



Ideas for a Sustainable Mediterranean



CONFERENCE SERIES

PalauMacaya

UNESCO International Centre for Human and Social Sciences
Passeig de Sant Joan, 108 – Barcelona, Spain

Co-organised by



With the collaboration of





Ideas for a Sustainable Mediterranean

The **Med Dialogues +2030** is an annual conference series organised and promoted by the **European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)**, the **Barcelona Office of the Club of Rome**, with the collaboration of **"la Caixa" Foundation**, which fosters debate on the sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean region.

By giving voice to renowned experts and actors from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea and a variety of backgrounds, the **Med Dialogues +2030** seek to raise greater awareness and understanding about the critical sustainability challenges faced by Mediterranean countries.

Launched in 2021 as the region was entering the "Decade of Action", the **Med Dialogues +2030** adopt each year a different approach to the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), putting forward analyses and recommendations to contribute to building a more resilient, sustainable, prosperous, inclusive, and safer Mediterranean region by 2030.

2025 Edition - The Sea We Share: Voices for a Sustainable Mediterranean Sea

This year, the Med Dialogues +2030 will take a deep dive into **Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below Water**, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources. In the Mediterranean context, this means addressing a wide spectrum of urgent issues: marine pollution, overfishing, acidification, ecosystem collapse, and coastal erosion. SDG 14 serves as both a framework and a call to action for rethinking our relationship with the sea that sustains us.

Often regarded as a model of global ocean challenges in miniature, the Mediterranean exemplifies the complex interplay between environmental stress and governance fragmentation. Despite covering less than 1% of the world's ocean surface, it supports nearly 10% of known marine biodiversity and is bordered by more than 20 countries with diverging economic, political, and ecological realities. This density of pressures and actors makes it **a strategic region for advancing marine protection efforts** that are locally grounded yet globally relevant.

The vulnerability of the Mediterranean has been recognised for decades. 50 years ago, in 1975, the region's states adopted the **Barcelona Convention** under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), leading to the creation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) – a pioneering model for regional environmental cooperation. While the convention laid the groundwork for coordinated action, the region's ecological decline underscores the need to **accelerate implementation and scale up ambition**.



In 2025, the Med Dialogues +2030 will convene a broad range of participants – marine scientists, policy experts, environmental activists, academics and community leaders – to explore **how SDG 14 can be meaningfully advanced in the Mediterranean**. Among them, changemakers will share innovative, place-based solutions that are already delivering impact in areas such as sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, blue economy, and ecosystem restoration



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

INFORMACIÓN

Conference Series

6 Sessions from September to December 2025

Venue: Palau Macaya | Sala Macaya

Pg. de Sant Joan, 108, Barcelona

Duration of each session: 1h30

Sessions in English / French / Spanish with simultaneous translation to Spanish / Catalan

Free entrance with prior registration (limited seating): www.iemed.org/meddialogues2030

PROGRAMME

Dialogue 1 Marine Sustainability Challenges in the Mediterranean Sea

23 September 18:00 **Guest: Alessio Satta**, Director of the Mediterranean Marine Initiative, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - ITALY

Sala Macaya *The Mediterranean basin faces multiple threats: overfishing, plastic pollution, mass tourism, rapid urbanisation, and the impacts of climate change. In this session, we will reflect on how to restore the ecological balance of a sea that is vital to millions of people and home to unique biodiversity. Alessio Satta, Director of WWF's Mediterranean Initiative, will share concrete solutions and success stories that could be replicated across the region. With over 25 years of experience in marine and coastal sustainability, Alessio Satta has worked across science, policy, and local action to protect the Mediterranean Sea. Holding a PhD in Climate Change Management and founder of the MEDSEA Foundation, he has led initiatives in sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas, and circular solutions to marine litter. As former coordinator of the Ramsar MedWet Initiative, he brought together 27 countries for wetland conservation.*

Dialogue 2 Working Towards a Plastic-Free Mediterranean Sea

7 October 18:00 **Guest: Yassin Ahmed**, Egypt Country Manager, Enaleia – EGYPT

Sala Macaya *The Mediterranean is facing a severe plastic pollution crisis that threatens its biodiversity and human health. In this session, Ahmed Yassin, Egypt Country Manager of Enaleia, will show how joint action with fishers and environmental education can help tackle this issue, promoting a sustainable model based on plastic collection and the circular economy to achieve a plastic-free Mediterranean Sea. Founded in Greece, Enaleia leads efforts to engage fishing communities in plastic collection and promote circular economy models across the Mediterranean and beyond. Ahmed Yassin's journey began with the co-founding of Banlastic Egypt, one of the country's first initiatives to fight single-use plastics through public campaigns and education. Over the years, he has combined grassroots mobilisation with regional advocacy, contributing to platforms such as the EU Climate Pact and Young Mediterranean Voices to advance climate and ocean action in the region.*



Dialogue 3 Upholding Nature's Rights to Save the Mar Menor

20 October
18:00

Guest: **Teresa Vicente**, Director, Chair of Human Rights and Rights of Nature, University of Murcia – SPAIN

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Considered to be the most important saltwater coastal lagoon in the western Mediterranean, the once pristine waters of the Mar Menor (Murcia, Spain) had become polluted due to mining, rampant development of urban and tourist infrastructure, and, in recent years, intensive agriculture and livestock farming. Teresa Vicente led a historic, grassroots campaign to save the Mar Menor ecosystem—Europe's largest saltwater lagoon—from collapse, resulting in the passage of a new law in September 2022 granting the lagoon unique legal rights. Teresa Vicente is the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner.

Dialogue 4 Building Real Marine Protection in the Mediterranean

5 November
18:00

Guest: **Yassine Ramzi Sghaier**, Marine Biodiversity Expert, UNEP/MAP - SPA/RAC. Co-founder and President of TunSea - TUNISIA

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The Mediterranean is home to extraordinary, yet highly vulnerable, marine biodiversity. Posidonia oceanica, a key species for the ecosystem, has lost more than a third of its coverage in the past 50 years. Yassine Ramzi Sghaier, expert at UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC and founder of TunSea, will explain the efforts underway to protect this unique ecosystem through science, collective action, and citizen engagement to make marine protected areas effective and preserve the "green lung" of the Mediterranean Sea. From mapping seagrass meadows to designing cross-border marine protected areas (MPAs), Yassine plays a key role in ensuring that conservation efforts move beyond paper parks into real, lasting protection. In 2023, he co-founded the TunSea Association to promote participatory science in Tunisia and engage citizens in the fight to preserve marine biodiversity.

Dialogue 5 Love to Protect: Ocean Literacy in the Mediterranean

3 December
18:00

Guest: **Laura Khatib**, Co-Founder, Guardians of the Blue – LEBANON

Sala Macaya

Renowned oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau once said: "We protect what we love, and we love what we know." In the Mediterranean, where the connection to the sea runs deep, ocean literacy remains limited, making it harder to safeguard marine

biodiversity. Laura Khatib is the co-founder of Guardians of the Blue in Byblos, Lebanon, and an emerging leader in ocean literacy and the promotion of the blue economy in the Eastern Mediterranean. With a background in development economics and a deep passion for reconnecting people with the sea, Laura leads initiatives to establish a new marine protected area, organise underwater clean-ups with divers, and encourage sustainable fish consumption to help curb invasive species such as the lionfish. Through her NGO, she engages young people, divers, and local communities in the protection of marine biodiversity, while sharing striking images of Lebanon's marine life.

Dialogue 6 From Fish to Fork: Reconnecting with the Sea that Feeds Us

10 de diciembre
18:00

Guest: Anna Bozzano, Founder and Director - El Peix al Plat – SPAIN/ITALY

Sala Macaya

With a background in marine biology and a strong commitment to ocean advocacy, Anna Bozzano launched El Peix al Plat in 2013 to help people rediscover their connection to the sea through education, cultural experiences, and responsible tourism. After spending nearly 20 years in international marine research—studying fisheries, sharks and marine ecology—she turned her attention to public engagement and science outreach. Her work highlights the fishing heritage of Barcelona, particularly the Cofradía de Pescadores, offering first-hand experiences that shed light on the ecological and cultural significance of sustainable seafood. Drawing on her scientific expertise and a passion for storytelling, Anna works to build a more informed and respectful relationship between society, the sea, and the food we consume.



A Conference Series moderated by **LAURA SECORUN**, an environmental communication strategist and founder of Meridian, a creative agency dedicated to ocean conservation. She spent the first decade of her career working as foreign correspondent in East Africa and the Middle East for outlets like The New York Times, The Guardian and Newsweek. After witnessing the humanitarian consequences of climate inaction, she realised the urgent need for more ambitious and effective environmental storytelling. Now she helps ocean advocates around the globe craft communication campaigns that drive change.

