

Workshop on the Preparation of the Action Plan for Biodiversity and marine protection with special reference to the establishment of marine protected areas in the part of the Adriatic Sea belonging to BIH

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MAIN CHALLENGES EU/World

- Biodiversity loss: key threats for humanity
- Almost **half of global GDP** is linked to nature
- **Connections** between biodiversity loss, climate change and pandemics
- **Restoring biodiversity** core part of recovery
- NATURA 2000: protect 30% of land and in particular **the sea**

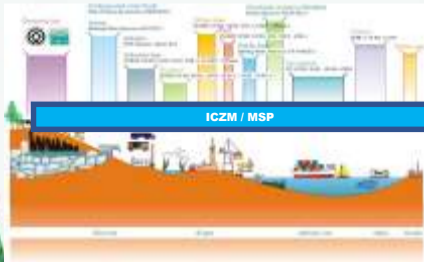


EU Biodiversity Strategy by 2030:

- at least 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's marine area should be **protected**;
- at least one third of protected areas - that is 10% of the EU's land area and 10% of the EU's marine area - should be **strictly protected**;
- **provisions on effective management and restoration.**

MAIN CHALLENGES EU/World

EU Directive on MSP, July 2014: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.257.01.0135.01.ENG



Healthy
Coastal
Marine and
River
Environment

Blue Corridors in EU Sustainable blue economy, **Council decision May 2021** - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:240:FIN>

GREEN AND BLUE CORRIDORS IN MSP

Green and Blue Corridors are environmental spatial links of Green Infrastructure areas that maintain or improve biodiversity and/or the **supply of ecosystem services**.

Features of Green and Blue Corridors:

- Their basic feature is **connectivity**.
- Green and Blue Corridors make part of the **green infrastructure network**.
- **Safety and security regarding climate changes and environmental degradation**

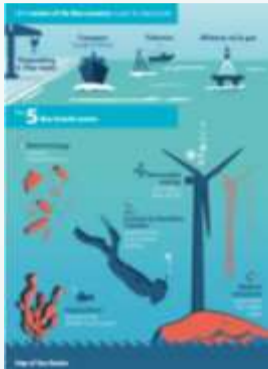
They are recognised on all three levels: micro, mezzo, macro.



Priorities of 7th TSG3 EUSAIR Pillar Session

European Integration and Green Agenda:

- supporting regional cooperation and network to promote Western Balkan counties on the pathway to EU integration
- **recognising Blue Growth, Green Agenda for WB and European Green Deal** as innovative instruments towards modern, climate neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economies
- Promotion of **innovative maritime and marine growth in AI region.**



Biodiversity/Marine Protected Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

TSG3 Pillar Session
17. May 2022, 7th EUSAIR Forum

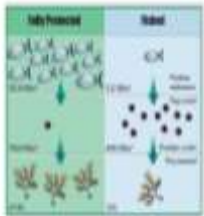
Panellists:

- **Andrej Sovinc**, *Analysis of Marine (water) Protected Areas in EUSAIR and Proposals for Corrective Measures*
- **Mitja Grbec**, *Analysis of legal basis for the Establishment and Further Development of Marine Protected Areas in EUSAIR with Particular Emphasis on Transboundary Marine Protected Areas*
- **Vassiliki Vassilopoulou**, *Designation of representative interconnected climate resilient MPA networks and establishment of transboundary integrated MSP: a review of key points towards delivery of the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy*
 - **Davor Percan**, Regional and Bilateral Environmental Cooperation, DG ENV, *Toward a future global biodiversity framework and its significance for the Adriatic and Ionian Region*
 - **Stavros Antoniadis**, UNEP/MAP (Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan United Nations Environment Programme, Barcelona Convention Secretariat)

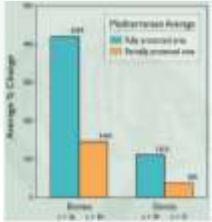




Growth of production from 1990 to the 2010s. Source: FAO, *World Fish Production*, 2010.



Effect of fish production areas on our health areas in the New Zealand 2010. Source: FAO, 2010.



The effects of NPA on marine species (Lorenzen et al. 2013, PLOS)

The Adriatic-Ionian region has the lowest proportion of protected seas of all regional seas in the Mediterranean region !

- only 3,57% „protected“ (EU 2030 target: 30 %)
- only 0,07% „strict protection“ (EU target: 10%)



Potential areas for future protected areas:



-  Not conflicting with fishing
-  Some conflicts with fishing
-  Intensive fisheries

Map of the most valuable biodiversity areas (left) and map of intensity of fishing activities (yellow: low intensity fishing, red: high intensity fishing areas – right map)

Possible next steps from the biodiversity conservation perspective:

At the local/national level:

MPAs should be:

- more
- more „no-take“ areas
- expanded
- inter-connected
- complemented (Natura, OECMs)

At the transboundary level:

- Transboundary cooperation
- Ecological function of the EEZ



At the EUSAIR level:

- Technical and Advisory Panel
- Permanent body for Marine protected areas within the EUSAIR



Possible next steps from the legal perspective:

- Extension of existing networks (*national MPAs, NATURA 2000 & EMERALD networks*)
- Establishment of one or more (transboundary) SPAMIs
- Proposals for sectoral OECMs (*including PSSA and FRAs*)
- Possible combination of different legal basis and instruments (*i.e., Strait of Bonifacio case / MPAs&EGTCs, SPAMI, PSSA*),
- and effective transboundary management (*i.e. EGTC*)

Next steps: WE HAVE TO ACT!



KEY OUTCOMES OF THE TSG3 PILLAR SESSION

- 1. Identification of potential areas for future protection in the region and by countries** (MPAs, Natura/EMERALD, OECMs...) and plans for improvement of transboundary management effectiveness of existing MPAs.
- 2. Proposal for establishment of the Action plan at TSG3 level with clear objectives in supporting identification and designation of MPAs**, capacity development and networking.
- 3. Reinforcement of existing national activities** of partners/countries in combination with new **transnational/macroregional approaches** (blue and green) corridors, ecosystem services, charismatic species, interaction with other sectors, climate change process, new partnerships, innovative activities/tools.
- 4. Extension of existing networks** (national MPAs, NATURA 2000 & EMERALD networks) & transboundary management (i.e. EGTC) with possible **combination of different legal basis and instruments** (i.e., Strait of Bonifacio case / MPAs/NATURA 2000 & EGTCs, SPAMI, PSSA).
- 5. To achieve long-term conservation goals and at the same time establishing a legal instrument for transboundary MSP** in a coherent manner to ensure ecosystem-based management aiming at both biodiversity protection and sustainable economic development.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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