**Appendix 1.2, Chapter 1**

**Brief description of the four MED4EBM target areas.**

**Natural Reserves of “Tarsia” lake and mouth of “Crati” river, Italy (PP2)**

The nature reserves of Lake Tarsia and the mouth of the Crati river, located in the province of Cosenza, were established by the Calabria Region in 1990 (Regional Law 05/05/1990 n. 52) upon proposal of the environmentalist association Amici della Terra (Friends of the Earth Italy) Italy. The Reserves are also Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for the Natura 2000 network, determined by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Reserves coincide with two important wetlands located along the flow of the Crati river: Lake of Tarsia, a large reservoir upstream of the Tarsia dam, falling within the territory of the municipalities of Tarsia and Santa Sofia d'Epiro, and the mouth of the Crati river, falling within the territory of the municipalities of Corigliano Calabro and Cassano allo Ionio. The extension of the two areas is approximately 600 hectares together. The management of the two protected areas is entrusted to the environmental protection association “Amici della Terra Italia”.

Figure 1.3

*Tarsia* Lake (from http://www.riservetarsiacrati.it/)

A river running through a valley

Description automatically generated

Figure 1.4

*Crati* river (from http://www.riservetarsiacrati.it/)

A sandy beach with water and mountains in the background

Description automatically generated

The naturalistic value of the Reserves is notable, especially due to the presence of migratory water birds, many of them nesting (For more details: <https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=IT9310055>).

**Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan (PP3)**

Despite the Gulf of Aqaba being a relatively small body of water, it hosts an extraordinary amount of marine diversity with the existence of corals, reef-building coral, and an unknown number of soft corals species. The Gulf of Aqaba is characterized by 157 species of reef building corals, 120 species of soft corals, 500 fish species and 1,000 mollusc species (Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5

Coral reef in Aqaba (© M. Al-Tawaha)

A collage of a sea and a coral reef

Description automatically generated

**Kneiss islands, Tunisia (PP4)**

The archipelago of Kneiss islands is located in the Gulf of Gabès (south of Tunisia, eastern Mediterranean Sea), covering a surface area of 442 ha and including 4 islets. With their tidal channels, watercourses, shores, intertidal zones and supratidal mudflats, the Kneiss islands constitute a unique ecosystem in the Mediterranean. The archipelago has been classified as a nature reserve since 1993 and since 2001it is a Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. Identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) (2007), Kneiss islands are characterized by an extraordinary avifauna diversity, a highly developed halophilic vegetation, phanerogam meadows and important marine biodiversity. Fishing and agriculture are the main economic activities in the region of Kneiss (Figure 1.6).

Figure 1.6

(Map from MED4EBM 3.1.4 INSTM report. Photo © F. Pella)

A bird on a post

Description automatically generatedA bird on a post

Description automatically generated

**Tyre Coastal Nature Reserve (PP5)**

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve is not only a Nature reserve but also a Ramsar site.  
Located in Southern Lebanon expanding over 380 ha, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve remains the largest sandy beach in Lebanon. Tyre Coast Nature Reserve is of a particular importance for the following purpose: Fresh water estuaries and springs that outflow to the sea thus creating fresh/marine water interface; Habitat for sea turtles; Last and largest remaining sandy beach in Lebanon.  Divided into three main zones:    1- A beach zone; 2- A high conservation zone that includes the Phoenician springs of Ras El Ain; 3- A large area for agriculture. Tyre Coast Reserve is cut into two segments by the Rashidiyeh Refugee camp (Figure 1.7 and 1.8).

Figure 1.7

Tyre Coastal Nature Reserve – Wetland area (from TCNR website)

A row of trees and grass

Description automatically generated

Figure 1.8

Tyre Coastal Nature Reserve – Sandy beach area (from Facebook TCNR profile)

A large group of people on a beach

Description automatically generated

Figures:

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2. <http://www.riservetarsiacrati.it/>
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