

THE ROAD TO 2030

Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine
Protected Areas Roadmap



THE FORUM
of Marine Protected Areas
in the Mediterranean

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:
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CITATION

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REVIEW

The 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum Steering Committee: ACCOBAMS, Conservatoire du Littoral, EC DG ENV, ETC-UMA, IUCN-Med, IUCN-WCPA, OFB, MedPAN, PIM, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, The MedFund, MedPAN, SPA/RAC, WWF, and all the online participants from the Virtual Forum Sessions of the Mediterranean MPA Forum, and in-person and online participants to the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum held in Monaco November 29 - December 1, 2021 (managers, scientists, fishers representatives, NGOs, IGOs, donors, MPA networks, etc).

LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ABJN:** Area Beyond National Jurisdiction
- CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity
- EU:** European Union
- FRA:** Fisheries Restricted Area
- GBF:** Global Biodiversity Framework
- IGO:** Intergovernmental Organisation
- IMAP:** Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
- IUCN:** International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- MCPA:** Marine and coastal protected area
- MedPAN:** Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean
- MAP:** Mediterranean Action Plan
- MAPAMED:** Database of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
- MPA:** Marine Protected Area
- NBSAP:** National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- NGO:** Non-Governmental Organisation
- OECM:** Other effective area-based conservation measure
- SPA/BD:** Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
- SPA/RAC:** Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
- UNEP:** United Nations Environment Programme
- WDPA:** World Database on Protected Areas
- WWF:** World Wide Fund for Nature

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CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Mediterranean is home to 510 million people and is often described as the “cradle of civilization.” Numerous pressures are exerted on the Mediterranean Sea not only from coastal development, overfishing, invasive species, land-based and offshore pollution, plastic litter, but also from wind farms, oil extraction, cables, shipping routes, tourism and aquaculture (Piante C., Ody D., 2015). Exacerbating these pressures is climate change. **The region is warming 20% faster than the global average** (MedECC, 2020) (WWF, 2021). The impacts associated with ocean warming will exert additional pressure on already strained ecosystems and on vulnerable economies and societies. There is, therefore, an urgency to act and reverse such trends.

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are recognised as one of the most powerful and effective tools for protecting marine life and the livelihoods of coastal communities (Grorud-Colvert et al., 2021). They help protect threatened and endangered biodiversity, important marine and coastal habitats such as coralligenous assemblages, seagrasses and coastal lagoons, and they are invaluable in their role to restore degraded marine habitats and to replenish fish stocks. MPAs are also sites for scientific research and can generate income through sustainable tourism and fishing.

In 2010, the global community agreed at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya (Japan) to, among other things, conserve “at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, [...] through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.” (CBD, 2010. Aichi Target 11. Decision X/2).

At Mediterranean level and part of the regional sea convention efforts to align with **the CBD orientations, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted**, at their 16th ordinary meeting (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009), **the “Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea”,** that provided clear guidance for the design of an ecological network of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea, and provided a step by step programme to establish such a comprehensive and representative network of marine and coastal protected areas, improve its management and strengthen its governance systems.

8,33%
Surface covered by a protection status in the Mediterranean
0,04% surface under stronger protection (no-go, no-take or no-fishing)

Source: “2020 Mediterranean MPA Status report”

30% by 2030
International objective of the Convention for Biological Diversity

In their further approach of alignment with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted under the CBD in 2010, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted, at their 19th ordinary meeting (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), the “Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean”.

In 2012, **the Mediterranean MPA Forum community developed the 2020 Roadmap “Towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas by 2020”,** which was later assessed and updated in 2016.

In the period of the past Mediterranean MPA Roadmap (2012-2020), progress was made on a number of different aspects, while lagging on many others. There has been progress in terms of MPA coverage, going from 4.56% in 2012 to 6.81% in 2016 (MedPAN & SPA/RAC, 2019). According to the 2020 Mediterranean MPA status report [under preparation], the Mediterranean Sea is currently at 8.33% protection - not quite reaching the Aichi Biodiversity target of 10%. This coverage is however heavily weighted in the North of the basin, with the Pelagos Sanctuary and the Cetacean migration Corridor representing 5.33% and Natura 2000 marine sites in European Union (EU) waters representing 3.17%. Only 3.18% of the Mediterranean Sea is covered by nationally designated MPAs. Only 4.11% of the Mediterranean is effectively protected (MAPAMED, 2019). “Coverage of area as MPAs,” while an important indicator, may not be sufficient to protect key species and/or ecosystems in the Mediterranean considering less than a cumulative 0.10% of the Mediterranean Sea is under strict designation (no-access, no-take or no-fishing) (MedPAN & SPA/RAC, 2019).

While MPA protection coverage achievement is progressing and rightly captures attention, MPA performance is extremely important and sometimes neglected. The best performing MPAs have several important characteristics: they have a management plan with clearly defined goals and objectives, a monitoring plan to evaluate progress, stakeholder engagement for planning and management, adequate and well trained staff, sufficient equipment and knowledge, and national policies, strategies and agencies to support MPAs. To date, only 4.11% of the Mediterranean is covered by MPAs with a management plan and only 0.21% by MPAs that effectively implement their management plan (MAPAMED, 2019). A 2019 survey noted that 21 nationally designated MPAs -- 15 in the EU and 6 in non-EU countries -- reported having no dedicated staff. The same survey revealed that 62% of respondents reported staff training as satisfactory, but this falls to 13% for non-EU countries (MedPAN database, update 2019). Most countries have prepared and adopted National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) in the framework of the CBD. Algeria and Egypt have adopted theirs until 2030. The following countries have prepared and adopted specific national strategies for MPAs and Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs): Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye (UNEP/MAP, 2019). Eleven Mediterranean countries have a specialised agency or an authority for protected areas, national parks, MPAs, environment, biodiversity or nature: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, France, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Türkiye (UNEP/MAP, 2019).

Sustainable finance for MPAs is another important issue that the 2012-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap focused on. Recent analysis shows that major efforts are still necessary to significantly change the current trajectory. A 2019 survey found that only 11% of respondents report having a budget that is considered satisfactory for nationally designated MPAs, and 19% have no budget at all (UNEP/MAP, 2019). **However, the establishment of a regional trust fund, The MedFund, in 2015 was a significant achievement; it has thus far mobilised more than 8 million Euros for Mediterranean MPAs.**

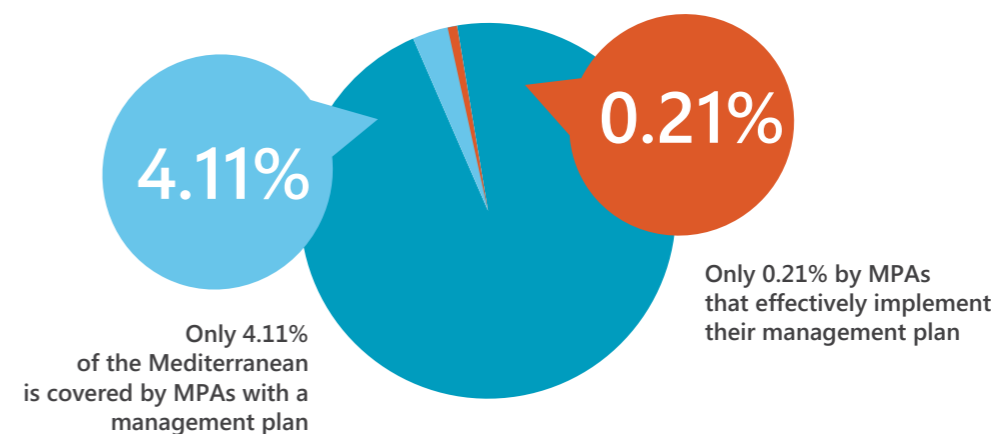
The significant gaps in achievement of the past roadmap as identified above suggest a renewed focus on MPA action and the development of new partnerships, including with donors.

Understanding progress against past roadmaps helps to frame the post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Vision and the recommendations for the future.

The global and regional response to the Covid pandemic has shown that governments and society can swiftly react to challenges. From an environmental point of view, as marine tourism levels dropped, lockdowns were enforced and beach closures transpired, early indications show that biodiversity increased. As we consider how to “build back better” in the post-Covid world, it is imperative to have an appropriate policy response that promotes resilience in marine ecosystems.

As the global community finalised the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Kunming, China and Montreal, Canada, in 2022, the Mediterranean has a strong role to play in ensuring we “take urgent action across society to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetics resources, to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of planet and people.” Target 3 of the GBF is to «Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.» This “30x30” target, adopted by the Parties to the CBD, and likely by the other biodiversity-related conventions and all UN agencies, is adopted as the overarching goal of this Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap, as described in the next section.

At regional level, the 22nd ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021) adopted the “Post-2020 Strategic

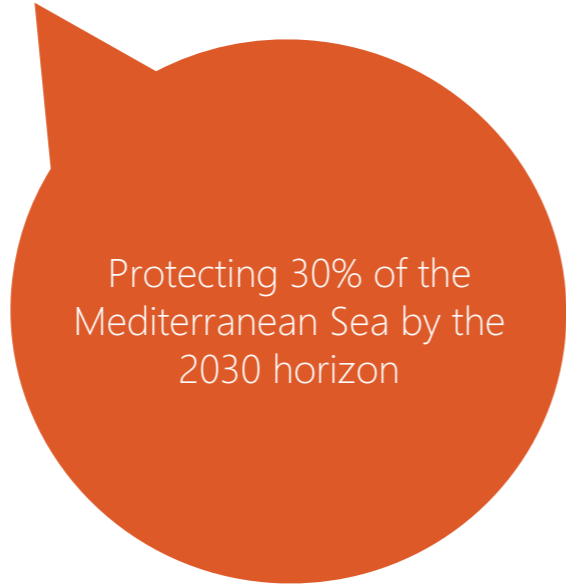




CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-2020 SAPBIO), as a 15-year Mediterranean action-oriented marine and coastal biodiversity conservation strategy. The aim of this strategy is to improve the environmental status of the Mediterranean, help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and their respective targets and the mission, goals, and targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The 22nd Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention also adopted the "Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean". This 2030 horizon strategy has set two main targets that are in line with the ongoing GBF's targets: (i) "By 2030, at least 30 percent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-



based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity." and "By 2030, the number and coverage of marine and coastal protected areas with enhanced protection levels is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems."

assessment report (Mediterranean Quality Status Report) is elaborated based on IMAP results.

This roadmap is aligned with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Barcelona Convention's Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The objectives of the roadmap focus on the means of implementation, and on actions related to MPAs that can help mobilise, align and coordinate efforts of the various stakeholders to achieve the objectives stated in the frameworks and strategies listed above. In order to achieve the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and regional MCPA and OECM strategy (under Barcelona Convention) protecting 30% of land and sea areas by 2030 (30x30 target), this roadmap refers to areas beyond MPAs including areas within and beyond national jurisdiction through other sectoral and spatial tools such as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), but does not focus on them.

The roadmap further supports the ocean protection commitments made during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2021 noted in the Marseille Manifesto (IUCN, 2021) and the Plan of Action for an Exemplary Mediterranean Sea by 2030 (PAMEX) launched at the IUCN Congress and supported by 8 Mediterranean countries and 5 international organisations (Government of France, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Environment and Climate Department, 2021).

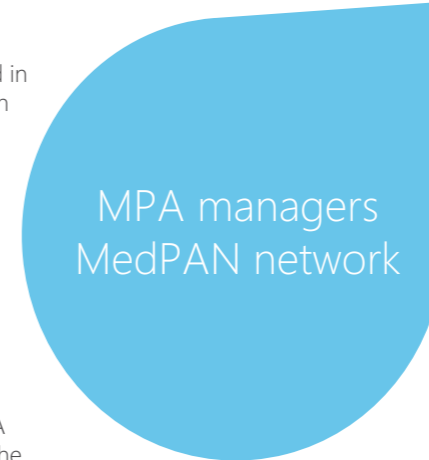
This roadmap includes a vision, six strategic objectives, and recommendations on how to achieve the objectives. Achieving the recommendations in the roadmap will allow the Mediterranean to make a significant contribution to achieving the goals and targets in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs.

This roadmap is more focused than past efforts. There are a limited number of recommendations based on the principle that "less is more" and that an overabundance of recommendations and actions can divide attention and produce a less than optimal outcome. Every effort has been made to ensure that recommendations are operationalized, measurable and clearly indicate the responsible parties for implementation, making it easier for stakeholders and governments and partners to find themselves in the roadmap. It is meant to be a living plan to build engagement momentum with a built-in mechanism to track progress.

This roadmap is the result of a large participatory process including all stakeholder groups involved with MPAs in the Mediterranean. It is very inclusive of different stakeholders and their concerns, it is very practical and actionable and, because of the lengthy process of stakeholder engagement, very relevant to meet the needs of MPA managers, governments, international and regional organisations, NGOs, scientists, the economic and private sectors, etc.

The participatory process was started in 2020 during the Covid pandemic with the leadership of the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) - Barcelona Convention, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Mediterranean Programme. A survey on limiting factors hindering the achievement of MPA targets was launched in October 2020, to which more than 360 responses were received. In November 2020, online working groups were convened to identify practical recommendations to overcome the limiting factors divided by thematic areas (Policy and Governance, Legislation and Enforcement, Management and Knowledge, Capacity and Awareness, and Sustainable Financing). These working groups included over 170 people from across the Mediterranean and beyond.

A two-part MPA Forum process was developed due to Covid-19 restrictions on travel. The first part, a multi-stakeholder consultation called the Virtual Forum Sessions, was held online from 2 to 4 June 2021 with 320 participants coming from 34 countries. These sessions added precision to a set of draft



For whom is this roadmap intended?

This roadmap is addressed to national, European, Mediterranean and international stakeholders who are involved in MPA policies, planning and management in the Mediterranean region.

Why do we need a roadmap?

The Mediterranean is a case study in complexity. Twenty one countries share a border with the Mediterranean Sea. Thirteen languages are spoken and governments range from republics to constitutional monarchies. While the Barcelona Convention and the European Union (EU) provide respectively a regional framework and sub-regional cohesion for countries, still, the implementation of policies, strategies and actions to protect the marine environment vary considerably across the region, and there is a large divide in terms of the implementation of environmental policies. Marine protected area coverage in the Mediterranean also varies considerably. Many more are found in the West and far fewer in the South. To utilise the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean, as the CBD calls for, a network approach is required and this in turn requires having a common vision and agreement on the objectives and actions to achieve the vision.

Since 2008, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols have agreed to gradually apply the ecosystem approach to manage human activities in the Mediterranean, with the ultimate aim of achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) and adopted a roadmap for its implementation. Within this process, Mediterranean countries have adopted common monitoring and assessment frameworks to improve information-based decision-making. An Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), as a Mediterranean information system to support data collection in MPA and high pressure areas, is being implemented in the context of the MAP system to assess progress towards GES. Every six years, a regional



roadmap recommendations. This was supplemented by an online survey where respondents suggested specific strategies and actions to make draft recommendations attainable by 2030, identified responsible parties for achieving each recommendation, and identified indicators of success. Follow-up stakeholder consultations were held with MPA managers across the Mediterranean to ground-truth many of the recommendations developed that require the Virtual Forum Sessions resulted in a Zero Draft of the roadmap.

The second part of the Forum process was a hybrid event convened in Monaco and online from November 29 - December 1, 2021 where Mediterranean MPA achievements were announced, a roadmap vision adopted, refinements to actionable recommendations developed, partnerships for roadmap implementation launched and a follow-up reporting and monitoring mechanism discussed.

Beyond its value as a stand-alone roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs, this document is also meant as a tool to be shared with and to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and policies of the European Union.

Noting the lack of progress made since the last roadmap mentioned in the previous section and the difficulty in measuring that progress, a different approach will be taken with this Roadmap to ensure commitments are tracked periodically.



What's new in this Roadmap: Implementing and tracking commitments

The real value of this roadmap is when it becomes a "living document" that aims to contribute through concrete actions of numerous actors, organisations and various stakeholders to the implementation of the goals and outcomes committed at global and regional levels. Moreover, for each recommendation throughout this roadmap, organisations and other entities that are listed as "Responsible Parties" are encouraged to internalise the listed strategies and actions and include them in their own planning processes.

Monitoring progress in plan implementation is considered best practice. The partners developing this roadmap, MedPAN, SPA/RAC, and WWF-Med began a process at the Mediterranean MPA

Forum in Monaco seeking commitments from governments, organisations and individuals to implement actions in this roadmap. The roadmap partners are developing a mechanism to monitor and review roadmap commitments. These commitments will be made available online and progress on achieving them will be updated periodically. Additional calls for commitments will be made at important Mediterranean and global events.

The last section of this roadmap (The Road Ahead...) includes further steps to operationalize this commitment review mechanism.

This roadmap is the result of a large participatory process including all stakeholder groups involved with MPAs in the Mediterranean.



MEDITERRANEAN MPA VISION

By 2030, Mediterranean marine protected areas will form a well established, well funded, connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network that will provide greater benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem services and to the economic well-being of people and will be a model for resilience in the post-2020 and post-pandemic world.



SUMMARY OF ROADMAP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of this roadmap is to reinforce and support the implementation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in the Mediterranean region; in particular Target 3 calling for Parties of the convention to take action to protect 30% of the planet.

The following summary list of roadmap strategic objectives was developed through an iterative process with numerous stakeholder inputs. The strategic objectives generally follow the themes that emerged from the online working groups and the survey on limiting factors that hinder the achievement of MPA targets:

- Policy and Governance
- Legislation and Enforcement
- Management and Knowledge
- Capacity and Awareness
- Sustainable Financing

A number of additional cross-cutting recommendations that emerged from the Virtual and the Monaco Forum Sessions are included at the end. The full list of recommendations, actions, strategies, responsible parties, priority geographies, indicators, etc. that correspond to each strategic objective starts below.

Strategic Objective 1

Further develop Mediterranean MPA policy and governance structures to be more equitable, incorporating local authorities, integrated with other sectors and responsive to local MPA conditions

Strategic Objective 2

Strengthen national legislation and ensure effective enforcement mechanisms to produce better outcomes for MPAs

Strategic Objective 3

Ensure MPA management structures are effective and well coordinated across government and stakeholders to improve knowledge and ensure proper management of MPAs

Strategic Objective 4

Build capacity of MPA managers, staff and stakeholders and communicate on MPA values to larger external audiences to raise their awareness

Strategic Objective 5

Provide support for the long-term financial sustainability of MPAs through capacity development and sustainable financing mechanisms including trust funds

Strategic Objective 6

Cross-cutting recommendations

The numbering of these objectives and associated actions do not correspond to a specific hierarchy.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Further develop Mediterranean MPA policy and governance structures to be more equitable, incorporating local authorities, integrated with other sectors and responsive to local MPA conditions

Recommendation 1.1 (NATIONAL STRATEGIES).

Ensure, in each Mediterranean country, a commitment in preparing, implementing and updating a national strategy and an operational national action plan in order to achieve international and regional targets related to MPAs.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Make this commitment mandatory under EU policies.

Strengthen national institutional capacities in strategic planning and monitoring.

National governments should declare a precise timetable for the implementation of international and regional commitments which they ratify or to which they subscribe.

Relevant Geographic Level



National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

While every country in the Mediterranean should develop a national policy to achieve international and regional MPA targets, priority action should be taken with countries in the east and south Mediterranean, as these are the areas with the greatest gaps.

Responsible Parties

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

European Union

Governments

Local Authorities

IGOs and NGOs

Community of experts and local stakeholders working closely with national authority

Donors

Indicators of Success

Number of countries with national policies aligned with international and regional MPA targets.



Recommendation 1.2 (LEGAL REFORM)

Ensure legal and institutional reforms, that commit governments to take urgent action to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity (by all relevant means and tools including MPAs), as a political priority for the resilience of nature and the benefit of coastal communities.



Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Plan high-level meetings at national level to raise awareness of the need for legal and institutional reforms.

Mobilise funding from relevant financing instruments (such as GEF, etc.), to assess potential legal and institutional reforms.

Organise workshops with government and relevant stakeholders to identify reforms.

Identify sectoral activities that should consider the planning and sustainable management of MPAs in their development plans.

Legal reforms should encourage the participation of local people in the management of MPAs.

Relevant Geographic Level



Regional



National



Local authorities

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

National governments

Subnational governments

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity

Indicators of Success

Number of legal reforms drafted and implemented

Number of legal and institutional reviews conducted

Number of sectoral sustainable development plans that have included the planning and management of marine protected areas

Actions included in sectoral sustainable development plans that encourage co-management with/by local populations

Recommendation 1.3 (MULTISECTORAL BODIES)

Bridge the gap between local field actions and high-level policy-making processes through continuous collaboration across multi-sectoral governmental bodies and non-governmental stakeholders, and operational human networks of MPA managers. To this end local authorities should play a key role to both implement the actions and engage civil society.



Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Create high level national MPA steering committees, chaired by national MPA authorities with participation of all related ministries, NGOs and MPA manager networks, environmental IGOs, and other relevant stakeholders.

Organise workshops on MPA topics with participation of multi-sectoral governmental bodies, and all relevant stakeholders.

Engage local authorities in management bodies in order to assure more effective implementation of international, regional and national MPA agendas.

Organise site visits of multi-sectoral governmental bodies to the national MPAs to raise their awareness and further engage them.

Support creation and long-term operation of national networks of MPA managers and their connection with sub-regional and regional networks of MPA managers.

Relevant Geographic Level



Regional



Subregional



National



Local authorities

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries.

Responsible Parties

MPA authority

National, subregional and regional networks of MPA managers

MedCities

Indicators of Success

Number of high level national meetings that include all the relevant stakeholders

Number of workshops, meetings and site visits

Number of national and subregional networks of MPA managers initiated and operational

Recommendation 1.4 (SPATIAL PLANNING)

Ensure that MPA needs are taken into account and integrated in coastal and marine spatial planning to reduce conservation and development conflicts.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Organise capacity building workshops and trainings on MPAs and Marine Spatial Planning.

Amend national MPA strategies to require the full participation of all relevant stakeholders related to MPAs in marine spatial planning, such as economic sector, private sector, MPA managers.

Amend Directive 2014/89/EU - Maritime Spatial Planning to include provision ensuring that MPA needs and conservation objectives are taken into account in marine spatial planning.

Create provisions in the Barcelona Convention ensuring MPA needs are taken into account in marine spatial planning.

Ensure local stakeholders and the private sector are included in all marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management processes.

Relevant Geographic Level

R Regional **S** Subregional **N** National **L** Local authorities

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

National governments
Subnational governments
European Union
UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention
MPA managers
Networks of MPA managers
Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity
Networks of municipalities

Indicators of Success

Number of countries with a legal review process that ensures all laws/orders/decisions/Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that include MPAs are in line with marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management

Recommendation 1.5 (DECENTRALISE GOVERNANCE)

Empower MPA managers through legal and other mechanisms to apply a decentralised governance system that features participatory processes and co-management approaches and be more responsive to local conditions.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop national government legislation that empowers MPA managers and local stakeholders in decision making.

Develop national government legislation that requires participatory planning and co-management with relevant economic sectors and local populations.

Develop capacity and training for MPA managers and stakeholders in participatory approaches and co-management.

Showcase co-management case studies to inspire others.

Develop MPA Steering Committees or Advisory Committees at the local level that include all stakeholder groups and can link science, management and policies.

Promote the traditional community based approach into the national legislative framework, such as "Hima".

Encourage the inclusion of all relevant MPA stakeholders and conflict analysis in MPA management plans.

Relevant Geographic Level

N National **L** Local authorities **M** MPA

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries and all MPAs.

Responsible Parties

National governments, assisted by European Commission and UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention (SPA/RAC)

MPA Authority through the MPA manager

Indicators of Success

Number of countries with decentralised MPA governance system

Number of countries with requirements for participatory governance and co-management

Number of MPAs with decentralised governance system (number of co-management agreements)

Number of MPAs with requirements for participatory governance and co-management

Number of MPAs with participatory governance and co-management established



Recommendation 1.6 (SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES)

Set up or properly redesign dedicated governmental bodies in each country for protected areas which include MPAs, or specific structures for MPAs if possible.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

The MPA national strategy and operational national action plan in Recommendation 1.1 should describe the process and timeline for the development of an MPA agency or separate government structure for MPAs.

National legislation on nature protection to be developed or amended should describe the process and timeline for the development of an MPA agency or separate government structure for MPAs.

National governments develop an MPA agency or separate government structure for MPAs.

The dedicated national body or MPA agency in each country should develop sectoral cooperation with other ministries (besides environment, fisheries) and key economic sectors including maritime industry, fisheries and aquaculture, etc.

Look for best practices and publish case studies on MPA agency development

Relevant Geographic Level



Subnational



National



Local authorities

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

National governments

Subnational governments

Indicators of Success

Number of new countries with national MPA agency/department established and sufficiently resourced

All Mediterranean countries and all MPAs.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT



Strengthen national legislation and ensure effective enforcement mechanisms to produce better outcomes for MPAs

Recommendation 2.1 (ENHANCED PROTECTION)

Recalling the Tangier Declaration's 2% target for no-take zones (Tangier Declaration, 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum), increase the number and size of MPAs that include zones with enhanced protection levels (e.g. no-take, no-access, strictly protected), to contribute to the recovery of marine ecosystems, based on scientific data and community engagement

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop standards for establishing enhanced protection levels in MPAs

Promote best practices in establishing enhanced protection levels in MPAs - including planning, implementation, monitoring and adaptation

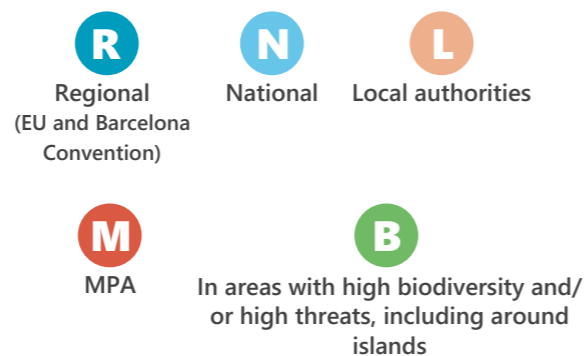
More high resolution field surveys and mapping of biodiversity using available technology and local knowledge in and around MPAs for consideration in identifying areas for enhanced protection

Capacity building and training in establishing enhanced protection levels in MPAs

Organise policy forums on enhanced protection levels in MPAs

Adopt an adaptive strategy in the implementation of restrictive measures in MPA systems, for example using temporary measures, analysing the results, and adjusting as necessary to maximise benefits

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

While all countries should establish enhanced protection levels, priority efforts should be given for non-EU countries and countries establishing new MPAs

Responsible Parties

National MPA authorities

MPA managers

MPA stakeholders, including fishers, divers, ferry boat companies, charter companies, sailors, shipping companies, military, coast guards, etc.

Mediterranean scientific institutions

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

European Union

Regional and international organizations

Donors

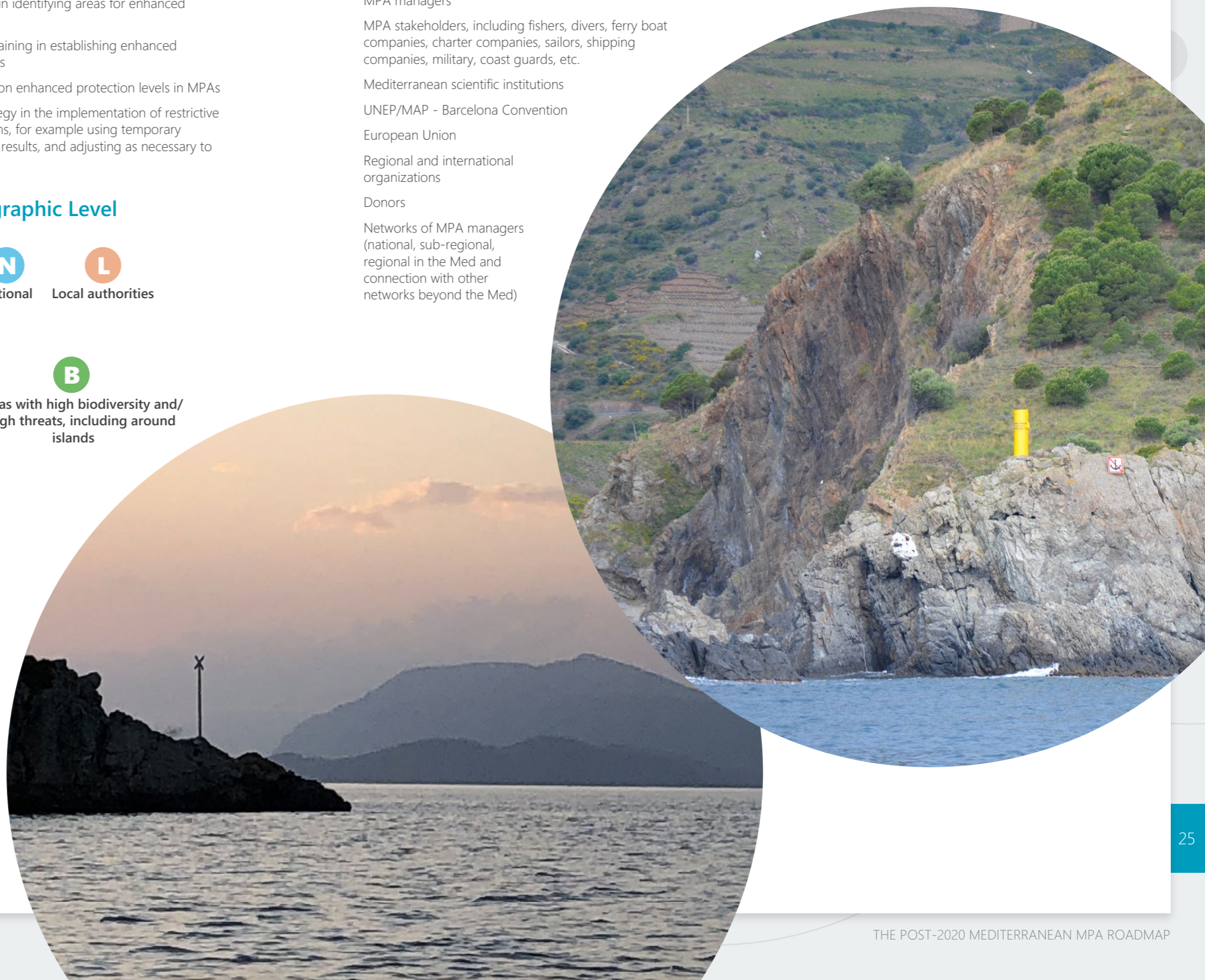
Networks of MPA managers (national, sub-regional, regional in the Med and connection with other networks beyond the Med)

Indicators of Success

Percent of total MPA area covered by enhanced protection zones

Number and extent of new maps and field surveys that identify potential zones for enhanced protection

Ecological benefit (spillover, catch per unit effort, etc.)



Recommendation 2.2 (LAW/POLICY ON MPA CREATION)

Enact, in each country, a law and policy on protected areas with specific reference to MPAs that describes the process to create, manage, enforce MPA regulations and monitor their conservation objectives and define an appropriate timeline for developing, updating and implementing management plans

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Showcase case studies and best practices on MPA legislation and policies

Develop a national multi-stakeholder task force to advise on the development, or updating, of MPA legislation and policy

Capacity building on MPA legislation, comparative law and policy

Develop regional guidelines to support this recommendation

EU policy could mandate this as is currently the case with Natura 2000 sites

Relevant Geographic Level



Regional



National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries currently without an MPA law with all the provisions listed.

Responsible Parties

National governments

European Union

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

IGOs and NGOs

Indicators of Success

Existence of MPA law with all the provisions listed

Recommendation 2.3 (MPA COMMITMENTS REFLECTED IN LEGISLATION)

Ensure that regional and international commitments/obligations on biodiversity and related sectoral legislation are reflected in national legislation for marine protected areas and a governance model is adopted that avoids conflicting legislation issues

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

National biodiversity strategies should describe process and timeline for adoption of legislation that ensures conformity between regional and international commitments and national legislation on MPAs with clear provisions on conflicting legislation

Development and adoption of national legislation that ensures conformity with regional and international commitments on MPAs with clear provisions on conflicting legislation

Awareness raising on regional and international MPA commitments with legislators and other stakeholders

Relevant Geographic Level



Regional



National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

Legislators

National governments (multisectoral)

IGOs and NGOs

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

Networks of MPA managers (regional and beyond the Med)

Indicators of Success

Number of countries with national legislation that reflects regional and international commitments on MPAs with clear provisions on conflicting legislation (same as indicator in 1.1)



Recommendation 2.4 (BUILD CAPACITY FOR JUDICIARY AND ENFORCEMENT)

Build the capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities to improve their knowledge of MPAs and MPA-related legislation and their capacity to enforce legislation.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Capacity building, experience-sharing workshops and training for judiciary and law enforcement authorities on MPAs and MPA legislation

Development of guidelines to help judiciary and law enforcement authorities in the enforcement of MPA-related legislation

Cooperate with existing national and international networks of prosecutors for raising awareness on MPAs and environmental protection among judiciary bodies

Relevant Geographic Level

R Regional
N National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

Governments
National and international networks of prosecutors
MPA law enforcement authorities
IGOs and NGOs

Indicators of Success

Number of capacity building and training events provided to judiciary bodies and representatives

Number of law-related participants in capacity building and training events

Number of countries having organised national capacity building and training events

Recommendation 2.5 (ENFORCEMENT)

Ensure effective and coordinated enforcement mechanisms that give MPA rangers and local authorities the legal means and powers to respond quickly and effectively to violations observed during field patrols.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Legal reforms, giving MPA rangers and local authorities the legal powers and means for enforcing violations.

Relevant Geographic Level

N National
L Local authorities
M MPA

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

Legislators
Local authorities
Relevant national authorities
MPA managers and rangers

Indicators of Success

Number of countries where MPA rangers and staff have the legal power to enforce the MPA regulation

Number of MPAs where local authorities and staff have legal authority to issue fines

Number of violations effectively managed by MPA rangers and local authorities



Recommendation 2.6
(CIVIL SOCIETY
VIGILANCE)

Encourage and promote civil society stakeholders to be involved in watching, vigilance, and informing about MPA violations and infringement and work together with authorities to curb them

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

MPA awareness and vigilance campaigns targeting civil society

Awareness raising campaigns about MPA regulations and potential violations developed by the civil society and targeting the general public

Develop a reporting systems for MPA authorities to acquire information about infractions from civil society stakeholders

Relevant Geographic Level

N National
 L Local authorities
 M MPA

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All Mediterranean countries

Responsible Parties

NGOs
National environmental authorities
Local authorities

Indicators of Success

- Number of MPA awareness and vigilance campaigns and mechanisms targeting civil society
- Number of citizens involved
- Number of MPAs with programmes to engage stakeholders in voluntary surveillance
- Decrease in the number of illegal activities carried out in the MPA over time after start of civil society vigilance programmes
- Monitoring of indicator species after the adoption of new protection measures after start of civil society vigilance programmes



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
MANAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE



Ensure MPA management structures are effective and well coordinated across government and stakeholders to improve knowledge and ensure proper management of MPAs

Recommendation 3.1 (MANAGEMENT PLANS)

Develop or update management plans for each MPA that include at least: SMART objectives; integrated and site-specific management measures, with a zoning plan (where applicable); monitoring plan with well-defined indicators for the conservation actions; business/financial plans including feasibility assessments; stakeholder engagement strategies; strategies to manage, mitigate and adapt to supra-MPA challenges.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Governments should dedicate funding for the development and updating of management and business plans

MPA management and business plans should be updated every 5 to 10 years from their creation

National MPA authorities should make management and business plans mandatory (see Recommendation 2.2)

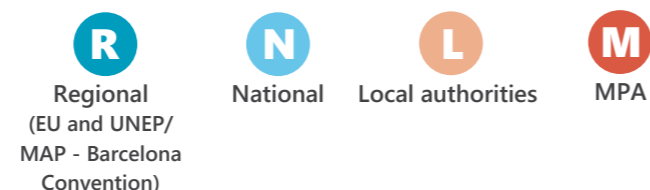
EU can require management and business plans to be mandatory upon designation of a MPA (not left to a later stage)

The Barcelona Convention can strongly invite its Contracting Parties to develop management and business plans upon designation of an MPA

Compile and publish MPA management plans that represent best practices

Capacity building and training in MPA management plans, stakeholder engagement and business plan development as well as skills to address supra-MPA challenges

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

While all countries should address this issue, priority efforts should be made in non-EU countries

Responsible Parties

National environmental authorities

European Union

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

Donors

National and Regional IGOs, NGOs, networks of MPA managers and consulting companies that offer capacity building and training in MPA management and business planning

Indicators of Success

Number of management and business plans developed

Number of best practice management and business plans compiled and published

Number of stakeholder engagement strategies

Number of strategies to manage, adapt and mitigate supra-MPA challenges

Recommendation 3.2 (NATIONAL ADVISORY BODIES)

Create a national advisory body in each country, constituted by interdisciplinary practitioners (e.g. biologists, communicators, social scientists, economists, lawyers, planners, database and GIS experts, etc.) to work with MPA management bodies as additional support to MPAs.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Involve prominent experts at national level that represent a diversity of disciplines

Properly resource and provide technical support for the national advisory body

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

National MPA authorities

Indicators of Success

Number of countries with national advisory bodies

Number and categories of experts involved

Number of actions/projects/solved problems



Recommendation 3.3 (STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT)

Promote and implement initiatives to strengthen MPA and stakeholder engagement (including fishers and local communities) to improve knowledge via citizen science, facilitate bottom-up management, and increase stakeholder acceptance and compliance.



Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop stakeholder engagement training plan for MPA managers and staff that includes stakeholder analysis and a strategy for engagement

Develop training and capacity building for stakeholders and local communities in MPA management

Develop citizen science tools (logbooks, toolkits, etc.) and programmes (monitoring, volunteering, etc.) to sea users (scuba divers, professional and recreational fishers, youth, etc.)

Establish partnerships between restaurants, fishers, MPA managers, and researchers to promote an ecosystem-based fishery management of non-indigenous species

Conduct socioeconomic surveys to collect evidence of MPA benefits to further promote acceptance and engagement

Regular consultations should be maintained between MPA managers and local community representatives and decision makers.

Provide direct support to the organisation of small scale fisher organisations and promote their activities

Use social media platforms to promote citizen science

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Priority efforts in non-EU countries.

Responsible Parties

- MPA managers
- National MPA authorities
- International and Regional organisations
- NGOs
- Networks of MPA managers

Indicators of Success

- Number of stakeholder engagement initiatives
- Number of stakeholders engaged
- Number of partnerships with stakeholder groups established
- Number of regular consultations with local communities
- Increase in the level of awareness of stakeholders about the values of MPAs
- Number of MPAs with co-management committees

Recommendation 3.4 (HARMONISE MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT)

Harmonise all Mediterranean initiatives related to the standardisation of social-ecological monitoring methods and management effectiveness assessment (e.g., the Barcelona Convention IMAP programme and the EU MSFD directive) and encourage the countries to adopt and institutionalise them to ensure their use by MPA managers and researchers.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop a Mediterranean-wide interdisciplinary working group to identify existing monitoring methods implemented by MPAs, and to consider approaches for combining and merging social-ecological monitoring methods for MPAs

Work on harmonised indicators to assess MPA management effectiveness at regional level (taking into account the MedFund methodology, the EC upcoming methodology and international recommendations)

In the context of the Barcelona Convention's Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and related assessment criteria for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, set up a convergence mechanism, then field test in pilot MPAs

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

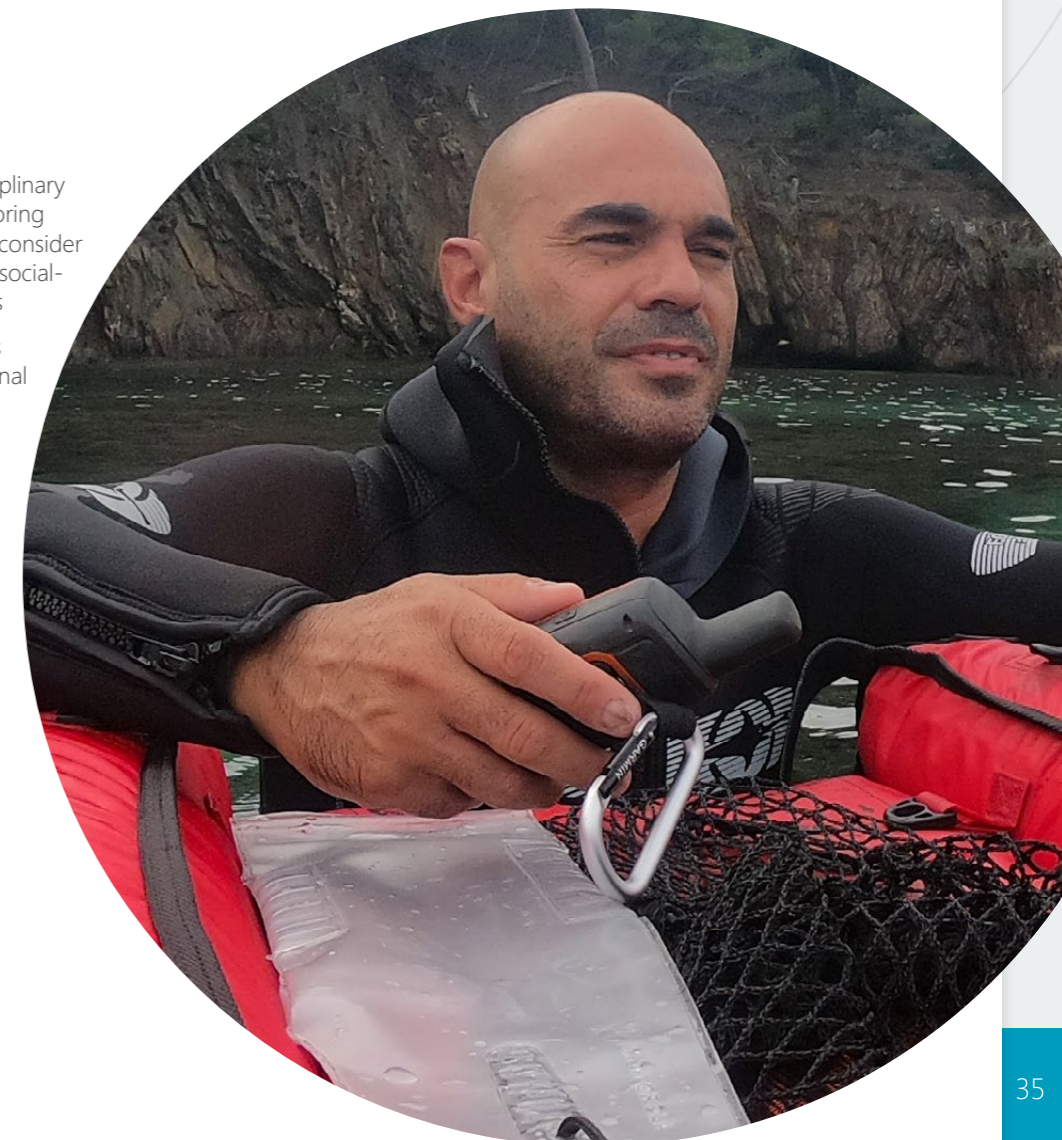
All the Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

- National MPA authorities
- UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention (through SPA/RAC)
- European Union
- MPA managers networks (regional : MedPAN and at national levels)
- Regional and international organisations (The MedFund, IUCN...)
- Research Institutes and research networks
- MPA managers

Indicators of Success

- Production of a harmonised monitoring framework
- Number of countries that have adopted a harmonised framework
- Number of countries implementing a harmonised framework
- Number of MPAs adopting harmonised monitoring methods



Recommendation 3.5 (COLLABORATION WITH RESEARCHERS)

Improve collaboration among researchers and MPA staff to develop or update management plans and assess MPA management effectiveness, based on an interdisciplinary scientific understanding (socio-ecological systems) of the MPA and its objectives

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Ensure researchers collaborate with managers through co-management committees (See Recommendation 1.5)

Compile and disseminate best practices in the application of science to MPA management planning

Support the creation of a network of interdisciplinary scientists (socio-ecological disciplines) working in Mediterranean MPAs

Relevant Geographic Level

R Regional
N National
M MPA

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

MPA managers

MPA national authorities

National research institutions

UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC (through the AGEM and other frameworks)

MedPAN and specialised MPA science platforms and networks

Indicators of Success

Number of MPA working groups with researchers and managers

Number of updated management plans with collaboration from researchers

Number of MPA management effectiveness assessments



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4 CAPACITY AND AWARENESS



Build capacity of MPA managers, staff and stakeholders and communicate on MPA values to larger external audiences to raise their awareness

Recommendation 4.1 (COMMUNICATION TOOLKITS)

Provide communication toolkits that MPA managers can customise and adapt to local contexts, to promote the value of MPAs for ecosystem services, local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation efforts

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop and promote MPA communication toolkits (translated in different languages) building on existing ones and using positive messaging

Promote innovative communication approaches such as live underwater video conferences for raising public awareness

Capacity building and training on the use of communication toolkits for MPAs

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Toolkits should be used in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan countries and those in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

International and regional organisations

MPA national authorities

National and local NGOs and national networks of MPA managers

MPAs

Academic institutions

Indicators of Success

Number of toolkits created and made available in different languages

Number of countries adopting toolkits and creating MPA awareness campaigns

Number of MPAs using the toolkits

Recommendation 4.2 (PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY)

Develop and implement a public relations strategy, aligned with each MPA management plan, that translates ecological, social, and economic roles and benefits of the MPA into the appropriate language to be understood and accepted by non-technical stakeholder communities.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Collect and distribute existing public relation strategies that could be used as models for other MPAs

Develop and disseminate a generic public relations strategy that could be adopted and changed for local circumstances

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Strategies should be developed and implemented in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan countries and those in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs

National MPA authorities

Indicators of Success

Development and dissemination of generic public relations strategy

Number of public relation strategies developed and implemented at MPA level

Recommendation 4.3 (LOCAL TO NATIONAL COMMUNICATION)

Design a strategy to promote effective communication between local management authorities and authorities at national level

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Identify gaps in communication between local and national level

Develop a menu of strategies that individual MPAs or MPA managers could choose between, depending on the gaps identified above

Identify and centralize communication toolkits already existing that could be adapted by MPAs according to their needs

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Strategies should be developed and implemented in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan countries and those in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

National MPA authorities

National networks of MPA managers

Indicators of Success

Number of countries with strategies

Improved communication between local and national management authorities

Recommendation 4.4 (FORMALISE COMMITMENTS)

Formalise in the Barcelona Convention and EU strategic plans the commitment from countries to provide MPAs with adequately staffed and equipped local management units and to invest in capacity building from individual to institutional level

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Coordinated outreach by stakeholders (including NGOs, MPAs, etc.) to the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and European Commission national focal points and representatives

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs
National and regional networks of MPA managers
European Commission
UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

Indicators of Success

Ratification of Strategic Plans with adequate MPA staffing commitments and investment in capacity building
Barcelona Convention and European Commission decisions mandating adequate staffing for MPAs and investment in capacity building
Percentage increase of MPA staffing levels

Recommendation 4.5 (COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY BUILDING)

Strengthen the coordination of MPA capacity building activities between regional organisations and national authorities through the provision of standardised, user-friendly guidelines and complementary operational training programmes.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Strengthen cooperation between regional organizations and national authorities in capacity building
Map the needs of MPA staff and stakeholders to feed into the development of guidelines and training programmes
Take into account traditional ecological knowledge in the development of capacity building initiatives to support mutual understanding and inclusiveness of approaches
Adoption of common indicators, approaches and tools to identify capacity needs
Monitor the performance of the aforementioned indicators, approaches and tools
Ensure training programmes are inclusive, demand-driven and include multiple stakeholders
Consider developing a certification system for the Mediterranean
Further investment, development and rollout of MedPAN Training Mechanism

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Strategies should be developed and implemented in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan countries and those in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC and other IGOs and NGOs
Regional and national networks of MPA managers
National training providers

Indicators of Success

Number of capacity building activities
Number of MPA managers and stakeholders receiving capacity building
Number of guidelines developed



Recommendation 4.6 (CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TRAINING)

Train MPA managers, staff, and local stakeholders on conflict management and resolution, stakeholder engagement, and communication with the support of expert advisors.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Coordinated outreach by stakeholders (including NGOs, MPAs, etc.) to the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and European Commission national focal points and representatives

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs
National and regional networks of MPA managers
European Commission
UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

Indicators of Success

Ratification of Strategic Plans with adequate MPA staffing commitments and investment in capacity building
Barcelona Convention and European Commission decisions mandating adequate staffing for MPAs and investment in capacity building
Percentage increase of MPA staffing levels



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



Provide support for the long-term financial sustainability of MPAs through capacity development and sustainable financing mechanisms including trust funds

Recommendation 5.1 (NATIONAL MPA FUNDING)

Analyse gaps and options for MPA funding at national level to implement MPA strategies and action plans within each country through their national biodiversity and climate resource mobilisation strategies

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop guidelines for reviewing financing gap in the context of national MPA systems

Use MPA business plans and financial strategies called for in Recommendation 5.3 to calculate finance gap

Compile and publish available resource mobilisation strategies

Map potential funding partners

Provide expert facilitation in partnership building, business planning, fundraising, etc.

Establish a plan for the implementation of this recommendation



Relevant Geographic Level

R Regional **N** National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

Strategies should be developed and implemented in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan, Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries.

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs

Convention on Biological Diversity

UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention

Ministries of Finance, Environment, Fisheries, etc.

Donors

Indicators of Success

Number of countries completing gap assessment

Percentage of gap covered by new resource mobilisation strategies

Recommendation 5.2 (SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS)

Create and/or support sustainable financing mechanisms dedicated to MPAs at national level, as well as join and continue to support conservation trust funds such as "The MedFund."

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Identification of all financing mechanisms replicable across the Mediterranean and at national level

Policy advocacy at national level to design sustainable financing mechanisms / communicate based on examples / best practices & lessons learned from MPAs at local level

Strengthen legal/institutional frameworks to establish national financing mechanisms

Conduct feasibility assessments on national sustainable financing mechanisms in Mediterranean countries, for their Mediterranean waters

Support MPA staff with training and methodologies that facilitate the implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms at local level

Establish connections with other national and regional Conservation Trust Funds beyond the Mediterranean for experience sharing and support

Increase countries commitment and institutional and private donor investment in The MedFund

Relevant Geographic Level

N National **R** Regional **I** International

Priority Geographies for Implementation

National sustainable financing mechanisms should be considered in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan, Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries.

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs

National authorities

Multilateral donors

Private philanthropy

Conservation Finance Alliance

New Global Alliance for Marine Protection (networks of MPA managers, CTFs and networks of CTFs)

The MedFund

Indicators of Success

Number of new sustainable financing mechanisms identified and implemented in the Mediterranean

Number of Mediterranean countries implementing new legal/institutional frameworks related to financing mechanisms in MPAs

Number of Mediterranean MPAs supported to implement new financing mechanisms

Percent increase in investment in The MedFund



Recommendation 5.3 (FINANCE STRATEGIES)

Develop for each MPA a business plan and/or financial strategy in line with the management plan of the MPA

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Compile and publish existing MPA business plans and financial strategies (see also Recommendation 3.1)

Develop best practice guidelines on MPA business planning and financial strategies

Develop a Mediterranean campaign for MPA business planning and financial strategies

Consider developing some business plans and financial strategies for clusters of MPAs, when conditions are similar

Build local and national capacities on MPA business planning and financial strategies development

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Business plans and financial strategies should be developed for all MPAs in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan, Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries



Responsible Parties

- IGOs and NGOs
- National MPA authorities
- MPA managers
- UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention
- European Union
- Networks of MPA managers
- The MedFund

Indicators of Success

- Development of a regional campaign to develop MPA business plans and financial strategies
- Number of compiled and published MPA business plans and financial strategies
- Development of best practice guidelines in business planning and financial strategies
- Number of new MPA business plans and financial strategies
- Percentage of Mediterranean MPAs with business plans and financial strategies
- Number of trained personnel on MPA business planning and financial strategies development



Recommendation 5.4 (FINANCE CAPACITY)

Build capacity of local and national MPA staff and administrations in fundraising, financing mechanisms, and funds management

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop resource mobilisation campaign for Mediterranean MPAs that includes capacity development and training

Develop and deliver capacity building and training for fundraising, financing mechanisms and funds management

Relevant Geographic Level



Priority Geographies for Implementation

Capacity building and training for MPA resource mobilisation and funds management should be developed for all MPAs in all Mediterranean countries, but priority given to Balkan countries and those in the East and South Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

- IGOs and NGOs
- Regional and national networks of MPAs
- The MedFund and support from other CTFs and networks of CTFs beyond the Med
- National MPA authorities
- MPA managers
- Conservation Finance Alliance

Indicators of Success

- Development of MPA fundraising and funds management capacity building and training materials
- Number of capacity building and training participants
- Number of MPAs with at least one staff member that has received capacity building and training



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendation 6.1 (NETWORKING)

Support networking of MPA managers and MPA stakeholders at all levels to enable scaling-up of good practices and establish permanent connections between networks of MPA managers and other networks of stakeholders to bring the voice from the field into decision-making processes.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

- Continuation of regional MPA working groups on thematic topics
- Continuation of MedPAN network activities as permanent regional platform for MPA managers and stakeholders
- Support existing or emerging national and sub-regional networks and enhance cooperation between those national and sub-regional MPA networks and the MedPAN network
- Connect MPA managers networks with other stakeholders networks at national, sub-regional, European, Mediterranean levels, and beyond the Mediterranean by looking at synergies and developing joint activities
- Establish more connection with private sector representatives and networks (tourism, industry...) and connect with other Barcelona Convention thematic Regional Activity Centres
- Connect the Mediterranean networks of MPA managers (national, sub-regional, regional) with other regional and national networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean (Transatlantic, Mediterranean neighbouring seas, and global level)

Relevant Geographic Level

- G** Global
- R** Regional
- S** Subregional
- N** National



Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean.

Responsible Parties

- MedPAN
- Regional networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean and beyond
- National networks of MPAs
- Other stakeholders networks
- Barcelona Convention's Regional Activity Centres
- Blue Growth platforms

Indicators of Success

- Number of regional networking events
- Number of members of the different national, sub-regional and regional network
- Number of new sub regional and national networks
- Number of exchanges and joint actions beyond the Mediterranean with other networks
- Number of meetings between networks in the Mediterranean
- Number of persons involved in networking activities
- Number of private sector «Fora» that MPA representatives attend
- Number of joint (policy and capacity-building) actions by networks of MPA managers and networks of other stakeholders

Recommendation 6.2 (POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY)

Develop or contribute to post-pandemic recovery plans that establishes how MPAs can contribute to “build back better” the Mediterranean Sea

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Multi-stakeholder workshops in different subregions of the Mediterranean and at national level to define the issues and solutions for a post-pandemic recovery plan

Contribute to existing post-pandemic plans, or those under development to ensure that MPAs are adequately represented

Relevant Geographic Level

R Regional **S** Subregional **N** National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean

Responsible Parties

European Union
 UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention through SPA/RAC
 IGOs and NGOs
 Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium

Indicators of Success

Post-Pandemic Recovery Plan developed and operational at national levels



Recommendation 6.3 (GENDER EQUITY)

Ensure gender equity in all aspects of MPA creation and management

Relevant Geographic Level

R Regional **N** National **L** Local

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All countries in the Mediterranean

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs
 The MedFund and other international donors

Indicators of Success

Gender-related best practices identified and shared/promoted
 MPA Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan developed and operational

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Identify issues through surveys and workshops in the Mediterranean that are barriers to gender equity and collect sex-disaggregated data

Identify best practices to achieve gender-equitable outcomes, develop guidelines on their implementation and promote them during experience-sharing workshops

Based on the above, develop a strategy and action plan for gender equity in MPA establishment and management for the Mediterranean

Promotion of the gender equity action plan widely throughout the Mediterranean

Donors can develop funding sources that promote gender equity

Recommendation 6.4 (BEYOND MPAs)

Recalling the Barcelona Convention commitment through the Post-2020 MCPA & OECM Strategy to protect 30% of the Mediterranean Sea (UNEP/MAP 2021), boost biodiversity conservation beyond MPAs in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction through other sectoral and spatial tools such as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)



Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Training and capacity building on the use of sectoral and spatial tools, including SPAMIs, FRAs, PSSAs and OECMs, in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction

Develop training and tools to support the achievement of Strategic Outcome 3, "Marine and Coastal OECMs in the Mediterranean are identified, recognized and reported towards the post-2020 global and regional targets" from the Barcelona Convention's Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean

Relevant Geographic Level



Regional



National

Priority Geographies for Implementation

Within and outside the national jurisdiction of all Mediterranean countries.

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs

National authorities

Neighbouring countries

UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and its Regional Activity Centers

GFCM

IMO

CBD

Indicators of Success

Number and extent of SPAMIs (beyond national jurisdictions) PSSAs, FRAs, and OECMs

Number of trainings and tools developed related to SPAMIs, PSSAs, FRAs and OECMs

Recommendation 6.5 (EMERGING AND EXISTENTIAL THREATS)

Take immediate action on emerging and existential threats to MPAs, including climate change and invasive alien species.

Strategies and Actions for Implementation

Develop guidelines on emerging threats

Training and capacity building on emerging threats

Training and capacity building on action planning to anticipate and address threats

Donors to make small to medium-sized action grant funding available for MPAs with emerging threats

Relevant Geographic Level



Regional



National



MPA

Priority Geographies for Implementation

All of the Mediterranean

Responsible Parties

IGOs and NGOs

MPA managers

Regional NGOs and networks of MPA managers

Donors

Indicators of Success

Number of guidelines documents developed on emerging threats

Number of training and capacity building events on emerging threats

Number of persons participating in training and capacity building events on emerging threats



THE ROAD AHEAD...



The participation of the Mediterranean MPA community throughout the development of this roadmap was incredible, with 234 number of in-person participants and 466 people virtually over the course of 16 months. But our journey is far from over. Implementing this Roadmap until 2030 will require significant attention, action and investment by the responsible parties identified through the roadmap process. It will also require unprecedented national, regional and international cooperation centred on increasing the capacity of MPA managers and stakeholders, a major focus of action in this roadmap.

To complete the journey to 2030, MedPAN and SPA/RAC will develop a review mechanism for tracking progress on the call for commitments. The mechanism will encourage all stakeholders at all levels to provide regular inputs and can be set up with an online system (such as the UN SDG14 Voluntary Commitment Repository) to partly remove the burden of lengthy annual surveys. These commitments, and progress made in implementing them will be showcased online. Based upon the above commitment review mechanism and other data and information as it becomes available, a mid-term evaluation and update of the Roadmap is planned for the new edition of the Forum in 2024-2025.



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ANNEX 1

LIMITING FACTORS THAT HINDER ACHIEVEMENT OF MPA OBJECTIVES

The following is a prioritized list of limiting factors that hinder the achievement of MPA objectives that comes from a survey conducted by MedPAN, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and WWF. The survey included 363 responses from 21 countries in the Mediterranean. These results formed the basis for the draft list of recommendations for this roadmap that has been refined through the online Virtual Forum Sessions, additional stakeholder consultations and the hybrid Mediterranean MPA Forum convened in Monaco from November 29-December 1, 2021.

Policy and Governance

- Lack of political will (ad hoc policy, strategy and/or action plan) and support (institutional and financial) for the establishment of new MPAs and national networks of MPAs for fulfilling national and international commitment (especially CBD Aichi Target 11)
- Lack of integration and coherence between MPA-related policies and other national policies (such as MSP, ICZM, climate change mitigation and adaptation) or sector of activities (such as maritime traffic, fisheries, tourism) than have adverse effects on MPAs and ecosystems
- Weak or unclear institutional framework to establish and implement effective MPAs and to avoid overlaps of competences between authorities in charge
- Lack of integration, recognition and engagement of the MPA in the governance of its surrounding territory (EIA & participatory process)
- Lack of coordination between international and national policies (environmental and economic)
- OECMs lacking recognition as conservation tool in the policy agenda and priorities

Legislation and Enforcement

- Insufficient dedicated time, staff and equipment to patrol and ensure compliance with MPAs regulations
- Lack or weak coordination among national authorities that slows down or delays the effective establishment and functioning of MPAs despite an existing legal framework

- Weak or unclear mandate for enforcement in MPAs (MPA rangers, police, environmental police, coast guard, fisheries inspection, etc.) resulting in a lack of surveillance and control
- Unclear, complex, obsolete, or lack of national legal framework for the creation of MPAs and for their management
- Lack of national legislation allowing shared management (co-management) or delegation of management
- Lack of police powers for MPA rangers to respond to violations recorded during field patrol
- Limited options to adapt existing regulatory frameworks to tackle emerging threats or to develop new approaches in MPAs (no take zones, offshore conservation, pescatourism, ecological mooring, etc.)
- International and regional policy commitments are not integrated or adopted into national laws
- Insufficient information on MPAs regulation resulting in a lack of compliance by MPA users and stakeholders.
- Lack of operational coordination between judicial bodies (prosecutors) and enforcement bodies (rangers, police and other controlling bodies) resulting in a lack of response to violations
- Fines or response to violations are not sufficient to be a deterrent resulting in the repetition of violations
- Lack of legislation related to the definition, identification, designation and possible declaration of OECMs
- Limited knowledge of environmental legislation and MPA regulations by the judicial and enforcement authorities

Management and Knowledge

- Lack of management plan, with a zoning plan and site specific measures for all marine activities, with achievable and measurable goals based on scientific knowledge
- Absence of the MPA local management unit with dedicated staff
- Lack of adequate scientific knowledge and long term monitoring (ecological and socio-economic) to identify, implement and adapt management measures in line with conservation objectives
- Lack of engagement and conflict resolution mechanisms before and after the creation of the MPA to ensure the active participation of all categories of stakeholders, whilst also ensuring gender equality
- Lack or unsuitability of integrated management and harmonised monitoring approaches among MPAs and with other actors to tackle issues beyond MPA borders (pollution, marine litter, mobile species, invasive species, etc)
- Lack of sufficient knowledge of the benefits of new management approaches for MPAs (co-management, participatory management, delegation of management)

- Lack of coordination and communication between local management authorities and practitioners and high level decision-makers
- Limitations or inability to adapt the management plan to changing conditions
- Lack of evaluation for MPAs ecosystems services and socio-economic benefits at the local scale to gain stakeholders support
- Lack of support for the establishment of national, sub-regional and thematic networks of MPA managers
- Lack of scientific collaborations that focus on MPA management priority needs with data made timely available and usable for management purpose
- Lack of widely-adopted standardized indicators to assess MPA management effectiveness
- Lack of recognition and means for MPAs to contribute to national, sub-regional and regional large scale monitoring programmes
- Lack of national gap analyses to identify important ecological and biological areas that should be protected for a coherent ecological Mediterranean MPA network

Capacity and Awareness

- Lack of communication based on convincing examples of the ecological and socio-economic benefits of effectively managed MPAs to enhance support and reduce the potential negative perception of MPAs by stakeholders, users and the general public
- Lack of adapted permanent and regular training programmes at national level to develop operational skills for effective MPAs, addressing the needs of all categories of staff
- Lack of permanent and coordinated capacity-building programme at Mediterranean level addressing the needs of all categories of MPA staff (from field management to policy and gender equality)
- Lack of dedicated budget or training grants to allow MPA staff to attend training and other capacity-building activities
- Lack of promotion of ecological and socioeconomic benefits provided by MPAs to engage public and private donor's support
- Lack of communication and education programmes on marine conservation at the national level
- Insufficient opportunities for the participation of local stakeholders and users in capacity building and awareness activities to facilitate their engagement in MPA processes
- Lack of regular opportunities of know-how exchanges among MPAs at national level allowing sharing of good practices and harmonised approaches
- Lack or difficulties to access information, tools or options to address new and emerging challenges in MPAs
- Lack of enabling conditions for short and mid-term implementation of the knowledge and skills acquired during trainings

Sustainable Financing

- Lack of dedicated long term national funds allowing budget visibility for core management costs
- Lack of systematic business planning for MPAs and national MPA systems that allows to identify financial needs and adapt the financing strategy
- Lack of local sustainable financing mechanisms for the benefit of MPA and local communities (labels, eco-mooring, entrance fees, pay for services, etc.)
- Increasing dependency on short term and time consuming project-based funding not covering core management activities and costs
- Lack of national legal framework allowing funding mechanisms that benefit MPAs directly (environmental funds, debt-for-nature measures, Blue Carbon, taxes, ecological services, public-private funding,...)
- Lack of communication and marketing on ecological and socioeconomic benefits provided by MPAs to develop public and private donor's support
- Restricted eligibility criteria or flexibility for spending existing budgets that prevent from using the funds effectively in line with management needs or emergencies
- Lack of co-funding and cash-flow available to the MPA to apply for and manage external funds

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