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Image credit: ESA Sentinel-2B image of Karavasta Lagoon, Albania on 15 March 2017 (Source: ESA [Space in Images](#))

## Why LagoonsforLife?

Coastal lagoons are highly productive areas providing natural services that have been exploited over millennia by diverse societies in many different ways, becoming places of social and economic importance as well as significant cultural heritage. Over time, traditional forms of lagoon management, that maintained their ecological features and environmental and socioeconomic value, has become strained by ever increasing population pressures, leading unsustainable demands for space and resources. Their setting in the coastal landscape also leaves lagoons especially vulnerable to profound physical, ecological and associated societal disturbance from global environmental change. Understanding how to address the sustainability of lagoon systems is constrained by information and data gaps, and lack of global coordination of knowledge in support of lagoon management, which is what **LagoonsforLife** aims to address.

## The LagoonsforLife Forum

Established from a workshop funded by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Future Earth on ***Understanding the effect of environmental and climate change on coastal lagoon management – Potential and challenges for Earth Observation (EO)*** in September 2017. The Forum aims to assess the potential of innovative technologies such as Earth Observation in the co-design of holistic multidisciplinary coastal lagoon management approaches in the context of sustainable development.

## Join LagoonsforLife

Membership of the **LagoonsforLife** Forum is open to anyone with an interest in contributing to the sustainability of the world's coastal lagoon systems. To join please [contact us](#).



## Linking with other networks

**Lagoons**for**LIFE** recently linked with the **Baltic Lagoon Network (BALLOON)**; a network that aims to facilitate and strengthen cross-border research, management and co-operation in Baltic lagoons and to provide a forum for exchange and discussion. You can find the entry for L4L on the BALLOON website [here](#). As a result of our link to BALLOON, we have been in contact with research institutes, who joined our Lagoons Forum. These include the [Marine Research Institute](#), Klaipeda University, Lithuania, and the [National Marine Fisheries Research Institute \(NMFRI\)](#), Poland. Increasing our network and number of case studies, will result in better communication and cooperation between scientists, research networks and institutes, as well as better co-designed management practices for dynamic and vulnerable coastal lagoons around the world.

## EuroLag8

The **8<sup>th</sup> European Coastal Lagoons Symposium (EuroLag8)** 20-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, in Athens, Greece was attended by approx. 80 delegates in a beautiful venue a few minutes walk from the Athenian Acropolis. EuroLag8 opened with a keynote presentation by coastal lagoons expert Prof Bjorn Kjerfve and a global comparison of coastal lagoon systems, followed by four days packed with inspiring presentations on coastal lagoon research; the topics ranging from hydrodynamics to ecology and stakeholder engagement. Prof Michael Elliott gave the keynote speech of the last day on managing socio-ecological systems in lagoons and the Symposium closed with an open discussion on lagoon networks and future projects. During EuroLag8, the future of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) was discussed in relation to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP); a term that now appears more often in political and research agendas. Aiming to increase our network of experts in coastal lagoon research, **Lagoons**for**LIFE** and our vision, mission and objectives were presented to the EuroLag8 community. New links were established with coastal lagoon scientists from institutes across Europe, who will contribute to the development of the **Lagoons**for**LIFE** database in coming months.



① **BALLOON**



We will be at...

- ③ Water Connects! [ASLO 2018 Summer Meeting](#) 10-15 June
- ④ Our Future is Blue [GEO Blue Planet Symposium](#) 4-6 July
- ⑤ [World Water Week](#) 26-31 August

Contact us:

- [@Lagoons4Life](#)
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