

EDITORIAL. A SUPPLEMENT OF SCIRES-IT ON THE COCONET EUROPEAN PROJECT

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Abstract

The Supplement to vol. 6, 2016 of SCIRES-IT contains the result of CoCoNet (Towards COast to COast NETworks of marine protected areas, coupled with sea-based wind energy potential), a project of the EU Oceans of Tomorrow programme (<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu>). The European Union requires Open Access to the results of the projects resulting from its support to scientific advancement. This is in full accordance with the policy of SCIRES-IT, an eco-sustainable open-access journal, which joins the main principles of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access with the aims of the International Convention on Biological Diversity. CoCoNet tackled two problems that are closely linked with each other: the protection of the marine environment and clean energy production. Hence, the Supplement is divided into two parts that, together, form a *unicum*.

Keywords

SCIRES-IT Supplement, Editorial, CoCoNet, Networks of Marine Protected Areas, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Offshore Wind Farms, Smart Wind Chart, sea-based wind energy.

The journal SCIRES-IT publishes in 2016 a Supplement to Volume 6 entitled “CoCoNet: Towards COast to COast NETworks of Marine Protected Areas (from the shore to the high and deep sea), coupled with sea-based wind energy potential”.

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joins the main principles of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access with the aims of the International Convention on Biological Diversity.²

CoCoNet tackled two problems that are closely linked with each other: the protection of the marine environment and clean energy production. Hence, the Supplement is divided into two parts that, together, form a *unicum*.

The first one is the Guidelines to design networks of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, the second one proposes the principles to install Offshore Wind Farms in both basins, based on a Smart Wind Chart that couples environmental and economic sustainability.

The CoCoNet Consortium comprises hundreds of authors³ from 22 countries and 39 institutions.⁴ They all deserve recognition for this volume as a

¹ CoCoNet Home page:
<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/>

About CoCoNet:
<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/index.php/about-coconet>

CoCoNet Documentary Film:
<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/index.php/coconet-documentary-film>

² V. Valzano (2014): Editorial. SCIRES-IT, an Eco-sustainable Open-Access Journal. SCIRES-IT, 4 (1), 1-4. Retrieved from <http://caspur-ciberpublishing.it/index.php/scires-it/article/view/10954/10197>

³ CoCoNet Participants:
<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/index.php/participants2>

⁴ CoCoNet Partners:
<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/index.php/partners>

whole, together with the editors who assembled their contributions.

The European Union contributed to the assemblage of a scientific community that spans on three continents (Africa, Asia and Europe) since it is tenuous to hope for unilateral objectives in the conservation of Nature and the development of sustainable economies.

The expertise involved in this volume covers disciplines that usually work in isolation from each other. The volume tries to satisfy the request of a holistic approach, since it is increasingly evident that complex problems cannot be dealt with while disassembling them in simpler issues. Hence the decision of presenting this product as a single item. The CoCoNet Consortium profited from the assistance of a competent Advisory Board⁵ and also of a set of reviewers that were of great help in how the outcomes of the projects have been assembled, so as to reach the present form.

The availability of the results of CoCoNet as a single product in an Open Access platform will hopefully guarantee the spread of the knowledge that the CoCoNet Consortium generated, hoping that it will contribute to a wiser use of the natural capital and to the growth of human welfare.

SCIRES-IT is proud to host such a product and to contribute to the unlimited spread of knowledge.

⁵CoCoNet Advisory Board:
<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/index.php/advisory-board>