



Slovenian  
Presidency  
20-21

# 6<sup>th</sup> Forum

of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**Along the coasts of the shared sea**  
Izola, 11-12 May 2021



## EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030: new commitments for marine protected areas and marine restoration

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# EU State of Nature - marine environment

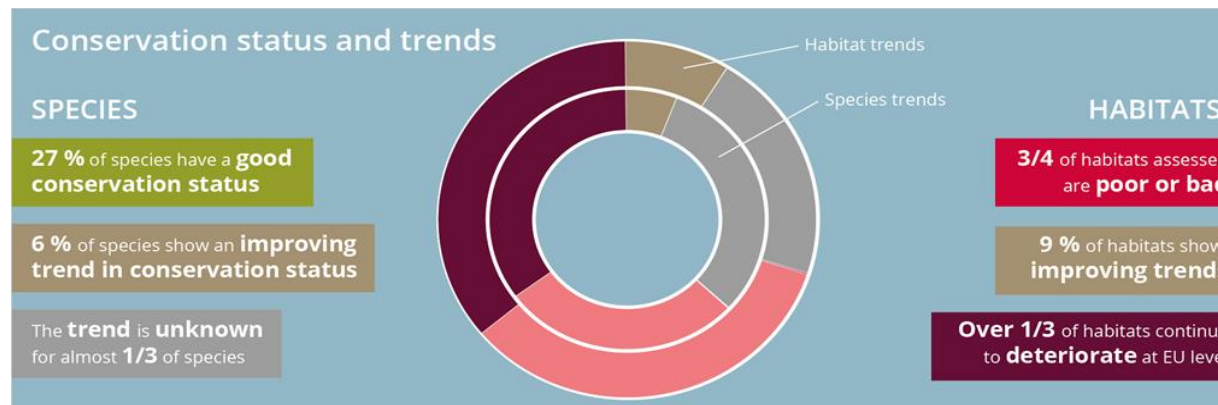
**“81% of habitats and 63% of species have a poor or bad conservation status in Europe.”**

EEA Report | No 10/2020

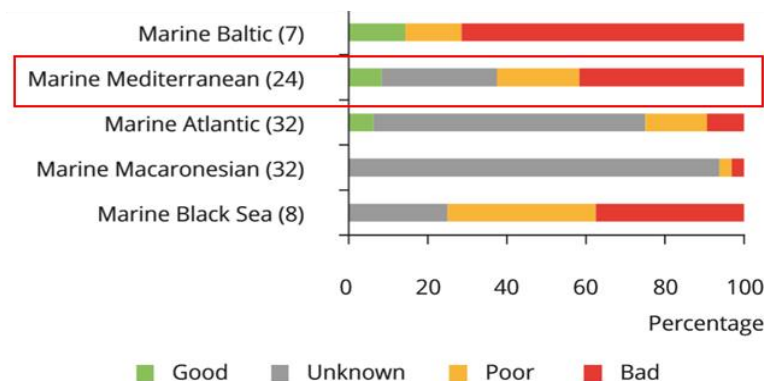
State of nature in the EU  
Results from reporting under the nature directives 2013-2018



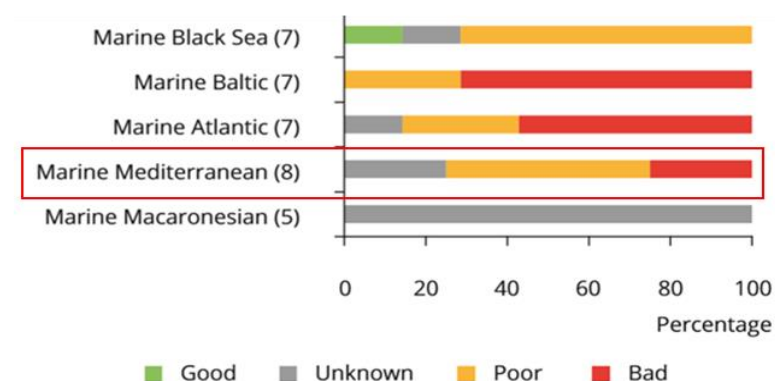
European Environment Agency



## • Conservation status of marine species



## • Conservation status of marine habitats





# EU Biodiversity strategy 2030



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative  
Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious  
Global Agenda



# Biodiversity Strategy 2030: Protect nature

## 1. **Legally protect 30%** of the European Union's sea area by 2030

*Coherent trans-European nature network: Natura 2000 + national MPAs*

## 2. **Strictly protect at least a third** of the EU's marine protected areas

*Areas of very high biodiversity value, important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster prevention and fish nursery and spawning areas*

## 3. **Effectively manage** all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately

## STATE OF PLAY WITH MPAs IN THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN

**Table 3.7** EU 27 Marine Protected Area (MPA) percentage, surface area coverage and the contribution of relative network percentage cover and percentage overlap in MPA assessment area regions/sub-regions.

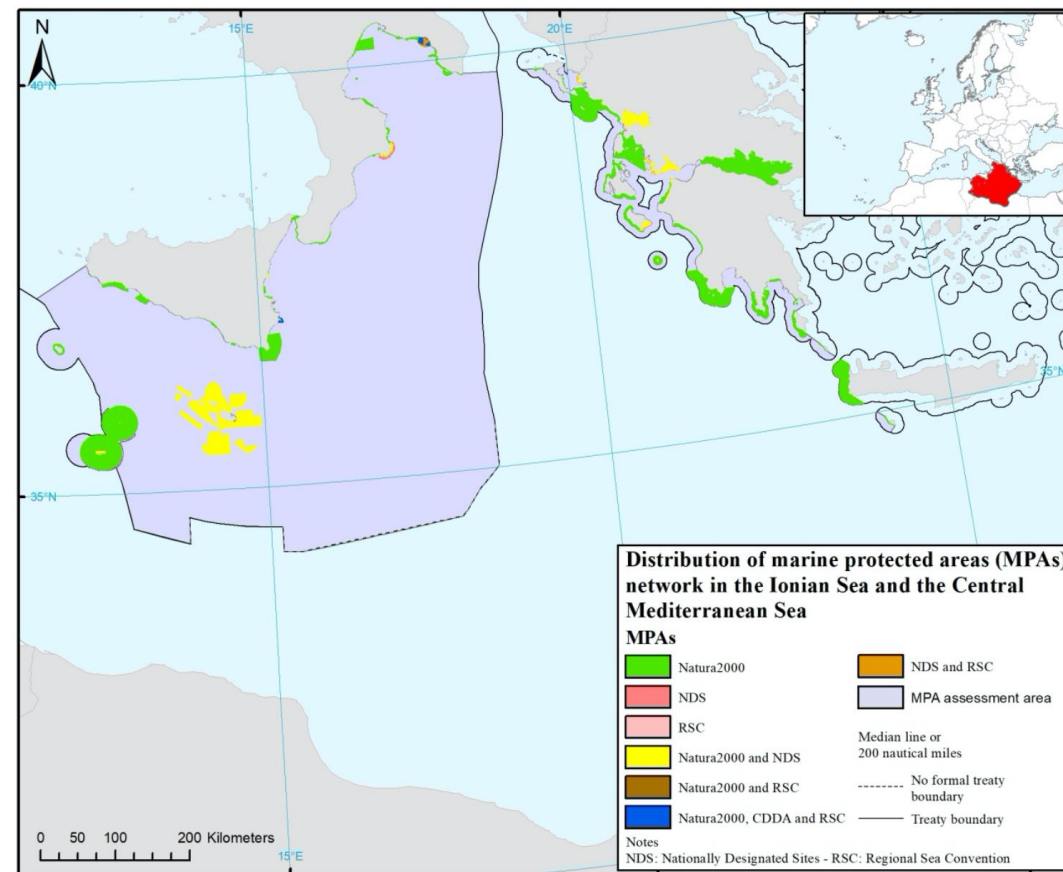
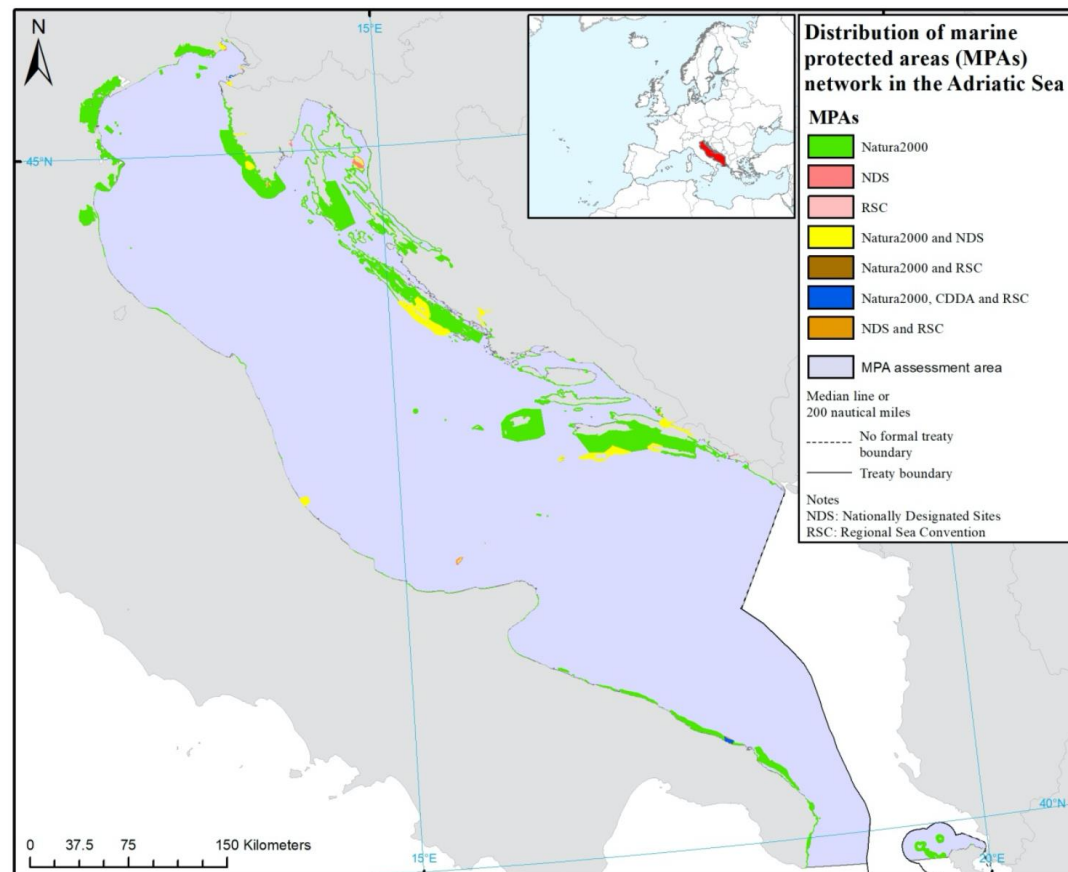
Key: N2K: Natura 2000; CDDA: Common Database on Designated Areas; RSC: Regional Seas Conventions

MPA assessment area regions and sub-regions	% surface area cover all MPAs	% N2K contribution	% CDDA contribution	% RSC contribution	% shared network contribution
Baltic Sea	16.8	21.0	3.6	3.0	72.4
North East Atlantic Ocean	9.0	53.2	10.4	0.1	36.3
Celtic Sea	8.1	76.3	0.0	0.0	23.6
Greater North Sea incl. Kattegat & English Channel	28.2	14.2	3.9	0.3	81.7
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	16.5	68.0	0.2	0.1	31.7
Macaronesia	3.6	47.2	42.7	0.0	10.0
<b>Mediterranean Sea</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>42.7</b>
Western Mediterranean Sea	27.4	20.2	1.2	29.0	49.6
Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean Sea	7.7	72.3	0.9	0.0	26.8
Adriatic Sea	5.8	89.4	0.9	0.0	9.7
Aegean-Levantine Sea	11.5	89.6	0.6	NA	9.8
<b>Black Sea</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>41.9</b>

- **Low coverage by MPAs (only 6-8%)**
- Largest contribution by Natura 2000 sites (70-90%)
- **Need to expand 4-5x to reach the goal**
- Strictly protected areas almost **do not exist** -big efforts needed!
- Big opportunities to protect carbon sinks (*Posidonia* meadows, coastal lagoons, shelf sediments) or fish stock recovery areas (Pomo pit)

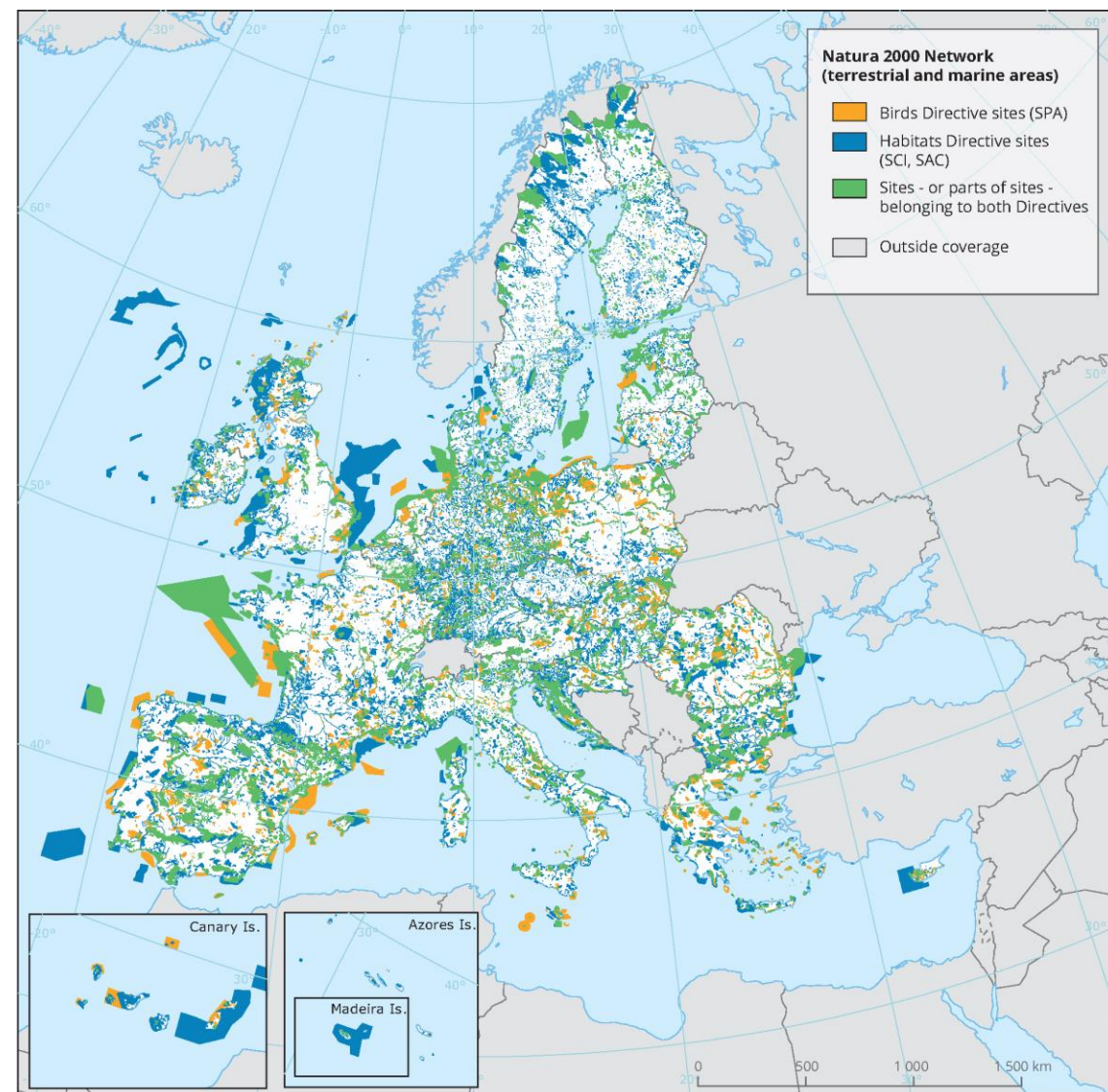


## STATE OF PLAY WITH MPAs IN THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN



## MARINE NATURA 2000 NETWORK OF MPAs

- Established under EU Birds and Habitats Directives
- More than **3000** marine sites (out of >27000)
- Covers **9% of EU seas** (>440000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Network is not complete in the offshore area and big differences across regional seas
- **Collective EU effort**: the area under marine Natura 2000 doubled in the last 5 years!
- Marine Natura 2000 is **the main driver of MPA designation in the EU** and our main contribution to reaching international targets ('Aichi Target 11' and SDG 14)



# Effective management of MPAs

- We are **not interested in “paper parks”**, they don’t protect biodiversity and don’t bring socio-economic benefits
- **Legal obligations** for Natura 2000 sites – many MPAs **still lack the necessary conservation objectives and measures**
- Developing and testing an **EU system to assess the management effectiveness** of marine Natura 2000 sites and other EU MPAs (2021-2022)
- Stepping up **enforcement of EU law and support (EU funds)**



# Biodiversity Strategy 2030: Restore nature

EU Restoration Plan with commitments by 2030:

- **Legally binding restoration targets (proposal in 2021)**
- **Action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems in 2021**
- **Bycatch of species threatened with extinction or in bad conservation status must be eliminated or reduced to a level that allows full recovery. Bycatch of other species must be eliminated or minimized and data collection improved.**

# Biodiversity Strategy 2030: Restore nature

## EU Restoration Plan with commitments by 2030:

- **Fisheries management measures must be established in all marine protected areas.**
- **Measures to limit the use of fishing gear most harmful to biodiversity:** reconcile the use of bottom-contacting fishing gear with biodiversity goals, in a fair and just way.
- **Connected to Zero pollution action plan, Farm to Fork Strategy, etc...**

## Way forward

- EU Member States have endorsed the EU Biodiversity strategy and its targets.
- Commission has proposed criteria and guidelines for identification and designation of additional protected areas-to be agreed with MS in 2021.
- **Time to get to work!** Pledges for new MPA designations will be peer-reviewed in each marine biogeographical region from 2022.
- The Commission will evaluate the progress by 2024 and decide whether stronger action, including EU legislation, is needed.



## Way forward

- Need a **coherent approach across Member States** and with other countries in the sea basin – **the role of EUSAIR**.
- Need the **scientific input** to identify additional areas (carbon rich habitats, fish spawning and nursery areas).
- Need for **close cooperation across all policies and sectors**. Important benefits for the **climate and blue economy** (fisheries, tourism).
- Targets to be reflected in **maritime spatial plans**.
- **EU funding** opportunities (Horizon Europe, LIFE, EMFAF, Interreg,...)



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