



Project  
funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**



Meeting with associates following the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting for the ENPI-ECOSAFIMED European project

Press Release

## Meeting of ECOSAFIMED project partners and associates to contribute to international marine policies

- The ECOSAFIMED project of the ENPI CBC MED programme, co-ordinated by the Biodiversity Foundation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Spain, promotes responsible practices in artisanal fisheries and the conservation of benthic ecosystems in the Mediterranean basin.
- The Marine Science Institute of Spain's Scientific Research Council hosted the meeting, aimed at discussing how to integrate project results into their relevant maritime activity programs to increase sustainability of artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean basin.

**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.**-ECOSAFIMED project partners and associates convened in Barcelona to hold a special meeting following the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting for the ECOSAFIMED project of the ENPI CBC "Mediterranean Sea Basin" Programme. This meeting represented an opportunity for the associates to take stock of the outputs and preliminary results of the project after 18 months of implementation to evaluate the impact of artisanal fisheries on the Mediterranean benthic communities in the 6 study areas.

During the meeting, preliminary results gathered from on-board fishing surveys and oceanographic surveys carried out in Tunisia, Spain and Italy during 2014 and 2015 were assessed. Besides, partners and associates exchanged views about the elaboration of recommendations involving fishermen and stewardship entities to suggest management guidelines and the signing of marine stewardship agreements for a responsible fishing.

To conclude, associates have expressed their full collaboration with partners to support and disseminate project results, in particular the elaboration of sound and scientific-based management guidelines, considering the high potential for project impact and replicability

---

This information may be used wholly or in part, with no requirement to cite sources.

**Communication Office**  
**BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment.**  
C/ José Abascal, 4. 28003 Madrid  
Tel.: + 34 91 121 09 27/ 91 121 09 23. Fax: + 34 91 121 09 39  
[www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es](http://www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es)



Project  
funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**



among public institutions, fishermen and the general public at Mediterranean basin and global level.

Project associates from different organizations, aiming at protecting and improving the Mediterranean marine environment thus contributing to sustainable development, engaged from the beginning of ECOSAFIMED Project in a collaboration process aimed at promoting the exchange of information and experiences while contributing to the EU Directives and to the Barcelona Convention.

Project associates include national and international institutions namely the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the Barcelona Convention, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO), the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Environment in Spain, the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Tunisia (GDFA), the Institute for Coastal Marine Environment (IAMC) in Messina (Italy), the cooperative of fishermen of Patti (SOC. COOP. PESCATORI MARINA) (Messina), the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

### **ECOSAFIMED AND THE ENPI CBC MED PROGRAMME**

With a budget of €1.9 million, the ECOSAFIMED project promotes responsible fishing practices and communication between researchers and the artisanal fishing sector, with the aim of helping to conserve marine ecosystems. The ultimate objective of the project is to produce a series of recommendations for managing the artisanal fisheries studied in the Mediterranean, to ensure their compatibility with good conservation practices for marine habitats.

The project also seeks to identify valuable areas to be proposed as Protected Marine Areas under the auspices of European Directives and/or the Barcelona Convention. ECOSAFIMED is one of the 39 projects to have received funding from the 1,095 projects presented at the second call for the 2007-2013 ENPI CBC MED Programme.

The ENPI Mediterranean Sea Programme is a cross-border co-operation initiative that forms part of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The programme's aim is to promote co-operation between regions on both shores of the Mediterranean, in order to tackle common challenges and assess endogenous potentials.



Project  
funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**



A total of 14 countries, representing 76 regions and close to 110 million inhabitants, have benefited from the programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, the Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Syria and Tunisia.

The programme has a budget of €200 million, funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, and the contribution to each project amounts to a maximum of 90 per cent of the total cost.

The projects funded deal with a range of issues relating to promoting socioeconomic and territorial development: supporting innovation and research; sustainable development and energy efficiency throughout the Mediterranean Sea Basin; improving conditions and the various forms of movement of persons, goods and capital; and promoting dialogue between cultures and forms of governance.

Information on the ECOSAFIMED project and the ENPI CBC MED Programme is available on the [ENPI CBC MED](#) and the [EuropeAid Office of Development and Cooperation](#) websites.

This publication was produced with financial support from the European Union, in the framework of the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Biodiversity Foundation and do not under any circumstance reflect the position of the European Union or the Programme's management structures.

Further information:

[www.ecosafimed.eu](http://www.ecosafimed.eu) | [ecosafimed@fundacion-biodiversidad.es](mailto:ecosafimed@fundacion-biodiversidad.es)