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MPA NETWORKS project

Support MPA effectiveness

through strong and connected networks in the Mediterranean

Project partners:



<https://mpa-networks.interreg-med.eu>

Priority Axis 3: Natural and cultural resources - Objective 3.2: Biodiversity protection

Output.5.1	Joint Governance Plan on Fisheries
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WP5 – 1 | Output - Joint Governance Plan on Fisheries

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About the MPA NETWORKS project

Project partners:



MPA NETWORKS aims to promote the dynamics of cooperation between MPA managers at all levels in the Mediterranean. The MPA NETWORKS project has focused on providing sustainable solutions to challenges that require an approach that goes beyond the boundaries of MPAs. These challenges include the global issue of management effectiveness, and more specifically the management of small-scale fisheries in MPAs, the conservation of mobile species, and the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for MPAs. The project has also helped to strengthen networks of MPA managers at national, sub-regional and Mediterranean levels and to ensure capacity building and scaling up of good solutions and policy recommendations. [Map of location of the partners](#)

Context

Decades of overfishing and mismanagement have severely degraded the fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea, with over 80% of those assessed being overfished. This situation threatens both the marine biodiversity and the survival of small-scale fisheries (SSFs), which represent 83% of the Mediterranean fleet and 57% of employment onboard (FAO-GFCM 2020).

SSF can be found almost in every Mediterranean MPA and must be considered in MPA management. SSF have indeed a deep socio-economic and cultural dimension in the Mediterranean region (FAO 2015; Randone et al., 2017; WWF, 2021). Because of its scale and its practices, small-scale fishing can be compatible with the sustainable use of coastal resources. Some of the most successful MPAs in the Mediterranean were built around the active participation of professional small-scale fishers. Gökova National Park in Turkey, Torre Guaceto MPA in Italy, or Côte Bleue Marine Park in France have developed pioneering agreements where responsibility for resource management is shared supporting local knowledge sharing, MPA ownership, compliance with local regulations and effective management of the site (Giakoumi et al., 2017; D'Armengola et al., 2018). Fishermen benefit from larger (Guidetti and Claudet, 2010; Di Franco et al., 2014; Giakoumi et al., 2017) and more predictable captures with less fishing effort and costs. However, only 16% of the MPAs in the region have fishing regulations in place (MedPAN, 2021). When existing, the control of fishing activities sometimes lacks the appropriate legal framework and complementarity between the fishing and the environment authorities; coordination bodies were only declared in 25% of the MPAs (MedPAN, 2021).

In addition, sustainability issues still need to be addressed. The use of non-selective gears, the illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, are still widely practised in the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM, 2020) and occur in MPAs. The SSF reporting and data collection are heterogeneous and incomplete, preventing knowledge of the fishing effort (CPUE) and precluding both the monitoring of results and the compliance and adaptation of the protection measures. By-catch remains a threat for a variety of species including marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, sharks and rays, or benthic habitat builders (Lloret et al., 2018;, 2020).

Recreational fisheries¹ are also a growing concern in some coastal areas where the economic value of recreational fisheries exceeds that of commercial fishing (FAO, 2015; Venturini et al., 2017), targeting a 41% of vulnerable species, frequently anchoring in sensitive habitats, using exotic bait, also causing the loss of fishing gears, and illegal competition in local markets (Font et al., 2012). Effectively managed MPAs must regulate these activities and improve compliance from all users. Only 50% of MPAs require some type of fishing licence, and less than 30% of MPAs impose any fees. The increasing number of recreational fishers and the fast evolution of gears and techniques (particularly tracking techniques) calls in many MPAs (and beyond) for a rapid adaptation of regulations (licence, quota, zoning and enforcement).

Pilot actions feedback

The MPA NETWORKS project supported 6 pilot actions in 4 EU countries on 'Fisheries'. Fisheries being a key topic for MPAs. The pilot actions were carried out in the following MPAs:

- Port-Cros MPA in France
- Portofino MPA in Italy
- Torre Guaceto MPA in Italy
- Torre des Cerrano MPA in Italy
- Strunjan MPA in Slovenia
- Karaburun Sazan in Albania

The main **enabling conditions and limitations** reflected by the 6 Fisheries pilot actions (see annex 1) are the following:

- **Building a relationship of trust** with fishers is the basis for successful cooperation. Most of the following recommendations stem from this point.
- **Need for dedicated staff, in direct contact with fishers**, trained in methodologies/protocols and with good communication skills to continuously facilitate a participatory dynamic.

¹ The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean defines them as: "Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained".

- In the light of the restrictions linked to the COVID pandemic, everyone stresses that **fishers' involvement requires regular face-to-face meetings, direct interpersonal contact and frequent bilateral discussions.**
- **Need to take into account the constraints of the fishers' schedules (fishing seasons and times)** in the programming of meetings, monitoring activities and reporting of their results.
- **Need for a formal governance structure** (e.g. Management Committee) **or a collaborative platform** to exchange, debate, and engage fishers and other stakeholders in the decision-making process (cf: MPA adapt and LIFE Marha).
- **Challenge of monitoring recreational fisheries and engaging recreational fishers** in a transition to practices that respect marine ecosystems and are compatible with conservation objectives. Recreational fishers are often an important force in opposition to the MPA (e.g. extension of the perimeter, fishing regulations, anchoring, etc).
- **Need for surveillance and response to infringements:** often limited by the capacity and prerogatives of the MPA, patrols and control operations can be optimised on the basis of a cartographic follow-up of infringements allowing them to be categorised according to their level of seriousness and to identify the most sensitive areas and periods on which to concentrate efforts.
- Collaboration, shared governance, regular monitoring and field patrols obviously raise the issue of **sustainable funding** beyond the dynamics initiated in projects.

MedPAN's Working Group feedback

MedPAN, the network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Area managers, organised an online meeting of its Mediterranean MPA managers' Small Scale Fisheries Group on 7 March 2022. This meeting was organised to review the draft of a Policy Paper being developed for the MedPAN network within the framework of the MPA NETWORK project.

MedPAN's Working Group on Fisheries underlined the following points:

- Importance of continued monitoring of fisheries in MPA and of a consistent level of enforcement. Dedicated MPA staff for monitoring is worth the effort and investment and to have trained staff is critical to conduct monitoring activities regularly. It is necessary to invest in dialogue and to nurture a long trust relationship with fishermen, to that end providing an equal level of information is useful to ease dialogue. This implies to give time to such a long-term process and to feed with humility, dialogue effort and collaboration.
- Regarding the feedback from the field on fisheries and other species, anonymous form is preferable to ease information disclosure.
- Managing an area has to go along with surveillance. Understanding magnitude and typology of infringements is important. Fishermen can be the eyes but can't ensure enforcement.
- The balance between rights and obligations is key to avoid conflicts between fishermen.

- Decreasing fishing efforts should be always combined with enforcement efforts. Treating Illegal fisheries issues is part of the dialogue.
- Consistency of planning and managing activities outside the MPA is very important. Gathering all stakeholders in consultation meetings to organise all activities in extended areas is the objective of the PA in Port-Cros.

MedPAN's Policy Paper

Mediterranean recommendations to support policy-making have been developed through a unique policy paper (coordinated by MedPAN with inputs from PPs and Associated Partners):

- On the project key topics with contribution from thematic working groups.
- On MPA management effectiveness needs and networks of MPA managers added value thanks to joint contribution from all national/sub-regional networks and coordination by MedPAN.
- The project's recommendations will be also based on the 2020 evaluation of the Mediterranean MPA situation (2020 Mediterranean MPA Status Report) and the post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum Roadmap.
- Elements related to climate change will come from the MPA-Engage project.

The Policy paper highlights 25 key recommendations of the Mediterranean MPA community on the key topic of Fisheries and conveys messages to be integrated into local, national, European, sub-regional, Mediterranean and International policies.

At the national & local level

IV.1 Set up a national programme to improve knowledge on fishing efforts within the MPAs and their surroundings to identify effective area-based management strategies (benefit of no-take zones in particular) and, if needed, to change regulation and adapt when necessary (e.g. change the perimeter of a no-take zone, prohibit certain gears on habitats that they can damage).

IV.2 Set up national licence systems for recreational fisheries so that the numbers and efforts of recreational fishers (among other parameters) can be better assessed with the obligation to report all catches. Complete the licence system with additional measures and regulation (fees, quota, gear, prohibition of fishing methods impacting vulnerable species zoning, prohibition of competitions and enforcement).

IV.3 Clearly define and update old and new techniques/gear that should be banned from MPAs and combat poaching and the illegal resale of recreational fishing catches with dissuasive sanctions and fines.

IV.4 Improve legal frameworks to support fishers' participation in the management and scientific monitoring activities of MPAs to better take better into account in decision-making the fisher's local and traditional knowledge.

IV.5 Provide MPAs with strategies and tools, as well as with the necessary legal competences and means to manage fisheries within their boundaries and to curb illegal fisheries activities.

IV.6 Empower MPA rangers with police competencies to allow them to impose fines on offenders and enhance coordination of all competent administrations (environment, fisheries), police and judicial authorities and stakeholders.

IV.7 Equip MPAs with technologies such as video-surveillance, drones, radars which allow maintaining 24-hour surveillance on large areas.

IV.8 Support regeneration of fish stocks with the creation, on the basis of scientific and fishers' knowledge, of permanent no-take zones targeting key functional areas and complete them with other measures such as seasonal or temporary closures in adjacent zones.

IV.9 Clarify administrative procedures to facilitate the development of pescaturism activity.

IV.10 Support artificial reefs planning and monitoring.

At regional level

IV.11 Identify and share cost-effective monitoring protocols and methodologies.

IV.12 Support the continuation of specific training modules with a strong operational focus on habitat mapping and monitoring fishing efforts including recreational fisheries to enable a more accurate understanding of ecological, social and economic impacts of all fisheries.

IV.13 Promote synergies between the MedPAN and the Low Impact Fishers of Europe LIFE Platform and Maghreb SSF Platform and the Slow Food/Slow Fish networks as a structuring approach to enhance, sustain and bring value on collaborations between MPAs, SSF, and local communities for the benefit of biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

IV.14 Support experience sharing and technical exchange visits to meet fishing communities organized in cooperatives and with a successful experience in certification schemes.

IV.15 Support experience sharing, and lessons learnt on artificial reefs and develop practical guidelines for MPAs.

At the EU Level

IV.16 Strengthen MPA managers and fishers' knowledge and understanding of Natura 2000 conservation objectives, as well as awareness of EU fisheries policy framework and funding opportunities.

IV.17 Enable access of MPAs and Natura 2000 marine sites to the EMFAF (European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund).

IV.18 Stop harmful fisheries subsidies in the post-2020 funding strategy for the maritime and fisheries sector (EMFAF) that directly undermine EU objectives to create sustainable

business models for fishers and to end overfishing, as laid out in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

IV.19 Promote certification mechanisms for small scale fisheries.

IV.20 Enhance collaborations between MedPAN and FARNET (the European Fisheries Areas Network) to raise awareness of the possible role of FLAGS to facilitate interactions between MPAs and stakeholders (including SSF) and the involvement of small-scale fisheries in the MPA governance (from setting up to management).

IV.21 Enhance collaborations between MedPAN and platforms of small-scale fishers (LIFE - Low Impact Fishers of Europe, Plateforme maghrébine de la pêche artisanale) to facilitate interactions between MPAs and SSF and the involvement of small-scale fisheries in the MPA governance (from setting up to management).

IV.22 Support a more effective inter-play between the possibilities provided for under the common fisheries policy to effectively contribute to the environmental objectives and Article 6 of the Birds and Habitats Directives and Article 15 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the implementation of the Action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems.

At international level

IV.23 Contribute to increasing the visibility of Pescatourism locally and internationally.

IV.25 Pursue exchanges and twinning between MPAs on sustainable fisheries management with the support of MPA networks.

Dissemination of key lessons learned and recommendations

Lessons learned and recommendations have been adapted and promoted at different levels and this will continue beyond the end of the MPA NETWORK project:

- By each PP at both national and local levels (7 countries). At local and national level, each partner will develop advocacy material (and translate it into national language if needed) and organize events to disseminate those recommendations.
- With the support of the Associated Partners (APs) for integration in territorial strategies (national fisheries policies, local maritime spatial planning etc.).
- With support from national and sub-regional networks to target national and sub-regional levels,
- They will also be integrated into European, Mediterranean and international strategies (GFCM, Union for the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention post 2020 strategic documents for MPAs and SAP-BIO, EU new programming period, CBD post 2020) thanks to joint contribution from MedPAN, APs, key Mediterranean partners (including partners

from MBPC and MPA-Engage projects), and other networks beyond the Med.

- They will be promoted during key Mediterranean and international events (IUCN WCC in 2021, IMPAC 5 in 2022, CBD COP and SBSTTA in 2021 and 2022, UN SDG14 Ocean Conference in 2022, Monaco Blue Initiative, Barcelona Convention COP...)

Summary table of MPA NETWORKS dissemination activities between January 2022 and June 2022

DATE OF EVENT (2022)	LOCATION (City, Country)	EVENT TITLE	ORGANISED BY	SCALE OF THE EVENT	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT
18 January	Online	Mediterranean Wetlands and MPAs Governance	MBPC-Tune UP	Regional	Exchanges on Mediterranean Wetlands and MPAs Governance experiences from TUNE UP and the MBPC – capitalizing best practices and building a stronger network
4 March	Online	experiences from TUNE UP and the MBPC – capitalizing	Strunjan NP	Regional	Presentation to EUSAIR of MPA NETWORKS project activities and results
23 March	La Rochelle	Life EU Platform	Life Marha project, the European Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Executive Agency and NEEMO EEIG	International	The goal of this gathering was to share local or national experiences regarding the implementation of strong protection zones in European Marine Protected Areas in view of fulfilling the objectives of 10% of strict protection at sea by 2030 set forth in the EU biodiversity strategy adopted by the European

					Commission in May 2020
29 March	Online	Roundtable on "National Parks in the Adriatic Ionian region as a driver of sustainable development"	EUSAIR	Regional	Debate on EU regional policies and strategies on PA
21 April	Strunjan	Slovenian Capitalisation event	Strunjan NP	National	National Capitalisation event
21 April	Cala Rajada - Mallorca	Joint commissions of marine fishing reserve	Marilles	Local	Local capitalisation of MPA NETWORKS in Spain
22 April	Andratx - Mallorca	Joint commissions of marine fishing reserve	Marilles	Local	Local capitalisation of MPA NETWORKS in Spain
22 avril	Torre del Cerrano	Project Networking: Interreg Italy-Croatia CASCADE, NET4mPLASTIC Interreg Mediterranean MPA NETWORKS, LIFE DELFI, CALLIOPE	Torre del Cerrano	Local	Exchange of lessons learned and recommendations from several projects

28 avril	Vlora, Albania & online	Local event Interreg mpa networks Albania	INCA	Local	The Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) in cooperation with RAPA Vlorë, organized an informative local meeting on the topic "MPAForum and post -2020 Roadmap for MPAs in the Mediterranean: Post-2020 challenges and solutions".
12 May	Online	European Marine cooperation in the Mediterranean region and beyond	MedPAN & Ocean Governance	International	1st event of a series of 3 on MPA networks
14 May	Online	La pesca professionale nell'AMP Portofino	Portofino MPA	Local	Web Conference focused on one of the topic of the project (small scale fishery)
15 May	Online	joint commissions of marine fishing reserves	Marilles	National	Directed to MPA Managers, discussion of the MPANetworks Policy paper
31st May - 1st June	Dubrovnik, Croatia	Transboundary governance in the South Adriatic Ionian Strait Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (SAIS-EBSA) and contiguous regions: from the identification of an area to biodiversity	MBPC	Regional	The workshop will be the first official event of the SAIS-EBSA Conservation Community (SECC).

		conservation'			
1&2 June	Zagreb, Croatia	MPA networks capitalisation Days in Croatia	Brijuni NP	Regional	National and Adriatic capitalisation event of MPA NETWORKS
3 - 4th of June	Online	Green week event	MedPAN	International	EU Green week
22 June	Port-Cros & online	Meeting of the economic, social and cultural council	Port-Cros	Local	Meeting of the economic, social and cultural council to present the main results of the MPA Networks project
23 June	Tirana, Albania & online	"Toward a sustainable marine environment"	INCA	National	A National hybrid round table meeting with the theme "Toward a sustainable marine environment" was organized in two days, combined in a national meeting held in Tirana on 23/06/2022 and a field trip organized on 25/06/2022 in the MPA of Sazan Karaburun, Vlore. This event marked in the meantime the closing of the project "MPA Networks" in Albania.
27th June - 1st July	Lisbon, Portugal	UN Ocean Governance	UN	International	UN SDG 14 conference

In addition, a Mediterranean capitalisation workshop was organized as a hybrid event where Mediterranean Marine Protected Area practitioners discussed and brought important recommendations to the attention of policy makers. Mid June in Spain, from Palma de Mallorca, to Barcelona and Roses, Marine Protected Area (MPA) practitioners and policy makers discussed the most important measures that must be put in place to empower MPA networks and their stakeholders to tackle climate change consequences and biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.

The objectives of the week's event were two-fold: ensure the technical and political uptake of the solutions identified in the MPA NETWORKS project at a Mediterranean level and discuss key recommendations for decision-makers concerned with climate change and biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.

To support MPAs in their crucial role to safeguard our marine environment, and to reach the international and regional ambitions of 30% of marine protection by 2030, efforts must be boosted on several complementary fronts. The key recommendation on Fisheries for that event was : '*As a pillar of Mediterranean culture for centuries, **small scale fishers** must participate in MPA management and be supported with adequate measures to curb illegal activities or destructive practices*'.

The road ahead

Recommendations will continue to be promoted on the topic of fisheries and the Mediterranean joint governance plan will continue to be developed through:

- The Mediterranean MPA Roadmap and Forum process, (MPA Networks Project Partners and Associated Partners are associated with this process)
- The MedPAN 2019-2023 and beyond strategy (almost all MPA Networks Project Partners and Associated Partners are members or partners of MedPAN)

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Annex 1 -

Summary table of MPA NETWORKS pilot actions

	PORT-CROS	PORTOFINO	TORRE GUACETO	TORRE DEL CERRANO	STRUNJAN	KARABURUN SAZAN
Scope and objective of the pilot action	Consultation process for the settlement of a governance body and the implementation of shared management rules in the extended marine area of the national park. Consultation involves stakeholders with a wide range of different (sometimes clearly conflicting) interests	Natural Capital assessment of the annual fishing harvest from small scale fishery and evaluation of fish fauna stock in Portofino MPA. The intrinsic value of the considered good or service (fish subtracted and stocked) was assessed as both biophysical and monetary value.	Monitoring of small-scale fisheries to support the analysis of the extension of the Torre Guaceto MPA, including the external part of the Torre Guaceto and Macchia San Giovanni SAC (IT9140005). Monitoring to assess the impact of marine mammal populations on fisheries was also conducted in this pilot activity.	Survey of the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the fish catches and survey of water quality parameters of interest to the fish fauna were conducted to encourage fishers shifting towards sustainable activities regarding the use of marine resources by improving the balance between the fishing fleet and the resources available while preserving jobs with coastal communities	Improvement in the management of professional fisheries and increase of surveillance through the adoption of an Agreement between the management body of the Landscape Park Strunjan and small-scale fishers. The pilot action tested the involvement of fishers in responsible co-management and set additional rules for the implementation of small-scale fisheries.	Cooperation between MPA managers and small-scale fishers on monitoring activities for improving the management of sustainable small-scale and recreational fisheries in Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park.
Methodologies	Continuation of work from previous projects (Natura 2000 in the marine environment since 2005, co-building the national park's charter from 2012 to 2015, MPA Adapt in	FishMPABlue2 standardised protocols and results of the GIREPAM project (as a consequence of the EAMPA project).	FishMPABlue2 standardised photo-sampling methodology to collect data.	Methodologies and tools from the former project ECOSEE/A "Guardians of the Sea" (2014-2015)	Tools and methodologies from former MedPAN Small Projects on Fisheries / FishMPABlue2 pilot action in Strunjan LP Governance Toolkit - SPAMI twinning	FishMPABlue2 standardised methodologies and tools.

	2016, LIFE Marha in 2018)				programme, PHAROS4MPAS recommendations – MedMPAnet	
Enabling conditions	Before starting any consultation process, it is essential to know the invited stakeholders and to take into account their first impressions (both good and bad), and therefore, where necessary, to conduct preliminary bilateral interviews for future discussions.	It is critical that the MPA has enough staff time and that staff is available and is sensitised with the methodology to implement the assessment.	The engagement of fishers in the monitoring protocol guarantees on the one hand their active involvement in the management of the MPA, on the other hand the creation of a relationship of collaboration and trust, useful for identifying the most effective regulation with a participatory approach.	Trust relationship is a critical success factor for fisheries related activities.	Good communication and trust with fishers are essential. Cultivating relationships with local fishers carefully and consistently is needed and requires appropriate staff with good communication skills to organise meetings, collect, manage and process data. Fishers are a rather difficult target group that needs to be constantly involved in regular face-to-face meetings and informed individually in person or by phone about the current situation. In particular, continuous effort is needed to repeatedly explain the rights and obligations assumed by signing the Agreement.	Ensuring the cooperation of fishers requires building trust, being with them on their boat, spending time with them and sharing some fishing experience. Where possible, always identify and work closely with a local champion to ensure good involvement of local fishers.
	Some requirements for any consultation project with local stakeholders: - Talk to key stakeholders and targets about the	A good collaboration and at least open dialogue with the local community , especially the fishing sector, is critical to collect data and	Staff training in the implementation of monitoring protocols ensures the continuity of the action over time.	The ad hoc sampling has to be configured as an activity other than usual fishing and adopted as a system practice for monitoring fishing activities. This	The field protocols must be provided to fishers in advance , at least one week before the starting of the fishing season. It is best to hand over the	Always be open to local stakeholders and do not make promises you cannot keep. Avoid talking about illegalities and be prepared to simply

	<p>project before the kick-off meeting and keep track of the issues raised for inclusion in the agenda of consultation meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather and synthesize all data and knowledge of the territory. - Gather all data and knowledge gained from past collaborations with these stakeholders. - Aim for transparency and indicate the goals of the project clearly and honestly. - Give time to the process and between meetings (one person dedicated to this task). - Share documents before the dialogue working groups so that the stakeholders can feel as prepared as the project leader during the meetings. - Small group or individual meetings are more effective for hearing everyone, not just a vocal minority (use interactive tools such as quizzes to reach all participants). 	<p>information on fishers activity and possible impact on MPA habitats, as well as to define common strategies to achieve co-management goals. A genuine engagement of the local community and stakeholders, professional and recreational fishers, divers, boaters, etc.) is essential to build a common vision regarding socio economic growth and nature conservation and to jointly manage the territory. Good communication skills for the MPA staff working with the fishers are fundamental.</p>		<p>approach would make it possible to increase the available database and to set up a more in-depth analysis work which should in any case be integrated with a more ecologically complete evaluation of the MPA.</p>	<p>protocol in person and explain again each time how to compile the field data. The protocol used proved to be suitable both for collecting quality data and not demanding in terms of compliance.</p>	<p>explain the legal provisions in a language they understand. It is important to keep local fishers involved in your project activities. However, it is more important to help them understand that what they are doing is useful and serves to ensure sustainable use of resources and preservation of natural values.</p>
		<p>A partnership with a research organisation skilled in NC is a must. The support of researchers and students can definitively increase the opportunity to collect data from fishing activity, it is necessary to be in contact with research teams specialised in the study of Natural Capital, with track-record in this field.</p>	<p>The creation by the MPA staff of the webapp for recording and managing fishing effort monitoring data ensures an effective management of the data and their conservation over time, as well as interoperability with geographic information systems.</p>		<p>Controlling compliance with the rules in the early stages of fisheries management is recommended.</p>	<p>The use of the Management Committee (MC) for protected areas (a formal governance structure) as a forum to showcase, discuss and debate the project results is an important tool to guarantee local buy-in and greater support for project activities. It is also important in terms of communication and</p>
	<p>A new regulation must be understood</p>		<p>In addition to the regulatory measures of</p>		<p>Maximising the presence of MPA</p>	

	<p>to be accepted. For this, provide all the keys and information to the target groups so that they understand, discuss and accept the process. If the goal is to include them in the decision-making process, their choice must be respected.</p>	<p>MPA staff generally lack the knowledge and time to conduct such a natural capital analysis, so the role of the MPA staff is mainly to provide the data to researchers, and to use, to translate the results obtained from the assessment and share them with the stakeholders. In this regard, good science communication is very important.</p>	<p>fishing effort (type and size of nets, frequency, etc ...), it is necessary to plan temporary closure measures, providing support measures for fishermen adhering to the protocol.</p>		<p>staff in the field and collecting field protocols as soon as the fishing season ends gives fishers the perception that they are actually doing something important.</p>	<p>outreach as the MC meetings have high visibility.</p>
	<p>Need to better understand recreational fishing practices and their impact and to include them under the objective of more respectful fisheries for marine ecosystems.</p>				<p>A good knowledge about the activities going on in the MPA is an important factor that enables a timely action of the manager of the MPA. The activity of the cartographic inventory of infringements at sea was a useful tool that allowed the identification of the typology of the most common violations and their timing. The collected data enable the manager to look for organisational solutions to rationalise the time of rangers in the field and focus on the main problems. It is recommended to record the violations of the protection regimes observed in the field by rangers in order to have a better picture</p>	<p>Public awareness campaigns have helped to improve general support for the MPA.</p>
	<p>Importance of collaborative tools (platform or other) to involve fishermen (including recreational) and other stakeholders in the decision-making process (cf: MPA adapt and LIFE Marha)</p>					
	<p>Importance of capitalising on previous experiences and collaborative work with stakeholders to ensure their commitment over time.</p>					

					<p>on the observance of the protection regimes. It is recommended to record infringements during the busiest months, marked by the highest number of visitors. A good practice is to repeat such exercise for some years in order to get a more complete picture. Recording of the infringements as a part of long-time monitoring can reveal the effectiveness of the compliance with the rules.</p>	
<p>Difficulties / limitations</p>	<p>Difficulty to convince stakeholders of the need to protect marine ecosystems (lack of long-term studies providing solid scientific evidence, distrust of methodologies and observations used). A step should be taken towards decision-making in an uncertain environment.</p>	<p>Substantial staff effort is required. To tackle this limitation, indirect monitoring activity taking data from fishermen logbooks could be carried out every year, while the landings monitoring and some experimental fishing trips could be realised every two years. In addition, the support of students and researchers of the University could also increase the opportunity and workforce to collect data from fishing activity in the future</p>	<p>Effective enforcement is a condition for the recovery of fisheries target species in MPAs.</p>	<p>A critical challenge is to improve the relationship between the managing body of MPA and fishers in view of a collaboration based on mutual trust. An example is represented by the initial difficulty found in finding fishers willing to collaborate in the sampling envisaged by this study. After four meetings and the pilot study results, fishers are aware that all the efforts are carried out to strengthen fishing sustainability which is not in contrast with</p>	<p>General patrolling of protection regimes turned out to be ineffective due to lack of staff and time, and more focused monitoring of the main infringements was needed. The surveillance activities have to be done consistently at least during the summer months. Recording the infringements is a useful tool for the identification of the areas that are the most burdened in terms of violations of the protection regime and which are the most</p>	<p>Main difficulty encountered in implementing this action plan was to ensure the participation of local institutions in the various meetings and workshops organised by the project (e.g. Fishing Inspectorate and Coast Guard representatives).</p>

		keeping in mind that they need to be introduced to the fishermen and “trained” to work in real conditions with socio-economic professionals. The human factor is again very important.		fishing economical return for their small community. But mutual trust is a daily effort maintained by cooperative actions and management exerted by all the stakeholders and operators.	frequently recorded violations.	
	<p>Inefficiency of online meetings with certain categories of stakeholders. Online meetings are appropriate for large assemblies with visual presentations and Q&As. However, face-to-face meetings should be preferred for direct interaction and debate.</p>	<p>Big challenge is to make the monitoring of small-scale fisheries sustainable over time (replicable and uninterrupted), making fishers aware regarding the importance of data collection, and also engaging them in decision-making processes. To solve the difficulty of data collection, log-books or other similar tools could be useful to collect information. A valid support could be represented by the technology application and a trained fisherman, that helps to collect data without MPA staff to reach in person the landing place. The team of researchers specialised in Natural Capital analysis has to be experienced with</p>	<p>Bureaucratic procedures for the extension of MPA require constant administrative activity to overcome the different steps required by the law.</p>	<p>Unsuitability of the catch forms delivered by the fishers to request for fishing authorization for the new year, to provide useful information on the quantities of fish. It is suggested to introduce the use of online forms such as the one proposed in this project (http://urdis.unicam.it/wp3medpan/survey), which allow easy real-time monitoring of fishing activities, both for artisanal fishing and for sport/recreational fishing. The awareness of fishers about the key-function of monitoring through catch forms (properly filled) should be increased. In this framework, easy-to-be-filled (even anonymously) online forms could help a</p>	<p>Expanding the boundaries of the park at sea, although only a few 100 metres, poses a major challenge for the protected area. A large number of stakeholders need to be involved in discussions and procedures for obtaining consents for the expansion of the area. The biggest challenge in the next steps will be obtaining the consent of fishers, especially recreational fishers, who are currently fishing in the reef area. The second most demanding group of stakeholders will be visitors, anchoring very close to the coast and thus causing physical damage to the seabed.</p>	<p>Limited capacities and competences of MPA managers hinder efficient patrolling and law enforcement efforts. Conflicting and/or not clear competences hamper cooperation with other institutions.</p>

		tangible track-record work with MPAs.		more accurate monitoring.		
	Meetings should not be held during the high fishing season or in the afternoon in order to avoid inequalities and tensions between stakeholders.		Small-scale fisheries monitoring activities require regular funding , in order to constantly monitor the level of effort and to define and implement the necessary management measures.	Monitoring of sport/recreational fishing is challenging.		COVID 19 pandemic restrictions have made it difficult to set up face-to-face meetings. Given the local reality and the situation of fishers, working/meeting online is often not an appropriate solution.

