This reform puts us in danger particularly regarding discards, which are creating an industry based on these practices instead of limiting or stopping the catch of undersized fish or bycatch. Artisanal fishing is sustainable fishing. Why? We use small boats, we work where we live, so it is all local. You don't destroy a garden, you take care of it. Small-scale fisheries generate a lot of jobs, of small boats. We feed local, coastal populations, our fish is sold locally on the day it is caught.”

Christian Décugis, Saint Raphaël, Côte d'Azur, France

“Individual Transferable Quotas don't represent the right tool for the Common Fisheries Policy reform. We think that there are other and better ways to manage fishing resources such as co-management. Our participation represents a key point as it also takes into account our knowledge of the environment. This has not been addressed and decisions are made far away from our reality... and those decisions affect us directly.”

Ramon Tarridas, Arenys de Mar, Barcelona, Spain



“In the discussion for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy fishermen are present with their proposals, their frustrations and their arguments. Everybody has to understand — the EU, DG Mare and national governments — that they are about to make a huge mistake that we will not be able to reverse or correct. We cannot impose our own rules and our politics on the sea — we have to follow the sea's own rules. I have a 5-year-old son who wants to become a fisherman. Nobody has the right to deprive him of that choice. He is the next generation. We have to keep the sea alive for him and for our future.”

Dimitris Zannes, Korthi, Isla de Andros, Cyclades Islands, Greece

Watch the video EU Fisheries Reform: Messages from Mediterranean Artisanal Fishermen  
<https://vimeo.com/39575450>



## TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN TUNISIA

The management of fisheries for the protection of marine resources in Tunisia and elsewhere is a major concern. In February a workshop for 50 managers and technicians of the fisheries and marine conservation sectors took place in Bizerte in northern Tunisia. Participants exchanged views on the concept and principles of sustainable fisheries and the role of MPAs in the management of marine resources. The main conclusions of the two days of exchanges emphasize the importance of dialogue between users of the sea, especially fishermen, in the process of establishing MPAs. The discussions also highlighted the lack of legislation in Tunisia for the management and control of fishing activities — there is a need to establish maritime courts and fishery guards to ensure surveillance. Long-term scientific and socioeconomic monitoring must also be established to measure trends.

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## Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea

The Sunce association, coordinator of the MedPAN South Project pilot project in Croatia, organized a 2-day workshop at the end of January in Split. The workshop gathered representatives of the nature protection sector, from MPAs and government, scientists and fisheries professionals to discuss the state of fisheries in the Adriatic sea, identify problems and obstacles and envisage the solutions that can lead to sustainability.

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## Updated web site

The MedPAN South Project web site has been completed to provide an up-to-date view of the project. A project news section has been added along with details on effective field results and documents produced. The home page also features the project video that was released at the end of 2011. The web site is available in French and English.

[www.panda.org/msp](http://www.panda.org/msp)

## Greek kids love marine mammals

The documentary “The marine mammals of Greece: our co-habitants in the Greek Seas” presents the 9 marine mammals that live in the Greek seas (the Mediterranean monk seal, the sperm whale, the fin whale, Cuvier’s beaked dolphin, the striped dolphin, Risso’s dolphin, the common bottlenose dolphin, the shortbeaked common dolphin and the harbor porpoise). The film is about their importance to the marine environment and Greek culture and the threat they are under, and suggests solutions for their conservation. Created within the project “Thalassa” (WWF Greece together with MOM, the Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal) the film was a huge success during the 14th Documentary Film Festival of Thessaloniki — *Images of the 21st century* and was the only documentary that all schools wanted to see. More than 2,000 children saw the documentary by the end of the festival.

See [www.thalassapedia.gr](http://www.thalassapedia.gr)



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## Crisis Observatory

### WWF ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF THE CRISIS IN EUROPE

WWF Greece and WWF Italy are taking the lead on a joint WWF action addressing the environmental dimensions of the current crisis in Europe. Serious environmental policy and legislation setbacks, attributed directly to conditions included in the bailout agreement supported by the EC, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Central Bank, are taking place in Greece. The alarming rate of these environmentally perilous changes has been brought to light and analysed in two letters, co-signed by Jim Leape (WWF International), Tony Long (WWF EPO) and Demetres Karavellas (WWF Greece), addressed to the IMF Managing Director, Christine Lagarde, and the EC President, Jose Manuel Barroso. The response to the crisis on the part of national governments and the European Union puts the environment aside and seriously threatens to undermine the important achievements of WWF's work over the past 20-30 years.

The Rio+20 UN Summit (June 20-22, 2012) constitutes a landmark for the completion of a first round of actions documenting environmental losses, highlighting an environmentally and socially sustainable exit from the crisis and advocating for green reform. In the lead-up to this Summit, WWF European Conservation Directors have decided to undertake joint action on the environmental dimensions of the financial crisis which includes:

- an electronic “crisis observatory” — the e-hub of all available information on the environmental aspects of the ongoing financial crisis in Europe
- analysis of the environmental dimensions of the crisis
- development of lobbying and advocacy material
- joint communications activities.

The crisis is not restricted to Greece — it affects all of Europe. Given the severity of the impacts of the crisis on societies and on all economic sectors, now is the time for WWF to be reactive and proactive to lead a sustainable way out of the crisis.

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### ENP process in Morocco

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) builds on a mutual commitment to common values — democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development. WWF Mediterranean seeks to reinforce good governance practices in Morocco by working with a network of NGOs — the ENP NGO working group — to promote citizens' participation in influencing policy at national and regional levels. Activities focus on strengthening the ENP working group, set up in 2007. Group members participated recently in three important international and regional events. In February they were at the MedWet International Symposium on Water and Wetlands in the Mediterranean, in Agadir

(Morocco) to raise awareness regarding the critical situation of the Moulouya mouth Ramsar Site. In March they participated in the regional programme ENPI-South CS Euromed and participated in the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille (France). For the coming year advocacy and lobbying activities are foreseen on such diverse issues as the Mediterranean Solar Plan and the National Charter of Environmental Implementation.

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### Turkey's Ecological Footprint Report

Turkey's Ecological Footprint Report, prepared in collaboration with the Global Footprint Network and launched in Istanbul in March, indicates that an average person in Turkey consumes 50% more natural resources than are globally available per person. The report provides the scientific background for further analyses of and strategic decisions on natural resources management. Specific recommendations to tackle the ecological overshoot are also offered in the report.

[www.wwf.org.tr](http://www.wwf.org.tr)



## THE QUALIGOUV PROJECT IN PORTUGAL

The Qualigouv project works towards the improvement of the governance and quality of forest management in Mediterranean protected areas. WWF Mediterranean is one of 8 partner organizations working together across the region. In Portugal the WWF team has implemented the concept of high conservation value areas, gathering information on biodiversity, carbon storage and aquifer locations for the south of Portugal, the main geographic area of distribution of cork and holm oak woodlands. Together with the University of Lisbon and a small open-source GIS software company (Faunalia), this information has been compiled in a WebGIS ([www.habeas-med.org](http://www.habeas-med.org)) and made available to all. The tool has had a very good reception and supports the identification of conservation areas within FSC-certification processes and, more recently, has generated a first case of payment for ecosystem services between Coca-Cola Portugal and the Association of Forest Landowners of Coruche, an important region for cork oak.

[www.qualigouv.eu](http://www.qualigouv.eu)

[www.hcvnetwork.org](http://www.hcvnetwork.org)

[www.habeas-med.org](http://www.habeas-med.org)

## Forest management in Morocco and Catalonia

In Catalonia, Spain, the CatalunyaCaixa Foundation is successfully managing 24 natural forest areas. With WWF Mediterranean they organized a visit to Catalonia recently for 12 forest engineers and managers from the Middle Atlas in Morocco. During the 3 days the group visited many different sites including a restoration programme, a mountain area in the process of obtaining FSC-certification, a wood-processing plant and a forest nursery. They shared examples of good practices in forest management and the implementation of management plans for the conservation of forest ecosystems. The Moroccan participants were very interested in the possible application of the Foundation's model to the management of natural areas in Morocco, and the potential collaboration between CatalunyaCaixa Foundation and the Eaux et Forêts administration in Morocco.

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## GFTN Iberia Newsletter launched

GFTN-Iberia is the regional arm of WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network. Information about GFTN-Iberia participants, latest statistics, and more is in the first edition of the recently launched newsletter. Seventeen network member companies in Portugal and Spain are now committed to responsible forestry and trade and have a global turnover of more than 12 billion euros; the area of the Iberian peninsula now FSC-certified is 367,000ha and there are 500 FSC certifiers in the chain of custody. <http://gftn.panda.org/newsroom/newsletters/>

## Dinaric Arc Parks: WWF in the western Balkans

In the Dinaric Arc WWF is working towards the establishment of a regional identity built on shared natural and cultural values, personal contacts and joint actions between protected areas staff. The Dinaric Arc Parks project seeks to improve the quality of dialogue, understanding and collaboration between countries of the western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. The project began in January this year and will last until the end of 2014.

[dinaricarcparcs.blogspot.com](http://dinaricarcparcs.blogspot.com)



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## World water: successes and challenges

The 6th World Water Forum was held in Marseille, France, in March, just ahead of the global celebration of World Water Day on March 22. Two of WWF's water experts reflect on recent successes and remaining challenges, looking ahead toward the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20, 20 - 22 June 2012)

<http://mediterranean.panda.org/?203936/World-Water-Day-2012>

## How hydropower can be sustainable

DVDs from the WWF Mediterranean study visit to the Spöl River in Switzerland are now available. Decision makers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro were introduced to the principles of sustainable hydropower during the study visit in October and can now share their experiences with colleagues and others. The DVDs are subtitled in English and in local languages.

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See also new web pages on WWF Mediterranean freshwater work in the western Balkans: DASHI – The Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative project.

<http://mediterranean.panda.org/freshwater/dashi>



## Water stewardship in Turkey

A training course for Turkish government authorities was organized recently by WWF Turkey and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs to increase national authorities' awareness of basic water footprint concepts and introduce the water footprint as a tool in policy making processes and river basin planning. Participants learnt about virtual water, methods of water footprint calculation and discussed the critical role of water within the economy. The General Directorate of Water Affairs is now looking to initiate a water footprint analysis at a pilot river basin and to calculate Turkey's footprint at the country level to include it as a tool in basin planning processes. WWF Turkey will continue to provide technical support to national authorities and further envisages extending the scope of its work on water stewardship.

[www.wwf.org.tr](http://www.wwf.org.tr)

## Petition against destruction of Croatian wetlands

On March 22nd, World Water Day, representatives of WWF and "Riverwatchers" met with Mirela Holy, Croatia's Minister for the Environment and Nature Protection in Zagreb. They submitted an international petition with 20,160 signatures asking the Minister to stop a highly controversial river channelling project which would lead to the destruction of valuable wetlands in the Kopački Rit area in Croatia, home to Europe's largest wetlands and floodplain forests. Assessment of the project is still underway.

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## UMUT TURAL

We report, with great sadness, the premature and devastating loss of our friend and colleague Umut Tural. Umut passed away on February 3rd, after fighting cancer for almost a year. Umut had worked for WWF Turkey since 2009 on marine conservation and was Project Coordinator of the Kas-Kekova Marine Protected Area Project carried out under the MedPAN South Project. Umut described himself as a "field and marine person". We will always remember his passion for life and dedication to the sea.

**Stay tuned for our next newsletter**

**For more information**  
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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.

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