



The Mediterranean network
of Marine Protected Areas
Managers

Activity Report 2023



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A word from our President.

In 2023 MedPAN undertook a number of important activities, planned as part of its 2019-2023 strategy, with the help and commitment of its team and the unfailing support of its partners, members, and donors.

Among these was the final analysis of the 2020 Status of Mediterranean MPAs and preparation of the 2025 Status Report. A cooperation charter for mobile species has also been developed and disseminated.

A key event in preparation is the regional experience-sharing workshop on sustainable tourism and MPAs to be held in Hyères (France) in collaboration with Port-Cros and key partners; the event, initially planned end 2023, was postponed to early 2024.

In terms of capacity building, the MedPAN Regular Training Programme has evolved, with new modules, online sessions and three on-site sessions, but also thanks to partner MPAs who have continued to play their role as host sites. One of the training sessions was a regional training. In addition to providing support for national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers in the Mediterranean (North Africa, Adriatic and Ionian, Croatia...), MedPAN continued to act as coordinator and facilitator for various thematic working groups (funding, sustainable fisheries' management, conservation of mobile species, etc.).

Several tools have been developed (a tool on strong protection, a tool to support management plans, four videos on MPA benefits).

In cooperation with our key partners, we are working on developing a new online platform and a mechanism to monitor progress of the Post-2020 Roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs.

The mission to provide input to European, Mediterranean and international policies on MPAs took the form of major meetings of the European Commission, the Barcelona Convention COP, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Monaco Blue Initiative and Monaco Ocean Week, the CBD SOI process.

MedPAN joined forces with other networks of MPA managers at global level through the EU Ocean Governance project for the occasion of IMPAC 5 in Vancouver (Canada). The final Conference of the project has been held in Tarragona (Spain) with plans for future cooperation among networks.

Exchanges and synergies with our European and Mediterranean partners (ENSERES project, Mediterranean coordination on marine turtles and on marine conservation, Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity, the Pelagos Initiative, the Mediterranean Posidonia Network, LIFE+ Enable project, H2020 REST-COAST project, etc.) continued in 2023. The large-scale GEF project started to be implemented in partnership with the MedFund. The COGITO project has been finalised, with an important final event and evaluation.

Within the MedPAN transition plan, several important studies have been done to plan evolution of its governance, development of an ethical charter, feasibility of a future endowment fund and strategy towards decision-makers and donors.

The new strategy 2025-2030 started to be developed during the 2023 General Assembly. It will be continued in 2024 with an intensive consultation processes.

In great news for the sustainable funding of the work of the MedPAN network, new donors have renewed their support to MedPAN (Sigrid Rausing Trust, Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy). MedPAN also received a renewed support from the European Commission through the LIFE NGO Operating Grant.

This report covers the wide range of activities that we are carrying out. I invite you, through this document, to take an in-depth look at our work over the course of 2023.

We would like to thank all our partners and members for their cooperation and support in moving us forward together towards a consolidated, effective, resilient and sustainable network for the benefit of Mediterranean MPAs.

Yours sincerely,

Purificació Canals
President of MedPAN



Glossary

ACCOBAMS: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area

AGEM: Ad Hoc Expert Group

AIFM: International Association for Mediterranean Forests

MPA: Marine Protected Area

CaMPAM: Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network

CAR/ASP (SPA/RAC): Regional Activities Centre for Specially Protected Areas

CBF: Caribbean Biodiversity Fund

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

CFA: Conservation Finance Alliance

GFCM: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

MCSDD: Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

COP: Conference of the Parties

EC: European Commission

ENI-CBC-Med: European Neighbourhood Initiative – Transboundary Cooperation – Mediterranean

ETC-UMA: European Topic Centre – University of Malaga

FARNET: European Fisheries Network

GEF: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

FFEM: French Global Environment Facility

ICZM: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

ICMMPA: International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas

IMMAs: Important Marine Mammal Areas

IMPAC: International MPA Congress

IMPANA: International MPA Agenda

IPBES: Intergovernmental Science-

Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

MAPAMED: Database of Mediterranean Sites of Marine Conservation Importance

MarFund: Mesoamerican Reef Fund

MBPC: Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community

MedCités: Mediterranean Cities Network

MedFund: Mediterranean Conservation Fund for MPAs

MedPAN: Mediterranean Protected Areas Network

MedWet: Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative

MEET: Mediterranean Ecotourism Experience

MIC: Mediterranean Islands Collective

MSFD: Marine Strategy Framework Directive

NAMPAN: North American MPA Network

UN SDG: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

ODS: Organisational Development Support

OECD: Other Effective Conservation Measures

OFB: French Agency for Biodiversity

NGO: Non-governmental organisation

OSPAR: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

PAMEX: The Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea

PAP/CAR: Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre

PBOL: Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Project

PIM: Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative

UNEP/MAP: United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan

RAMPAO: West African MPA Network

RedLAC: Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds

SAP-BIO: Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

SBSTTA: Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

SCP: Sustainable consumption and production

MSSD: Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

SSF: Small-scale fisheries

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

UfM: Union for the Mediterranean

WCC: World Conservation Congress

WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

The MedPAN Network, a key player

The Network aims to contribute to the implementation of the CBD's post-2020 Global Framework for Biodiversity, the UN's SDG 14, the Barcelona Convention, in particular its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995), as well as the SAP-BIO and the new post-2020 strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, and other regional instruments (ACCOBAMS, GFCM, UfM, Pelagos Agreement etc.). It also contributes to the implementation of various European policies (Habitats and Birds Directives, in particular the Natura 2000 marine network, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Biodiversity 2030 Strategy, etc.).

MedPAN has the status of observer NGO to the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). It is a member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development – MCSDD (Barcelona Convention). It also has the status of official observer NGO to ACCOBAMS, UNFCCC, CBD and GFCM and is also part of the Union for the Mediterranean – Environment Task Force.



SPA/RAC, a unique and sustainable partnership

MedPAN works closely with the SPA/RAC, the implementing agency of the Barcelona Convention on Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. A Memorandum of Cooperation is ongoing between our two organisations for the period 2020-2025, as well as a specific memorandum concerning the MAPAMED database.

In 2023, we also continued to collaborate with the SPA/RAC, with the support of key regional partners, on the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap process.

MedPAN is also part of the AGEM coordinated by the SPA/RAC.



Rich and diverse Mediterranean partnerships

The Network works with several regional Mediterranean partners for the implementation of its actions, at the forefront of which are the MedFund, the WWF (Mediterranean Marine Initiative), the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, the Plan Bleu, the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), the Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative (PIM) and the Conservatoire du Littoral.

MedPAN is part of the Together for the Mediterranean initiative coordinated by Blue Seeds and IUCN Med and bringing together many partners such as LIFE Platform, WWF, SPA/RAC, etc. The network is also part of the partnership on marine turtles coordinated by the SPA/RAC.

Our organisation is also one of MedFund (the Mediterranean environmental fund dedicated to MPAs) Board members, it is also on the boards of the Mediterranean Posidonia network coordinated by the OFB, and the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium (with PIM, IAMF, MedWet, IUCN Med, Tour du Valat) supported by the Conservatoire du littoral.

MedPAN is a co-executing agency of the GEF project “Build Back a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean” together with the MedFund under the CI-GEF implementing agency supervision.

Our organisation is also part of the ENSERES project (ENI CBC Med) which brings together the University of Malaga, the SPARAC and MedCities as well as other key partners, the LIFE+ Enable project coordinated by Europarc, and the H2020 REST-COAST project on large scale restoration of coastal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity coordinated by the Polytechnic University of Madrid and several key partners including IUCN Med, MedWet and MedSea.

Collaboration with networks of other stakeholders (LIFE Platform, prosecutors, MedCities, etc.).

Finally, MedPAN is one of the founding members of the Pelagos Initiative together with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, IUCN Med and WWF Mediterranean; this initiative aims at supporting the Pelagos Agreement.



Support for emerging networks, at national, sub-regional and international level

In addition to supporting existing networks (French Forum of MPAs), MedPAN is involved in initiatives of MPA managers in the Mediterranean at the national (Croatia, Spain, Algeria, etc.) and sub-regional (Adriatic-Ionian Sea, North-Africa/South-Med etc.) levels.

Alongside many regional networks of MPA managers (including RAMPAN, NAMPAN, CaMPAM, etc.), MedPAN is involved in global cooperation, with exchanges extending as far as South-East Asia, the Western Indian Ocean (WIOMPAN) and the Pacific. This partnership between networks is part of the European Ocean Governance project that came to close in September 2023. A global network was launched during the final conference of the project in September 2023 in Tarragona. The future and continuation of this new global network is being explored.

Another of our ongoing activities is co-coordinating, with the MedFund, and the EU Ocean Governance project, a new Global Alliance for marine protection. This alliance brings together conservation trust funds (including the MedFund, Costa Rica por siempre, MARFund, etc.), networks of conservation trust funds (RedLAC, Café, etc.) and networks of MPA managers (RAMPAN, SPAWRAC, NAMPAN...).



132
organisations

72 209,17
km²² of MPA in the Mediterranean

21
Mediterranean
countries

122
MPA with national statut
(74% of the 257 existing)

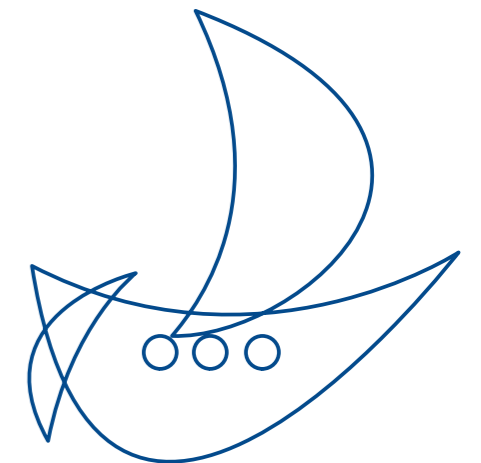
MedPAN's donors in 2023

In 2023, MedPAN received the support from the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) through the COGITO project, the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, the LIFE NGO Operating Grant, the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Programme, the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Bouches-du-Rhône Department, and the City of Marseille and Region Sud.

In addition, MedPAN is a beneficiary of the LIFE+ project ENABLE, the ENI-Med ENSERES project and the H2020 REST-COAST project.

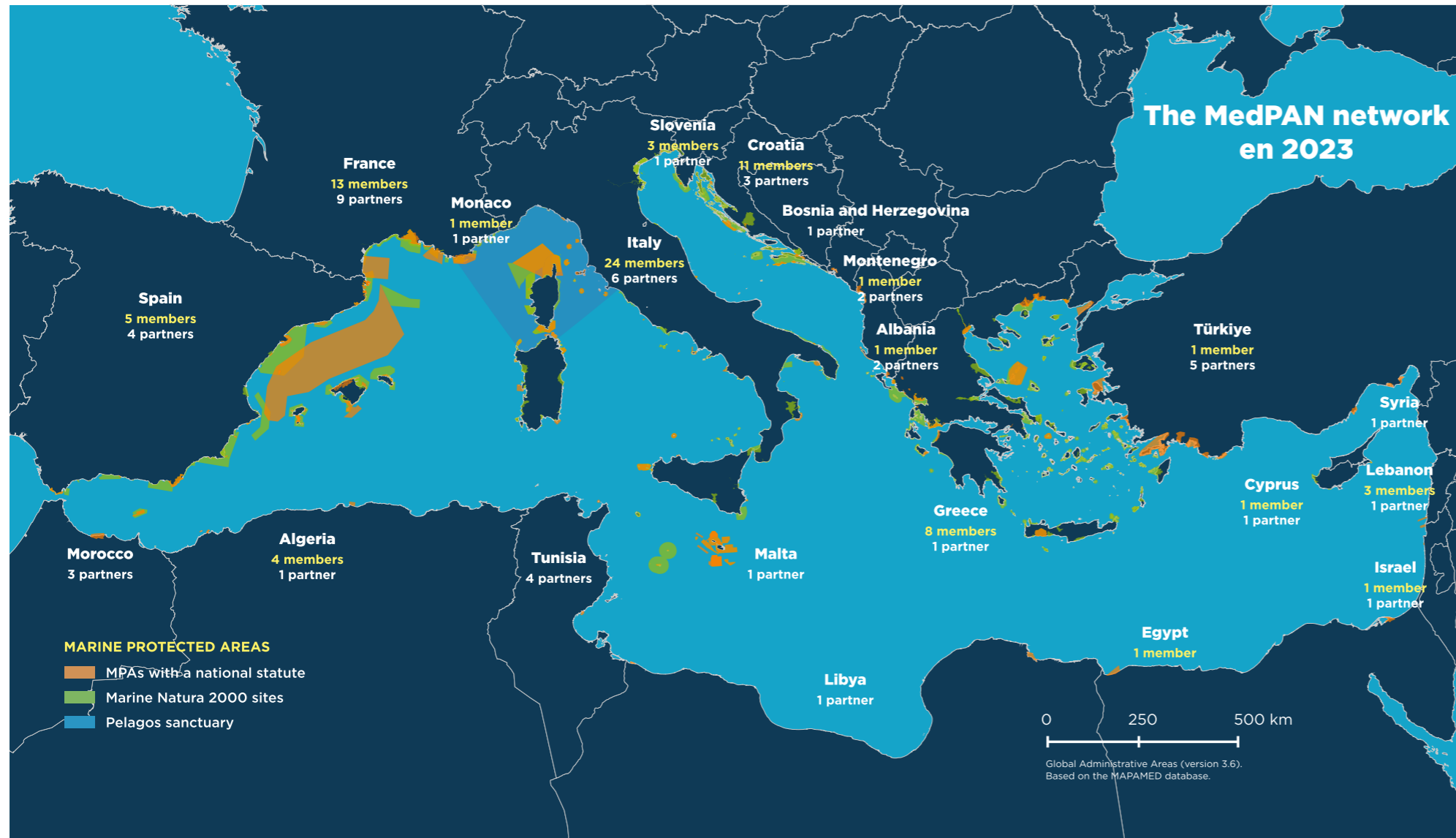
In collaboration with the MedFund, MedPAN implements the GEF project "Build Back a blue and stronger Mediterranean" that started in 2022.

The Sigrid Rausing Trust also renewed its important support to MedPAN for 3 years.



* Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Members and partners



In 2023, 132 organisations from 21 Mediterranean countries were involved in the MedPAN network, either as members (83) or partners (49). This is including 8 founding members. The uniqueness of MedPAN lies in the fact that its members and partners are mostly public organisations (91 out of 127). The other members and partners have either a private status (NGO) or are international organisations.

MedPAN currently gathers around 635 (58 %) of the 1,087 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN database 2021), including 191 MPAs with a national statute (74 % of the existing 257), 446 Natura 2000 sites (54 % of a total of 829).

In total, the MedPAN network covers 72,209.17 km² of Mediterranean MPAs, i.e. 2.9 % of the total surface area of the basin, or 78 % of the total MPA coverage (excluding cetacean sanctuaries).

Key contribution of some MPAs to the network

In 2023, some MPAs brought key contribution to MedPAN's activities (notably through training, projects, working groups, national or sub-regional networks, Board of Directors etc.).

Croatia

- Brijuni National Park

Spain

- Cabrera National Park and Balearic Islands MPA

France

- Port Cros National Park
- City of Agde - MPA of the Posidonia of Cap d'Agde

Greece

- Zakynthos National Marine Park

Italy

- Management Consortium of Torre Guaceto
- Torre del Cerrano MPA
- Portofino MPA Management Consortium

Lebanon

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

Tunisia

- Kuriat islands

Interrelationships between MedPAN and ongoing Mediterranean projects

The MedPAN network coordinates its activities with other ongoing projects carried out with various regional partners and key players in the Mediterranean. This provides opportunities to pool resources and create synergies.

GEF Project

MedPAN and MedFund, supported by Conservation International, are spearheading the new GEF project “**Build Back a stronger and blue Mediterranean**”. The objective is to support strong, effective and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs in order to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean in a post-COVID recovery context. The beneficiary countries of this project are Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, and Tunisia. The project started in mid-2022 and will be operational until mid-2027.

COGITO Project

MedPAN continues to coordinate the COGITO project “**Strengthening the integrated and sustainable management of coastal, island and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean**” with the Conservatoire du Littoral, PIM Initiative and WWF Mediterranean. This project is supported by the FFEM and co-financed by several other donors. It involves 18 pilot sites in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey, Albania, and Lebanon. The projects started in 2018 and were finalised by the end of 2023.

European projects

The **LIFE+ Enable project**, coordinated by Europarc, aims at developing training for Natura 2000 managers and beyond.

The **ENI-CBC Med project “ENSERES”** in partnership with the University of Malaga (ETC-UMA), SPA/RAC and MedCities. The objective is to capitalise on ecosystem-based management actions with pilot sites in Tunisia and Lebanon and regional activities (experience sharing, training, platforms, policy, awareness raising, etc.).

The **H2020 REST-COAST project**, coordinated by the Polytechnic University of Barcelona, counts MedPAN among its partners. The aim is to bring together work related to active and passive restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems.

Finally, MedPAN is a partner of the **European “Ocean Governance” project** which allows global cooperation between the networks of MPA managers in the Atlantic area (including RAMPAN, NAMPAN, CaMPAM, OSPAR, Patagonian Forum, and key partners that are NOAA, Fundacion Biodiversidad and OFB) and with South-East Asia, Western Indian Ocean (WIOMPAN) and Pacific (CMAR).



Other initiatives

MedPAN is part of **Together for the Mediterranean**, coordinated by Blue Seeds and IUCN Med to coordinate Mediterranean key marine conservation stakeholders as well as the partnership to conserve marine turtles in the Mediterranean coordinated by the SPA/RAC.

In addition to its involvement in **the Pelagos Initiative** together with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, WWF Mediterranean and IUCN Med, the MedPAN Network is involved in the **Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity** with the PIM Initiative, but also with AIFM, MedWet, IUCN Med, Tour du Valat and the Conservatoire du Littoral. MedPAN is an associated partner of the new project funded by the FFEM to support the Consortium (RESCOM).

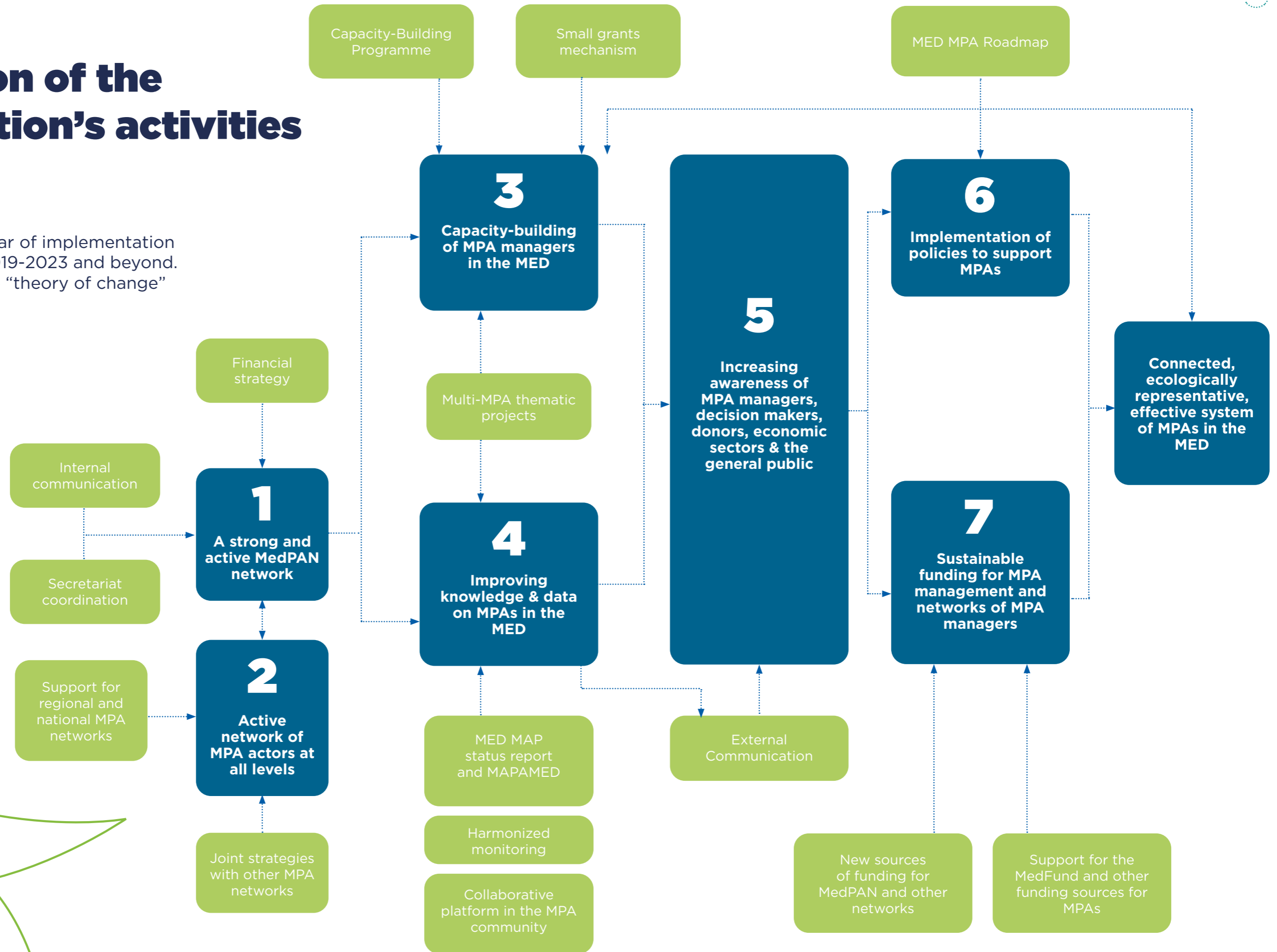
MedPAN also contributes to the **Mediterranean Posidonia Network**, coordinated by the OFB.

Projet Ocean Governance



Evaluation of the organisation's activities in 2023

2023 was the fifth year of implementation of the strategy for 2019-2023 and beyond. Here is a recap of the "theory of change" of the strategy:



Here is a brief overview of the “progress dashboard” of the main activities related to the implementation of the 2019-2023 strategy

● Actions in progress or completed

High level report	Strategy	2023	Justification
A strong MedPAN network	Global strategy		Launch of the work to develop the new MedPAN strategy 2025-2030.
	Financial strategy		Implementation of MedPAN’s transition plan, including the feasibility of an endowment fund, has been finalized with support from external consultants. Donors or funding programmes renewed their support to MedPAN (LIFE NGO Operating Grant, Sigrid Rausing Trust). The MedPAN reserve fund was increased. New projects are under development (PAMEX project on MPAs coordinated by the SPARAC).
	Coordination and facilitation of the MedPAN Secretariat		The permanent team of the MedPAN Secretariat has been expanded by 3 new appointments (a temporary logistic support, project coordination and website support). Analysis of necessary evolution of the organisation chart has been finalised (transition plan) in 2023. The coaching initiative has continued. Human resources management has been supported by an external consultant.
	Create and maintain thematic working groups		Online meetings of working groups to support training and policy work (funding, mobile species, fisheries).
	Improve internal communication		Update of the new website. Newsletter and social networks.

● Actions in progress or completed

High level report	Strategy	2023	Justification
Active networks of MPA stakeholders at all levels	Supporting networking at sub-regional and national levels		Support to CROMPA, AdrionPAN, French Forum, Algeria network, North-Africa network. Guidelines for networks disseminated and contribution to the desk study on networks effectiveness assessment from EU Ocean Governance project.
	Implementing joint strategies with other MPA networks		In the framework of the EU Ocean Governance Project, global cooperation between networks from several areas: Transatlantic, South East Asia, Pacific, and Western Indian Ocean. Study on the global alliance for the protection of the marine environment (networks of MPA managers, Conservation Trust Funds and their networks): action plan, value, mission, members, governance...
Capacity building for MPA managers in the Med region	A regionally coordinated capacity building programme		Development of new training modules (fishing characterization, Natura 2000 management, sustainable funding and business planning, shared governance); training on funding delivered in Kuriat (Tunisia) and online (business planning), training on Natura 2000 management delivered in Agde (France) and online sessions before, regional training workshop on participatory governance delivered in Tyre (Lebanon). MedPAN experience-sharing workshop preparation on tourism in Mediterranean MPAs in Hyères(France) (workshop postponed in 2024). Power-point presentation on full and high protection as tool to support MPA managers.
	Implementing a small grants mechanism		Capitalization of small projects since 2018 Selection of small projects linked to the 2022 call on strong/full protection. Launch of 2 new calls for small projects - Strengthen the level of effective protection in Mediterranean MPAs - The basics of management in Mediterranean MPAs

● Actions in progress or completed

High level report	Strategy	2023	Justification
Capacity building for MPA managers in the Med region suite	Develop and coordinate thematic Multi-MPA projects		COGITO project; GEF project; LIFE+ ENABLE, ENI-Med ENSERES, H2020 REST-COAST.
Improving knowledge and data on MPAs in the MED	Establish/support collaborative platforms in the MPA community		Online platform developed to monitor the progress of the Roadmap and present the Forum process.
	Assess the status of MPAs		Finalisation of the analysis of the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Status Report. Launch of the questionnaire for the 2025 Status Report. Preparation of the update of the MAPAMED database.
	Support and harmonise monitoring		Publication of the mobile species (and marine turtles in particular) cooperation charter.
Increasing awareness	Improve external communication		Update of the new website ; newsletter campaigns and special edition on invasive species, social media; videos on benefits of MPAs, video on MedPAN. European Commission meetings, Monaco Blue Initiative, IMPAC 5, Barcelona Convention COP, CBDS meetings, Union for the Mediterranean, Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, EUSAIR meetings, EU mission "restore our ocean"- Med Lighthouse, MED MSP CoP, IUCN/WCPA/EU-MPA, TGFM. Multi-themed policy recommendations paper from the MedPAN network, published and disseminated.
Policy implementation	Assess and adapt the common Roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs		Development of the online platform to monitor progress of the Roadmap (and present the Forum). Start of the strategy to engage stakeholders on the Roadmap. Elaborate the monitoring methodology.

● Actions in progress or completed

High level report	Strategy	2023	Justification
Sustainable funding	Supporting MPA funding		Pilot sites in the context of: COGITO project; GEF project with MedFund; ENSERES. Support for MedFund (Board of Directors, General Assembly, Grant Awarding Committee). Continuation of the Global Alliance for marine protection (with other trust funds, networks of managers and networks of trust funds) Training module and session on fundraising and business planning for MPAs.
	Mobilise new funding for MedPAN and national/sub-regional networks		The GEF project supports national and sub-regional networks.

The 2023 Action Plan was implemented by the MedPAN Secretariat, which also drew on the expertise of MedPAN members and partners. The organisation carried out specific activities in close partnership with SPA/RAC, the MedFund, WWF Mediterranean, IUCN Med, ACCOBAMS, Conservatoire du Littoral, PIM initiative, MedCities, University of Malaga, Tour du Valat and MedWet, AIFM, French Office for Biodiversity as well as other strategic partners. The organisation has also worked, in the framework of the EU Ocean Governance project, closely with other regional MPA networks at the transatlantic level (RAMPAO in West Africa, CaMPAM in the Caribbean and NAMPAN in North America, the Patagonian Forum...) and in the Pacific, Western Indian Ocean (WIOMPAN), Redparques, and South East Asia. Collaboration with conservation trust funds (MarFund, MedFund...) and trust fund networks (RedLAC, Café...) continues within the Global Alliance for marine protection. The organisation is also part of several joint initiatives (Pelagos initiative, Together for the Med, partnership for marine turtles, Mediterranean Posidonia Network, Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium, PAMEx...).

The MedPAN Board members have contributed significantly to the implementation of all activities in 2023. The network's Scientific Committee continued to provide advice on scientific strategy and actions.

The various steering committees (Forum and roadmap process, MedPAN workshop, COGITO project, LIFE Enable, ENSERES, H2020 REST COAST...) as well as the working groups on funding, mobile species and fisheries provided the best possible guidance on the network's actions for their effective implementation.

Strategic
axis

1

A strong and active MedPAN network



a) Sufficient, stable and long-term financial resources for MedPAN

Financial support for MedPAN's 2023 actions has been obtained from several donors and projects:

- FFEM through the COGITO project
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Hans Wilsdorf Foundation
- LIFE NGO operating grant
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Project
- French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)
- City of Marseille (France)
- Bouches-du-Rhône Departmental Council (France)
- LIFE+ Enable
- ENI CBC Med "ENSERES"
- H2020: REST-COAST
- GEF "Build Back a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean"

Based on MedPAN's business plan and within the framework of the MedPAN transition plan, the feasibility study on a future endowment fund has been finalised. MedPAN has also increased its reserve fund.

b) The functioning of MedPAN's governance bodies and rules

Regular online meetings and three in-person meetings of the MedPAN Board were held, as well as an in-person meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Committees set up by MedPAN or committees to which it contributed:

- Steering committee for the development of the regular operational training programme for MPAs
- Steering committee of the MedPAN workshop 2023
- Steering committee of the COGITO project
- Steering committee of the Forum/Roadmap process
- Steering committee of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium
- Steering Committee of the partnership on marine conservation in the Mediterranean (Together for the Med)
- Steering Committee of the partnership on marine turtles in the Mediterranean
- Coordination meetings of the Mediterranean Posidonia Network
- Steering committee of the PAMEx (The Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea)
- Steering committee of the LIFE Enable project
- Steering committee of the ENSERES project
- Steering committee of the H2020 REST COAST project
- Steering committee of the GEF project
- Coordination meetings with other networks of MPA managers at global level, within the EU Ocean Governance project
- Coordination meetings with the Global Alliance for marine protection.

c) The MedPAN Secretariat: Regional Coordinator and Facilitator



The Secretariat team has 8 permanent and 4 temporary staff members. Here are the most significant changes in 2023:

- Hend Hassassi was renewed for a term of 9 months to support administrative and financial aspects and left MedPAN in September 2023. A new recruitment for short-term contract has been launched.
- Miriam Ben Ghazi was appointed as a website support officer for a short-term contract of 18 months.
- Marjorie Dubois was appointed as event logistics support officer for a short-term contract of 18 months
- Francesca Marcato was appointed as projects coordination support officer for a short-term contract of 18 months
- The MedPAN Secretariat coordinated and facilitated several meetings and exchanged with the various thematic working groups on funding, fisheries and mobile species, with the support of some MPAs and partners as co-leaders of these working groups.
- The Secretariat has also created synergies with national, regional and international partners in the fields of knowledge, communication and capacity building, policy and funding.

- A number of consultants supported the work of the Secretariat during the year. They contributed to: the MedPAN transition plan study (evolution of governance, Secretariat, ethical charter, endowment fund, communication with donors), coaching, human resources support; the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap (online platform and engagement strategy); the development of new training modules and the delivery of certain training activities; small projects capitalization, evaluation of the COGITO project, development of the new strategy of MedPAN, gender considerations integration into MedPAN activities and GEF project, the update of the new MedPAN website; the special edition; the series of videos on the role of the MPAs; power-point presentation on the full protection projects of the MPAs; supporting event logistics and communications; supporting the editing, translation and designing of MedPAN communication tools and documents.

d) Internal communication and relations with and among members and partners

Functioning of the network

- Regular contacts, inter-contacts facilitation and provision of answers to requests from MPA members and other organisations by the MedPAN Secretariat. The Secretariat also put projects consortia in contact with some MPA members and partners.

Communication

- Several updates were brought to the website and social media channels to optimise communication about MedPAN actions, add new resources to the resource centre, publish news about the network and MedPAN events.
- Monthly newsletter campaigns were sent to MedPAN subscribers with the scientific watches and news from MedPAN and the network. A special edition about invasive species was produced and disseminated.

- In order to raise public awareness of the role of MPAs in the Mediterranean, to illustrate the importance and ingredients of effective management, and to highlight strict protection areas and illustrate their benefits, MedPAN published and disseminated to managers a series of animations entitled «MPAs are here for us». Some Mediterranean MPAs have been highlighted in these videos to illustrate the extent of the MPA network in the Mediterranean and to highlight the crucial role they play in the effective management and conservation of marine ecosystems. To adapt to the local context of most Mediterranean MPAs, the on-screen text is available in 10 languages: French, English, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Slovenian, Croatian, Turkish, Greek, and Albanian.

- Several webinars were organised to present the new website and its functionalities. Members of our Working Groups and Scientific Committee were invited to share their key resources to be added in the new resource centre.

Partnerships

- Strengthening of existing partnerships (The Med-Fund, SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, WWF Mediterranean, Conservatoire du littoral, PIM Initiative, French Office for Biodiversity, MedCities, etc.), namely through the different projects and initiatives in which MedPAN is involved (see above in the report).
- Collaboration with networks of other stakeholders (LIFE Platform, prosecutors, MedCities, etc.).

Exchanges

- With IUCN Med, MedWet, Tour du Valat, Initiative PIM and IAMF in the framework of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium, with the support of the Conservatoire du Littoral.
- Involvement in the Pelagos Initiative and Mediterranean Posidonia Network.

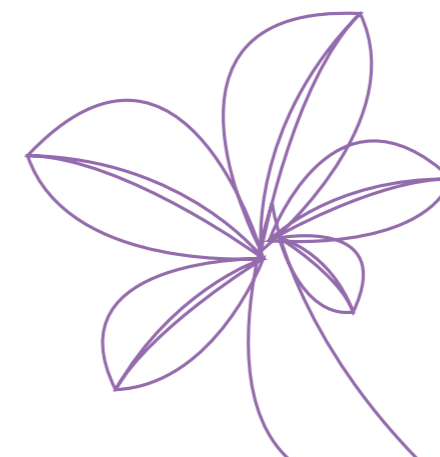


Strategy

- Launch of the development of the new MedPAN strategy 2025-2030 with a first brainstorming during the 2023 General Assembly (to be finalized end 2024).
- Work on the common strategy with other regional MPA networks (CaMPAM, RAMPAN, NAMPAN, WIOMPAN, Patagonian Forum etc.) at global level in the framework of the EU Ocean Governance project.
- Support for national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers in the Mediterranean.
- Co-ordination of the action plan development, value, mission, and governance/functioning of the global alliance for marine protection (networks of MPA managers, Conservation Trust Funds and their networks).

Gender

- A gender consultant was hired in 2023 to support gender considerations integration within the MedPAN workshop 2023 and largely to support the GEF project actions and MedPAN activities for the period 2024-2026.





Strategic axis

2

Active networks of MPA stakeholders at all levels



a) Active sub-regional and national MPA networks in the Mediterranean

Support has been given to existing or emerging national networks (France, Croatia, Spain, Algeria, etc.) and to sub-regional networks (AdrionPAN; discussion for North Africa).

Guidelines for networks of MPA managers have been disseminated together with the desk study on networks management effectiveness developed within the EU Ocean Governance project.

b) Cooperation among networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean

Beyond the Mediterranean, MedPAN continued to share its knowledge and experience in support of policies and fundraising, with other regional networks of MPA managers at global level (RAMPAN in West Africa, CaMPAM in the Caribbean, NAMPAN in North America, the Patagonian Forum, WIOMPAN...), in the framework of the EU "Ocean Governance" project.

MedPAN contributed to the co-coordination of the new Global Alliance for marine protection with other networks of MPA managers, conservation trust funds and trust fund networks. In 2023, action plan, vision, mission, added value, membership, governance were developed.

c) Active multicultural and multilateral dialogue and cooperation among all actors at all levels

MedPAN has supported and promoted active multicultural and multilateral dialogue and cooperation between all actors (managers, scientists, civil society, decision makers, donors, public institutions, stakeholders and in particular artisanal fishers, prosecutors etc.) across the Mediterranean at all levels. In particular with exchanges with the LIFE Platform, MedCities and the network of environmental prosecutors in the Mediterranean.

MedPAN has supported the conference on coastal conservation and sustainable development held in Tunisia in September 2023 organised within the network of NGOs (RONACED) and coordinated by the "Association Continuité des Generations - ACG".





Strategic axis

3

Capacity building for MPA managers in the Mediterranean

a) Innovative and effective solutions for the benefit of MPAs and the network as a whole

A number of small grants projects were completed at the end of 2023. A new call for small projects on full protection has been launched. A second new call for small projects to support MPA management plans and business plans has been launched. A dedicated session was held as webinar at the of end 2023.

This focused on various results from pilot sites (from ENSERES, COGITO projects). Lessons learnt from several MPAs were capitalised upon and disseminated.



b) Maintaining and improving the capacities of MPA managers and stakeholders

The programme of the upcoming MedPAN experience-sharing workshop on tourism in Mediterranean MPAs has been prepared with the selection of speakers and case studies. The overall objective of this workshop is to enable MPA managers and stakeholders, as well as tourism stakeholders, to pool and share their knowledge, expertise and experiences in managing tourism pressure and its impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems, and in cooperating for a transition to sustainable tourism. Initially scheduled for late 2023, the workshop has been postponed for logistical reasons to April 2024, and will be held in France.

Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Gambia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Scotland, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey). As always, the training courses implemented were evaluated, revealing a high satisfaction rate (in 2023, 78% of trainees said they were very satisfied), and enabling the training approach to be refined to better meet needs from one session to the next.

To date, the MedPAN Regular Training Programme comprises 9 training modules which are intended to be repeated over time. New courses and materials will soon be added to the catalogue, such as a series of video tutorials for getting started on the characterisation of fishing activities in MPAs (currently being finalised).

MedPAN continued to develop and implement its Regular Training Programme coordinated at regional level, with the support of five MPA training centres around the basin. A training course on fundraising for MPAs has been repeated, with a session in Tunisia in May 2023, and two new courses have been added to the catalogue on governance practices in MPAs and on the fundamentals of MPA management, respectively implemented in Lebanon and France in autumn 2023. The three training courses delivered this year have strengthened the operational capacities of 54 MPA managers and stakeholders from 20 Mediterranean countries and beyond (Albania, Algeria,





Through its website and newsletter, MedPAN continues to pool and share the experiences of MPAs in its network and beyond, and to provide MPAs with practical guidelines and turnkey tools. In 2023, two new toolkits were added to the MedPAN website resource centre: A communication toolkit in the form of a customisable PowerPoint presentation and guidelines for full protection was produced to provide MPA managers with outreach and advocacy material to support the creation or extension of fully protected areas. MedPAN also developed and shared a toolkit with key resources and documentation for developing or updating MPA management plans.

In 2023, MedPAN was asked by MPAs in the network to coordinate and facilitate several technical exchange visits: MedPAN coordinated a 5-day field visit in March by four rangers from the Israeli Marine Ranger Force to meet with MPA managers and other key stakeholders in Port-Cros National Park, Calanques National Park and Côte Bleue Marine Park, with a focus on fisheries' management. MedPAN also facilitated an exchange visit by Cypriot MPA managers to the Calanques National Park in France, with a focus on the management of recreational activities, and is currently preparing an exchange visit by Moroccan MPA authorities and stakeholders to Balearic Islands MPAs, scheduled for spring 2024.

Approaching the end of the COGITO project "Enhance integrated and sustainable management of coastal, insular and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean", MedPAN, in collaboration with the project partners (WWF, Conservatoire du Littoral and PIM Initiative), has updated the ad hoc monitoring and evaluation system for capacity-building and related activities implemented or supported as part of the COGITO project. This review shows that the 33 activities (training, workshops, webinars, Mediterranean MPA Forum) implemented by the four project partners between 2019 and 2023 involved 1,172 people from the MPA community (around a quarter of whom are direct beneficiaries of COGITO), from 540 organisations in 46 countries.

As part of the GEF project «Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean», MedPAN has designed a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment (TNA) targeted at staff of MPA management bodies, Organisations co-managing an MPA, and Government agencies and local authorities responsible for MPAs in the six project countries (Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia). The results of this TNA will be compiled during the first quarter of 2024. In parallel, MedPAN will support the dissemination of a similar TNA designed as part of the LIFE ENABLE project, using the same competency-based approach (i.e. derived from the IUCN Global Register of Competences for Protected Area Practitioners) targeted at 600 EU Natura 2000 and Protected Area practitioners.

The results of these two Training Needs Assessments will provide a detailed picture of individual and institutional capacity-building needs in order to improve responses at organisational, national and regional levels. In particular, these results will provide a solid basis for the MedPAN capacity-building strategy, which will be updated in line with the network's overall strategy from 2024 onwards.

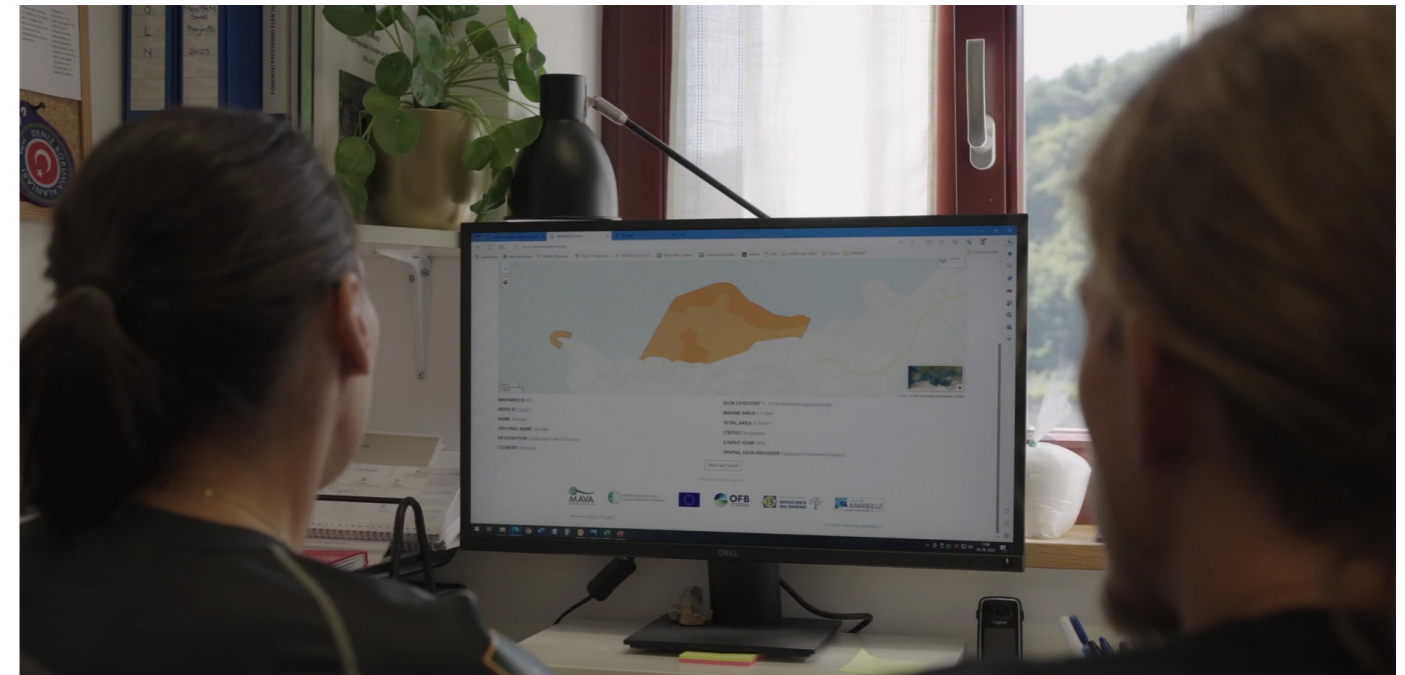




Strategic axis

4

Increasing knowledge and data on MPAs in the Mediterranean



a) Integration of scientific, practical and traditional knowledge on MPA management and monitoring

MedPAN actions in 2023 :

- Publication of a special edition of the newsletter on invasive species.
- Preparation of a special edition of the newsletter on tourism in MPAs.
- Monthly scientific watch.
- Updates of the online monitoring resource centre.

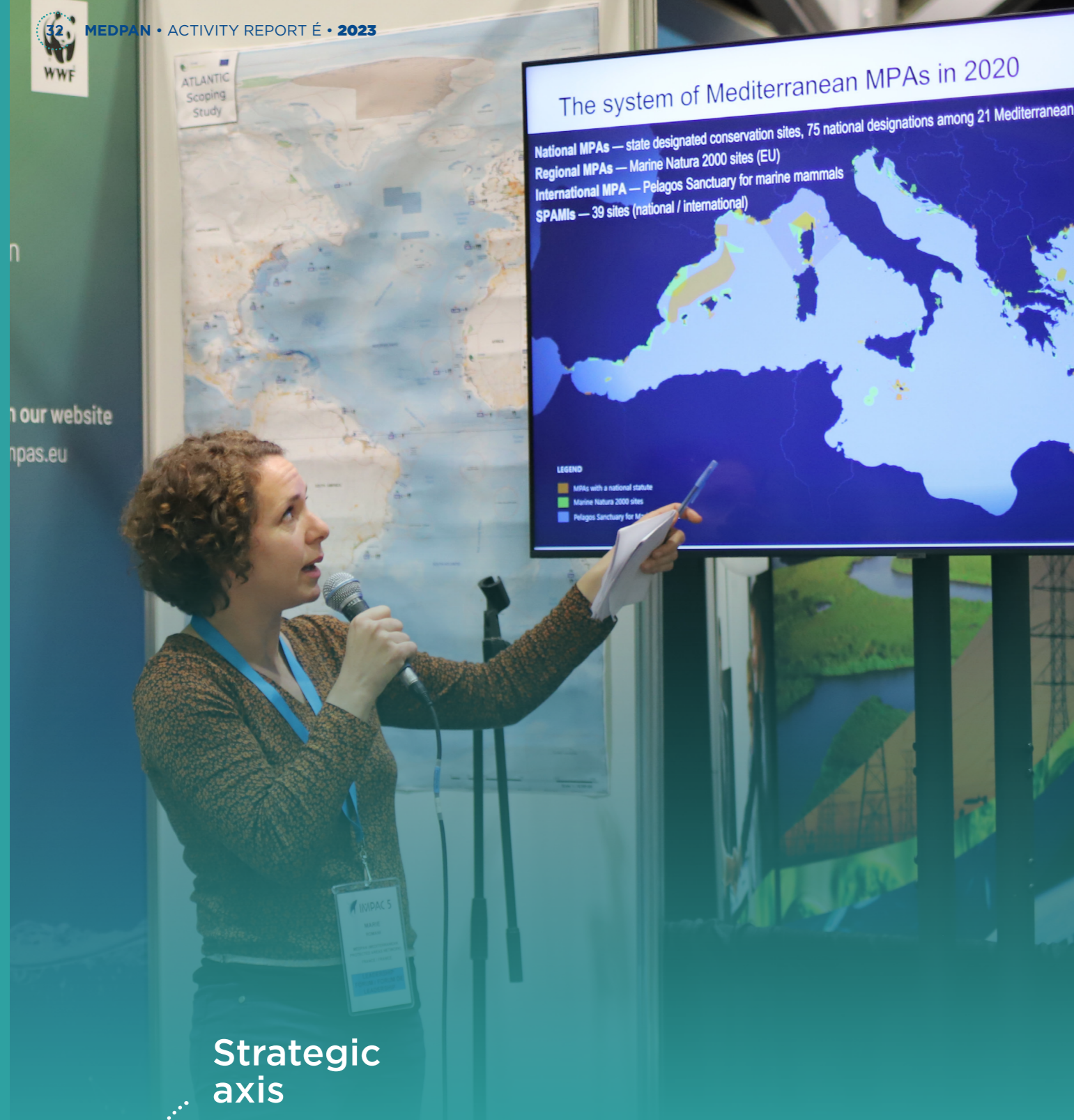
b) Harmonised monitoring within Mediterranean MPAs

- Publication of the cooperation charter for the monitoring and conservation of mobile species (and in particular marine turtles).

c) Aggregated data and knowledge on the status of MPAs at Mediterranean level are available

- Finalisation of the 2020 report on the status of MPAs in the Mediterranean.
- Launch of the questionnaire for the 2025 MPA Status.
- Preparation of the update of MAPAMED.





Strategic axis

5

Increasing awareness of MPA managers, decision-makers, donors, relevant economic sectors and increasing public support for MPAs

a) MPA managers are aware of policy and funding decisions at all levels

Thanks to the newsletter, website and the social media, MPA managers have been mobilised for consultations and kept informed of updates and developments in key policies, decisions and funding opportunities for MPAs, at European (EU Mission Restore Ocean and Waters, EU Action Plan on Sustainable Fisheries, EU consultations on Research and Fisheries, Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention, UfM, GFCM, etc.) and international (IMPAC 5, GBF, BBNJ, LMEs, UNESCO) level.



b) Policymakers, the public, relevant economic sectors and donors recognise the value of MPAs and MPA networks

MedPAN has published the policy recommendations paper elaborated on MPA management effectiveness with components related to networking, funding, governance, mobile species, fisheries, tourism, climate change, high and full protection. This policy recommendations paper has been developed thanks to inputs from MedPAN thematic working groups, the Advisory Committee, and the Board of Directors, and thanks also to the policy event organised in Barcelona in June 2022. It will be broadened out in the years to come, taking advantage of the MedPAN Working Group works and annual workshops.

To promote the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap and to further mobilise stakeholders, MedPAN undertook a series of works (see below, Axis6).

MedPAN has expanded its activities at the European level. The network has joined the new EU Mission to Restore Ocean and Waters, adopted its chart and participating in its Mediterranean community, namely the Mediterranean Lighthouse. MedPAN has also joined the Mediterranean MSP Community of Practice and its working group on MPA and MSP. MedPAN participated also to a Conference organised in Brussels on Mediterranean Posidonia Network Roadmap: a real step towards Sustainability.

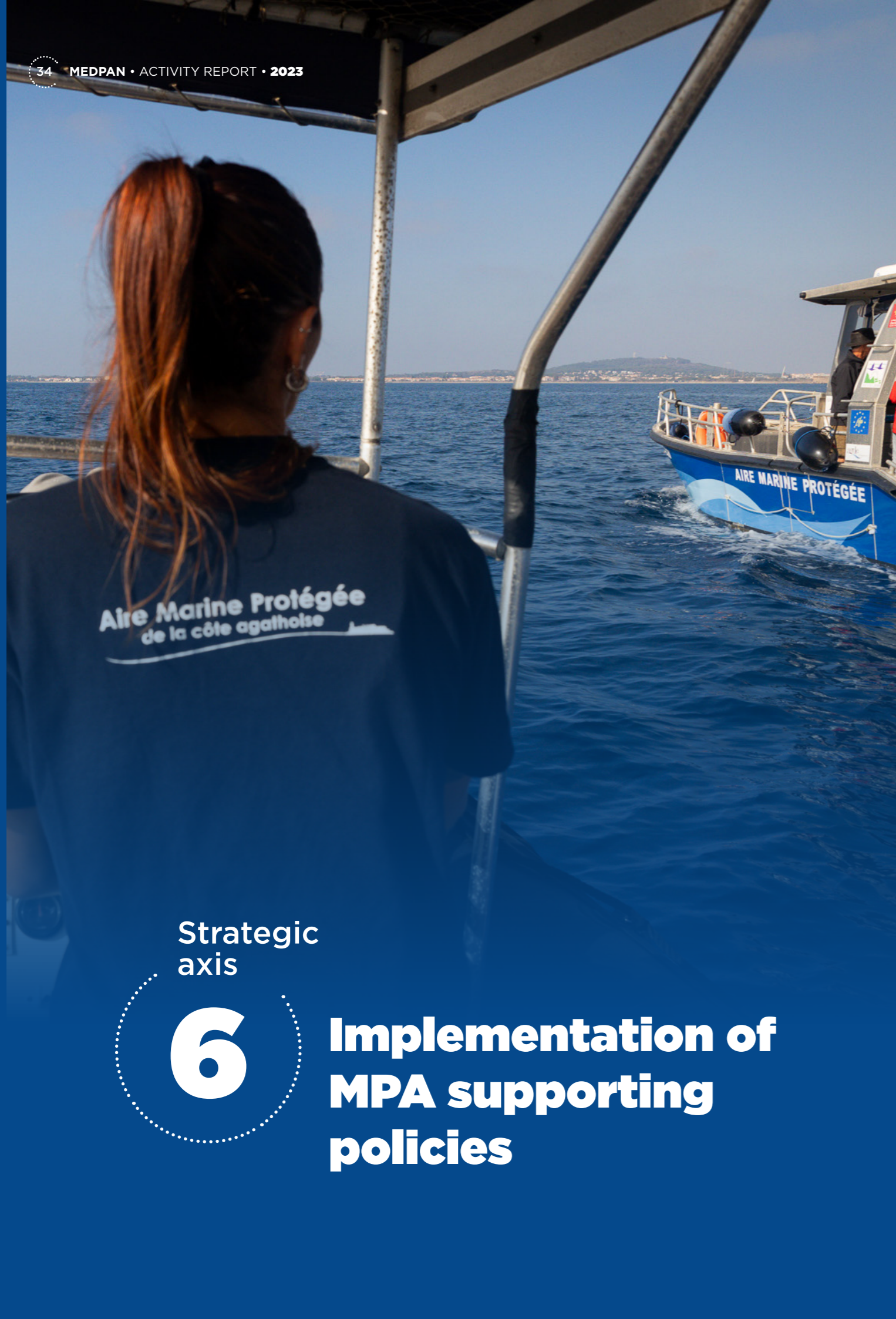
MedPAN participated in the 20th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, contributing to the brainstorming on the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy revision.

MedPAN also participated in the Small-Scale Fisheries meeting coordinated by the GFCM.

Videos on the value of MPAs and on the importance of management are currently being prepared and will be achieved by the start of 2023. In addition, an institutional video is also under progress to better communicate on the MedPAN Network.

MedPAN has also contributed to European Commission consultations on marine issues.

MedPAN has developed a joint call that was promoted and launched at IMPAC 5 and contributed to the EU Ocean Governance project Twinning Networks meetings preparing a strategy for a global network. In order to spread the word, MedPAN organised a second special event at the European Parliament (see below Axis 6).



Strategic
axis

6

Implementation of MPA supporting policies



a) Proper implementation of existing European and Mediterranean agreements on MPAs

In 2023, MedPAN has scaled-up its policy activities and contributed to the following meetings to foster the implementation of the agreements on MPAs at the European and Mediterranean levels:

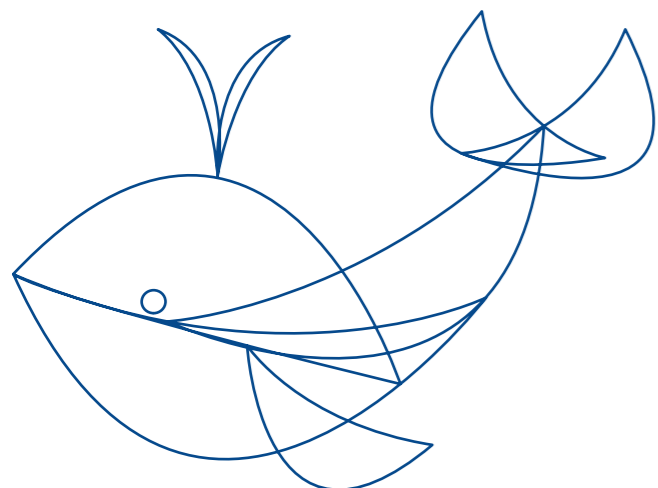
- IMPAC 5
- INDEMER conference.
- POC meetings.
- Monaco Ocean Week and 1st Pelagos Initiative Forum.
- Pelagos working group on MPAs.
- EC DG ENVPOMSEA meetings.
- EC DG ENV EUBP meetings.
- EC DG ENV MSCG meetings.
- EC Special Joint Group on the EU Action Plan.
- The EU Mission Restore Ocean and Waters - Mediterranean Lighthouse conference.
- The EU maritime Day.
- European Tourism Day.
- EU Ocean Governance meetings.
- Natura 2000 - 30-year anniversary event.
- IUCN WCPA - EU - MPA workshop.
- The Donor meeting conference organized by SPA-RAC to support the implementation of the Post 2020 SAPBIO Strategy.- UfM Environment Working Group meetings
- AGEM coordinated by the SPA/RAC.
- SPA/BD focal points meeting organised by SPA/RAC.
- The PAMeX meetings.
- Mediterranean islands' (MIC) conference.
- Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community/ ENSERES project final events.
- Together For the Med Consortium (TGFM) meetings.
- RESCOM project meetings.
- Mediterranean MSP Community of practice meetings.
- Plan Bleu conference on the Barcelona Convention.
- CPMR e-learning module on "Ecosystem-based Management and Marine Spatial Planning" Interreg Med Academy
- CPMR Intermediterranean Commission | Task Force on Culture & Sustainable Tourism Glasgow
- Declaration Climate Action Plans

MedPAN has increased its participation and contribution at the EU level, attending more systematically EU meetings on marine conservation and the EU Biodiversity strategy. MedPAN has also joined and contributes to two EU initiatives : the EU Mission “Restore Ocean and Waters” and the Med MSP Community of Practice.

Following the 3rd edition of the Mediterranean Forum (2020-2021 with a final event in Monaco), MedPAN, SPA/RAC and WWF Mediterranean, with the support of key partners (IUCN, ACCOBAMS, PIM, Conservatoire du littoral, MedFund, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, ETC-UMA, etc.) have finalised and released in 2023 the post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap that has been promoted through the MedPAN website and its social networks. In addition, the partners have started to brainstorm on a mechanism to monitor progress of the Roadmap and the commitments to support its implementation. Two main follow-ups have been undertaken in 2023 with:

- the set-up of a new web platform to promote the Roadmap and the commitments to support its implementation
- the development of a monitoring methodology and the development of a mobilisation strategy. These works will valuably contribute to the preparation of the MPA Forum planned in 2026.

At the Mediterranean level, MedPAN has also actively contributed to the PAMeX steering committee meetings and has contributed to a new PAMeX declaration on MPA and a joint project proposal elaborated with SPA-RAC to be funded by PLIFF.



b) Proper implementation of existing national agreements on MPAs

MedPAN has supported existing/emerging national networks of MPA managers (France, Croatia, Spain, Algeria) and sub-regional emerging networks (AdrionPAN, North Africa). MedPAN participated in the Comité France Ocean meetings discussing the new MPA strategy and For AdrionPAN, MedPAN participated, in September 2023, to the EUSAIR TSG3 workshop on the Masterplan for Biodiversity promoting the work done through the EU MPA Networks for a sub-regional network.

c) Proper implementation of existing international agreements on MPAs

Further to the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), MedPAN participated in the meetings organised by the CBD on the Target 3 partnership and the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI).

MedPAN actively participated in the IMPAC 5 Congress in 2023, taking part and organising several side-events, and has prepared a joint call presented at IMPAC 5.

MedPAN also monitored the international negotiations related to the protection of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and prepare a summary article that was share through the newsletter to the Mediterranean marine conservation community et MPA network. MedPAN participated in the international MPA Action Group on the BBNJ Treaty. In addition, MedPAN took part in a dedicated conference in May in Monaco, organised by INDEMER. An update presentation on the outcome of the BBNJ treaty negotiations was done by MedPAN at the 4th Working Group on Environment of the Union For the Mediterranean (UFM).



In the prospect of the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), MedPAN contributed substantially to the consultation of the civil society organisation organised by France and Costa Rica with the support of the Ocean and Climate Platform (POC) and took part in the general assembly and meeting of POC in April where the 3rd UNOC was discussed with the members of the POC.

In line with these international activities MedPAN renewed its collaboration with the Varda Group supporting its work for marine conservation and more particularly its new programme “Let’s be NICE for the Ocean” aiming at mobilising Countries for tangible progress in implementing SDG14 particularly in the Mediterranean region, the Antarctic and the deep sea.

MedPAN participated in the EU Ocean Governance project final conference and organised in November 2023 a special event within the European Parliament in cooperation with the EU Ocean Governance project. This event was aiming at sharing the results of the EU Ocean Governance project, the contribution of MedPAN and highlighting the need for a Global network to foster actions as the different regional seas are linked in one ocean and many marine conservation issues request regional and international cooperation. In this regard, MedPAN organised an exchange meeting with RAMPAO to foster interregional cooperation and discuss the preparation of IMPC6 that will take place in 2027 in Senegal.

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The full list of meetings and conferences in which MedPAN participated in 2023 can be found in the annex.



Strategic axis

7

Sustainable funding of MPA networks and MPA management



a) Funding of MPA managers' networks

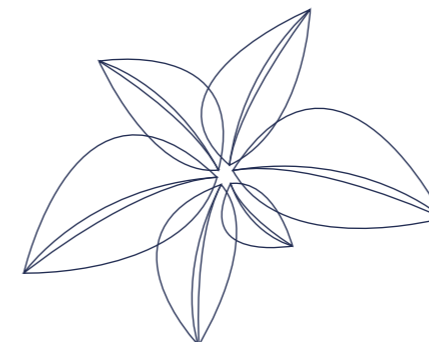
MedPAN has continued to co-coordinate the Global Alliance for marine protection with conservation trust funds (including the MedFund), trust fund networks (RedLAC, Café...) and MPA manager networks (RAMPAN, SPAWRAC, NOAA...).

b) Sustainable funding of MPA management in the Mediterranean

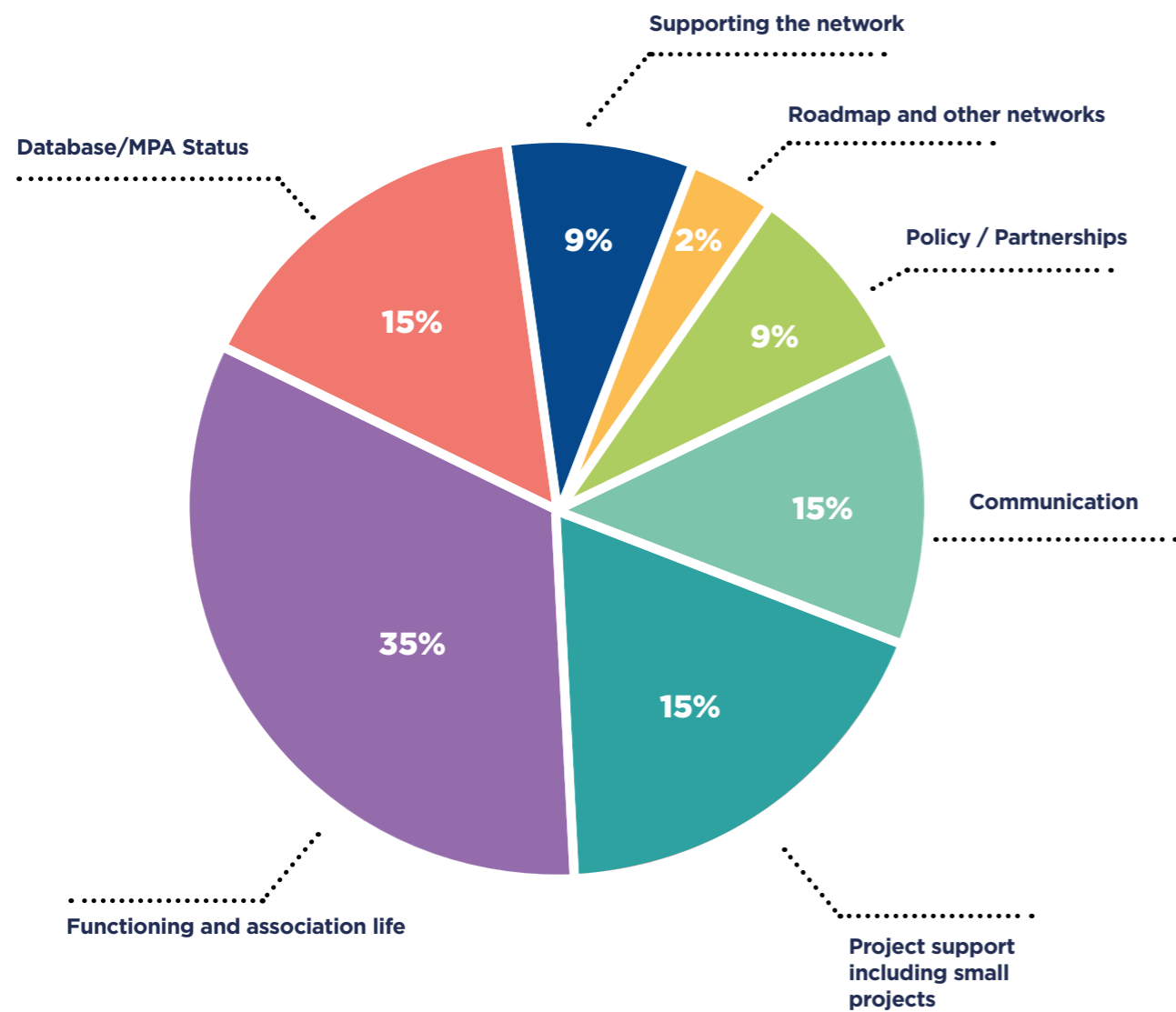
MedPAN continued to support the MedFund, the environmental fund dedicated to Mediterranean MPAs, through its participation in the MedFund Board, the General Assembly, the Grant Awarding Committee, and synergy with the initiative on fully protected areas supported by PBOL. The joint GEF project "Build Back a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean" that started in 2022 support, through the MedFund, MPAs in several non EU countries.

A training module has been developed and an online and on-site training session was delivered on fundraising and business planning for MPAs (Monastir, Tunisia, May 2023).

MedPAN has kept MPA managers regularly informed about new financing opportunities through its newsletter and social media.



Overview of the time devoted by MedPAN staff to its activities in 2023



Outlook



2024 will be marked by key international events such as the UN Ocean Conference in Costa Rica (to prepare the 2025 Conference in Nice), the UN Ocean Decade Conference, the GFCM Fish Forum, the CBD COP in Türkiye, the GEF International Waters Conference in Uruguay. MedPAN key on-site events will continue (trainings sessions, exchange visits, experience-sharing workshop on restoration in relation with the H2020 REST-COAST project).

In 2024, MedPAN will finalise its 2025-2030 strategy.

MedPAN, SPA/RAC and their historical partners will prepare the midterm evaluation of the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap with engagement strategy to involve all Mediterranean stakeholders in this process; they will also start to prepare the 2025 Mediterranean MPA Forum.

The relationship with strategic partners and network members will be further strengthened through joint actions and in particular through the GEF, LIFE ENABLE, and REST-COAST projects, as well as the cooperation at global level with other networks of MPA managers, the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium, the Mediterranean Posidonia Network, the Pelagos Initiative, Together for the Med, the partnership for Mediterranean marine turtles conservation, and the Global Alliance for Marine Protection.

MedPAN will continue to support national, sub-regional and thematic networks of MPA stakeholders in the Mediterranean and to be connected with other networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean.

Meetings, conferences, events in which MedPAN participated in 2023

Dates	Lieux	Conférences	Rencontres/événements organisés par MedPAN ou projets dont MedPAN est partenaire
10 Jan.	Online		Webinar MedPAN call for small projects
12 Jan.	Aix-en-Provence (France)		Coordination meeting of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium
13 Jan.	Online		Coordination meeting of the Mediterranean Posidonia Network
18 Jan.	Online	Varuna project coordination meeting (RNF)	
18 Jan.	Online		Coordination meeting Together for the Med
20 Jan.	Online		Coordination meeting Pelagos Initiative
24-25 Jan.	Athens (Greece)	1st steering committee PAMEx (UNEP/MAP)	
30 Jan.	Online	SAPBIO advisory committee (SPA/RAC)	
2 Feb.	Vancouver (Canada)	Blue Nature Alliance workshop on capacity-building for MPAs	
2 Feb.	Vancouver (Canada)	Réunion Big Ocean	
3 Feb.	Vancouver (Canada)		EU Ocean Governance project coordination meeting of networks
9 Feb.	Online		MedPAN online expert meeting to discuss the draft for the marine course for MPA managers (LIFE Enable)

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
3-9 Feb.	Vancouver (Canada)	IMPAC 5	
8-9 Feb.	Online/Roma (Italy)	GEF FishEBM MED Inception Meeting (GFCM)	
13-17 Feb.	Hamburg (Germany)		LIFE Enable induction seminar
15 Feb.	Online		Pelagos Initiative Selection Committee
17 Feb.	Online	Advisory Board second meeting - scoping study no-take Med (Pew/Bertarelli)	
17 Feb.	Online	Ocean Climate Platform coordination meeting	
23 Feb.	Online	MedFund meeting	
28 Feb.	Online		2030 Roadmap Steering Committee
28 Feb. -2 March	Online		Online half year meeting H2020 REST-COAST
2 March	Online	EC Marine Expert Group (MEG)	
2 March	Online	EC online meeting on "Call for action to implement the Mission Ocean and Waters: the role of the European islands"	
7 March	Brussels (Belgium)	Conference on a Mediterranean Posidonia Network Roadmap and Event on a Mediterranean Posidonia Network at EU Balearic Islands Office	
7 March	Online	Union for the Mediterranean - WEBINAR COP15 ON BIODIVERSITY - OUTCOMES, FOLLOW UP AND WAY FORWARD	
7-8 March	Online		ENSERES Steering Committee

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
7 March	Marseille (France)		Kosovo's delegation welcomed in MedPAN office to exchange on Interreg programme
9 March	Online	MAVA celebration	
9-10 March	Rome (Italy)	GFCM SSF meeting	
13 March	Online		ENSERES: interview Strategy and action plan for capitalization, policy impact and mainstreaming – Guiding document
15 March	Online		TFGM concept note MPA working meeting
16 March	Paris (France)	SPA/RAC: Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean	
19-20 March	Monaco	Monaco Blue Initiative	
21-25 March	Monaco	Monaco Ocean Week	
21 March	Monaco		Pelagos Initiative Forum
21 March	Monaco		Board of the MedFund
22 March	Online	Kick off Euro-MED Community4Nature governance project	
22 March	Online	High Protection event (Pew Bertarelli/Blue Seeds)	
22 March	Monaco		EU Ocean Governance project special events ; Global Alliance for Marine Protection event
22 March	Monaco	Governance4 nature project: associated partners meeting	
23 March	Monaco	ACCOBAMS event	
23-24 March	Monaco		MedFund Board meeting
30 March & 5 April	Online	SPA/RAC AGEM	
27 March	Online	CBD Consultative Webinar on “The Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity”	

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
27-31 March	Marseille (France)		Exchange visit Israeli MPA managers in France
30 March	Online	UNFCCC - virtual informal exchange of views on the preparation for the ocean and climate change dialogue 2023	
3 April	Nice (France)		GEF coordination meeting with the MedFund
6 & 12 April	Online		Pelagos Initiative coordination meeting
17 April	Online	EC WG on Data, Information, and Knowledge Exchange Meeting (DIKE 28)	
18 April	Online	EC 28th Meeting of the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES)	
19 April	Online	EC Policy workshop on the EU Mission – Restore Ocean and Waters	
20 April	Online	EC Meeting of the Nature Directives sub-Expert Group (NADEG)	
20-21 April	Online	EC 28th POMESA meeting & workshop on MSFD-WFD synergies	
25 April	Online	Membership agreement MPN	
24-28 April	Online	CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative Workshop on ocean-related capacity-building needs for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	
25 April	Online		Meeting for synergies between GEF Build Back a Blue and Stronger Med and GEF FishEBM MED
25-26 April	Online	EC EUBP	
27 April	Online	EC Med MSP community of practice meeting	

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
3 May	Marseille (France)		COGITO Steering Committee
4 May	Online	EC Interreg Euro MED / Marittimo / NEXT Med joint event	
4-19 May	Online		MedPAN training on fundraising introductory meeting for the upcoming training in Tunisia
5 May	Ajaccio (France)	European Parliament event on Med Posidonia	
5 May	Brussels (Belgium)	EC DG GROW - European Tourism Day	
9 May	Marseille (France)		Algerian delegation welcomed in MedPAN office
10 May	Online		COS MedFund
10 May	Marseille (France)	Ocean Climate Platform seminar	
10-11 May	Online	15th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (SC15)	
11 May	Online	EC MSCG	
12 May	Marseille (France)	PEBLA project in Algeria restitution in Plan Bleu office	
12-13 May	Monaco	Congress on United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	
16 May	Online	MPN meeting	
16 May	Online		Steering committee GEF project with the MedFund
15-17 May	Online		LIFE Enable : introductory meeting for training
22 et 24 May	Malta	16th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points	
23 May	Genoa (Italy)	CIMA Research Foundation "In defence of giants of the Pelagos Sanctuary", in the framework of the LIFE project Conceptu Maris LIFE20 NAT/IT/001371 and on the occasion of the Ocean Race.	
23-26 May	Monastir (Tunisia)		MedPAN/MedFund training on MPA fundraising with NGB

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
24 May	Online	EC meeting of the Expert Group on Reporting under the Nature Directives	
24 May	Barcelona (Spain)	4th UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Action	
24 & 26 May	Brest (France)	European Maritime Day -Ocean University Pavillion ; launch of the European Blue Forum at EMD	
25 May	Online	EC Conference on EU funds for environment	
25 May	Online	B-USEFUL European project to design useful biodiversity indicators (Horizon Europe project)	
26 May	Online	GFCM: Friends of SSF / Fish Forum	
31 May	Online	EUSAIR: online workshop for the development of AdrioNet cross pillar project idea within EUSAIR	
30-31 May	Palermo (Italy)	Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030": The Mediterranean lighthouse in action high-level event, organised by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Italian Ministry	
9 June	Online	Mission for Natural Heritage virtual launch (link with 2 project Interreg)	
12-14 June	Cambridge (UK)	CBD Meeting to develop a Target 3 Partnership	

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
13 June	Malta	DG Mare 2nd meeting Med MSP community of practice	
13 June	Online		Pelagos Initiative meeting
14-16 June	Marseille (France)	UNEP/MAP: 20th Meeting of the MCSD	
15 June	Online		MedPAN webinar to present the website
16 June	Carry le Rouet (France)	European Parliamentary event on restoration of marine biodiversity	
20 June	Online	Ocean Climate Platform General Assembly	
20 June	Online		ENSERES Steering Committee
26 June	Online	UNEP/MAP – Barcelona convention and SPA/RAC are organising an online workshop on Gender and MCPAs (Marine and Coastal Protected Areas) in the Mediterranean	
30 June	Online		Together for the Med x MedSea Alliance – Advocacy and Policy component to achieve the 30x30 objective
27 June - 1st July	Marseille (France)	MPA summer school	
4 July	Online		MedFund Board
4-5 July	Kyparissia (Greece)	9th Steering Committee meeting of the “Conservation of Marine Turtle in the Mediterranean Region” MAVA project	
5-7 July	Marseille (France)	OFB – national congress for biodiversity	
7 July	Online	MPN Global Meeting	

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
11-12 July	Tour du Valat (France)		Kick off Rescom project- Mediterranean Biodiversity consortium
11-13 July	Paris (France)	GEF – 22nd Large Marine Ecosystems Consultation Meeting (LME22)	
13 July	Online		First steering committee of the upcoming MedPAN Experience Sharing Workshop on tourism in MPAs
17 July	Online		EU Ocean Governance project – coordination meeting of the twinning of MPA networks
17 July	Online		Pelagos Initiative meeting
18 July	Online	UNEP MAP – PAMEX Steering Committee	
20 July	Online	GFCM SSF Forum inputs	
20 July	Online		TGFM - Policy & Advocacy #2
25 July	Online		Meeting Global Alliance for Marine Protection
1st Aug.	Online	MPA Europe project briefing	
11 Aug.	Online	Rencontre MedPan x HAX x CIRCI	
31 Aug.	Online	CBD – Invitation to a webinar concerning the call for expression of interest to host a regional/subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre to facilitate support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF	
5-8 Sept.	Korea	CBD SOI	
8 Sept.	Online	EUSAIR - online coordination meeting for speakers at TSG3 workshop	
6 Sept.	Online	DG Mare - MSPglobal 2.0 Kick-off Conference	
6 Sept.	Online	IUCN Workshop on Transformative Governance	
13 Sept.	Online		LIFE Enable Steering Committee
11-15 Sept.	Kneiss islands (Tunisia)		ACG – Ronaced Forum on coastal and marine environment

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
11 Sept.	Online		COS Medfund
11 Sept.	Online	DG GROW - workshop tourism stakeholders ; Together for EU Tourism	
12-13 Sept.	Malaga (Spain)		TGFM coordination meeting
15 Sept.	Online		MedPAN annual workshop on tourism Steering Committee
19-22 Sept.	Tyr (Lebanon)		MedPAN regional training on shared governance
18 Sept.	Tyr (Lebanon)		ENSERES capitalisation national event
18-24 Sept.	Tarragona (Spain)		EU Ocean Governance project – Global Final Conference ; networks twinning learning exchange ; exchange MedPAN/RAMPAO
18-22 Sept.	Gdansk (Poland)		REST-COAST general in person meeting
18-22 Sept.	Izola (Slovenia)/ Online	EUSAIR - Mediterranean Coast and Macro-regional Strategies Week 2023 ; Workshop organised by TSG 3. Masterplan for Biodiversity and marine protection as tentative contribution to implement the Biodiversity strategy 2030 in the EUSAIR and synergies with UN/MAP.	
20 Sept.	Online	UN CBD A webinar on “ How to gender-responsively mobilise resources for biodiversity conservation?”	
2 Oct.	Cassis (France)		MedPAN Scientific Committee
3-6 Oct.	Cassis (France)		MedPAN Board

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
10-13 Oct.	Agde (France)		LIFE Enable training organised by MedPAN on management of Natura 2000 marine sites
23 Oct.	Online	EC MSCG	
18-20 Oct.	Sibenik (Croatia)	15th anniversary, our Public Institution Nature of Šibenik-Knin County is organizing the International Scientific-Expert Conference	
16-20 Oct.	Lipari (Italy)	PIM workshop on Med islands	
18-20 Oct.	Puerto Madryn (Argentina)		EC Ocean Governance project – Annual workshop of the MPA Networks twinning
18-19 Oct.	Tunis (Tunisia)		Final conference ENSERES: final project event “Urban Seascapes – Celebrating Sustainable Coastal Communities”
6-7-8 Nov.	Marseille (France)	IUCN/OFB/WWF: Workshop – Exploring Blue Carbon Financing Mechanisms to Protect Mediterranean Seagrass: The Case of Posidonia oceanica	
7 Nov.	Bruxelles (Belgique)		EC Ocean Governance project – event at EU Parliament
8-9 Nov.	Marseille (France)	Seminar on deep habitats- OFB	
15 Nov.	Brussels (Belgium)	7th UfM Task Force on Environment	
15-16 Nov.	Brussels (Belgium)	EC EUBP	
20-22 Nov.	Nice (France)	Pelagos Agreement Meeting of the Parties	
22 Nov.	Online / Tunis (Tunisia)	SPA/RAC workshop on OECM	
22-24 Nov.	Roma (Italy)	CBD – workshop to develop a road map for supporting the implementation and monitoring of and capacity development for ecosystem restoration under the Kunming-Montreal GBF	

Dates	Locations	Conferences	Meetings/events organised by MedPAN or concerning projects or initiatives in which MedPAN is a partner
21-24 Nov.	Ljubjana (Slovenia)	Go4Nature_event : Connecting the dots: the path to a Smarter and Greener Mediterranean» - Interreg Euro-MED Joint-Secretariat event in Ljubljana and Natural Heritage Mission Annual Institutional Dialogue event.	
27 Nov. 1 ^{er} Dec.	Hyères (France)		Postponed MedPAN General Assembly, Board, annual workshop on tourism in MPAs ; final event of the COGITO project and side event of the GEF project; MEET side event.
5-8 Dec.	Izola (Slovenia)	Barcelona Convention COP	
13-14 Dec.	Hyères (France)	Port-Cros National Park Scientific Congress	
15 Dec.	Online		MedFund General Assembly



Composition of the Board of Directors in 2023

DEPANA, Spain: President

Representative: Ms Purificació Canals, Member

Alternate: Mr Jose Maria Carrera Alpuente, President of DEPANA

SPA/RAC, Tunisia: Honorary Vice President

Representative: Ms Asma KHERIJI, MPA Technical Assistant

Alternate: Dorra MAAOUI, Communications assistant

Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), Management Unit of Zakynthos and Ainos National Parks and Protected Areas of the Ionian islands, Greece: Vice President

Representative: Mr Laurent Sourbes, Management Unit Responsible

Alternate: Mr Charalambos Dimitriadis, Scientific Officer

Institute for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia: Secretary General

Representative: Ms Tina Centrih Genov, Nature Conservation Expert

Port-Cros National Park, France: Treasurer

Representative: Mr Marc Duncombe, Director

Alternate: Ms Giulia Azzolini, Head of the Cooperation and Financial Engineering Department.

WWF France

Representative: Ms Catherine Piante, Programme Manager

Alternate: Mrs Camille Loth, Mediterranean Marine Initiative coordinator

City of Agde – manager of the Natura 2000 site of Posidonia of Cap d'Agde, France

Representative: Mr Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive, Director of the Marine Environment and the Posidonia Natura 2000 site at Cap d'Agde

Alternate: Ms Véronique Salgas, municipal councillor for the marine environment

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests – Department of Water and Forests, Morocco:

Representative: Mr Abdennadi Abarkach, Engineer, responsible for the management of protected areas

Agency for the Protection and Development of the Coastline (APAL), Tunisia

Representative: Mr Ahmed Chaker, General Manager

Alternate: Ms Samia Boufares, Head of the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Programme

MPA "Penisola del Sinis - Isola di Mal di Ventre", Italy

Representative: Mr Massimo Salvatore Giovanni Marras, Director

Alternate: Mrs. Paola Orrù, Administration

General Directorate of Natural Environment and Forest Management, Balearic Government

Representative: Mr Jorge E. Moreno Pérez, Head of Wildlife Conservation

Alternate: Ms Maria Francesca Lopez Cortes, Director of Cabrera National Park

Public Institution for the Nature of the Region of Sibenik-Knin, Croatia

Representative: Mrs Anita Babacic Ajduk, Director

Alternate: Ms Tina Dragutin Buric, Head of Department

Portofino MPA Management Consortium, Italy

Representative: Ms Valentina Cappanera, Project Manager

Alternate: Mr Lorenzo Merotto, Scientific Staff

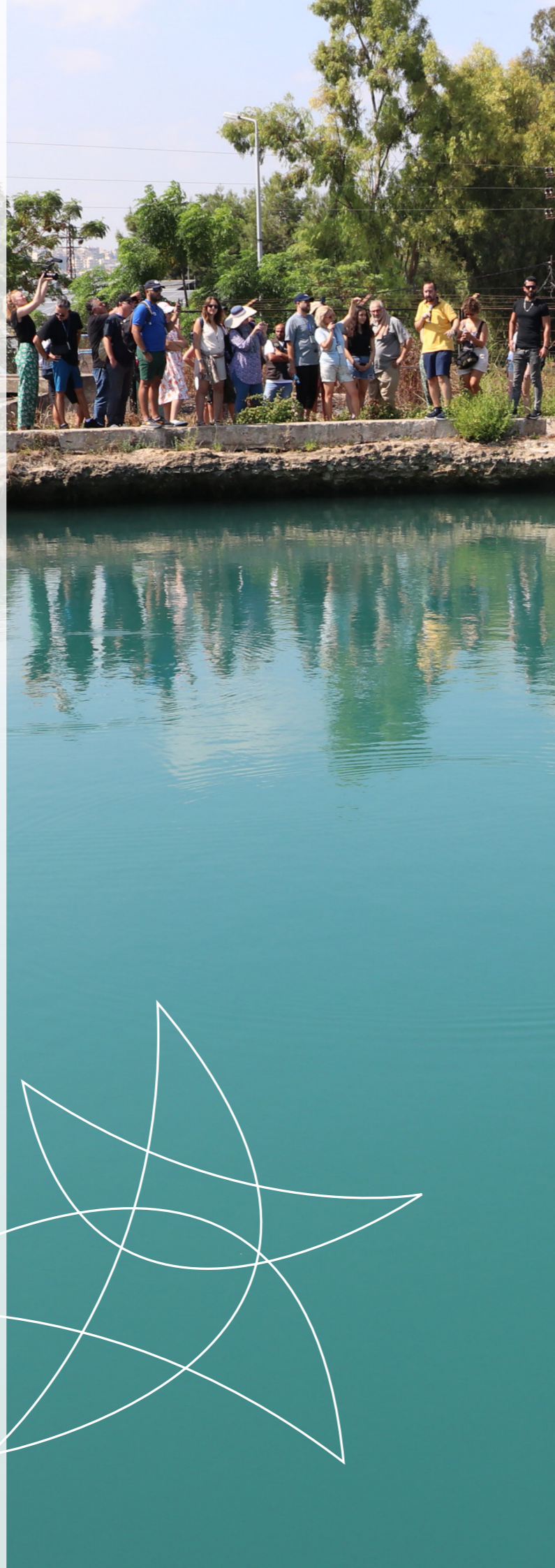


Composition of the 2023 Scientific Committee

Joachim Claudet (Président)
 Drosos Koutsoubas
 Tundi Agardy
 Chedly Rais
 Baki Yokes
 Ruthy Yahel
 Jean Michel Culioli
 Almokhtar Saied
 José Amengual Ramis
 Gonzalo Oviedo

Composition of the 2023 Advisory Committee

SPA/RAC
 ACCOBAMS
 WWF Mediterranean
 IUCN MED
 Conservatoire du Littoral
 PIM Initiative
 MedWet
Observers: The MedFund, DG Environment (EC), Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC



Composition of the Secretariat in 2023



Marie Romani
Executive Secretary



Reda Neveu
Data Officer



Susan Gallon
Scientific Manager



Marianne Lang
Project Officer



Pierre Vignes
MPA Support Manager



Hend Hassassi
(short-term contract-
Departure at end of
contract in September
2023), Financial and
Administrative Support
Officer.



Émilie Grimaud
Communication
Manager



Miriam Ben Ghazi
(short-term contract)
Website Officer



Georges Boulos
Financial and
Administrative
Manager



Francesca Marcato
(short-term contract),
Projects coordination
Officer



Carole Martinez
Policy Manager

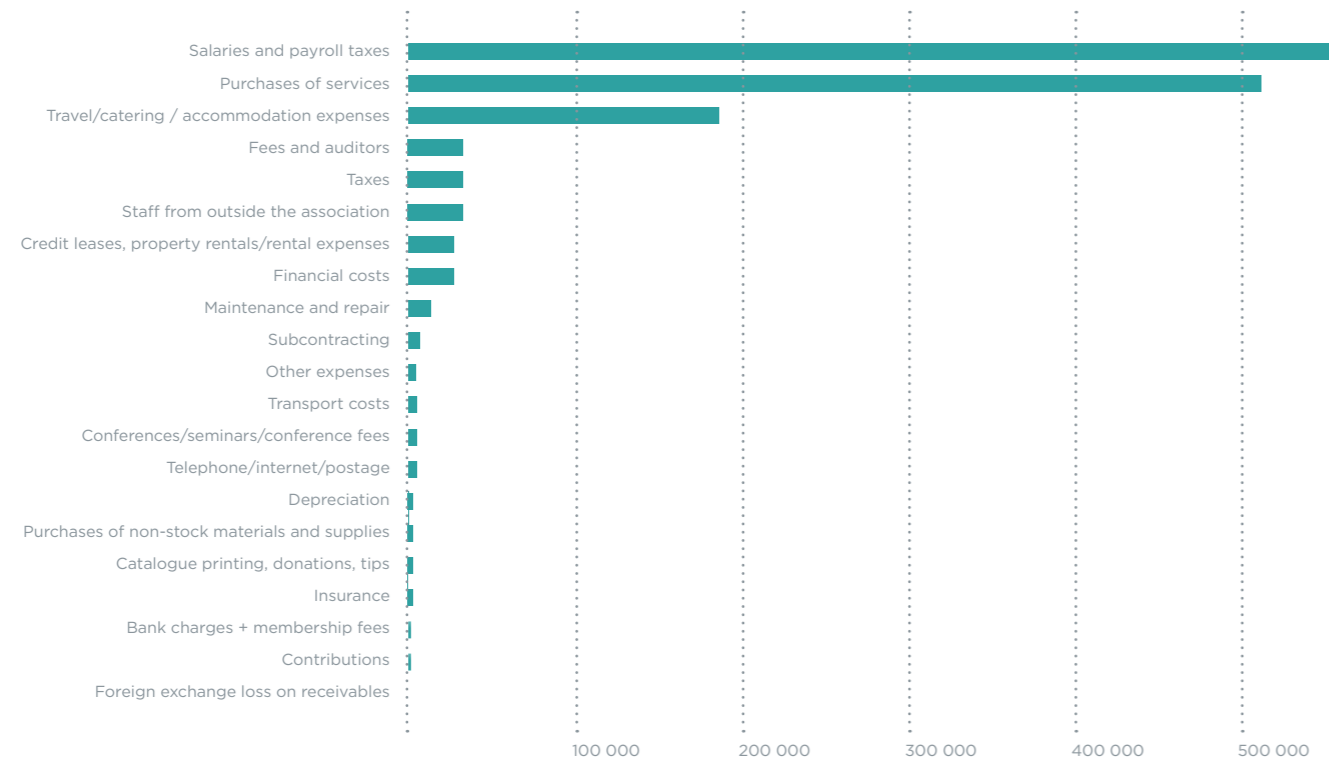


Marjorie Dubois
(short-term contract),
Events logistic Officer

Financial statement

Expenditure

In 2023, actual expenditure amounted to € 1 622 312

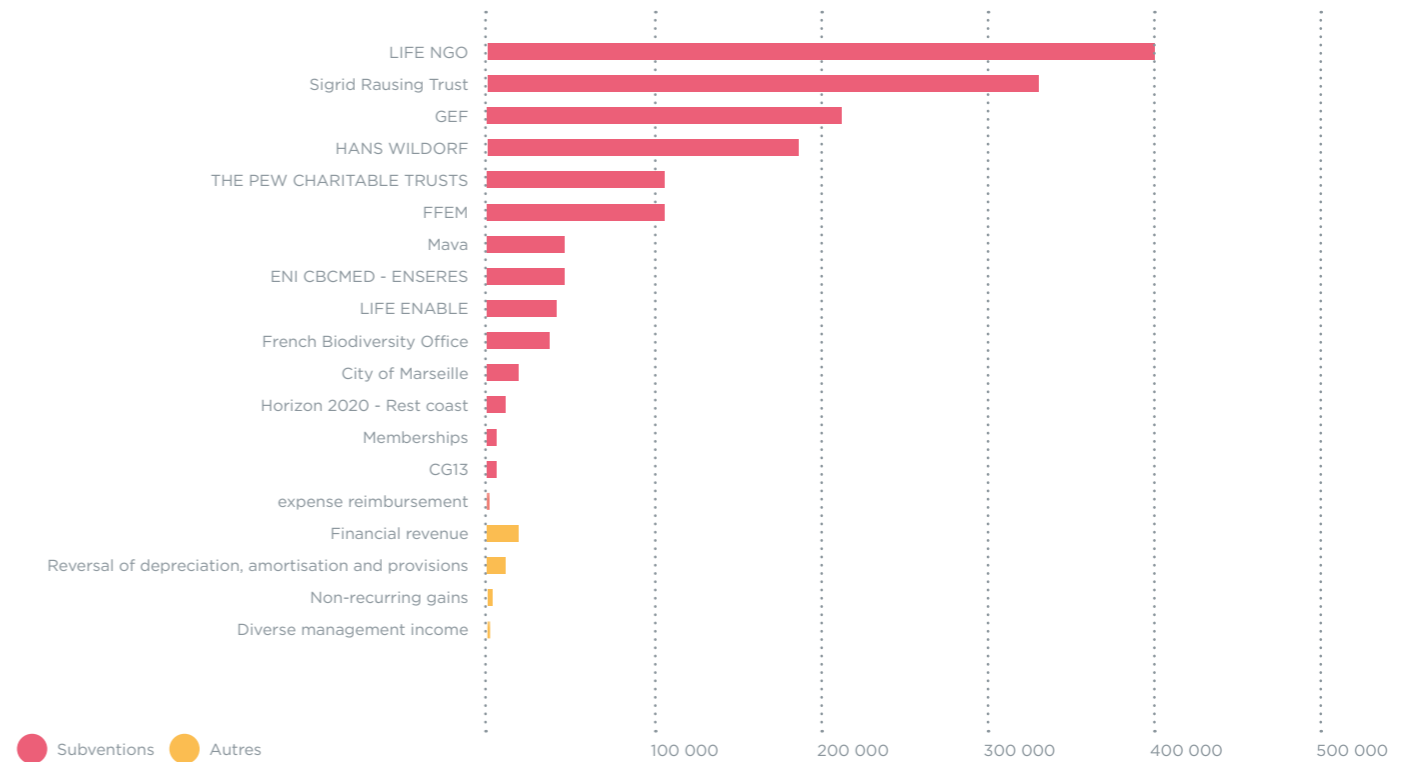


672 536 € : Salaries and payroll taxes
521 926 € : Purchases of services
185 158 € : Travel/catering / accommodation expenses
39 500 € : Fees and auditors
38 107 € : Taxes
35 998 € : Staff from outside the association
32 154 € : Credit leases, property rentals/rental expenses
28 521 € : Financial costs
15 943 € : Maintenance and repair
10 792 € : Subcontracting
6 698 € : Other expenses
6 639 € : Transport costs

5 461 € : Conferences/seminars/ conference fees
5 021 € : Telephone/internet/postage
4 179 € : Depreciation
3 780 € : Purchases of non-stock materials and supplies
3 247 € : Catalogue printing, donations, tips
2 978 € : Insurance
1 982 € : Bank charges + membership fees
1 654 € : Contributions
38 € : Foreign exchange loss on receivables

Recettes

The MedPAN association has several sources of funding for a total contribution of € 1 568 524



GRANTS
400 000 € : LIFE NGO
322 822 € : Sigrid Rausing Trust
210 286 € : GEF
180 030 € : HANS WILDORF
106 422 € : THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS
104 885 € : FFEM
60 233 € : Mava
55 357 € : ENI CBCMED - ENSERES
44 837 € : LIFE ENABLE
40 000 € : French Biodiversity Office
10 000 € : City of Marseille
5 063 € : Horizon 2020 - Rest coast
3 950 € : Memberships

3 294 € : CG13
515 € : Expense reimbursement
OTHER INCOME
11 446 € : Financial revenue
6 871 € : Reversal of depreciation, amortisation and provisions
2 243 € : Non-recurring gains
270 € : Diverse management income

Profit (loss) for the year

-53 788 €

Due to fluctuations in exchange rates, funding received in currencies other than euros decreased in value when converted which explains the negative balance of the budget.



MedPAN

The Mediterranean network of Marine Protected Areas Managers

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Pew Bertarelli
OCEAN LEGACY



**THE
SIGRID
RAUSING
TRUST**

*Funded by the European Union. The views and opinions expressed, however, are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the funding authority can be held responsible.

Hans Wilsdorf Foundation

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