

## Inventorying *Posidonia oceanica* habitats in Albania

The beds of *Posidonia oceanica* are an endemic species of the Mediterranean Sea. *Posidonia* beds are a priority habitat in the EU Habitats Directive (CODE 11.20 in the Directive Habitat 92/43 EEC). *Posidonia* beds have suffered a progressive and irreversible regression throughout the Mediterranean due to a series of reasons varying from sand extraction, coastal eutrofication, bottom trawling to the more recent invasion of the tropical alga *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *C. racemosa*.

The SGP projects supported survey studies of *Posidonia oceanica* beds and the dissemination of the results among the coastal communities. The projects also supported the integration of all information collected in the form of GIS based multimedia that would help policy makers make informed decisions in fisheries and coastal zone management.



