

Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

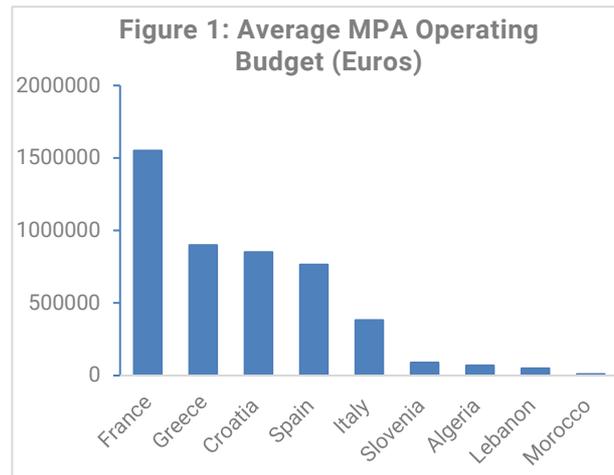
“Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas” is the Flagship initiative under Objective 1 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 “Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas”. It is also associated with target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals i.e. “by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information”

Background

The effective management of MPAs requires the availability of adequate technical and financial resources, especially for the coverage of operational costs. MPA managers are in urgent need for a sustainable financing tool that will provide access to additional funding to complement government budgets, where appropriate.

As a response to this need, the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs (MPA Trust Fund) was launched jointly by France, Monaco, and Tunisia, during the high-level session of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) held in October 2013 in Ajaccio, France.

The MPA Trust Fund received political support from riparian countries, in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).



Average of all MPAs of the responding countries; 40 MPAs - 50% without information on the operating budget. Source: MedPAN - RAC/SPA. 2012.

Objectives

The MPA Trust fund is a sustainable financing mechanism, which aims at developing and strengthening Mediterranean MPAs for a more sustainable management, contributing to their financial autonomy and their territorial integration.

Leadership and partnership

The Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) was established under Monaco law in 2015 as a cooperation platform bringing together governments, regional organizations and civil society.

Membership in the M2PA is open to States that have confirmed their commitment to implementing an ambitious policy to support MPAs and that have explicitly demonstrated their support to the initiative.

To date, Albania, Croatia, France, Monaco, Morocco, and Tunisia are members of the Association.

The M2PA is also open to regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems, such as the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), the network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF Mediterranean, the International Union for Conservation of Nature - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), Initiative PIM (*Petites Iles Méditerranéennes*), and the French *Conservatoire du littoral*.

Private donors have joined the initiative, such as the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation. The Basel Zoo and the Monaco oceanographic Museum provide part of their admission fees proceeds to support M2PA.

Main achievements



Association for the
SUSTAINABLE FINANCING
of **Mediterranean MPAs**

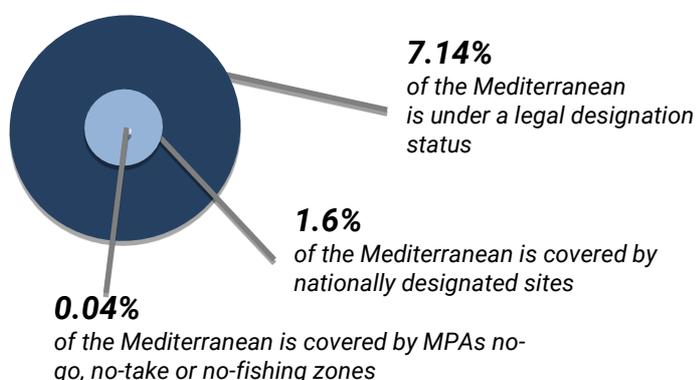
Members of the M2PA have adopted a sound strategy for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs as well as an action plan for implementation during 2016-2017. The initiative was developed with the support of the government of the Principality of Monaco which contributed 500,000 Euros to the fund.

In cooperation with the non-profit environmental organization Conservation International, the M2PA has developed project proposals for submission to the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the design the most appropriate institutional, legal, and financial structure to manage the MPA Trust Fund.

Financial support for implementation on the ground has been provided through the M2PA for the improvement of management of two MPAs:

- Al Hoceima National Park, implemented through the Moroccan NGO AGIR, in partnership with the *Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification* (Office of the High Commissioner for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, a governmental agency);
- Kuriat Islands implemented through the Tunisian Governmental agency *Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral* (APAL - Coastal Protection and Planning Agency) and NGO *Notre Grand Bleu*.

Challenges and the way forward



According to data available at the end of 2017, 1,231 MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures covering an area of 179,798 km² are in place in the Mediterranean Sea. This means that 7.14% of the total surface of the Mediterranean is under a legal designation status.

However, for most sites, there is little available information on the implementation of management measures and on the effectiveness of such measures towards reaching the site's conservation targets.

A second round of investments will be launched by the M2PA in 2018 aiming to support the improvement of management effectiveness for selected MPAs.

About the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)

The UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas was established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in order to assist Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). Tunisia has been hosting the Centre since its establishment in 1985.

The SPA/BD Protocol is the Mediterranean's main tool for implementing the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, as regards the in situ sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Barcelona Convention adopted the Protocol in 1995.

Resources

Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs: <https://tinyurl.com/zd93uuw>

SPA/RAC: www.spa-rac.org

MedPAN: www.medpan.org

WWF Med: <http://mediterranean.panda.org>



United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat
www.unepmap.org