

# SAVE THE DATE !

## Implementation of Nature Based Solutions to tackle climate change Focus on the Mediterranean region

A workshop on the benefits and challenges related to Nature Based Solutions implementation, bringing together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers of the Mediterranean region and European Union

22-24  
January 2019  
Marseille, France

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Today's societies are facing a broad range of challenges; unsustainable urbanization and related human health issues, degradation and loss of natural capital and the ecosystem services it provides (clean air, water and soil), climate change and an alarming increase of natural disaster risks.

There is growing recognition and awareness that nature can help provide viable solutions that use and deploy the properties of natural ecosystems and the services that they provide in a smart, 'engineered' way. Both, the European Union (through its Program for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020) and countries in the Mediterranean basin have introduced Nature Based Solutions as opportunities for innovation to create effective strategies and implement them to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance ecosystem's functionality.

Nature Based Solutions are defined by IUCN as "*actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits*".

These Nature Based Solutions provide sustainable, cost-effective, multi-purpose and flexible alternatives for various objectives.

***"Working with nature, rather than against it, can further pave the way towards a more resource efficient, competitive and greener economy."***

It can also help create new jobs and economic growth, through the manufacture and delivery of new products and services, which enhance the natural capital rather than deplete it.

This workshop will be the opportunity for decision-makers, local authorities, NGOs, civil society, researchers, practitioners, and donors, to join forces and find solutions to strengthen the implementation of Nature Based Solutions in Europe and in the Mediterranean.

# Provisional programme

→ If you want to participate in the posters session, [click here !](#)

## Day 1

### Nature Based Solutions : what is it ?

History and definition of Nature Based Solutions

*IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Group lead (tbc)*

### Session 1 - Make the case: benefits of Nature Based Solutions implementation

The evaluation criteria and the instruments available to value Nature Based Solutions contribution

*French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (tbc)*

### Session 2 - Feedbacks from case studies of Nature Based Solutions implementation

Successes and failures of Nature Based Solutions implementation within specific case studies from the European and Mediterranean regions in urban ecosystems, wetlands and watershed ecosystems, and in coastal and marine ecosystems

## Day 2

### Session 3a - How to bring Nature Based Solutions into action? Linking practices and policies

How research and stakeholder engagement can facilitate Nature Based Solutions implementation?

*EC Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (tbc)*

**Field trip to Camargue:** Case study “The former saltworks: an open sky laboratory for flood risk reduction”

## Day 3

### Session 3b - How to bring Nature Based Solutions into action? Linking practices and policies

Potential policies and financial instruments to support Nature Based Solutions implementation

*IDDRI Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (tbc)*

### High level round table: How are Nature Based Solutions perceived and how can their implementation be facilitated?

With the presence of political actors, representative of the private sector, International Organizations, and major donors

**UNEP/MAP/Plan Bleu** is a Mediterranean observatory on environment and sustainable development, that aims to contribute to raising awareness of Mediterranean stakeholders and decision makers concerning environment and sustainable development issues.

The **IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation** is devoted to promote sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through cooperation and shared values and culture.

The **Conservatoire du Littoral** (French coastal protection agency) is a public institution that leads a land policy to safeguard coastal areas, and to respect natural sites and ecological balance.

**Tour du Valat** is a research institute for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands, that develops research and integrated management programmes to further exchanges between wetland users and scientists and promote wetlands benefits to decision makers.

The **French Committee of IUCN** is the network of organizations and experts of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in France. Its objective is to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable and equitable use of natural resources.

**MedWet** (Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative) aims to ensure and support the effective conservation of the functions and values of Mediterranean wetlands and the sustainable use of their resources and services.

**Wetlands International** is a not-for-profit association working to raise awareness about wetland ecosystems and to advocate the sustainable use of wetlands for people and nature, in particular by linking science, policy and practice.

## Nature-Based Solutions Examples



An **urban park** is not only a place of recreation for people but also a cornerstone for urban biodiversity. The park is providing cooling effects important for reducing heat stress induced by climate change, relieving public sewerage infrastructures in case of heavy rainfall and reducing noise and is contributing to climate change mitigation via carbon sequestration of its vegetation.



**Older and mature forests**, made up of tall trees, store larger amounts of carbon. So sustainable forest management must promote older stages and biodiversity in order to maximize the different carbon stocks present and the different reservoirs of biodiversity that are essential for adapting forests to climate change.



**Marine protected area** networks help keep oceans healthy. They conserve marine biodiversity and enable marine ecosystems to act as heat and carbon pumps, enhance their resilience to rising temperatures and better resist acidification.



**Wetlands** help in the field of flood management, they induce water retention through infiltration management, runoff, and hence hydrological connectivity between system components and the transport of water through them, providing space for water storage.