



MED4EBM Project

Introduction

The **MED4EBM** (Mediterranean Forum For Applied Ecosystem-Based Management) initiative is a partnership project funded by the ENI CBC MED Programme 2014-2020.

THE PROJECT SPANS FOUR COUNTRIES

Italy

- AdT: Amici della Terra ONLUS
- PROGES - Progetti di Sviluppo - s.r.l.

Jordan

- UNDP: United Nations development programme, Jordan Country Office
- JREDS: Royal Marine Society of Jordan

Lebanon

- TCNR: Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

Tunisia

- INSTM: Institut National des Sciences et Technologie de la Mer

AIMS OF THE MED4EBM PROJECT

The Project aims at enhancing capacities of various stakeholders and institutional actors involved in the management of coastal and marine areas, and at establishing a cooperation and coordination platform for them to effectively implement Ecosystem-Based Integrated Coastal Zone Management (EB-ICZM). Ecosystem Management uses scientific knowledge and effective monitoring to recognize the connections, integrity and biodiversity within an ecosystem. Institutions and other interested parties in Integrated Ecosystem Management will be able to use this platform as a support to make rational decisions on the planning and management of coastal and marine resources, coordinating effectively on the ground.

The Project is developed in four Mediterranean countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Italy); the project's area of interest in Italy is the Gulf of Corigliano, Nature Reserve of Tarsia lake and the mouth of Crati river.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DOES THE MED4EBM PROJECT OFFER?

MED4EBM proposes the use of innovative tools to address the main issues that often limit the effective application of Ecosystem Management integrated in coastal-marine areas (EB-ICZM). The major difficulties faced by political decision makers and stakeholders involved in the application of EB-ICZM often derive from some types of critical issues:

- (1) Need for intense and continuous efforts to coordinate management actions across a wide range of stakeholders (e.g. administrative bodies and government agencies; international programs and projects; social programs and projects and economic associations) and application sectors (e.g. fishing, tourism, transport, biodiversity, conservation);





- (2) Intense work by the group of professionals who implement the EB-ICZM, with particular reference to the adaptation of the models available to the specificities of the different ecological orientations and socio- economic systems, as well as in making them operational for their effective application in areas of interest;
- (3) Need to collect and manage a significant amount of data through complex databases.

THE AVAILABLE TOOLS IN THE MED4EBM PROJECT

MED4EBM intends to provide tools to overcome the critical aspects mentioned above, proposing an innovative land and sea management tool based on specific analytical methods and software, which make EB-ICZM much easier for the professional team, interested parties and institutional decision makers involved.

This innovative tool, developed by PROGES and called Integrated Spatial Planning (PROGES-ISP), involves the use of specific software and a series of methodological, procedural and organizational tools, to plan, implement and monitor the dynamics of Ecosystem Management through a participatory and evidence-based approach supported by objective data.

The PROGES-ISP software allows the real-time analysis of a large amount of spatial and tabular data and the redaction of advanced reports, through an interface that facilitates the visualisation and the management of large amounts of data, that they could differ from each other by type, time scale and geographical extension.

The methods and procedural and organizational tools proposed make it possible to manage analytical processes with a multi-stakeholder approach to Integrated Ecosystem Management of coastal areas, through a step-by step procedures based on deterministic methods, ecological analyses and socio-economic assessments. This approach allows project managers and stakeholders to quantitatively assess the relationships between ecosystem components, functions and services, along with associated human activities.

This lays the foundations for the definition of integrated ecosystem management interventions of multi-stakeholder coastal areas.

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is a dynamic, multidisciplinary and iterative process of planning and coordination that deals with sustainable development and coastal resources and which focuses on the land / water. It covers the entire cycle of information gathering, planning (in the broadest sense of the term), decision making, management and monitoring of implementation.

The Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) is an interdisciplinary approach that balances ecological, social and governance principles at appropriate time and spatial scales in a distinct geographic area to achieve sustainable use of resources; it recognizes the full range of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering individual problems, species or ecosystem services in isolation. EBM uses an approach that integrates all sectors to manage species and habitats, economic activities, contrasting uses and sustainability of resources, allowing to consider the resources that help protect and sustain diverse and productive ecosystems and the services they provide.