

Protecting of the Marine Environment through the Legal Framework and Accelerating Actions (tbc)



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Region of Epirus

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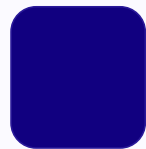
Bridging Horizons: Strengthening Cooperation,
Resilience and Cohesion in the Adriatic-Ionian Region

Introduction

Epirus Region's Commitment to Marine Protection

Representing the Region of Epirus at the
10th EUSAIR Forum

As Vice Governor for the Environment, my mandate
is clear: Protect our marine Environment.



Environmental Impact Assessments

We provide expert advisory competence



Strategic Focus

Large-scale projects (A1 & A2) in coastal zones



The Environmental Committee's Role

The Environmental Committee shapes Epirus's future. It offers environmental oversight for sustainable development.

It plays a vital role in permitting.

The Committee reviews Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports. These reports detail public/private project impacts. The committee then gives formal opinions.



Core Responsibilities

Functions of the Committee

Evaluating the compatibility of proposed activities with marine protection goals

Ensuring compliance with national and EU environmental legislation

Promoting sustainable development and balanced use of marine resources



Legal Framework

National laws are vital for implementing international agreements. They address local challenges. Our responsibilities derive from:

Law 4014/2011 (on environmental permitting procedures in Greece)

Ministerial Decision 37674/2016 (categorization of projects into A1 and A2)

EU Directives and regional/national spatial planning strategies



Types of Projects Reviewed

Scope of Environmental Assessments

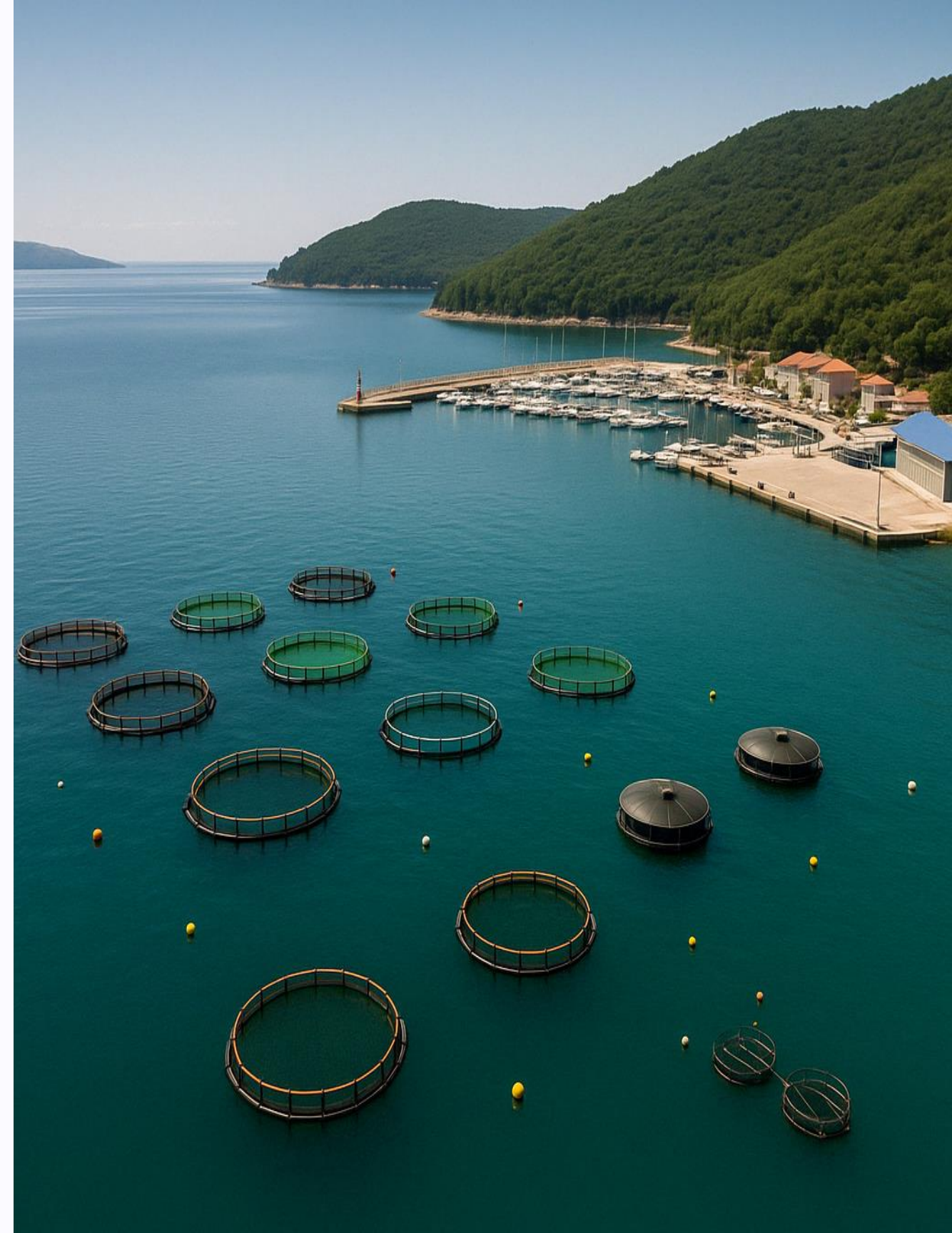
Typical projects under our review include :

- Mussel and fish farming units

- Fishing and touristic ports

- Coastal infrastructure

- Floating structures and offshore activities



Regional Impact

Why This Matters for Epirus

The Region of Epirus has:

1

A rich marine ecosystem, including the Ionian Sea coastline

2

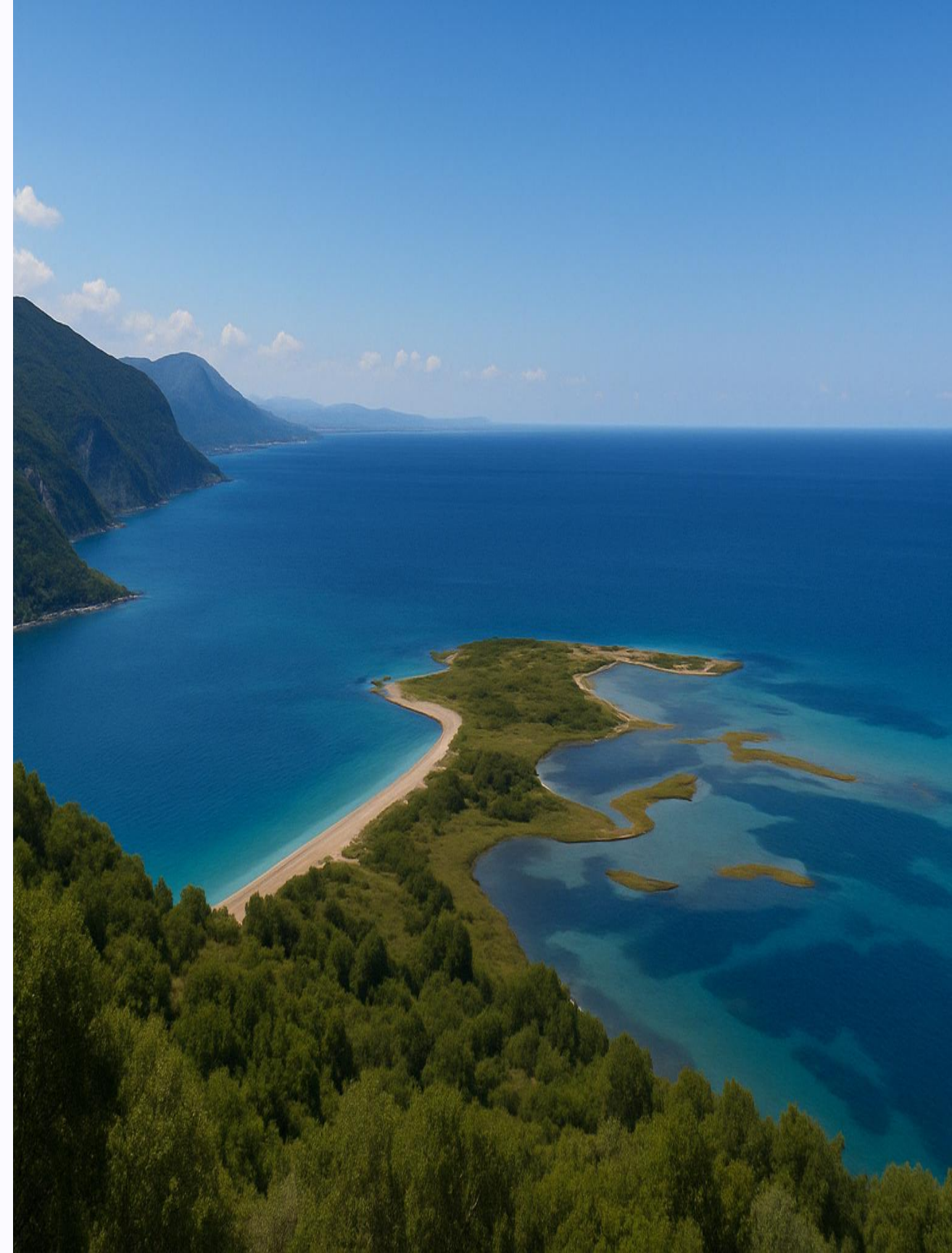
Lagoons,

3

Deltas

4



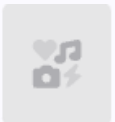
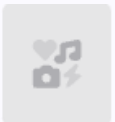

Marine protected areas



Approach to Evaluation

How We Evaluate Projects

Each project is assessed on :

-  Site suitability
-  Compliance with legislation
-  Impact on biodiversity and habitats
-  Public consultation outcomes
-  Sustainability of supporting infrastructure



Overview of Case Studies

Five representative case studies that reflect the Committee's contribution in balancing environmental protection and regional development across the Region of Epirus



Case Study 1 – Fishing Shelter of Mytikas, Preveza

1

A small-scale infrastructure aimed at supporting local fishing communities.

2

The Environmental Committee issued a positive opinion, acknowledging the project's low environmental impact and support for traditional livelihoods.



Case Study 2 – Touristic Marina of Igoumenitsa

1

A major infrastructure project involving 340 berths, breakwaters, floating piers and land installations.

2

The Committee approved the design, safeguards and location, highlighting its tourism and job creation potential.



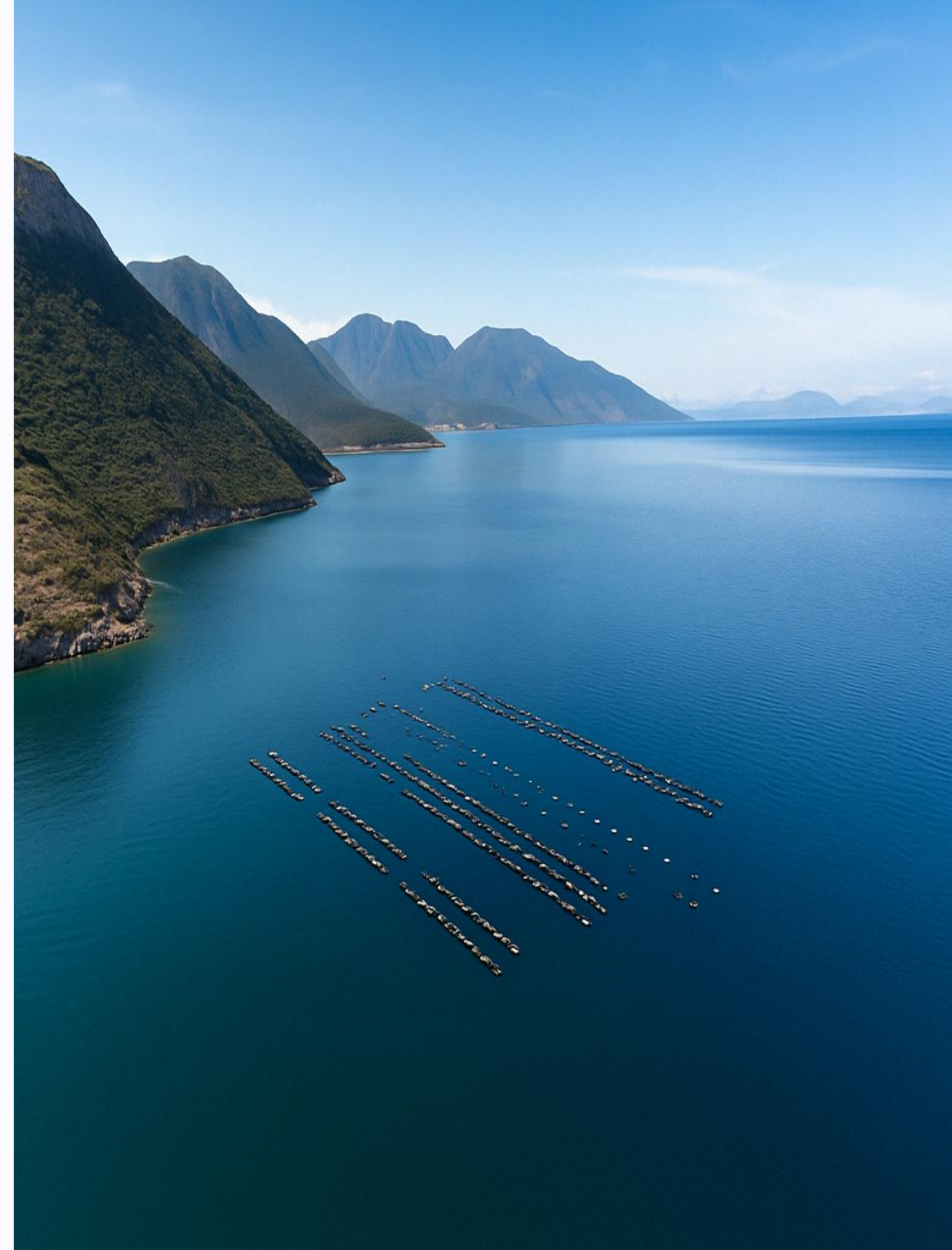
Case Study 3 – Mussel farming Relocation in Kouramos bay, Sagiada

1

An aquaculture activity with a capacity of 160 tons/year.

2

The relocation improved water quality and distanced operations from sensitive ecosystems, using an eco-friendly long-line method.



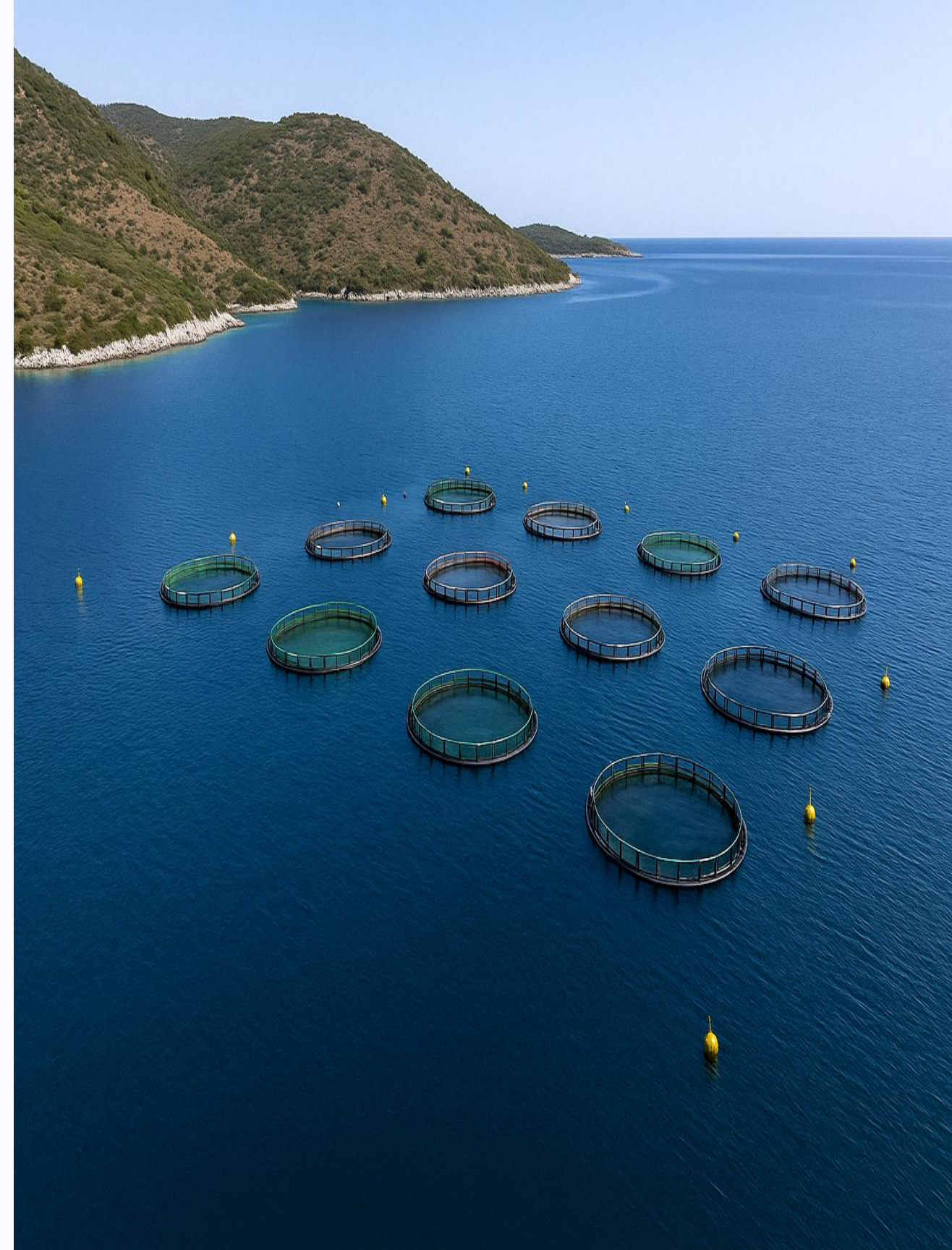
Case Study 4 – Marine Farming Unit in “Hasomeri”, Sagiada

1

This involved a restructuring and spatial reallocation of a fish farming unit (143.75 tons/year).

2

The Committee prioritized site optimization, sustainable design and reviewed facilities under strict environmental standards.



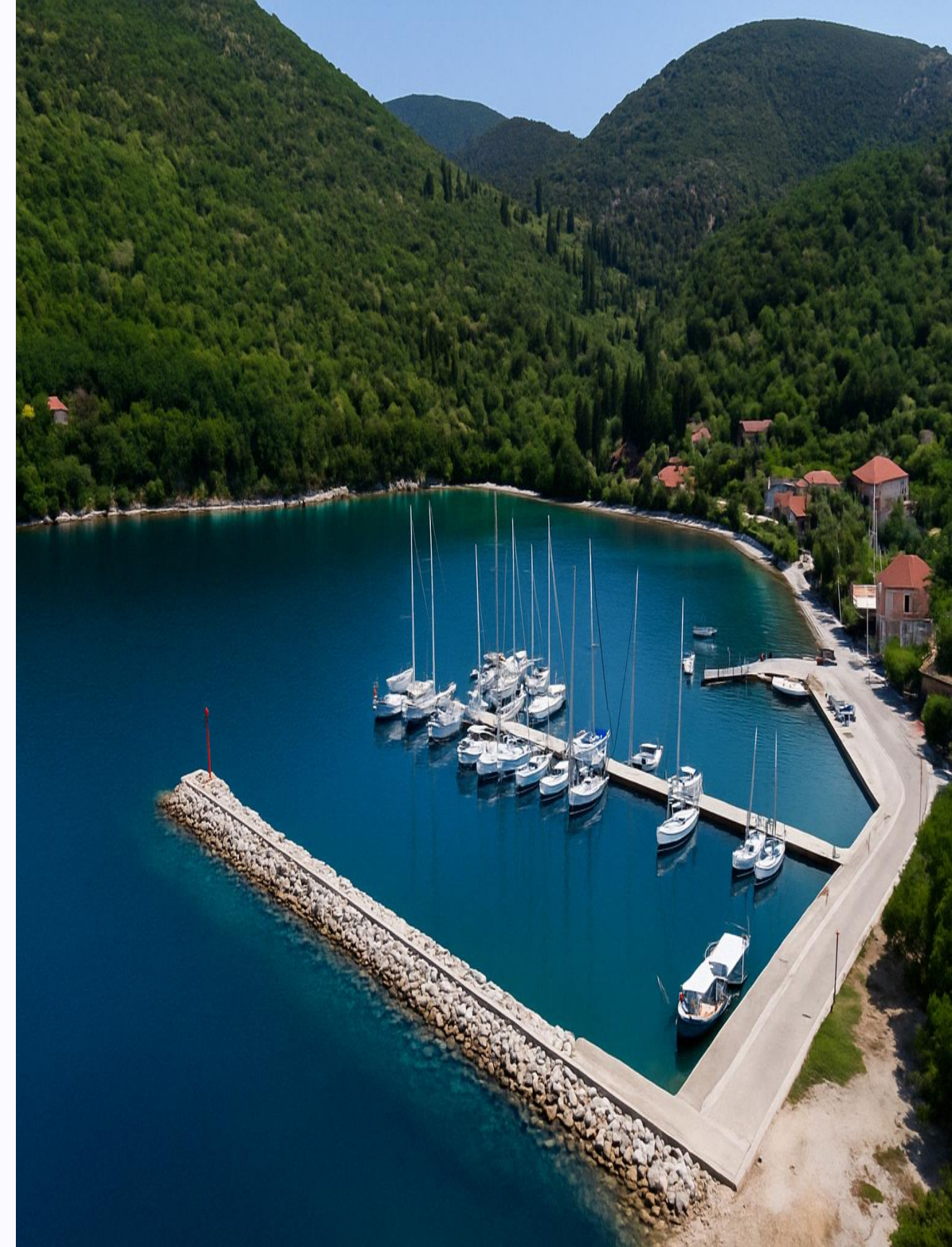
Case Study 5 – Touristic Boat Shelter in “Zeri”, Sivota

1

A medium-scale infrastructure project including berths, fuel storage and supporting facilities.

2

Despite tourism potential, concerns over proximity to another marina and beach use led to a conditional positive opinion.

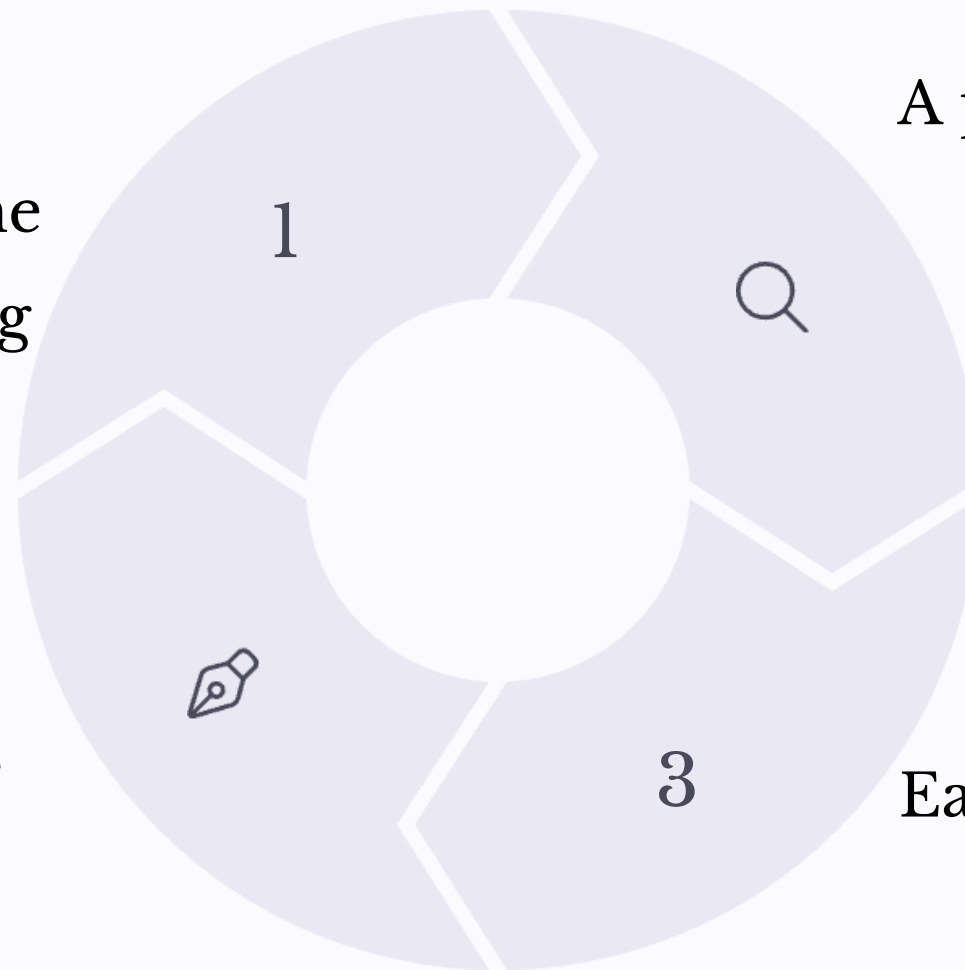


Reflections

What These Cases Show

Strengthening the role of the Environmental Committee of the Region of Epirus in safeguarding marine ecosystems

Integrated coastal zone management



A participatory approach involving local communities

Early and informed evaluation of cumulative impacts



Good Practices in Regional Governance

Key Principles for Effective Evaluation

Environmental Committees must :

- 1 Maintain independence and scientific credibility
- 2 Promote transparency and dialogue
- 3 Support development that aligns with ecological resilience



Strategic Integration

Connecting Our Work to Broader Frameworks

Our work aligns with :

1

EUSAIR Pillar 3 – Environmental Quality

2

SDG (Sustainable Development Goal)14 – Life Below Water

3

National Marine Spatial Planning goals



Regional Cooperation

What We Ask from the EUSAIR Community

We call for:

-  Capacity building for regional and local authorities
-  Shared data platforms and expertise exchange
-  Technical assistance and funding for Environmental Committees

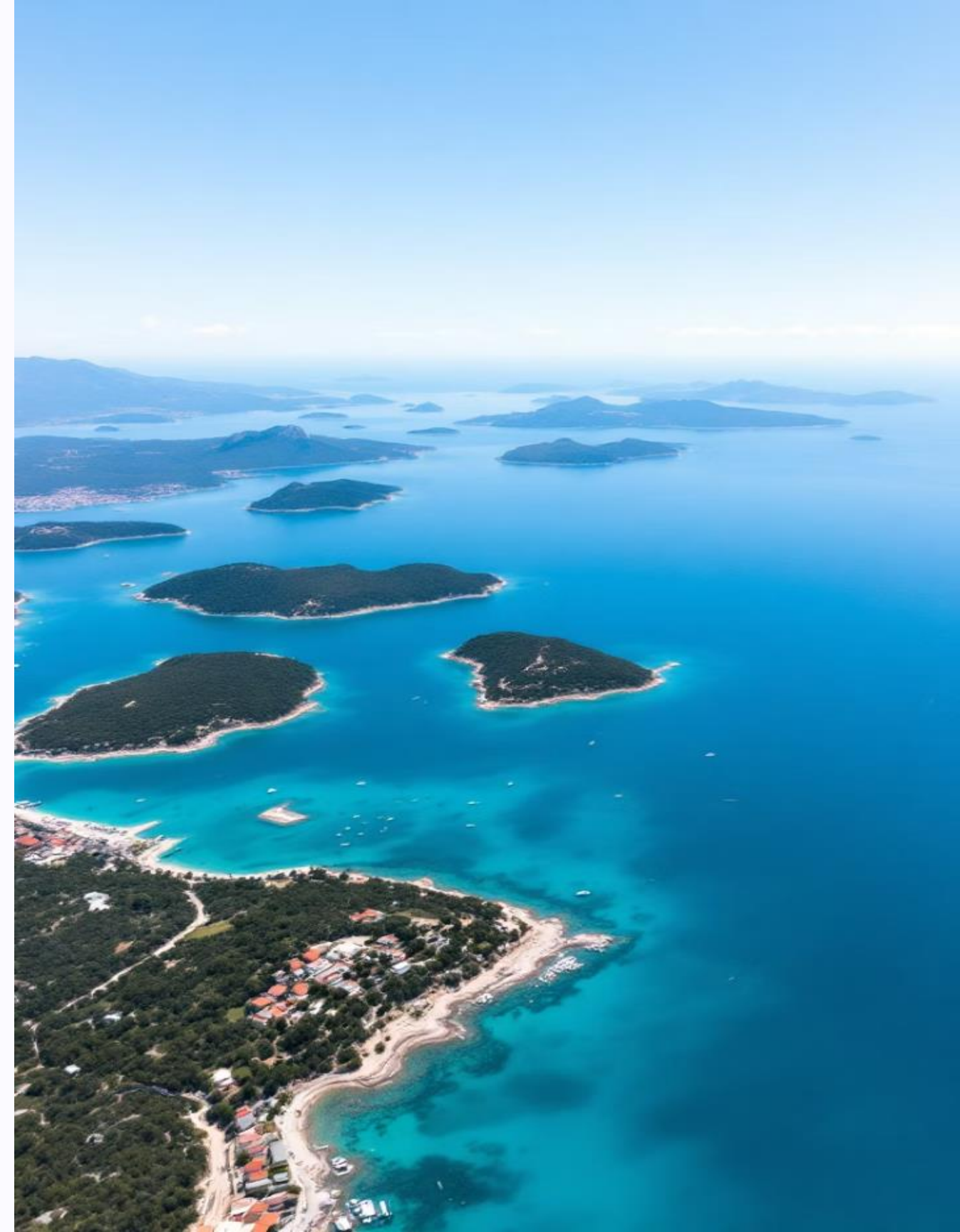


A call to Action

Protecting Our Shared Marine Environment Future

- 1 Marine environment is under threat
- 2 Smart policy
- 3 Science-based assessment
- 4 Political will

We can safeguard it for future generations





Thank you for your attention!!!

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