

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

Steps towards the Action Plan

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KEY EU COMMITMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NATURE PROTECTION

2030 EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY (COM 2020/380/final)

- 1. Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land and 30% of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of the true Trans-European Nature Network.**
- 2. Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old growth forest.**
- 3. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.**

How to achieve the stated goals in the AI region? Need for an Action Plan?



KEY OUTCOMES OF THE TSG3 PILLAR SESSION

1. **Identification of potential areas for future protection in the region and by countries** (MPAs, Natura/EMERALD, OECSs...) 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.



CONCEPT OF THE ACTION PLAN

1.ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE MPAs AND NETWORKS OF MPAS (AND OECMS) WITHIN EUSAIR MEMBER STATES, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE UPGRADING AND/OR EXPANSION

- A. Review of legal bases for the establishment of MPAs and OECMs in individual AI States, including a general overview of existing MPAs in each AI country.**
- B.Possible expansions or designation of new MPAs under national law in AI States.**
- C.C. Additional possible forms of protection in accordance with EU law (NATURA, MSP Directive, European Common Fisheries Policy)**
- D) Additional possible forms of protection in accordance with international conventions ratified by each country (e.g. Bern Convention, Barcelona Convention with protocols..).**



2. POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF AVAILABLE LEGAL BASES IN IDENTIFIED MARINE AREAS (EBSS, SPAMIs, ACCOBAMS..)

A.To additionally document and analyze the legal status of all identified marine areas where it would be advisable to establish a form of cross-border protection.

B. Identification of necessary steps in the form of a manual for designating legal protection based on individual (cross-border) legal grounds (SPAMI, Accobams, PSSA..).

C. To identify steps or propose forms of management and control, within designated forms of cross-border cooperation.



CONCEPT OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Analysis and Action Plan refers to the entire EUSAIR area with an emphasis on 4 important cross border areas:

- Gulf of Trieste (Northern Adriatic)
- Jabuka/Pomo Pit (Central Adriatic)
- Otranto channel (Southern Adriatic and Ionian Sea)
- Klek/Neum Bay



THE ADRIATIC (STATUS QUO)

The Adriatic Sea is a semi-closed basin extending from the northern continental shelf with an average depth of 35m for the southern Adriatic Pit (about 1300 m depth) and connected to the Ionian Sea through the Otranto Strait.

The Adriatic Sea plays an important role also for the large-scale dynamics of the Eastern Mediterranean, facilitating the formation of the dense water, which is the dominant component of the Eastern Mediterranean deep water.

The Adriatic Sea is characterised by a low coverage of MPAs (about 5%) and an inadequate representativity of the MPAs, mostly due to the low coverage in the Middle and South Adriatic sub-regions, whereas the North Adriatic has a MPA coverage of approximately 10%.

Overall, there is a decreasing trend in protection initiatives, from the shelf to offshore waters, indicating that the efforts of all the countries are towards shallow waters. Indeed, the MPAs coverage is higher in the infralittoral zone (about 13%), whereas low protection has been recorded in the circalittoral (about 6 %) and no protection at all for the marine space in the bathyal zone (0.01%).



PROJECTS AND SCIENTIFIC PROPOSALS FOR MPA NETWORK IN THE AI REGION

- **Cohenet” project (2020)** *made a preliminary assessment of coherence of the current MPAs as possible nodes of a network focused on the Adriatic Sea.*

How to evaluate the candidate areas within an integrated planning and taking in account the priorities for advancing the Adriatic MPA network is the central issue. An effort to produce the spatial analysis of the existing data on key habitats and species in the Adriatic was performed in the COHENET EU Project

- **Study on Proposals for New Marine Protected Areas in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro (2021)**

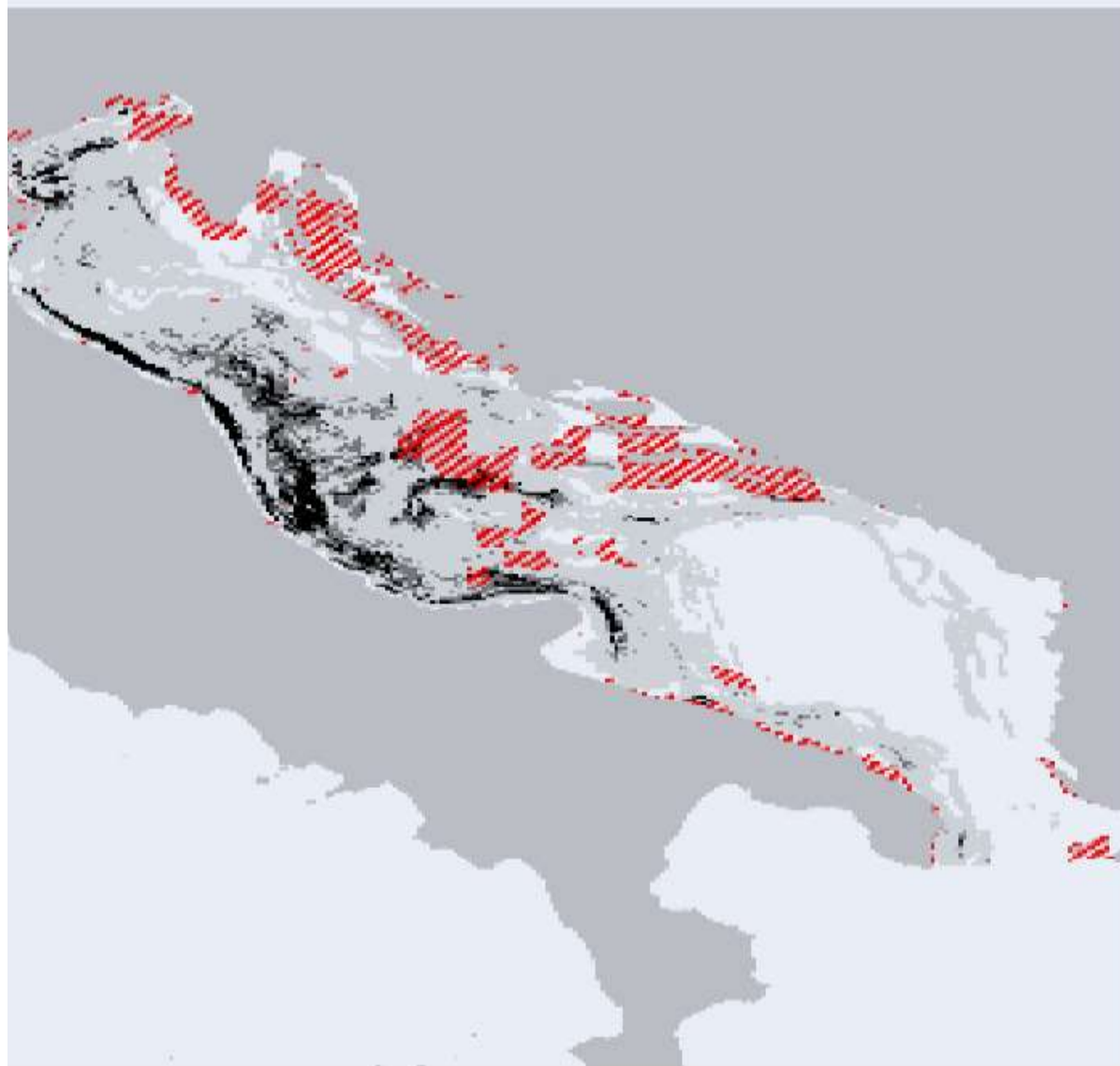
- **The Coherence of the European Union Marine Natura 2000 Network for Wide-Ranging Charismatic Species: A Mediterranean Case Study (2018)**

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FIGURE 39

Proposed MPA network in the Adriatic



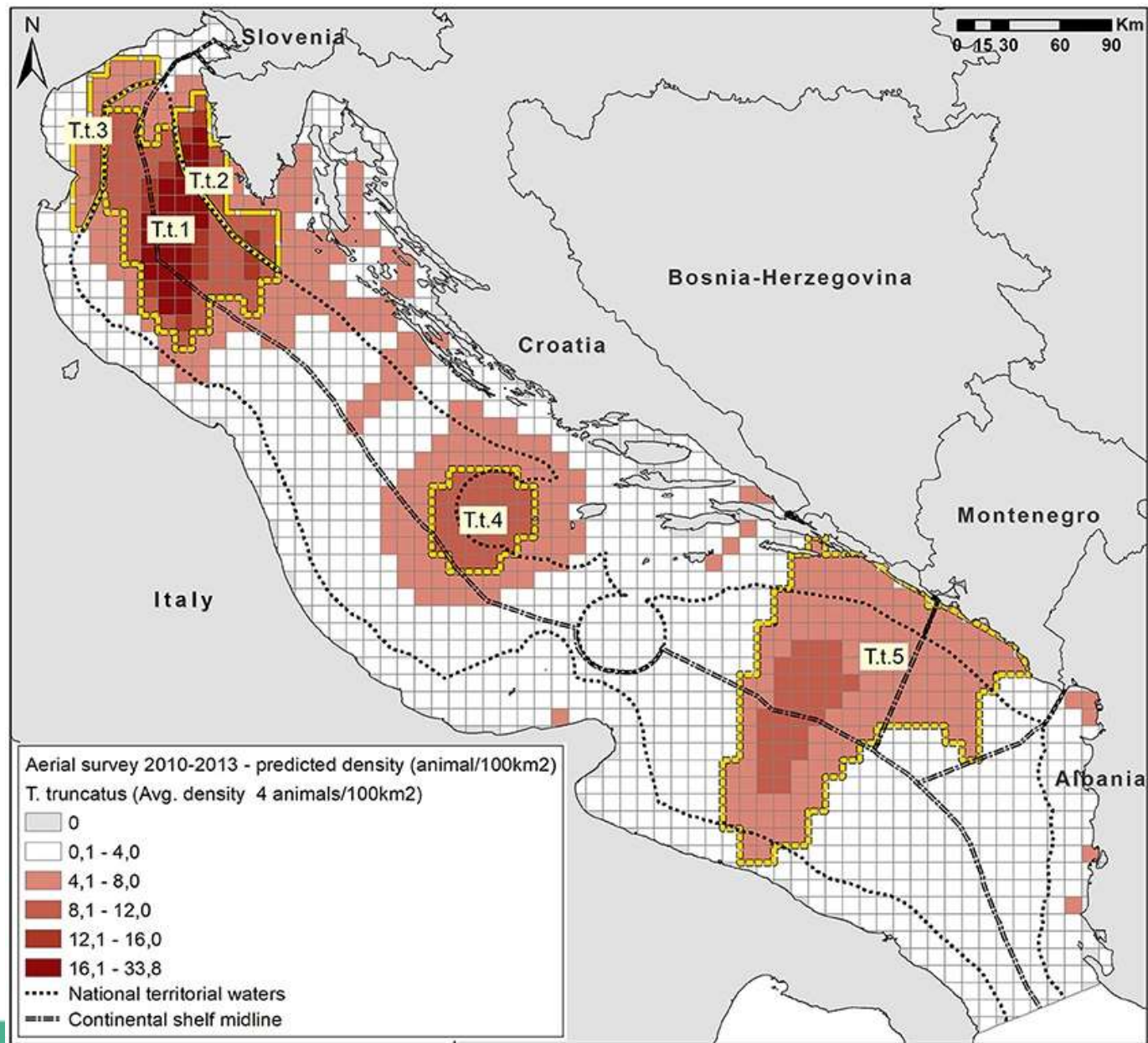


FIGURE 9

COHENET proposed network of MPAs in the Adriati, including the proposed MPAs in this report in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, and Montenegro.

