



## Working with others for nature – Involving partners beyond the Protected Area



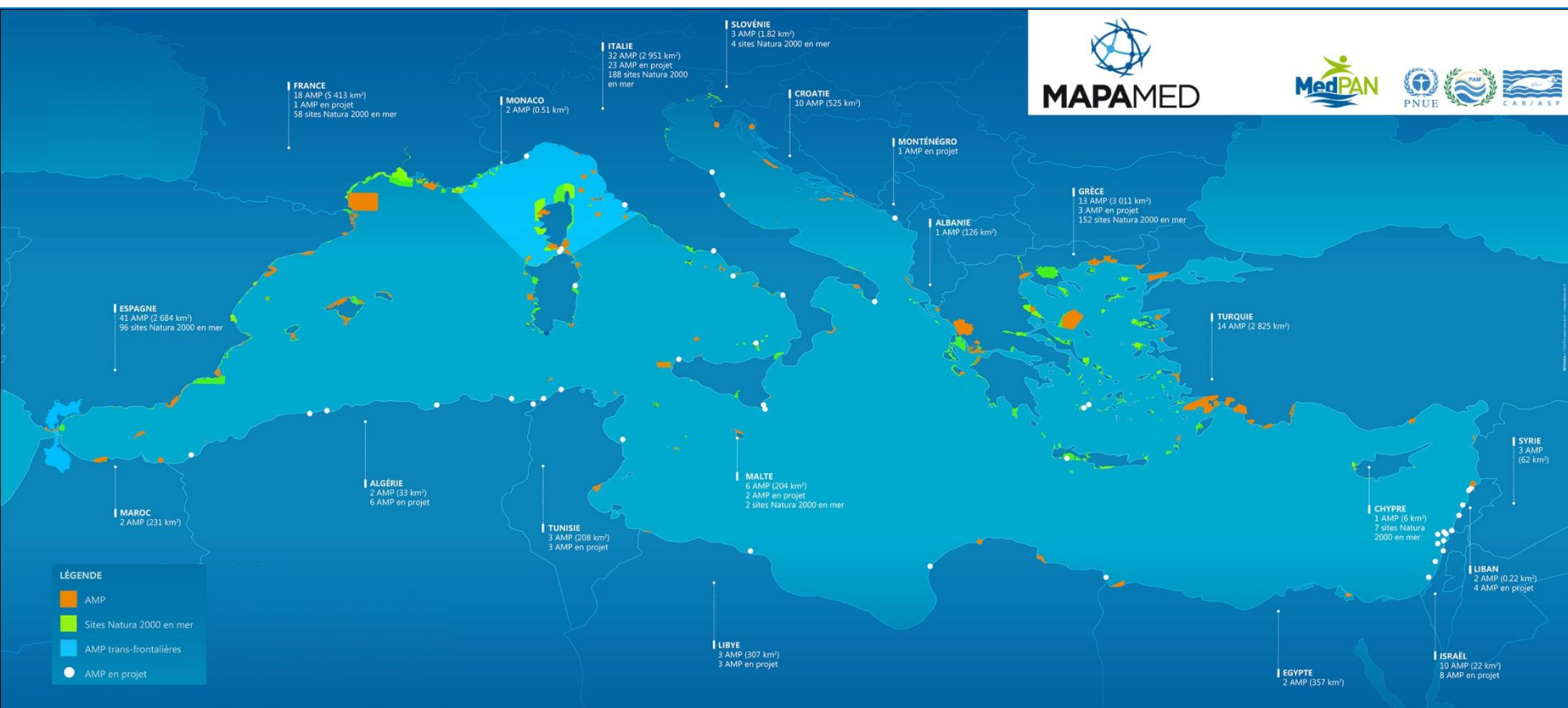
Marianne Lang  
MedPAN Association



# The Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean



# Where are the MPAs in the Mediterranean?



## Key figures:

**0,8%**: surface of the Mediterranean / world ocean surface

**677** : number of MPAs counted (parks, reserves, marine N2000 sites, biosphere reserves, ...) = 6,6% of the world total

**114 600km<sup>2</sup>**: surface covered by Mediterranean MPAs (18 965 km<sup>2</sup> without the Pelagos Sanctuary) = 1,28% of the world protected surface

**4,56%**: surface covered by a protection status (national, international and Natura 2000 at sea)

**1,08%**: surface covered by a protection status without the Pelagos sanctuary

**< 1%** : surface in no-take zones



# The MedPAN network – a snapshot

- Legally independent structure with an international governance
- 52 members, 27 partners, 18 Mediterranean countries, over 80 MPAs



- 6-people Secretariat in Marseille
- Strategic partnership: RAC/SPA, UNEP/MAP, WWF, IUCN, CdL, GFCM, CIESM...



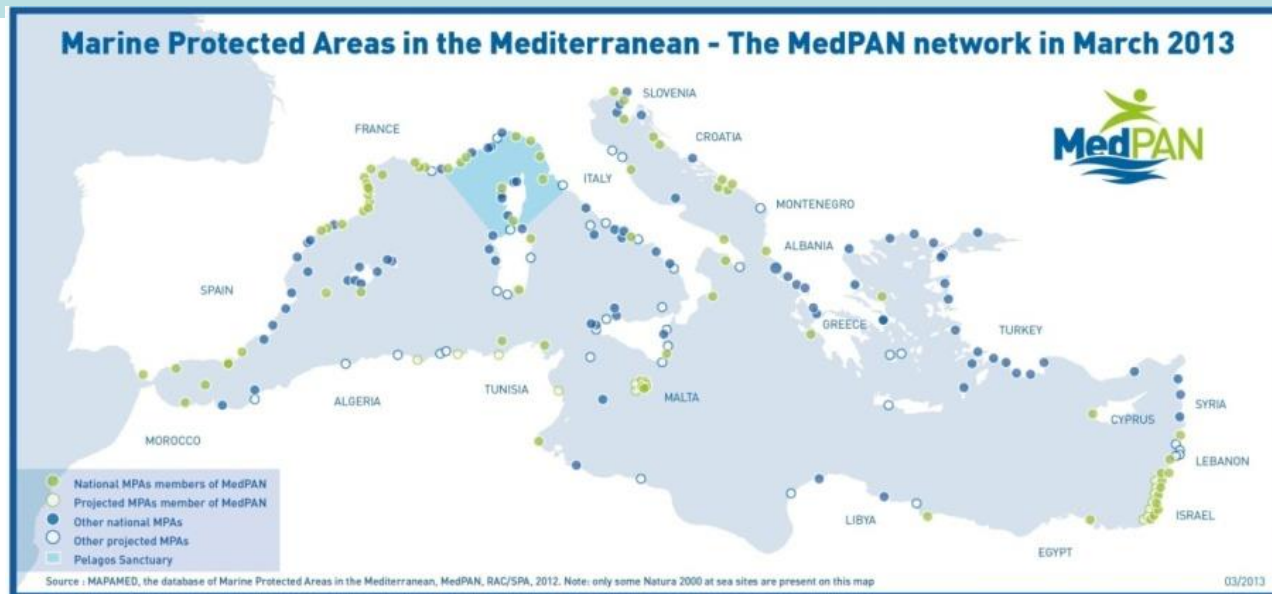
Since 1990, the MedPAN network federates the MPA managers in the Mediterranean and supports them in their management activities.



# MedPAN network mission

Promote, through a partnership approach, the sustainability and operation of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean which are ecologically representative, connected and effectively managed to help reduce the current rate of marine biodiversity loss.

Thus, it contributes to achieving the objectives of international conventions: CBD (Aichi targets), Barcelona Convention (Protocol SPA/DB, Protocol ICZM), ACCOBAMS and European policies (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats and Birds Directives).





# A look at MedPAN activities

**MPA database  
(MAPAMED)  
MPA Status**

**Call for small  
projects**

**Experience-sharing  
workshops  
Exchange visits  
Trainings**

**Resources center  
(documents, directory,  
management tools,  
capitalisation of best  
practices...)**

**Website  
E-newsletter**

**Link with research/  
scientific newsletter  
Ecological and  
economic monitoring  
protocols**

**Sustainable financing of  
MPAs**

**MPA Forum  
Representation in  
key conferences**



# Working with others for nature – Involving partners beyond the Protected Area

## ❖ Introduction

- **Issues of consultation are crucial for all managers of Mediterranean MPA. Many stakeholders are affected by the creation of an MPA and the quality of the dialogue established with them in many respects determines the manner in which the MPA is accepted locally.<sup>1</sup>**
- **Stakeholder engagement in MPAs can be described as a process of maturity from initial stages to more developed and self-sustaining stages:**
  - At early stages, practitioners may consult stakeholder communities as they plan, designate and implement an MPA. As the MPA development process evolves, stakeholders take a more active role, reaching consensus on MPA structure and management, and then perhaps negotiating with MPA managers to ensure their specific goals and values are represented.
  - At full maturity, MPAs may share authority between their management body and stakeholders, or even transfer authority completely to local communities, with the MPA management authority only providing advice and consultation.<sup>2</sup>

1. Conclusions of the Thematic Workshops of the INTERREG IIIC MedPAN Project; 2005 - 2007. WWF-France

2. Walton A. Gomei M. and Di Carlo G. 2013. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT. Participatory Approaches for the Planning and Development of Marine Protected Areas. World Wide Fund for Nature and NOAA— National Marine Sanctuary Program. 36 pages.

# Involving stakeholders for an efficient MPA

## - 4 case studies in the Mediterranean MPAs -



Telašćica, Croatia



Zakynthos, Greece



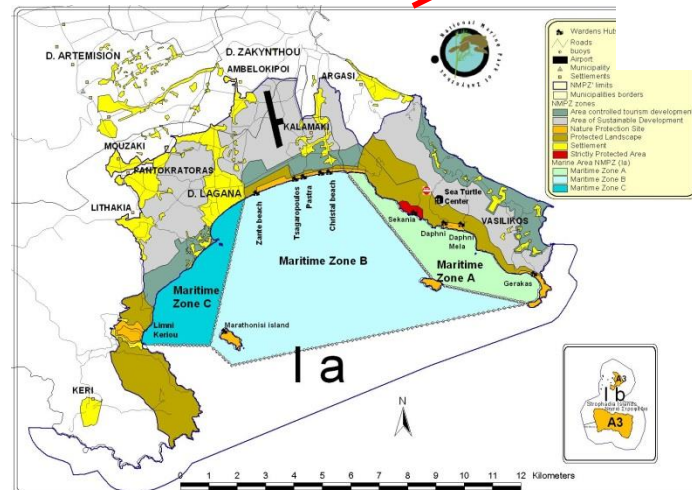
Torre Guaceto, Italy



Bonifacio, France

# National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece

## INTEGRATE MPA MANAGEMENT



# National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece

## INTEGRATE MPA MANAGEMENT

### ❖ Zakynthos - a snapshot

- ❑ 1999: declare National Marine Park
- ❑ Managed body: Management Agency of NMPZ since 2000
  - Administrative and scientific staff : 13
  - Wardens: 19
  - Management Board : 1 President, 10 Members
- ❑ Marine area coverage = 8 900 ha (T= 10 400ha)
- ❑ 600,000 to 700,000 visitors during the tourist season
- ❑ Most important loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) breeding ground in the EU
- ❑ Part of the Natura 2000 Ecological Network



# National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece

## INTEGRATE MPA MANAGEMENT

### ❖ Context

- Zakynthos: ~ 700 000 tourists during the summer; become a significant destination for mass tourism
- Tourism → pressures on resources and natural environment
- Zakynthos: most important loggerhead sea turtle beaches in the Med
- Low awareness of conservation importance of species or area's environmental significance

### ❖ Creation of the National Park (1999)

- First step towards addressing conservation and environmental management issue
- Main challenge: protect one of the most important loggerhead sea turtle nesting beaches in the Mediterranean while maintaining and developing economic activities in a sustainable way



© L. Sourbes

# National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece

## INTEGRATE MPA MANAGEMENT

### ❖ Conflicts

- Turtle conservation → many conflicts, debates
- Opposition from Locals and lack of cooperation with the Authorities
- Reasons: few people have the necessary land to build since the publication of the park creation decree. Tourism investments and land value ↘ = ↗ exasperation of locals

### ❖ Integrated Coastal Zone Management

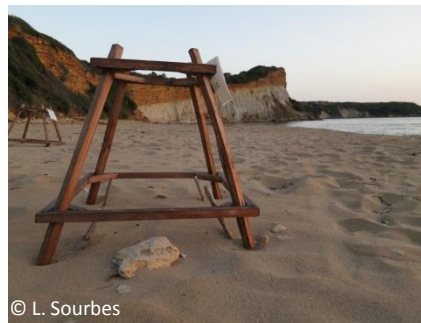
- ICZM as management tool: involve all the stakeholders and manage potentially competing activities and needs in an integrated way
- Park managers devised a plan that involved awareness-raising, wardening and a range of on-site actions to protect turtle's habitat
- Main tasks:
  - immediate protection of the coast, beaches and species
  - communication and cooperation with the island's residents, local and regional authorities and specific primary and tertiary sectors such as farmers, fishermen, hotelkeepers, tour operators and guides

# National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece

## INTEGRATE MPA MANAGEMENT

### ❖ Integrated Coastal Zone Management

- Management body initiated dialogue between local authorities and other stakeholders
- Environmental awareness-raising: actively involving locals and visitors in integrated coastal management and sustainable development actions such as:
  - ✓ construction of basic infrastructure (warden huts and information panels)
  - ✓ implementation of codes of conduct
  - ✓ certification of local operators
- Improve environmental management and protection of the area: placing of buoys, training of local staff and programme of wardening



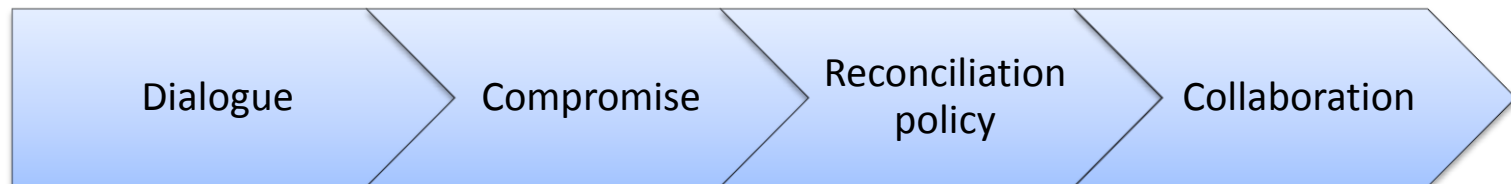
→ *Move from a conflict situation to a reflection and maturation phase*

# National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece

## INTEGRATE MPA MANAGEMENT

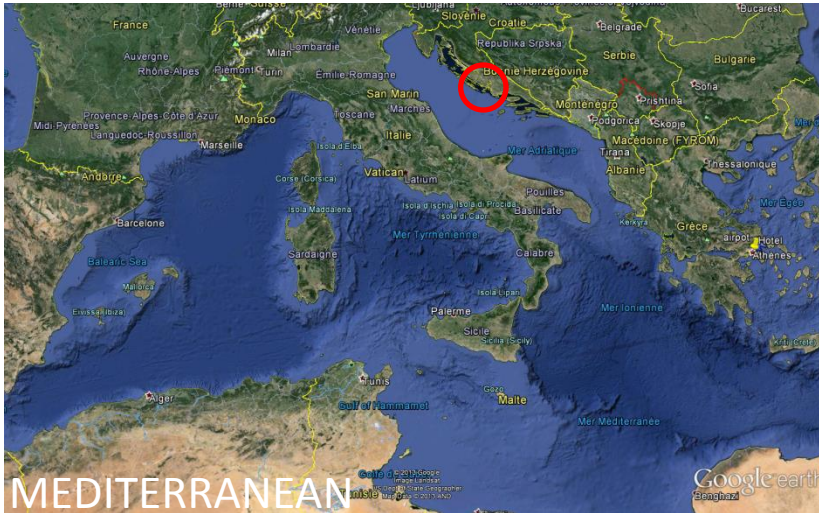
### ❖ Results

- ✓ Trespassing by visitors and local people significantly reduced, whilst the demarcation of the marine and terrestrial area gradually improved the control of tourism activities.
- ✓ Delineation of the marine zones of the Park (in collaboration with the port police authority) aimed at enforcing the speed limit for boats and access regulations → reduces threats to turtles and protect the area's unique marine habitats.
- ✓ Buoy anchoring system prevented the destruction of high-biodiversity *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows.
- ✓ Overtime conflicts with the local population and stakeholders have decreased and the Park is increasingly integrated in the local socio economic context.



# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION



**Telašćica Nature Park**  
(part of the Island of Dugi otok)



# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

### ❖ Telašćica - a snapshot

- ❑ Declared in 1980 as part of the Kornati National Park
- ❑ 1988: separated from Kornati and declare Nature Park
- ❑ Managed by a Public Institution:
  - 19 permanent employees
  - up to 50 seasonal
  - under the Ministry of Enviromental and Nature Protection
- ❑ Marine area coverage 4 550 ha (T= 7 000 ha)
- ❑ 1600 inhabitants; 150 small scale coastal fishermen
- ❑ 2nd year of management plan implementation
- ❑ Part of Croatian National Ecological Network (future Natura 2000 site)



# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

### ❖ Working with local community

#### Context

- 95% of the land area is private property of the local community
- No spatial plan (physical plan)
- Lower rights (comparing to the rights they have outside of the protected area) of the landowners on their own land

#### Targets

- Landowners from the local community

#### Objectives

- ❑ Support local community in their development through Public Institution engagement and encouragement for activities that are aligned with the principles of conservation
- ❑ Rise environmental awareness and protection principles

# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

### Difficulties experienced

- conflicts regarding their constitutional rights
- disinterest in the management planning and ignorance of the management importance
- encounter with problems that cannot be solved by Management plan

### Solutions

- most important is understanding local community from their point of view
- acknowledgement of their constitutional rights
- continuous communication
- involve them and inform about the Public Institution work

### Feedback

- ✓ better cooperation with the local community
- ✓ input for the management plan
- ✓ great response to annual meetings



© Telašćica Nature Park

# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

*During the development of the management plan and specifically the designation of user zones, conflicts emerged particularly for the regulation of fisheries.*

### ❖ Working with fishermen

#### Contexte

- no fisheries management plan
- illegal fishing activity
- fish stock below sustainable levels

#### Targets

- small scale coastal fishermen
- sport and recreation
- local professionals and professional fishermen outside the park who gravitate around the area

#### Objectives

- ☐ Raise their awareness of sustainable fishing practices and the urgency for protection
- ☐ Raise their awareness about fish stock values for other users (divers, snorkels, general public)
- ☐ Get them to accept no-take zones to ensure their long term benefit
- ☐ Stop illegal fishing

# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

### Difficulties experienced

- conflicts
- people not interested to participate in management planning
- unacknowledgment of the management plan as an important strategic document

### Solutions

- open communication, understanding, patience
- find compromise between expectation of fishermen and the work of the Public Institution
- built common Institutional approach, before communication with fisherman, otherwise workshops have no effectiveness

### Feedback

- ✓ after 3 years, better communication and cooperation with fishermen
- ✓ fishermen understood environmental issues and are standing more and more on the side of protection



# Telašćica Nature Park, Croatia

## FOSTER STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

### ❖ Solution

Several activities carried out in order to engage stakeholders in the Nature Park:

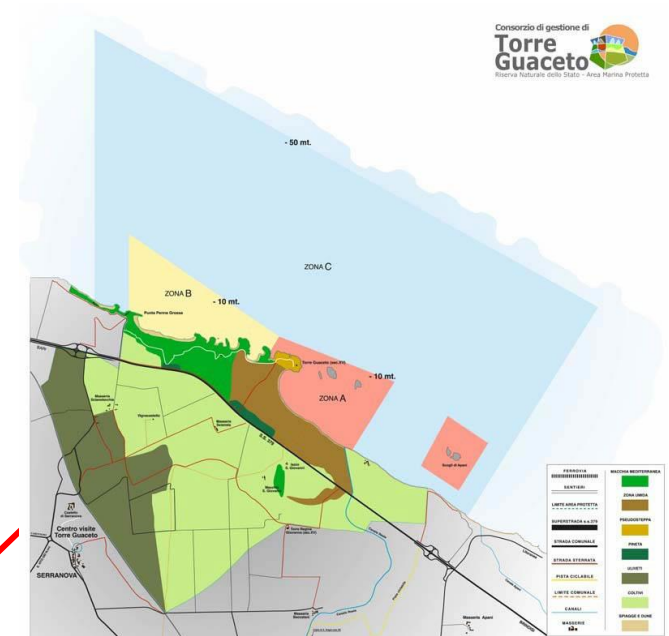
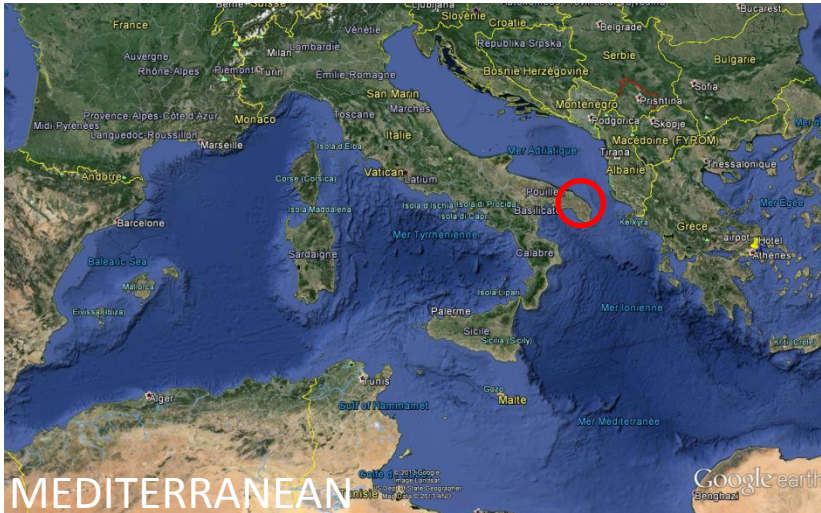
- Identify stakeholders and possible allies
- Meetings and workshops (zoning plan, fisheries regulation): include them in management planning
- Field visits to other MPAs abroad
- Dissemination of experience from people who visited other MPAs to other stakeholders through meetings and videos
- Identify fishermen heroes & experts to come to them and explain the values of the MPAs
- Support them in communicating their needs and interests to the media and politicians as long as they are consistent with Public Institution conservation goals
- Support them in activities (acknowledge their needs and interests) regarding adoption of the Spatial plan
- Develop activities that are aligned with conservation objectives

### ❖ Recommendations from the Managers

- In the management planning process, include as wider circle of stakeholders as possible
- Be open for suggestions and proposals by the stakeholders
- Try to understand them and see the issues from stakeholders' point of view
- Arm yourself with patience
- Communication, communication, communication...

# Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area, Italy

## ADAPTATIVE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT



Italy



# Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area, Italy

## ADAPTATIVE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT

### ❖ Torre Guaceto - a snapshot

- ❑ Formal implementation in 1991
- ❑ Managed by a joint Consortium since 2000:
  - WWF
  - Municipality of Brindisi
  - Municipality of Carovigno
- ❑ Marine area coverage 2 220 ha (T=3 336 ha)
- ❑ Zoning: A zone (integral reserve),  
B (general reserve), C (partial reserve)
- ❑ Fleet allowed to fish in the MPA (2013): 8 vessels





# Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area, Italy

## ADAPTATIVE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT

### ❖ The process of fishermen engagement at Torre Guaceto

#### Context

- Torre Guaceto = traditional fishing site of local fishermen for generations

#### Conflicts

- 2000: management body established and MPA managed
- Fishing forbidden in the MPA → caused vehement reactions of fishermen against the MPA
- Reason: fishermen felt to be the moral owners of MPA's territory that was stolen by a "superior" authority

#### Ice-breaking

- 2005: fishermen invited to start an experimental fishing activity in selected sectors, under the supervision of a scientific body.  
A portion of the MPA re-opened to artisanal fishing and data on catches were collected in collaboration between MPA staff, scientists and fishermen.
- Protocol to regulate fishing activities negotiated with fishermen, who had the power to propose solutions according to their needs and customs.

# Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area, Italy

## ADAPTATIVE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT

### Build a long-term collaboration

- Fishermen accepted that (on the basis of the monitoring) fishing activities would have to be regulated from year to year (1 meeting/year organized to inform them about the monitoring' results)
- 2008: formal disciplinary subscribed by the fishermen, on a voluntary base, in agreement with the MPA and scientific body.  
Disciplinary included more restrictive rules proposed by fishermen (shorter nets, wider minimum mesh size and higher operational depth).  
Rules included in the regulations then accepted by the Italian Ministry in charge of MPAs.
- 2013: a new cooperative among local fishermen is born: the cooperative of fishermen of Torre Guaceto, soon to be legally recognized. This is a notable step forward in the process of integration between the MPA and fishermen.





# Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area, Italy

## ADAPTATIVE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT

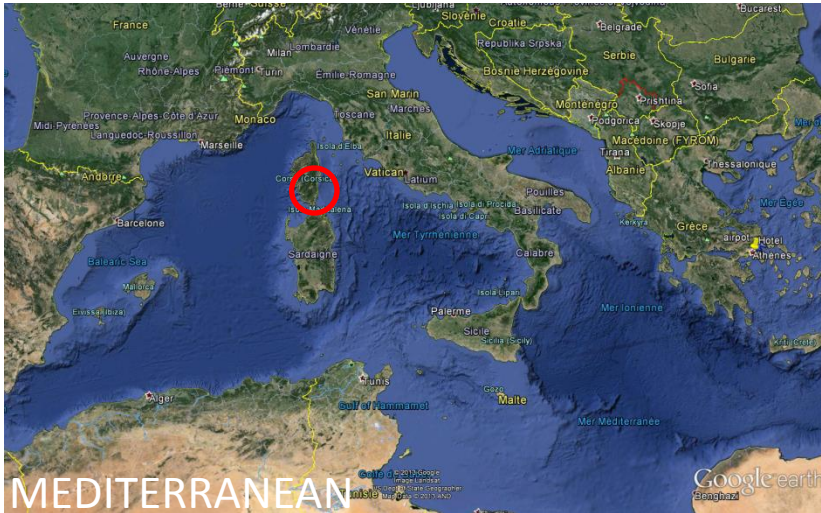
### ❖ Results

- ✓ Before the onset of the co-management process there was a continuous conflict between the fishermen and both the management body of the MPA and the police bodies patrolling in the MPA. The involvement of fishermen in co-management radically changed the situation and led to a reduction of illegal fishing.
- ✓ Fishermen feel to be part in the management. More than once they expressed publically their willing to continue in this co-management practice.

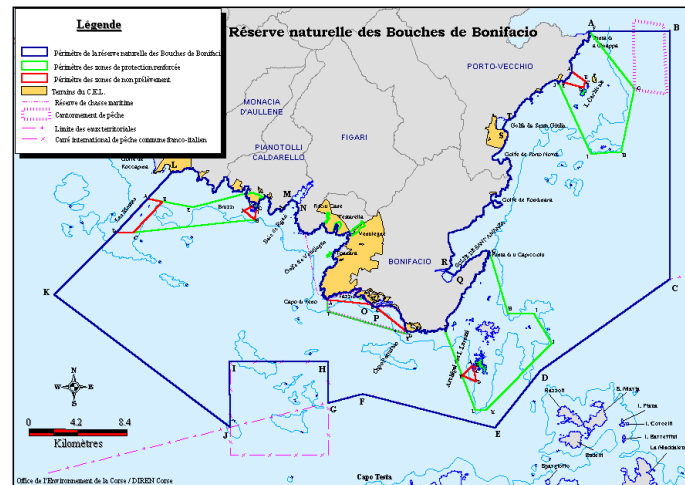
*Effective patrol of the MPA, reinforcement of personal relationships through collaborative work, implication of fishermen as advisors and the resulting increased incomes represent crucial steps to improve management of the MPA and of the artisanal fishing performed inside.*

# Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve, France

## PRESERVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES



France, Corse



**Bonifacio Strait Nature Reserve (Corse)**

# Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve, France

## PRESERVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES

### ❖ Bonifacio - a snapshot

- ❑ Declared Nature Reserve in 1999
- ❑ Managed by the Corsican Environmental Office (OEC)
- ❑ Marine area coverage 78 294 ha (T=79 460 ha)
- ❑ Evolving protection area:



→ 1981: the first natural reserves of the Cerbicale and Lavezzi islands were created

→ 1992: the PMIBB project ("International Marine Park of the Straits of Bonifacio") starts with the involvement of French and Italian ministries

→ 1999: creation of the Nature Reserve (which constitutes the Corsican part of the International Marine Park of the Straits of Bonifacio)

# Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve, France

## PRESERVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES

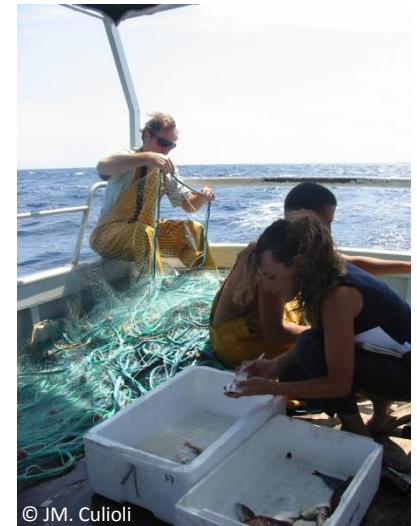
### ❖ The process of artisanal fishermen engagement at Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve (BSNR)

#### Context

- Fishermen = only “managers” of the area before the creation of the Nature Reserve
- Fishermen concerned about the future of the fishery resource

#### Creation of the Nature Reserve

- Since 1999, OEC actively collaborates with the Bonifacio Fishermen Association (Prud’homie) in the framework of fish stock management in the Strait.
- Regular monitoring, carried out on the Lavezzi islands since 1992 and then extended to the whole reserve in 2000, play a crucial role in understanding how ecosystems function and allow to take appropriate management measures for their preservation





# Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve, France

## PRESERVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES

### A long-term partnership

**1982:**

- Implementation of 2 fisheries reserves (with stringent limitation on mesh size) by the Bonifacio Fishermen Association

**From 1992 to 1999:**

- Fishermen closely involved in the creation process of the BSNR

**From 2000:**

- The partnership has further evolved with the participation of fishermen in the fishery resource management studies that are conducted in the reserve.  
In return fishermen receive compensation for the use of their vessels and fishing gear, as well as for the constraints imposed by the monitoring.

# Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve, France

## PRESERVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES

### A long-term partnership

#### Currently:

- Fishermen participate in meetings, in the Advisory Committee of the BSNR
- Regulation of artisanal fisheries were determined in part with the artisanal fishermen
- Fishermen frequently inform managers (rangers, scientists, MPA management body) about surveillance problems. The Bonifacio Fishermen Association are sworn to enforce bans on fisheries reserves.



# Bonifacio Straits Nature Reserve, France

## PRESERVE ARTISANAL FISHERIES

### ❖ Results

- ✓ Fishermen take part in monitoring programs (scientifically and technically), therefore ensuring the support of professional fishermen to management orientations and conclusions resulting from these studies.
- ✓ OEC allocates budgets dedicated to service conventions as part of the BSNR management (for boarding, lowering and raising of fishing gears, marking of small crayfish, and also for urchin counting actions).
- ✓ Positive results thanks to a mutual trust between the managers and professional fishermen based on long-term goals related to the conservation of nature and to the support of the artisanal fisheries activities

*For centuries artisanal fishing has been a crucial economic activity and one of the pillars of Mediterranean culture. But collapsing fish stocks are putting this activity in danger. MPA help rebuild the fishing resource and co-management with artisanal fishermen enables the development of responsible and prosperous fisheries.*



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**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION**  
***Köszönöm a figyelmet***

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## Some documents...

- Walton A. Gomei M. and Di Carlo G. 2013. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT. Participatory Approaches for the Planning and Development of Marine Protected Areas. World Wide Fund for Nature and NOAA— National Marine Sanctuary Program. 36 pages.  
<http://www.medpan.org/documents/10180/0/Stakeholder+engagement/d1242128-877a-46f9-9c7e-5fd7d8431651?version=1.0>
- Boillot-Grenon F., Debos F., Bouillon F.X., Université de Nice – Sophia Antipolis, 2006. Management guide for Marine Protected Areas, Local consultation. 33 pages.
- Conclusions of the Thematic Workshops of the INTERREG IIIC MedPAN Project; 2005 - 2007. WWF-France

