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Natural Heritage Mission's Side Events within COP24

24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine
Environment and the Coastal Region of the
Mediterranean and its Protocols

Cairo, 2025

A project labelled by the UfM



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الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



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During the **24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols**, the Natural Heritage Mission took part through its partners and members of its Community of Practice in the following side events:

1. Towards a Coordinated Technical and Scientific Support Mechanism for the Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in the Mediterranean Region

On December 2nd, 2025, the side event: **“Towards a Coordinated Technical and Scientific Support Mechanism for the Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in the Mediterranean Region”**, organised by the IUCN Med with the support of MedCities, Plan Bleu, MedPan, UfM and other Mediterranean entities, took place.



The event focused on fostering regional cooperation, sharing scientific and technical expertise, and exploring strategies to enhance biodiversity support in the Mediterranean region. Discussions were held on how Technical Support Centres (TSCs) can collaborate more effectively across the Mediterranean to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Moreover, emphasis was given on how initiatives driven by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme partnerships, such as the Natural Heritage Mission, can strengthen coordination and reduce fragmentation.



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2. The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory: A science-policy interface tool to guide decisions

On the same day and just after the first event, Tour du Valat and MedWet (partners of [Wetland4Change](#) and [WE GO COOP](#) projects respectively) organised: “**The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory: A science-policy interface tool to guide decisions**” side-event. It is well known that coastal wetlands are among the most threatened Mediterranean habitats, but they also play a key role to marine and coastal ecosystems’ health. The event was an opportunity to present the MWO-3, the most recent and comprehensive scientific assessment of the state of Mediterranean wetlands, finalised in 2025 by the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory.

The 2 previous events were organised under the ‘thematic’ of marine protected areas.

3. Restoring Mediterranean Wetlands and Forests: Technical Innovations and Governance for Climate Resilience



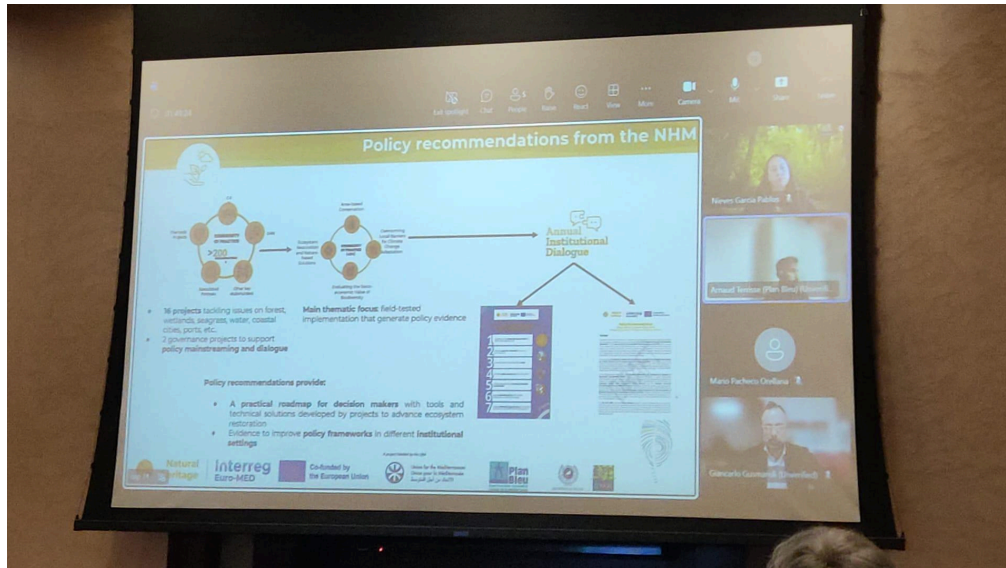
On December 3rd, 2025, the side event “**Restoring Mediterranean Wetlands and Forests: Technical Innovations and Governance for Climate Resilience**” was co-organised by Plan Bleu, alongside the European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA) and other partners from the Natural Heritage Community of Practice, on the ‘thematic’ of natural conservation.

The event was an occasion for sharing:

- Innovative practical solutions for restoring forests ([StrategyMedFor](#)) and wetlands ([WE GO COOP](#));
- Participatory governance approaches, reinforced by key messages from the latest FAO report on the state of the Mediterranean forests; and



- The Natural Heritage Mission's policy recommendations on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems restoration.



It also brought together national actors and regional organizations, initiating a political dialogue aiming to identify concrete pathways for strengthening alignment with regional and international frameworks.

4. Mediterranean Coastal and Marine Restoration: Bridging Local Practice and Policy for Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

On the same day and under the 'thematic' of restoration, ETC-UMA joined forces with MedWet and IUCN and presented the "**Mediterranean Coastal and Marine Restoration: Bridging Local Practice and Policy for Biodiversity and Climate Resilience**" side-event, supported by [Wetland4Change](#) project. This joint event aimed to showcase policy recommendations from complementary initiatives, such as [Wetland4Change](#), **Restore4Cs**, **RESCOM**, **REST-COAST** and the network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (**MedPAN**), outlining future priorities for the Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystems' restoration. It also explored how wetland and coastal areas' actions can be integrated into national and regional policy frameworks.



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Barcelona Convention
COP24
CAIRO 2025

Wednesday, **December 3rd**
12:30h to 14:30h
Room: **Malachite I and II, Floor 2**
The St. Regis Cairo, Egypt

SIDE EVENT
The event will be held in English and French

Mediterranean Coastal and Marine Restoration
Bridging Local Practice & Policy
for Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

Organizers:
ETC, MedWet, IUCN

With Financial support from:
EC Projects, REST-COAST, ResCoM, RESTORE, Wetland4Change, and others.

5. 100MPA MedAlliance: Building resilient MPAs to face climate emergency by 2030

100MPA MEDALLIANCE:
BUILDING RESILIENT MPAS TO
FACE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
BY 2030

3 DECEMBER 2025
9:30-12:00
ASTOR PLENARY HALL

“100MPA MedAlliance: Building resilient MPAs to face climate emergency by 2030” was another side event held on December 3rd, 2025, under the ‘thematic’ of climate change. The event was co-organised by the Spanish Research Council - CSIC, MedPAN, UfM, IUCN and other organisations. This event focused on the collaborative initiative ‘100MPA MedAlliance’ which aims at enhancing the resilience to climate change and effectiveness of the Mediterranean MPAs System to climate change by integrating climate adaptation strategies in 100 MPAs across the basin by 2030. This initiative

was initiated during the [MPA4Change](#) project.



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6. From Science to Action: Strengthening Conservation and Cooperation for Priority Mediterranean Species and Habitats



FROM SCIENCE TO ACTION:

Strengthening Conservation & Cooperation for Priority Mediterranean Species & Habitats

DECEMBER 4TH, 9:00-10:00
ASTOR, PLENARY HALL FLOOR 1
THE ST. REGIS CAIRO

Co-hosted by:

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
OFB
Plan Bleu
WWF

24TH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

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Finally, on December 4th, 2025, the side event: **"From Science to Action: Strengthening Conservation and Cooperation for Priority Mediterranean Species and Habitats"** was co-organized by ACCOBAMS, Mediterranean Posidonia Network (MPN), MEDASSET and LIFE MareNatura project, under the 'thematic' of biodiversity. This event was supported by the Natural Heritage Mission.

The event highlighted how international cooperation is a key driver for advancing marine conservation in the Mediterranean and how harmonized methodologies and regionally comparable data strengthen the



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recognition of marine habitats as biodiversity hotspots and natural climate solutions. During the event collaborative efforts to monitor, protect, and restore marine species, like *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows, were also presented.

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