

Ljubljana Posidonia Restoration Workshop

12 - 13 February 2026

University of Ljubljana - School of Economics and Business (UL SEB)

Organizers (Steering Committee)

As. Prof. Sandra Damijan (SEB UL) • Prof. Carlos M. Duarte (KAUST) • Jan Pachner (One Ocean Foundation) • Theresa Zabell (Ecomar Foundation)

Organized by

School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana

In partnership with

Embassy of Spain in Slovenia

Participants

Scientists, project developers, LIFE project leaders, MRV specialists, legal and finance experts, policymakers, and investors.

The workshop combines short presentations, case examples, and guided discussions to co-create technical, methodological, and policy-relevant standards for large-scale *Posidonia oceanica* restoration and investment.

Day 1 **Technical and Scientific
Workshop**

12 February 2026 | 13:00–18:00

12:40 – 13:00 • Participants registration and welcome coffee and light refreshment**13:00 – 13:10 • Official Institutional Welcome**

Prof. Tomaž Turk, Dean of the School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana (SEB UL)

13:10 – 13:20 • Welcome Address

H.E. Javier Herrera, Ambassador of Spain to Slovenia

13:20 – 13:35 • Opening Remarks - Investing in Nature

As.Prof. Sandra Damijan, SEB UL

*On the importance of investing in Nature and positioning Posidonia oceanica as the Mediterranean's foundation ecosystem and a first-in-class asset for nature credits.***13:35 – 13:55 • Keynote - Scaling Restoration through Standardization**

Prof. Carlos Duarte, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

*Building a case for investments in Posidonia oceanica.***13:55 – 14:10 • The One Ocean Foundation Perspective**

Jan Pachner, One Ocean Foundation

*Cross-sector collaboration and private-sector engagement for marine restoration.***14:10 – 14:25 • Acción Posidonia - Ecomar Foundation Experience**

Theresa Zabell, Ecomar Foundation

*From "Bosque Marino" to "Acción Posidonia": methodologies, lessons learned, and community engagement in large-scale marine restoration.***14:25 – 14:40 • Plenary Exchange and Q&A**

14:40 – 14:50 • Coffee Break

14:50 – 15:50 • SESSION 1

The Case for Posidonia: Science, Threats and Ecosystem Services

10-minute inputs + moderated discussion

Discussion themes: Carbon sequestration, biodiversity, coastal protection, water quality; avoided losses and emissions; benchmark datasets and inventories.

Confirmed inputs:

- **IMEDEA-CSIC - Prof. Núria Marbà** - *Climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity of Posidonia oceanica*
- **BlueSeeds - Mr. Guillaume Le Port** - *Mediterranean Posidonia Roadmap 2030 and zero-loss governance frameworks*
- **National Institute of Biology - Marine Biology Station Piran - Dr. Martina Orlando-Bonaca** - *Marine Biodiversity Lab (NIB): Mapping, drivers of degradation, and testing restoration actions for benthic bioconstructors*
- **Ruder Bošković Institute - Dr. Ljiljana Iveša** - *Restoration testing via cultivation / transplantation*

15:50 – 16:50 • SESSION 2

Restoration and Conservation Projects: Mediterranean Case Examples

7-minute inputs + moderated discussion

Discussion themes: Operational restoration methods, outcomes, challenges, enabling conditions; inputs to the Methods Taxonomy and Mediterranean Project Inventory.

Confirmed inputs:

- **Iberostar Wave of Change - Pilar Ferrer** - *PosiGenome project: corporate-driven Posidonia restoration and nature-based solutions*
- **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research - HCMR - Dr. Eugenia Apostolaki** - *Posidonia oceanica in Greece: baselines, carbon accounting and a pathway to national-scale restoration*
- **University of Sassari - Dr. Arianna Pansini** - *Trait-based and epiphytic indicators for evaluating Posidonia restoration effectiveness*
- **One Ocean Foundation - Jan Pachner** - *Large-scale Posidonia reforestation, climate-resilient site selection, and automated geospatial MRV for investable restoration (Blue Forest Programme, Italy)*
- **MAREA Studio Associato - Dr. Stefano Acunto** - *Biodegradable geomats for Posidonia restoration*
- **Univ. of Palermo - Prof. Salvatrice (Titti) Vizzini** - *PNRR-MER Italian restoration experience*

16:50 – 17:00 • Coffee Break

17:00 – 17:40 • SESSION 3

Methods, MRV and Technology: Tools for Scaling Up

7-minute inputs + moderated discussion

Discussion themes: Carbon and nature credit methods, MRV parameters, permanence, leakage, modelling, drones, valuation tools.

Confirmed inputs:

- **European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC) - Dr. Luca Polimene** - *Modelling carbon fluxes and standing stocks in Posidonia oceanica meadows*
- **Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn - Dr. Valentina Costa** - *Low-cost drone-based mapping and monitoring of seagrass meadows*
- **Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn - Dr. Fabio Blanco Murillo** - *SEACOVERY (novel techniques; scaling with MPA)*
- **Univ. of Palermo - Dr. Laura Corbari** - *BLUE-Q project*

17:40 – 18:00 • Strategic Reflection

Toward a Unified Platform

Moderated by Prof. Carlos Duarte

Developing a taxonomy of methods and verification protocols; registry and aggregation principles; inclusion of Southern Mediterranean partners.

19:30 – 21:00 • Official Reception hosted by the Ambassador of Spain to Slovenia

Day 2 **Scaling Posidonia
Restoration: Policy and
Investment Dialogue**

13 February | 09:15 - 12:30

09:15 – 09:25 • Welcome and Recap

As.Prof. Sandra Damijan, SEB UL

09:25 – 09:45 • Opening Keynote - Natural Capital as a New Asset Class

Prof. Carlos M. Duarte, KAUST

09:45 – 10:45 • PANEL 1

Blue Carbon and Posidonia: Methodologies, MRV and Credit Pathways

Focus: Standardising methodologies, MRV architectures, and validation requirements for carbon and nature credits.

Confirmed speakers:

- **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research - HCMR - Dr. Eugenia Apostolaki** - *Carbon accounting and national baselines for Posidonia*
- **European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC) - Dr. Luca Polimene** – *Carbon flux modelling and MRV implications*

- **CEAB-CSIC/Australia - Dr. Oscar Serrano (online)** - *Environmental accounting and crediting methodologies for seagrass restoration: insights from Australia*

10:45 – 11:00 • Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 • PANEL 2

Investing in Nature and Green Infrastructure: Finance and Policy Enablers

Focus: Blended finance, corporate buyers, risk-sharing, policy levers and regulatory frameworks.

Confirmed speakers:

- **MedGardens Initiative (Cleanwave Foundation) - Laura Royo and Lucian Fernández (online)** - *Shallow bay Posidonia restoration and Biodiversity Blocks as a voluntary biodiversity finance instrument*
- **Fugro - Alpa Bhattacharjee (online)** - *Using NEV to design investable coastal resilience projects*
- **Iberostar Wave of Change - Pilar Ferrer** - *Corporate investment pathways for Posidonia-based nature solutions*
- **Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition (MITECO) - Jessica Santos (online)** - *Regulatory alignment and national frameworks for blue carbon*
- **WWF Mediterranean - Mr. Mauro Randone (online)** - *Large-scale seagrass restoration in the Mediterranean: linking carbon finance and policy frameworks*

12:00 – 12:20 • Reflection and Way Forward

Finance and Implementation Pathway

Moderated by Jan Pachner and Theresa Zabell

12:30 • Closing and end of workshop