

MRUG members

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Dr. Keith Alverson – UNEP
Dr. John Baxter – Scottish Natural Heritage
Prof. Frédéric Briand – CIESM
Prof. Purificació Canals – MedPAN
Mr. Pierre-Yves Cousteau – Cousteau Divers Foundation
Ms. Laure Fournier – Total Foundation
Mr. Javier Garat Perez – EuroPêche
Dr. Dan Laffoley – International OA-RUG Chair
Dr. David Santillo – Greenpeace Research Laboratories
Dr. Kathy Tedesco – UNESCO-IOC
Mr. Kristian Teleki – SeaWeb
and the MedSeA Coordinator and Work Package leaders



MRUG with MedSeA scientists, February 2011

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For more information visit:

<http://medsea-project.eu/mrug>



Image courtesy of A. Ferruci



Mediterranean Reference User Group

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MedSeA project

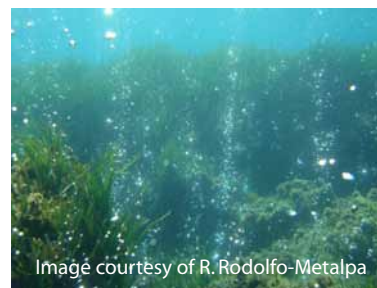
The Mediterranean Sea Acidification in a Changing Climate (MedSeA) project, funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme 7, started in February 2011, with 16 partners from 10 countries (including 13 institutes from the Mediterranean region).

MedSeA aims at assessing uncertainties, risks and thresholds related to Mediterranean Sea acidification. One of its key objectives is to develop a coherent set of ocean acidification vulnerability maps for the Mediterranean

What is 'Ocean Acidification'?

'Ocean acidification' refers to the ongoing decrease in ocean pH directly caused by the ocean's uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from human-induced atmospheric CO₂ emissions. It is increasingly seen as one of the greatest global threats for the future of the seas and oceans.

Its impact on organisms and marine ecosystems can possibly be hampered by other ongoing changes, such as warming, decreasing dissolved O₂ concentration in the ocean, and excessive nutrient inputs near the coasts.



Benefits expected from the MRUG

The MRUG helps MedSeA scientists ensure that their research outputs are both fit for purpose and rapidly taken up into the policy and decision-making arenas.

This effort will allow decision-makers and other stakeholders around the basin to design action plans towards an integrated sustainable management of the Mediterranean.

Reciprocally, the MRUG members and their organisations benefit from direct exposure to research on this critical topic.



Mediterranean Reference User Group

The Mediterranean Reference User Group (MRUG) is an advisory body for MedSeA composed of key MedSeA scientists, key science managers, policy makers and other stakeholders and end-users, mainly from countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

The MRUG works in close collaboration with the MedSeA scientists and the International Ocean Acidification Reference User Group (OA-RUG), and meets annually in conjunction with the MedSeA annual meetings.

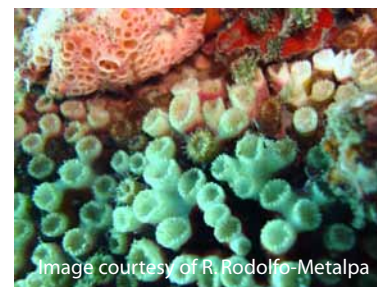


Why the Mediterranean Sea?

The Mediterranean Sea has a highly complex and fragile environment and steep physicochemical gradients within a relatively restricted region.

The Mediterranean countries have a long tradition of using marine resources for nutritional and recreational purposes, some of which are expected to be negatively impacted by ocean acidification, alone or combined with other environmental stressors.

It is of critical importance to study the impacts of ocean acidification in the Mediterranean.



Examples from the MRUG action plan

- Establish a MRUG virtual network of MRUG partners (actors, stakeholders, media observers).
- Prepare targeted products and events on Mediterranean OA issues for specific audiences, at all levels: decision-makers, influencers, resource managers, affected users, general public, industry, educational institutions, etc.
- Assist and advise the MedSeA scientists in their presentation and outreach of new scientific evidence-based knowledge to European and local policy-makers and managers.

