



Interreg IPA CBC
“Greece - Albania 2014 – 2020”

Press Release

Zakynthos, 10th of October 2018

The kick-off meeting of the project “**Climate-Smart Coastal Practices for Blue governance**”-BLUECOAST (Interreg IPA CBC “Greece - Albania 2014 – 2020”) was held at the island of Zakynthos from 1st to 3rd of October. All project partners participated in the meeting:

- Management Authority of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos (coordinator)
- Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Geology and Geoenvironment, Laboratory of Physical Geography
- National Coastal Agency of Albania
- Municipality of Himara
- Ionian University, Department of Environment

Outline of the Project

BLUECOAST is a cross-border cooperation between Greece and Albania in order to maintain and protect some of the major habitats in the Mediterranean for the *Caretta caretta* sea turtle in the light of climatic change.

C. caretta is a charismatic marine migratory species threatened with extinction worldwide and protected by various conventions and agreements (Barcelona Convention, Bern Con., Bonn Con., Habitats Directive).

The challenges of the project are: (i) the consolidation of cross-border cooperation between the two countries and development of horizontal synergies and mechanisms, in order to meet the specific needs of protection and retention (ii) the improvement of the efficiency of governance and policies and finally (iii) the determination of the critical circumstances and the preventive methods for the long-term conservation of the species.

The aim of BLUECOAST is to provide several plans, methods and tools based on long-term conservation objectives and on climate change adaptation policy, as a mean to increase the resilience of *C. caretta*'s ecosystems.

The implementation of the BLUECOAST project is based on **3 basic pillars**:

- The **implementation** of a monitoring methodology, based on combined and tailored techniques that take into account the biotic and the abiotic parameters, so that to increase the effectiveness of short-term and long-term observations and eventually, the protection of the species.



- The **production** of scientific data for a better understanding of Blue Governance and the pilot implementation of Climate - Smart initiatives, applied to a large scale and to small technical projects for selected beaches.
- The **establishment** of a cross-border observatory, with the involvement of local authorities, for the long-term viability and the successful implementation of management plans. Thus, the project follows a bottom-up approach, through the promotion of a participatory mechanism, creating a "blue-cultural hub" in order to contribute to the continuous empowerment and sensitization of citizens.

More info on the project and its development:

Website: bluecoast-cbc.eu | email: info_bluecoast@ionio.gr