

Balkan-Mediterranean Wetland Living Lab:

Webinar 12 May, 2020

(the link will be provided on Monday 11 May)

PURPOSE

The Balkan Mediterranean Wetland Living Lab is organized by the Greek Biotope - Wetland Centre (EKBY) in the context of the INTERREG Balkan Med project "Improving the conservation effectiveness of wetlands – WetMainAreas". It brings together policy makers and representatives from competent authorities and other initiatives. The purpose is to demonstrate the knowledge and services developed during the project and interact to project key messages, towards a joint vision for improving the conservation effectiveness of wetland ecosystems.

AGENDA (CEST Time)

10:00 Welcome

Kostantinos Aravosis, *Secretary General*
of Natural Environment & Water, Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy

Athanasios Moras, *vice Governor for European programs, Region of Thessaly, Greece*

Introduction

Eleni Fitoka, *Scientific Coordinator of Joint Mapping & Assessment, Greek Biotope Wetland Centre*

Petar Petrov, *WetMainAreas Project Manager, University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria*

10.30 – 11.15. SESSION 1: Joint Wetland Inventory & Mapping

The Balkan Mediterranean Wetlands & their role in ecosystem connectivity.

Eleni Fitoka, *Greek Biotope - Wetland Centre*

Cultural heritage in the trans-boundary river basins and in Thessaly Region of Greece.

Ilinka Terziyska, *South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Faculty of Economics, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria*

Panelists:

Edison Konomi, *General Director National Environmental Agency, Albania*

Aylin Ismel Hasan, *Ministry of Environ. & Water, Natura 2000 and PA Depart., Bulgaria*

John Mitsopoulos, *Ministry of Environment and Energy, Biodiversity Department, Greece*

Mata Papadimopoulou, *Development Planning Directorate, Region of Thessaly, Greece*

Darko Blinkov, *State Environmental Inspectorate, North Macedonia.*

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11:15-12:00 SESSION 2: Joint Geoportal, Database, & Space Monitoring

Monitoring of surface water dynamics in wetland ecosystems using Sentinel-2 satellite

(<https://extrema.space/WetMainAreas/dashboard.html>)

Iphigenia Keramitsoglou, *Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications & Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, Greece*

The Balkan Mediterranean Wetland Geoportal (<https://wetmainareas.com/>)

Nikola Kalaydzhev, *external IT developer*

Panelists:

Kathrin Weise, *SWOS coordinator, Jena Optronik, Germany*

Anis Guelmami, *co-chair of MedWet Inventories Specialist Group, Tour du Valat*

Thanos Gianakakis, *Mediterranean Island Wetland Inventory project, WWF-Greece*

George Melekis, *Ministry of Environment, Water Sector, Greece*

Lefkios Sergides, *Cyprus Wetland Inventory project, Executive director Terra Cypria*

BREAK. 12.00 – 12.15

12:15 – 13:30 SESSION 3: Towards a Joint Vision

Practical significance and application of the WetMainAreas Project Results & Outputs

Charalabos Ververis, *Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy, Biodiversity Department*

Key Messages

Eleni Fitoka, *Greek Biotope - Wetland Centre*

Panelists:

Christoph Schröder, *European Topic Centre of University of Málaga*

Oriana Hanxhari, *National Environmental Agency, Albania*

Pejo Kirovski, *State Environmental Inspectorate, North Macedonia*

Vasilis Mitsios, *external expert of Region of Thessaly, Greece*

Christina-Maria Bateka, *Joint Secretariat, Transnational Cooperation Program INTERREG Balkan-Med*

Interventions from all participants