**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

for organizing the

MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Action Day 2020 on:

**The importance of marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas**

In the framework of:

The Annual Programme of MIO-ECSDE and the Mediterranean Action Day supported by the LIFE+ Operating Grant for NGOs.

Version: 21 May 2020

The Call

**Context: Mediterranean Action Day** is an annual activity of MIO-ECSDE that gives the opportunity to MIO-ECSDE member organizations and other NGOs to take action in the field and be more visible to their target populations while at the same time tackle a frontline environmental issue of their municipality, region or country.

In the context of the MIO-ECSDE Annual Programme (supported by the LIFE+ Operating Grant for NGOs), MIO-ECSDE is requesting expressions of interest (or applications) of its member organizations (<http://mio-ecsde.org/members/>) and other NGOs, for the realization of up to **8 activities** linked to coastal and marine Natura 2000 sites in the following EU countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. This activity will be performed by different NGOs in each country, which will be chosen through the present selection procedure.

Each participating NGO will have the initiative and responsibility for the set-up of their event.

MIO-ECSDE requests NGOs interested in organizing a Natura 2000-related event to submit their application electronically to info@mio-ecsde.org. They shall use the template provided in **Annex 1 (Application Form)** to describe the activity that they propose.

**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS BY: 29 June 2020**

**BUDGET CEILING: the total budget for this programme amounts to €16,000, to be divided in eight amounts of €2,000 per activity and organization.** The amount shall include all other costs, income taxes, and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the activity.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERION:** The relevance and quality of each application.

**THE CALL WILL PROCEED HAVING REGARD TO:**

* The general principles of EU law on procurements.
* The Internal Rules and Regulations of MIO-ECSDE.
* The present Call for Applications.

Background on European Natura 2000 sites

By supporting national and local NGOs, MAD 2020 aims to reach out to Mediterranean European citizens and individuals, inviting them to take action in direct and “creative” ways to address the issue of nature and biodiversity protection and raise awareness on:

* the importance of marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas as key tools towards attaining favorable conservation status for Mediterranean habitats and species;
* the key threats to Mediterranean biodiversity; and
* the increased vulnerability of Mediterranean habitats to climate change.

Natura 2000 is a network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right. Stretching over 18% of the EU’s land area and almost 6% of its marine territory, Natura 2000 is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the World. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, listed under the [Birds Directive](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm) and the [Habitats Directive](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)[[1]](#footnote-1).

The terrestrial component of the Natura 200 Network has been assessed to be largely complete, according to the European Commission and the European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity. Nevertheless, this is not the case yet for its marine component. So much so, that in February 2016, the European Parliament[[2]](#endnote-1) urged Member States to complete the designation of **Marine Natura 2000 sites**, stressing the vital contribution of Marine Protected Areas towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (as required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive) and to deliver the global target of 10% of coastal and marine areas being protected by 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, under the Convention on Biological Diversity). Compared to terrestrial sites, progress in marine Natura 2000 site designation has been slow. This is mostly due to the lack of appropriate management instruments for the marine environment, and the lack of scientific knowledge at the level of detail required to enable efficient site identification.

European citizens obtain substantial benefits from the Natura 2000 Network. Natura 2000 sites provide essential ecosystem services such as safe drinking water, recreational areas, food (as wild fish), and clean air. Currently, the Natura 2000 Network and the activities implemented within them produce economic benefits between €200 and €300 billion per year (2% - 3% of the EU’s Gross Domestic Product) and support about 12 million jobs each year (about 6% of total employment in the EU)[[3]](#footnote-2). Since the Natura 2000 Network is still growing, there is significant scope for further economic contributions of the network to the European economy. This is particularly true for the marine component of the Network, which will continue growing in the coming years. Marine Natura 2000 sites have a key role to play in the development of marine and coastal livelihoods, acting as safe havens for biodiversity, nurseries for living marine resources (such as fisheries), drivers of sustainable tourism, and, overall, acting as living laboratories for a sustainable blue economy.

And yet many European citizens are largely unaware of the Natura 2000 network and the numerous benefits they obtain from it. In order to address this lack of awareness, the European Commission launched in 2014 the annual [European Natura 2000 Award](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/index_en.htm). This pan-European recognition acknowledges conservation achievements and management excellence in Natura 2000 sites, showcasing the added value of the network for local economies and increasing public awareness about Europe's valuable natural heritage. Any organization or individual can apply for this Award, as long as their work is directly linked to one or more Natura 2000 sites. Moreover, with the objective of celebrating the Natura 2000 network as one of the EU's most outstanding achievements and to honor the efforts of everyone involved in making it a success,the **21st May was declared “European Natura 2000 Day”** by the European Commission (together with the European Parliament, the Council Presidency, and the Committee of the Regions)[[4]](#footnote-3).

Terms of Reference

**Timeline**

The call is launched on the occasion of the EU Natura 2000 Day (21st May).

Proposed activities are to be submitted by 29 June 2020.

**Approved activities are expected to take place between July and October 2020.**

**Types of activities**

Applicants should design and implement an activity to sensitize EU citizens about the importance of Natura 2000 and/or other protected sites, in particular the marine and coastal ones. Below is an indicative list of activities that the NGOs applying for support under this call should use for inspiration:

* Setup a campaign/exhibition to promote the importance of marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas as key tools towards attaining favorable conservation status for habitats and species.
* Setup a campaign/exhibition about blue economy in marine and coastal Natura 2000 sites, including sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries/aquaculture, marine innovation, marine renewable energy, blue infrastructure, etc., and how Natura 2000 can contribute to the development of the blue economy as a driver of sustainable local economic development.
* Setup a campaign/exhibition to change citizen’s perception that Natura 2000 Sites are an obstacle to development without any local advantages for the specific area. In fact, Natura 2000 sites do not exclude human activities from the protected areas, but rather give priority to sustainable use of the sites. Therefore, Natura 2000 not only protects the environment but it also benefits society and the economy. You can find more information in this [factsheet](https://edozoume.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/THE-SOCIO-ECONOMIC-BENEFITS-OF-NATURA-2000-IN-CENTRAL-AND-EASTERN-EUROPE.pdf).
* Set up a campaign/exhibition to showcase the threats faced by a site’s marine and land-based biodiversity.
* Set up a campaign to promote the preliminary assessment by the MedECC Network on the risks associated to climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region. Full report can be found [here](https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/UfM-Sectorial-Report-Risks-associated-to-climate-and-environmental-changes-in-the-Mediterranean-region.pdf).
* Setup a campaign to promote the use of participatory science platforms/tools that allow the collection, recording and analysis of environmental data. Examples include:
* the [MyNatura2000](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CMichael%20Scoullos%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5CMyNatura2000%20App) App that allows anybody with an Android or iOS device to send Detailed Observations, i.e. pictures collected at each site, as well as overall Simple Feedback (Positive, Neutral, Negative) about the protected area. Such information should help local park managers and national and European policy-makers to understand the current status of the protected sites and to detect changes over time.
* the [IUCN mobile app](http://tiny.cc/yhcm0) and web platform aiming to track invasive species in Mediterranean Marine protected areas.
* Organize participatory science activities on the distribution of EU protected marine species via the application of harmonized protocols (i.e. point counts and transect counts related protocols, http://tiny.cc/6tbm0y). [Here](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/index_en.htm) you can find the list of species that are threatened with extinction at the European level compiled by the IUCN’s Global Species Programme, Species Survival Commission, and European Regional Office.

You can also be inspired from the previous [events organized across the EU](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/EUnatura2000day/archive/2018/index_en.htm).

See **Annex 2** for guidance on the organization of **sustainable events**.

**Target groups**

According to the official European Commission 2020 campaign, the European Natura 2000 Day puts the spotlight on “young people and nature”, aiming at inspiring them to get engaged for nature protection and restoration. So, we urge for MAD 2020 activities to also include this priority focus.

However, the involvement of as many people and sectors as possible in your action is a must. Therefore, the more and diverse the participants, the better. Gender mainstreaming considerations are key. Also, the presence and or involvement of the media is strongly encouraged, as it will help not only the purpose of the action itself of disseminating the message but also the morale of the participants.

The action can be targeted to:

* the general public/citizens;
* Protected Area Management Bodies;
* students from schools, colleges, universities;
* other NGOs (with more focus on biodiversity, youth, sustainable management, etc.)
* civil servants at all levels;
* the private sector (e.g. SMEs);
* professionals such as farmers, local cooperatives, fishermen, etc.;
* women’s associations;
* research institutes;
* Members of Parliament;
* the Media
* etc.

**Application Submission**

Participation in this Call for Applications is open, on equal terms, to all NGOs who meet the conditions laid down in this Call where they possess adequate capacity.

Interested Parties should submit to info@mio-ecsde.org **by 29 June 2020**:

* a dully filled application form (see **Annex 1**);
* CV(s) of the team member(s) / expert(s); and
* Official registration certificate, VAT number registration, and legal status form and representation where applicable.

**Qualification, Requirements and Evaluation Criteria**

1. Failure to provide/prove the following is considered grounds for disqualification.
* The successful candidate must be a registered NGO that possesses adequate capacity.
* For MIO-ECSDE member organizations only: Proof of payment of the 2019 and 2020 Membership fees.
1. The qualified applications will be evaluated based on the following:
* Relevance of the proposed activity based on the Application Form
* Expertise and Experience (years) of the expert(s) in charge: The scope of work requires at least one skilled professional with previous experience in protected areas management, nature conservation, etc. and with proven interest and expertise on the issue.

Applications submitted after the specified date shall not be considered. The successful candidates will be notified within 6 working days after the submission deadline.

**Financial Support**

An amount of €2,000 per activity is available as seed funding to support the selected NGO.

Eligible costs include:

* labour cost
* local travel cost
* meeting costs such us lunch/coffee and/or technical support
* costs for media campaigns, filming and/or broadcasting of the Med Action Day in order to enhance impact;
* costs for purchasing relevant eco-promotional products with a message such as a thermos to advocate against single use plastic bottles, bags made of organic cotton to replace single use plastic bags, binoculars for bird watching, etc.

The amount includes all other costs, income taxes, and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service.

**Financial monitoring and reporting will be carried according MIO-ECDSE’s financial rules and procedures (and those that apply for LIFE+).**

**Indicative timeline of actions and deliverables**

The successful applicants should follow the timeframe below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Actions | Timeframe |
| 1. Call for interest announced by MIO-ECSDE | 21 May 2020 |
| 2. Reception of the application forms from the interested NGOs | **29 June 2020** |
| 3. Review of the application forms and selection of NGOs completed | by 7 July 2020 |
| 4. Signing of agreements | by end of July 2020 |
| 5. Activity implementation  | by end of October 2020 |
| 6. Activity report (using the remplate provided by MIO-ECSDE) | by end of November 2020 |

The present call for applications is posted on the website of MIO-ECSDE (www.mio-ecsde.org).

ANNEX 1: APPLICATION FORM

# MIO-ECSDE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY 2020

**Name of NGO:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Country:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Our NGO would like to participate in the proposed activity:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of person in charge:** |  |
| **Function in the NGO:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Tel:** |  |
| **e-mail:** |  |
| **website:** |  |

**Title of proposed activity:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Description of proposed activity (max. 500 words):**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Estimated Budget Analysis for Proposed Activity:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Expenses Category  | Expense Description  | Total amount (Euros)  |
| Labor costs (staff or external expertise) |  |  |
| Travel/transportation costs |  |  |
| Promotional materials |  |  |
| Media costs (filming-broadcasting, social media campaign) |  |  |
| Catering of event |  |  |
| Technical support |  |  |
| *Please add /delete categories as relevant*  |  |  |
| *……..* |  |  |
| *……..* |  |  |
| TOTAL max (2.000 euros) |  |  |

**Period/date foreseen for the MAD 2020 activity to be held:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Having read and understood the Terms of Reference, I undertake the responsibility of organizing the activity.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ANNEX 2: SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

A **sustainable event** is one that is designed, organized, and implemented with a view to minimizing its ecological footprint and maximizing its positive impact on society. To reduce the general impacts of our events and their ecological footprint, we should therefore always consider the life cycle when we organize an event, in order to identify the points that will have a bigger negative impact on the environment.

Below are listed some useful tips that should be used wherever applicable in order to minimize the ecological footprint of our event to the extent possible.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sustainability target | How |
| Reduce energy use and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions  | * Select venues and accommodation that implement energy efficiency measures, comply with green building standards, and/or use renewable energy sources.
* Choose locations and venues minimizing local and long-distance transportation needs for participants and products.
* Where long-distance travel is unavoidable, offset GHG emissions.
* Apply energy-saving office practices during the organization and hosting of the event.
 |
| Reduce materials consumption and waste generation | * Minimize materials provided to participants and used by service providers (e.g. caterer, exhibitors) before, during, and after the event.
* Avoid the use of disposable items, use pre-used/ recycled and reusable/recyclable products, and reduce packaging needs to a minimum.
* Separate and recycle waste where possible.
 |
| Reduce water use | * Select venues and accommodation that implement water conservation practices and use water-efficient appliances.
* Implement water-conscious measures such as avoid bottled water and re-filling glasses only upon request.
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| Reduce indirect environmental impacts on air, water and soil | * Minimize the need to transport food and other products and favor local organic food.
* Use products manufactured with or containing fewer harmful substances, such as chlorine-free paper and non-toxic cleaning products.
 |
| Increase the social benefits for all involved  | * Involve local and regional economies as much as possible by, for example, recruiting local people (social integration), supporting SMEs (catering, energy, cleaning, IT supply, family-run accommodation), and showcasing successful local projects.
* Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and the core ILO Conventions through compliance with labour standards, and requiring social integration (reducing unemployment), Fair Trade products, and social criteria along the supply chain.
* Assure security and health aspects (e.g. noise level).
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1. (European Comission - Natura 2000): <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. European Parliament resolution of February 2016 on the mid-term review of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
3. (IUCN - Natura 2000: Europe’s protected areas network): <https://www.iucn.org/fr/node/413> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. (Euroopean Comission - 21 May - European Natura 2000 Day): <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/EUnatura2000day/index_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)