

# IPBES AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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# The IPBES: taking inspiration from the IPCC and going further

- A different institutional context for the establishment of this platform
  - The IPCC was established prior to the signature of the major conventions concerning climate change
  - The IPBES has to navigate within a system where several specialized conventions and science-policy interfaces already exist.
- A broader mandate
  - While both IPCC and IPBES realize global assessment on their specific topics, the IPBES goes further by setting research priorities, identifying methodologies and tools for policy makers and assisting in capacity building

# The Mediterranean Region: Legal and Institutional Complexity

- The environmental characteristics of the region and the numerous threats on biodiversity and ecosystems have resulted in the creation of a complex network of institutions, norms and actors
- Numerous regimes coexist in the region
  - International conventions
  - Regional regulations
  - National laws
- Several scientific networks also work on Mediterranean related subjects
- As time passed, the mediterranean governance of biodiversity and ecosystems has grown considerably more complex.

# How to address this topic in a relevant manner

Answering to both disciplinary requirements in the field of legal research and the objectives of the OT-Med program

# Complex issue, simple questions

- **Why** is the IPBES relevant for the Mediterranean governance ?
  - Analysis of the Mediterranean framework and the IPBES mandate. Identification of key gaps where the IPBES can have a significant added value
  - In sum, a legal and institutional diagnosis of the Mediterranean system and a analysis of the potential solutions provided by the IPBES
- **How** can this relevance be transcribed into legal outcomes?
  - Comparative approach based on other SPI cases and their legal impacts. Most notably, comparison with the climate regime and the IPCC.
  - Prospective approach based on discussions on the recent evolutions of International Environmental Law and their potential effect on the Mediterranean system.

# Methodology

- Usual legal research methodology
  - Official documentation
  - Doctrine
- Practical observations
  - *In Situ* observation
  - Interviews with relevant actors

**Links with the OT-MED  
objectives and the  
WP-3 goals**

## OT-MED Goal

Identify and evaluate innovative strategies to help decision-makers in elaborating public policies and enterprises in treating environmental questions.

- The Mediterranean actors are not involved in the IPBES process as a coherent group. This research aims to provide them with the necessary information illustrating how they could benefit from a coherent involvement in the process and what are the available gateways for such a strategy.



## WP3 goals:

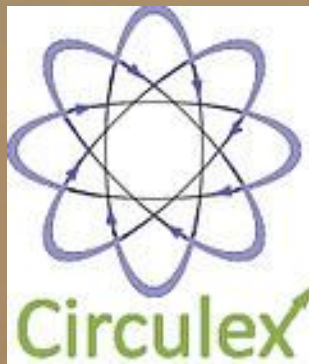
-Compared functioning of international environmental regimes for climate and biodiversity.

-Improved management of ecosystems for conservation and sustainable delivery of ecosystem services.

- The links between the IPCC and the IPBES are very strong. However, the context of their creation are radically different. This led to substantial debate on how the IPBES can be linked to other regimes and what its procedures should be. This research will present and discuss the impact of these debates.
- The IPBES will provide valuable inputs on themes such as sustainable land use, valuation of biodiversity, invasive species... This research will analyse the Mediterranean legal responses to these topics (both their creation and implementation) and discuss how the IPBES can have added value.

# Interdisciplinarity and collaboration with laboratories

Law at the crossroads of  
social sciences and hard  
sciences



- This Ph. D project is set within one discipline : Law.  
But it relies heavily on the inputs of other fields.
- Research set within the broader theme of interaction between law and sciences.
- Strong collaboration with social and political sciences. For instance, on the subject of scientific networks within the Platform (how can they be shaped by law and how they shape law).
- Very strong collaborative aspect. Participation to meetings as IMBE representative. Debates within the CIRCULEX project. Interviews with scientists.

# Some results

Obstacles and opportunities for the Mediterranean Region

# Obstacles for a Mediterranean approach within the IPBES

- **The regional structure of the IPBES**
  - Based on the UN division, proof that political considerations often prevail on biogeographical realities. Regional assessments will be conducted with a “continental” division.
  - The Mediterranean sea is to be assessed as a “inland sea”. There will be no assessment for Mediterranean terrestrial ecosystems.
  - However, the work programme of platform is drafted by taking into consideration requests by States. Mediterranean States have the opportunity to make such requests. Still, they lack coordination as a group in international forums.

**Thank you for  
your attention**

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