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**PRESS RELEASE** 

## Can we protect the Mediterranean natural environment? Yes! Together.

Together, we can share knowledge, propose solutions, and prepare the Mediterranean region for a safer, cleaner and healthier environment for the next generations. The Natural Heritage Mission invites you to join the launching of its seven-year journey to protect, restore and valorise the natural environment.

## We start this journey in Barcelona, from 7th to 9th of June 2023!

The Mediterranean region is rich in its culture, history and biodiversity. For example, more than 100 tree species are found on a surface representing only 1.8% of forests worldwide, while the Mediterranean Sea, covering only 0.8% of the world's total ocean area, is home to over 17,000 marine species. At the same time, Mediterranean territories share common challenges related to global change impacts: environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and lack of harmonised solutions.

The protection of these valuable resources cannot be achieved following fragmented approaches, but only through strong cooperation. The Natural Heritage Mission will use the available knowledge, avoiding the duplication of efforts, and will develop action plans to address climate change adaptation, identify pollution mitigation measures, consolidate biodiversity protection strategies and raise awareness on various environmental challenges. On this endeavour, we need all of you!

On the 9th of June, you are invited to our hybrid event and field visit (labelled as an official EU Green Week Partner event and an EMD In My Country 2023 side event) in Barcelona to meet the core members of a community of over 50 organisations and to learn more about our plans and strategies!

Community4Nature and Dialogue4Nature are the two Interreg Euro-MED governance projects dealing with the topic of "Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage" in the Mediterranean (Mission for Nature).

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