

## Summary Internal Report on Action F.10.

### ***“Organisation and conduction of training workshops and meetings on Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) techniques for the personnel of the project”***

The Training Seminar on Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) was conducted between 18-20<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Its aim was to facilitate the acquisition by the CYCLADES LIFE+ project’s personnel and partners of the tools needed to apply this methodology in order to establish a successful conservation and management scheme in the course of the project’s actions. Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, President of Tethys Research Institute, led the organization of the seminar, with logistical support from WWF, and participated also in the teaching activity.

Dr. Tundi Agardy, the leading teacher, is an internationally renowned expert in marine conservation, with extensive field experience in the Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and North America. She is the Executive Director of Sound Seas, a marine conservation policy group based in the Washington D.C. area that develops initiatives to promote truly effective marine conservation by working at the interface between public policy and community-based conservation at the more localized level. She specializes in coastal planning and marine protected areas and has published widely, including the books “Marine Protected Areas and Ocean Conservation” and “Ocean Zoning”.

The Seminar was structured in two parts. The first part took place in Athens on 18 September, hosted by the Harokopio University, and provided a more general introduction of the basic principles of the relevant issues and processes of EBM and MSP. The second part was set up in Syros on 19 and 20 September, at the Dolphin Bay Hotel in Galissas and involved more specialised and in-depth sessions, including hands-on activities in break-out groups.

In total, 46 persons attended the seminars. Of these, 30 attended both seminars in Athens and Syros, whereas 16 persons only attended to the Athens part of the seminars. A complete list of participants in the Athens and Syros seminars is provided in Annex 1.

Details of the subjects covered and on the different sessions held are provided below:

#### **Day 1; ATHENS, 18 September 2014**

##### *1. Introduction and Goals of the Seminar*

##### *2. The Rationale for EBM and Use MSP*

- The big picture – the move towards ecosystem-based marine management
- Why? Piecemeal management ineffective, fragmented governance
- How? Integration of land use, watershed, coastal, and marine
- Five main principles of EBM
- A human-centric approach – ecosystem services assessment
- Spatial management – a sense of place, grounds opportunities for EBM + ES

##### *3. MSP: Approaches and Outcomes:*

- Systematic conservation planning and MPA siting
- Zoning within individual MPAs
- Ecosystem Services Assessment / Optimization of Values
- MSP at the National Level – EU Maritime Spatial Planning
- Plans to Promote the Blue Economy
- Regional, multilateral MSP (including EBSA identification)

##### *4. The MSP Process*

- Visioning: identify specific, measurable objectives
- Planning:
  - collect data: biophysical, uses, values
  - map data and analyse: overlays, decision-support tools
  - develop options: zones and permissible uses
  - investigate scenarios and predicted outcomes
  - negotiate and find compromises

- Implement:
  - define zones on maps, demarcate if necessary
  - determine regulations, introduce necessary legislation
  - develop enforcement and compliance optimization strategy
  - plan sustainable financing with implementation steps
  - scientific research and monitoring protocols
  - adaptive management

5. Case Study descriptions in order to illustrate points made throughout the day.

- Marismas Nacionales Mexico – integration of land and marine management
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – rezoning through RAP Program
- Asinara – optimization of different objectives
- Abu Dhabi – ecosystem services: blue carbon + co-benefits
- St Kitts and Nevis – community based, island-wide planning
- Norway MSP – national planning for blue growth
- Irish and Aegean Seas – systematic conservation planning and priority areas

**Day 2; SYROS, 19 September 2014**

Participation in this two-full days training was limited to those more actively involved in the project actions

1. Introductions /re-introductions of participants.

Everybody was asked to answer the question “What kind of person is the sort of person whose point of view you least understand?” with the aim of identifying the main difficulties faced in terms of conveying effectively a conservation message to the different stakeholders.

2. Why MSP in the Cyclades? The Life Project and MSP in this context

3. What do we know about the region? Review of the data available and limitations

- Physical
- Biophysical and ecosystem boundaries
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Areas of high productivity and/or high ecosystem services
- Uses and values
- Impacts of human activity – direct and indirect; conflicts

4. Existing and potential uses and values

- What can be mapped?
- What is predictable/ unpredictable?

5. Trade-Offs

- No planning process is a guaranteed win-win
- Scenarios help identify wins and losses
- Break-out into groups to play Trade-Offs game



*Trade-Off!* is a board game that lets you play the role of different coastal stakeholders—from natural resource managers, commercial fishers, scientists, developers to elected officials and others—who negotiate uses and activities in a coastal community. During this process, a coastal management plan takes shape and the stakeholders gain an understanding of the compatibility and potential conflicts of multiple-use objectives.

The goals of the game are to:

- Deepen understanding of the broader concepts of multi-stakeholder negotiations;
- Gain insight into the goals and perspectives of various stakeholders participating in negotiations in ocean zoning/ marine spatial planning; and
- Become familiar with the framework of marine and coastal spatial planning and the implications of good (and poor) decision-making.

For more detail on Trade-Offs game visit  
<http://www.seaweb.org/resources/ebm/SeaWebsEBMCommunicationsProject.php#tradeoff>

## 6. What kind of MSP for the Cyclades?

Reflect on Trade-Offs, applicability to MSP in Cyclades

Personal inclination: spectrum from nature protection to blue growth

### Day 3; SYROS, 20 September 2014

#### 1. Participants worked in different groups to simulate planning

- Define target area for planning
- Identify stakeholders
- Determine ways to involve stakeholders
- Visioning – define clear and measurable objectives
- Ecosystem Services Identification
- Ecosystem Services Valuation
- Ecosystem Services Assessment & Mapping
- Data inventory (by type) and potential for mapping
- Options to zoning: discussion of tools available / data needs for each
- Potential scenario descriptions
- Implementation plans

This activity took most of the day. It showed the trainees the difficulties that might be faced in the future to produce a “real” plan. All groups presented their respective plans and tried to defend them in front of the rest of participants.

A very complete bibliography on the subjects covered during the seminar was compiled by Dr. Agardy and made available to all participants in a dedicated Dropbox folder for future reference and guidance.

At the end of the seminar, participants unanimously concurred on the high interest of the subjects and on their direct relevance in the context of the LIFE-Cyclades project. In particular, everybody agreed on the fact that it was extremely useful to be able to get all partners of the project together, which will help greatly in future communications and collaborative initiatives. In addition, it was considered particularly helpful to work on the design, development and potential execution of a few MSP simulated scenarios, which provided the participants with the opportunity of identifying conflicts and trade-offs as well as considering possible ways to negotiate feasible solutions.

During the forth and last day, 21 of September, a visit to the Island of Gyaros was organized to get the chance to all the participants to get a real feeling about the island and its “natural treasures”. The trip was done on board *Giura*, the LIFE-Cyclades project rigid inflatable boat and with additional help of another boat rented for the occasion, which usually takes tourists to visit Gyaros and the waters of Syros.

In conclusion, the seminars fully achieved the stated goals and their conduction run very smoothly and without the occurrence of any special problem. There was sufficient time for a thorough coverage of the programme, and the feedback from participants was consensually positive. Attendance was greater than expectations, and from a wide array of organisations. The funding allocated for the action turned out to be adequate.

#### **Notes by Dr. Agardy on Cyclades LIFE Project EBM & MSP Training**

*The training seminar that took place in both Athens and Syros gives me great hope for the future of marine conservation in Greece, and by extension, in the wider Mediterranean. Why? Because even with some differing opinions on both goals and approaches, participants demonstrated their commitment, a considerable weight of expertise, and competence to do the right thing and plan for future. In comparison to the many other EBM / MSP seminars I've had the opportunity to experience, both as a trainer and as a trainee, the Cyclades LIFE project participants showed remarkable enthusiasm to learn and then apply*

*these planning and management principles. Not to say that everyone agreed with what was presented, or with one another, nor that everyone had the same feelings about the utility of various exercises and presentations – but all in all, the energy was notable and the prospects for the future, I believe, are bright.*

*This sense of hopefulness is the also the result of a great group dynamic, and the attitudes of most participants, who balanced a serious professional commitment to conservation with vivacity and a great sense of humour. Even though participants hung on to notions of putting the needs of nature en par with or even ahead of the needs of humanity, in the end a real humanism was apparent. Perhaps if we lined up along the spectrum from nature-centric to human-centric again now, the arrangement would be different – but even if not, I got the strong sense that people opened their minds to new perspectives on the roles of conservation and sustainable development in the continued increasing use of oceans and coasts.*

*I would dearly like to thank all participants for rekindling my sense that marine conservation challenges, though daunting, can indeed be overcome. I learned much from all of you.*

ANNEX 1. List of participants in the Training Seminar on Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

Participants attending all three days of training (in alphabetical order)

PARTICIPANT	E-MAIL	ORGANISATION
1 Stella Adamantopoulou	s.adamantopoulou@mom.gr	MOm (Society for the Study and the Protection of the Mediterranean Monk Seal)
2 Ioli Christopoulou	i.christopoulou@wwf.gr	WWF
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5 Joan Gonzalvo	joan.gonzalvo@gmail.com	Tethys Research Institute
6 Yannis Issaris	yiannis@yissaris.com	HCMR (Hellenic Center of Marine Research)
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26 Eleni Tryfon	e.tryfon@prv.ypeka.gr	MOE
27 Kalliopi Tsagkaraki	info@e-cyclades.gr	DCLAC (Development Corporation of Local Authorities of Cyclades SA)
28 Atila Uras	Atila.uras@unepmap.gr	UNEPMAP (United Nations Environment Programme)
29 Kvnstantinos Voltis	info@e-cyclades.gr	DCLAC
30 Panagiotis Vouros	pvoir@env.aegean.gr	Region of S. Aegean

Participants attending exclusively the training in Athens (in alphabetical order)

	PARTICIPANT	E-MAIL	ORGANISATION
1	Christina.baritaki	Ch.baritaki@prv.ypeka.gr	MOE (Ministry of the Environment)
2	George Chasiotis	g.chasiotis@wwf.gr	WWF
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16	Monika Themou	monika.themou@gmail.com	MOE

ANNEX 2. Photo album of the Training Seminar on EBM and MSP



Participants in the 2-day seminar in Syros



Some sessions included intense discussion among groups to come up with an EBM plan



Discussion on the development of a simulated MSP



Different teams had different approaches in their respective MSP

### 7.2.13.5. Characteristic photographs from the EBM and MSP Seminar

