



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/Inf.15



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

14 April 2017
English
Original: English

Thirteenth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas

Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017

Agenda Item 7: Implementation of the ‘Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea’ supported by the ‘Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean’

The Tangier Declaration of the 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

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UN Environment/MAP
SPA/RAC - Tunis, 2017

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(UN Environment/MAP)
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337 - 1080 Tunis Cedex - Tunisia
E-mail: car-asp@spa-rac.org

Foreword

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) co-organised with the Network of Marine Protected Area managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) and the Moroccan *Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification* (HCEFLCD) the second edition of the Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, from 28 November to 1 December 2016, in Tangier, Morocco.

The 2016 MPA Forum brought together around 300 participants from 35 countries. Coming from all the Mediterranean basin and beyond, with various profiles: MPA managers, representatives of national environmental, fishing and tourism agencies, scientists, non-governmental and civil society organisations, local economic actors, donors and, Mediterranean and international organizations, 95% of the participants who answered the Forum evaluation questionnaire (around 100 persons) stated that the Forum has generally met their expectations.

The four-day event was an opportunity to showcase some Mediterranean success stories, share information, exchange experiences, and find solutions to the challenges raised by marine biodiversity preservation in the Mediterranean while supporting local economies.

The participants issued the Tangier Declaration, which is the outcome of a large participatory process involving all stakeholders engaged with MPAs in the Mediterranean.

The Declaration includes key operational and action-oriented steps, complementary to the Antalya Declaration of 2012, to improve and help achieving the MPA Roadmap objectives by 2020. It was drafted after having reviewed the progress achieved during the last 4 years, discussed the remaining challenges to 2020, considered recent global, regional and sub-regional marine policy developments regarding the ecosystem approach, sustainable development and climate change issues, and considered the recommendations from the different sessions of the Forum.

TANGIER DECLARATION

CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVE THE AICHI TARGETS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The participants¹ in the 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, held in Tangier (Morocco) on 28 November - 1 December 2016,

Having reviewed the progress achieved since 2012 in implementing the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap,

Having discussed the remaining challenges to 2020,

Having considered recent global, regional and sub-regional marine policy developments regarding the ecosystem approach, sustainable development and climate change issues, and

Having considered the recommendations from the different sessions in the Forum, in an Annex to this Declaration,

Agree to update the Roadmap with the following elements:

- 1) **Institutional framework** taking into consideration the recent developments²;
- 2) **Strategic Objective 5 of the Roadmap** “Strengthen and develop the role of MPAs as a marine spatial management tool in supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change”; and
- 3) **Key operational and action-oriented steps, complementary to the Antalya Declaration of 2012, to improve and help achieving the Roadmap objectives by 2020** as developed here below:

¹ This Declaration doesn't engage intergovernmental organizations involved and their respective Members.

² Consideration of oceans by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP21 within the Paris Agreement, International Blue Carbon Initiative, 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress motions, Action Plan of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative of the CBD (Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)) - 2015-2020, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans, the 3rd International MPA Congress (IMPAC3) recommendations, the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025, the UNEP/MAP Mid-term Strategy 2016-2021, the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change in 2014 and on Blue Economy in 2015, the Venice Declaration on Mediterranean Sea Cooperation, the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, the EU Directive establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning and the EU Blue Growth strategy, the Mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

In relation to Strategic Objective 1: “Establish an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected”:

- 1.1 Accelerating efforts to achieve the Aichi Target 11 to effectively conserve at least 10% of the Mediterranean coastal and marine areas by 2020 and to consider increasing thereafter this coverage in the open seas through the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) network, Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), adapting as needed other initiatives and targets³ that could contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.5 “to conserve and promote sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.
- 1.2 By 2020 increase the coverage and implementation of no-entry, no-take and no-fishing zones⁴, within either existing or future MPAs, from the current coverage of 0.04% of the Mediterranean Sea to reach at least 2% of no-take zones, especially in key functional areas.
- 1.3 To support boosting MPA coverage in non-EU Mediterranean country waters, through habitat identification processes (as in e.g. Natura 2000 or Emerald Network), increasing the MPA complementarity and representativity, while creating strong north-south and south-south cooperation opportunities.
- 1.4 Consider the establishment of transboundary MPAs where appropriate by using the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention as instrument.
- 1.5 Declare new MPAs in the open sea, including the deep sea, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, using in particular the available information gathered by the joint description of Mediterranean Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSAs) done by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP).
- 1.6 Complete the mapping of the most significant marine habitats, in particular seagrass meadows and coralligenous formations and other biogenic habitats, and increase efforts to describe pelagic habitats and map deep-sea habitats.

³ Such as the IUCN Promise of Sydney (2014) outcomes and the World Conservation Congress (Hawaii 2016) Recommendation 1 to protect by 2030 at least a 30% of each marine habitat.

⁴ No-entry refers to no access (exception done for scientific research purposes under special permit); No-take refers to no extraction of any resource; No-fishing refers to the prohibition of all fishing gears and all types of fishing.

1.7 Increase regional support to:

- 1.7.1 observing, monitoring and assessing, systems within MPAs, and ensure that such monitoring network is representative of the whole Mediterranean; and
- 1.7.2 observing, monitoring and assessing the MPA system representativity and connectivity and reporting efficiently.

1.8 Strengthen by all available means the science-policy interface, to incorporate the increasing scientific, traditional and local knowledge and citizen science into the implementation of the MPA Roadmap and in ecosystem approach-related decision making processes.

In relation to Strategic Objective 2: “Achieve an effective, efficient and sustainable management and good governance in Mediterranean MPAs”:

2.1 Provide the necessary support for effective, equitable and efficient management by 2020 of all MPA sites currently established.

2.2 Formulate a management plan for each Mediterranean MPA by 2020. This includes in particular:

- 2.2.1 To progress in the development and implementation of management plans for Natura 2000 marine sites; and
- 2.2.2 To support management planning in every MPA with weak technical or institutional capacities by facilitating, through regional coordinated efforts, the basic cartography and the development of biological and socio-economic baselines, including uses and pressures.

2.3 Support MPA effective and equitable management, especially of “young MPAs” by adopting minimum standards for effective management and recommendations for good governance, through sharing the best field practices.

2.4 Encourage and support the establishment and implementation of fishery management measures within MPAs, where relevant, in line with the existing regulations and relevant international instruments.

2.5 Encourage and foster MPA co-management practices with stakeholders as a means to achieve effective and sustainable management and good governance.

2.6 Support capacity development for fishing communities and resource users to allow them to effectively participate in decision-making relating to MPAs.

2.7 Include at least one MPA in each national monitoring programme for biodiversity and non-indigenous species, in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment

Programme (IMAP) adopted under the Barcelona Convention (COP19, Athens, February 2016).

- 2.8 At an MPA network level, make progress towards harmonized monitoring systems including comparable sets of natural, socioeconomic and management effectiveness indicators at national and regional levels.
- 2.9 Consider the challenges and impacts of climate change both in MPA management plans and their monitoring activities.
- 2.10 Implement practices to prevent, control, or adapt to the invasive non-indigenous species within Mediterranean MPAs.
- 2.11 Incorporate water quality issues in MPA management, and as central components in future Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) schemes taking into account objectives on Good Environmental Status (under the Ecosystem Approach of the Barcelona Convention and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive), objectives in the Protocol on Land-Based Sources of Pollution, and the Good Environmental Status (under Water Framework Directive).
- 2.12 The MPA manager network can play a role in supporting the EC to strengthen the effective management of marine Natura 2000 sites, including capacity building activities for a Mediterranean manager network of Natura 2000, therefore improving the integration of the Natura 2000 biogeographic approach.
- 2.13 Strengthen exchange of experience, best practices and knowledge among MPA managers, including through increased cooperation between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries, especially for addressing conservation needs for highly mobile marine species.

In relation to Strategic Objective 3: “Develop a territorially and sectorially integrated governance of Mediterranean MPAs while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits”:

- 3.1 In addition to biodiversity conservation, disseminate the evidence for multiple ecosystem and socio-economic benefits of MPAs, aiming at their recognition as demonstration sites applying the ecosystem approach, including contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 3.2 Work towards creating a win-win relationship of MPAs with decision-makers, donors and private sector interested in marine and maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, blue growth strategies, sustainable tourism and sustainable fisheries policies, in order to respond to pressures beyond MPA borders, while considering MPAs as natural capital and a management instrument to reach sustainability targets.
- 3.3 Strengthen cooperation between fisheries agencies and environment agencies among and between countries, and with other regional MPA human networks, Regional Seas Conventions and relevant regional organizations and agreements (e.g. the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) etc.).
- 3.4 Ensure that artisanal fishing communities dependent on marine resources for their livelihoods are effectively participating in decision-making on MPA designation, planning and management in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.
- 3.5 Encourage the establishment of communication channels and participatory procedures between the conservation and fisheries authorities and stakeholders for the future proper management of MPAs in the pelagic realm.
- 3.6 Make use of relevant regional and international policy frameworks and fora to promote MPAs as contributors to the wider development agenda.

In relation to Strategic Objective 4: “Increase the allocation of financial resources to establish and maintain an ecological network of effectively managed MPAs”:

- 4.1 Encourage leverage mechanisms to support the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and other relevant organisations in guaranteeing the basic funding needs of their national MPA systems.
- 4.2 Encourage Official Development Assistance agencies and private donors to invest in MPAs as a potential contributor to achieving SDGs through food security, poverty alleviation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 4.3 Support the development of small funding programmes within MPAs as means, *inter alia*, to develop local project management capacities and as a lever to attract new and matching funding sources.
- 4.4 Support, as an example of innovative financial mechanism, the establishment of the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs, and welcome the recent progress made in this regard.
- 4.5 Support the creation of a permanent financing facility to ensure, in case needed in times of crisis and during limited periods, the continuity of management in certain MPAs.

Finally, the participants to the 2016 Forum recognized the crucial role of regional and inter-regional cooperation and of joint mobilization among human networks working on MPAs, Regional Seas Conventions and relevant regional organizations at all levels in order to:

- Catalyse knowledge and resources and foster strategic approaches for MPA human networks efficiency and visibility;
- Reinforce actions toward the sustainable financing of MPAs and MPA human networks;
- Enhance and strengthen MPA managers’ capacity to face challenges related to climate change;
- Highlight the MPA networks function in climate change mitigation and adaptation as nature-based solutions, and enhance their role for such purpose; and
- Integrate and promote science, traditional local knowledge and innovative solutions to improve MPA effective management.

Annex to the Tangier Declaration

Recommendations from the 2016 MPA Forum's sessions

Strategic Objective 1: Establish an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected.

Recommendation 1	0.04% No-take zone (NTZ) is grossly inadequate, and the target of 10% protection is not enough; but what about the remaining 90%? We must strive to the Good Environmental Status also in the remaining portion of the sea, bearing in mind that MPAs are just one of the many conservation tools.
Recommendation 2	Planning and management of MPAs should be based on increased understanding of the ecological processes and on a wider range of ecosystems (water column, deep sea, etc.) across the entire Mediterranean, using the best available knowledge and expertise.
Recommendation 3	Despite all the ongoing efforts, there is a sense of urgency to act: we don't have infinite time. Enforcement of regulations is essential, but the importance of the bottom-up perception of the need for MPAs should not be underestimated.
Recommendation 4	Further support and/or promote marine habitat inventory and mapping as tools for conservation and management of MPAs.
Recommendation 5	Support and encourage field surveys devoted to increase the knowledge on the distribution, cartography and biodiversity of marine vegetation, coralligenous assemblages and dark habitats.
Recommendation 6	Make the information of inventory and mapping of marine key habitat accessible.
Recommendation 7	Currents, Gyres and other oceanographic features should be better known (increasing scientific exploration) and considered not only as an influencing factor on marine biodiversity, but also as a conservation unit. Considering structure (biodiversity) and ecological function in conservation process, oceanographic features and functions should be one of the drivers for giving the way to decision concerning the improvement of the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean.

Recommendation 8	In order to integrate not only preserving a structure (biodiversity through MPAs) but also functionality of the Mediterranean Sea we need to develop marine spatial planning at a regional level including not only coastal areas but also open sea areas.
Recommendation 9	Better use at the Mediterranean level of the already established tools and the MPAs targets and criteria for establishing biodiversity conservation and live resources management, seabed and the water column. Studying and exploring the global and regional complementary tools in a similar spirit to the GFCM bottom trawling restrictions.
Recommendation 10	<p>MPA network planning should be further based on reliable scientific knowledge in particular through:</p> <p>a. Filling in the gaps knowledge concerning habitats distribution, comprehensive species inventories, ecological process and transport by water body;</p> <p>b. Establishing an expert platform to serve as a think tank to feed with scientific guidance, the MPA management and planning processes.</p>
Recommendation 11	The Mediterranean MPA network would be more representative of the region's marine environment if the under-represented habitats and other elements such as marine areas between 100 – 1000 m with their hard and soft bottoms, and fossils beaches were taken into account. The water column deserves to be further considered in MPA planning.
Recommendation 12	MPA connectivity should be addressed not only in terms of habitats but also through management, physical features and the visibility of MPAs to the general public.
Recommendation 13	Improving the connectivity within the Mediterranean network of MPAs should not be a hindrance to the extension of MPAs in terms of number and surface area.

Strategic Objective 2: Establish in Mediterranean MPAs an effective, efficient and sustainable management as well as a good governance.

<p>Recommendation 14</p>	<p>Clarifying legal frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a strategy for MPAs based on the identification of ecological and biological values can help the development of MPA networks. Periodic revision of the strategy based on monitoring systems can help solving problems and focusing on new identified issues. • Considering the legal and institutional frameworks, it appears necessary to clarify mandates, conflicts of competence and mechanisms of cooperation of all relevant administrations, in particular environment, fisheries, tourism, maritime traffic and marine control. Based on this clarification, the legal framework needs to be assessed and adapted at the national level.
<p>Recommendation 15</p>	<p>Develop and update management plans: Any management plan should give managers latitude to adapt their measures to emerging challenges and issues, regardless of the update cycle of the management plan itself (quick adaptive management).</p>
<p>Recommendation 16</p>	<p>Enhancing surveillance and enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relying on modern technologies (VMS, radar...) can be a cost-effective way to ensure surveillance, especially in remote areas. • Cooperation between relevant national authorities for control and MPA sworn staff should be realised with strong collaborative mechanism.
<p>Recommendation 17</p>	<p>Strengthening stakeholders engagement and involvement in the management: Local stakeholders, in particular representing sectors from the environment, fisheries, tourism, maritime traffic and marine control, should be systematically associated in the decision structures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 18</p>	<p>Strengthening monitoring: Monitoring programmes should not focus only on environmental values, but also on cultural, social and economic values, and should be supported by appropriate indicators.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19</p>	<p>Data show a clear competition between recreational and artisanal fisheries (same level of catches, same species, same territory, same period). Recreational fishing must be taken into account for a better management of resources.</p>

	<p>--> Recommendation: each MPA should establish a system of license for the recreational fishermen who want to fish in the MPA in order to regulate the number of recreational fishermen, collect data on fisherman numbers and catches. The license could include training on the impacts of the activity and solution to mitigate them. A common license for all Mediterranean MPAs could be a tool to be developed.</p>
Recommendation 20	<p>The EU plays an important role in regulating fishing through the Common Fisheries Policy. However, there is still a need to reinforce specific regulations of recreational fishing.</p> <p>--> Recommendation: All Mediterranean countries should align on the non-marketability of catches of marine organisms resulting from recreational fisheries (as imposed by EU regulations). In addition, catch limitations should be imposed consistently among countries, and considerable effort should be allocated to ensure compliance with regulations.</p>
Recommendation 21	<p>MPA managers must put efforts on the way to communicate information regarding the regulation of recreational activity and the importance of sustainable use of the MPA. It is necessary to awaken consciences. There is an important work to be done towards users through awareness raising campaigns, education and concertation.</p> <p>--> Recommendation: The first step towards sustainable fishing is raising individual awareness. MPA managers should be on the field, meeting the users and explaining the rules. Several tools can be developed in this regard: flyers, code of conduct, partnership charters, website...and these tools could be shared among MPAs. It is also important to involve the local stakeholders in a participatory process in order to gain their acceptance. It's a key approach for establishing a good relationship with fishermen.</p>
Recommendation 22	<p>To valorize/to develop a technique and operational MPA network to survey the state of the Mediterranean Sea (global approach, long term series).</p>
Recommendation 23	<p>To create experts, managers and stakeholders groups on common issues (invasive species, habitats monitoring, high mobile species).</p>
Recommendation 24	<p>To promote ecological solidarity in policy conservation: exchange, training, projects, funds.</p>
Recommendation 25	<p>The human MPA network may support the EC and countries in strengthening the effective management of marine Natura 2000 sites, namely through capacity-building of Mediterranean marine Natura 2000 managers, thus</p>

	better integrating with the Natura 2000 biogeographical approach.
Recommendation 26	Encourage Member States to allocate the necessary human resources to afford the adequate <i>in situ</i> management to designated marine Natura 2000 sites.
Recommendation 27	Beyond the boundaries of the network of marine Natura 2000, establish mechanisms in cooperation with and in support of non EU countries in order to warranty the conservation of key functional areas, namely for highly mobile species, in order to reach coherence of the Mediterranean MPA network.
Recommendation 28	Implement the provisions of the law on protected areas that will enable the different institutions to ensure a concerted and coherent management of MPAs in Morocco.
Recommendation 29	Establish MPA governance bodies to coordinate efforts and federate synergies between the different stakeholders.
Recommendation 30	Involve fishing communities in the management of fishery resources and scientific monitoring in MPAs.

Strategic Objective3: Develop a territorially and sectorially integrated governance of Mediterranean MPAs governance while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits

Recommendation 31	Guidelines and clear principles are needed to put the Ecosystem Approach into practice in integrated ocean management schemes, to guarantee a truly environmentally sustainable Blue Economy.
Recommendation 32	In the context of maritime integrated management schemes, including maritime spatial planning and ICZM, MPA networks and other areas of conservation interest must be integrated. Clear vision and objectives are needed to support political will and in that respect operational tools on coherence and connectivity are required for implementation.
Recommendation 33	Mediterranean MPAs should contribute to the definition of harmonised environmental requirements for the interactions with sectors operating within or in the vicinity of their borders, especially with sectors that do not primarily depend on ecosystem services such as offshore oil and gas, maritime traffic and offshore renewable energy infrastructures but also with other rapidly expanding sectors like aquaculture.
Recommendation 34	Women play an important role in coastal communities and also often in fisheries, either as harvesters or in postharvest and auxiliary activities. Women may be affected differently by MPAs than men and the Roadmap should include a gender strategy to ensure that its implementation supports both men and women in improving their livelihood associated to MPAs activities.
Recommendation 35	There are many good examples of MPAs where strong involvement of fishers in decision-making and management, as well as in monitoring has made them successful. However, there are also many MPAs in which management and related aspects need to be improved in order to make the MPA an effective measure. Instead of adopting a blanket target for increase in MPA coverage, including increasing of no-take zones, a more qualitative approach should be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of existing MPAs, through participatory approaches and effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. New MPAs should only be created according to needs expressed through bottom-up approaches.
Recommendation 36	When complementary options to improve the livelihoods of small-scale fishers working in MPAs are desired by the fishers, fish workers and their communities, sources of income from marine-based activities

	<p>should be explored as a priority. Small-scale fishing communities should be granted preferential rights to benefits from the ecosystem services provided by the environment and associated MPA activities, e.g. recreational fishing, <i>pescaturismo</i>. Legal and institutional frameworks should be adjusted, as required, to allow for this livelihood diversification.</p>
Recommendation 37	<p>The Mediterranean Sea and the environmental challenges it faces concerning maritime traffic need to gain more visibility within the International Maritime Organization framework.</p>
Recommendation 38	<p>Marine conservation issues that could be improved with measures under IMO (including Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSAs), Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), etc.) need to be identified at a regional scale, prioritized and addressed within an action plan, under the leadership of REMPEC and involving all regional stakeholders.</p>
Recommendation 39	<p>Tools to evaluate socio-economic benefits of protection in MPAs exist but there is a need to apply them at the regional level and to harmonise them. Better tools are needed to assess non-economic benefits (cultural, spiritual), climate change mitigation and coastal protection values.</p>
Recommendation 40	<p>Stakeholders including multi-sectoral actors need to be further engaged and regional networking should be promoted in order to encourage best practices replication in the Mediterranean, including at sub-national administrative scale. Regional authorities can facilitate interregional cooperation through adequate funding and good governance.</p>
Recommendation 41	<p>Strategic multi-target communication on the value of socio-economic benefits of MPAs is essential to engage stakeholders on protection and should be improved in the Mediterranean region. New communication tools (i.e. social media) should be adopted at a wider scale. The promotion of cultural values is essential to reinforce the emotional connection with MPAs.</p>
Recommendation 42	<p>GOVERNANCE: The Mediterranean MPA conservation community should work towards the creation of effective partnerships with sustainable tourism industry and governments at local, national, regional and international level, in a coordinated and synergic way.</p>

Recommendation 43	PLANNING: The tourism cluster of the territory should be involved in the management planning of sustainable tourism in the MPA since the beginning, to support in the marketing and promotion, to share the management and compliance responsibility, to educate tourists, and to advocate for nature conservation.
Recommendation 44	TOURISM: Positive and negative impacts should be monitored and assessed in order to set realistic baselines for comparison, to plan for the desired image and way forward for the MPA, and to allow for an adaptive management response.
Recommendation 45	An appropriation by the various stakeholders (either public and private) of the principles of territorial management and their active involvement in governance and in the implementation of concrete actions are essential for a good conservation.
Recommendation 46	Define regular programs of capacity building in adequacy with the need of stakeholders linked to co-management.
Recommendation 47	Promote and facilitate synergies between international, national and local organisations working on the same territory, for an efficient, pragmatic and sustainable management.

Strategic Objective 4: Increase the allocation of financial resources to establish and maintain an ecological network of effectively managed MPAs

Recommendation 48	Communication and marketing of MPA activities are key to sustainable financing and gain donor's interest; in particular, the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of MPAs should be encouraged. The training and know-how of MPA staff for this purpose should be developed.
Recommendation 49	Sustainable financing is based on a "vision" which should be developed for the MPA in order to gain trust from partners about the MPA and match the supply of funders with the demand from MPAs.
Recommendation 50	Legal framework is key to MPA development: the national framework should be softened in some cases to allow for fund collection earmarked for MPA financing, while contractual agreements between MPA and partners should be strong.
Recommendation 51	Ensure a good governance of the fund involving governmental and non-governmental actors.
Recommendation 52	Communicate transparently with all stakeholders on the progress, objectives and strategy of the fund.
Recommendation 53	Support beneficiaries absorption capacities of the fund to prepare proposals to be funded and to implement actions.
Recommendation 54	<p>The small grants are effective financing tools for the implementation of concrete actions at local level. The added value of small grants is very important, the projects are easier to implement compared to projects with higher budgets.</p> <p>→ Recommendation: there is a need to sustain the small grants mechanisms in the Mediterranean. These tools are strongly endorsed by the beneficiaries because they offer flexible opportunity and easy to access funding. There is also a need of synergy between the different financing programs in order to strengthen the effectiveness of projects results (e.g. through the creation of a shared platform).</p>
Recommendation 55	Fundraising can be complicated when funding opportunities are not known or project management skill is lacking. There are many highly motivated organisations which are doing a great job with a small budget. How to reach remote organisations

	<p>which are still not benefiting from external financing in order to support them and to enhance their project management capacity?</p> <p>→ Recommendation: financing programmes must develop an effective communication and information strategy (e.g. through workshops, targeted communication campaigns, local representatives, networking these organisations with beneficiaries...) towards the different organisations which are not reachable through traditional channels. In the future, the focus must be made on the regions or countries where there is no or less contact.</p>
<p>Recommendation 56</p>	<p>The post-project dynamics is an important point to consider at the very beginning in order to ensure the valorization and continuity of actions after the end of project funding.</p> <p>→ Recommendation: beneficiaries with the help of national organisations should plan during the project implementation ways to maintain the dynamics, to establish a medium-term vision in order to ensure a continuity at the end of the project (e.g. apply to other financing programmes, work on business plan). The experience of other beneficiaries which have managed to sustain their actions financially could be shared.</p>
<p>Recommendation 57</p>	<p>Properly recognising and enhance awareness of blue carbon ecosystems as nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>
<p>Recommendation 58</p>	<p>MPAs can be effective tools to sustain carbon stocks and halt losses. A more transdisciplinary collaboration is needed to complete inventories.</p>
<p>Recommendation 59</p>	<p>Integrate blue carbon natural policy on emission mitigation (i.e. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) to enable the financing of activities in MPAs.</p>

Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen and develop the role of MPAs as a marine spatial management tool in supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change

Recommendation 60	We need a pan-Mediterranean cooperation framework for climate change, taking the opportunity of existing platforms, for example the Mediterranean climate forum.
Recommendation 61	MPAs can deliver nature-based solutions for climate change. MPAs can also help to increase awareness and engage multiple actors towards climate change.
Recommendation 62	MPAs have the potential to act as sentinels for climate change and help strengthen ecosystem resilience. There is the need for developing long term, pan-Mediterranean initiatives to monitor climate change.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE related to regional MPA networks & regional conventions:

Recommendation 63	Willingness from MPA supporters (managers, donors, scientists, stakeholders...) to create and sustain a network towards a clear and common goal which answers direct needs of MPAs and serve as an interface between bottom-up and top down approaches.
Recommendation 64	Build a strong and friendly community around the expertise and experience of its members and the will to share.
Recommendation 65	Build a win-win and trusted relationship with other regional partners and other MPA networks.