



EUROPARC CONFERENCE
ONLINE 8 - 9
SEPTEMBER 2020
OUR NEW FUTURE: HOW READY ARE WE?

Workshop 5: Marine Protected Areas - why does our marine environment merit special attention?

Moderated by:

Fernando Pinillos - *EUROPARC Federation's Communication Officer.*

Stefania Petrosillo - *EUROPARC Federation's Policy Officer.*

Invited Speaker:

Paloma Pacheco - *LIFE IP INTEMARES project Coordinator.*



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Workshop's Agenda

1. Introduction:

The Biodiversity Strategy
and its implications for
the marine environment
(15min)

2. Discussion:

Impacts arising from the
Biodiversity Strategy –
(20min)

3. Case study:

LIFE IP INTEMARES –
Capacity building of MPA
Managers and SH
(20min + 5min Q&A)

4. Discussion in groups:

Capacity building needs
in other regions of
Europe
(40 min)

Presentation of results:

Presentation and
collection of results
(20min)



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Why we need biodiversity?

Biodiversity: the variety of life on Earth...

- clean the water and purify the air;
- pollinate the crops;
- absorb vast quantities of carbon;
- regulate the climate;
- keep soils fertile,
- provide us with food and medicine,
- deliver many of the basic building blocks for industry.

Biodiversity loss main drivers:

- Changes in land and sea use;
- Overexploitation of natural resources;
- Climate change;
- Pollution;
- Invasive alien species.

The Biodiversity Strategy (since 2010):
A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems.



EU Green Deal - Vision in 2050



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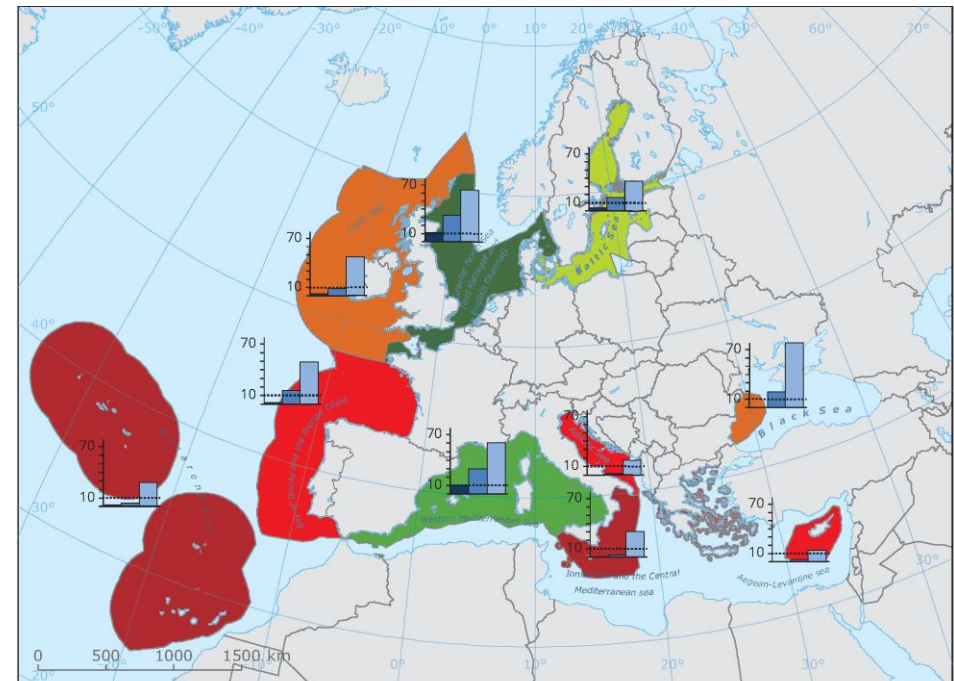
The Biodiversity Strategy 2020

By 2020, at least ... **10 % of coastal and marine areas**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems*

By the end of 2016, 10.8 % of the surface of Europe's seas had been designated as MPAs**

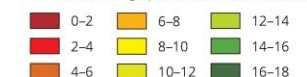
However, the current network of legally protected areas, including those under strict protection, **is not sufficiently large to safeguard biodiversity...**

*Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 -2020 - Aichi Target. ** European Environmental Agency



Distance to Aichi target 11 of 10% coverage

% of MPA coverage per EEA assessment area



Difference to 10% target in near shore, coastal and offshore distance



Disclaimer: For the Mediterranean Sea the boundaries are indicative only and do not imply any legal status.



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The Biodiversity Strategy 2030

*Protecting and restoring biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems is therefore key to **boost our resilience and prevent the emergence and spread of future diseases.***

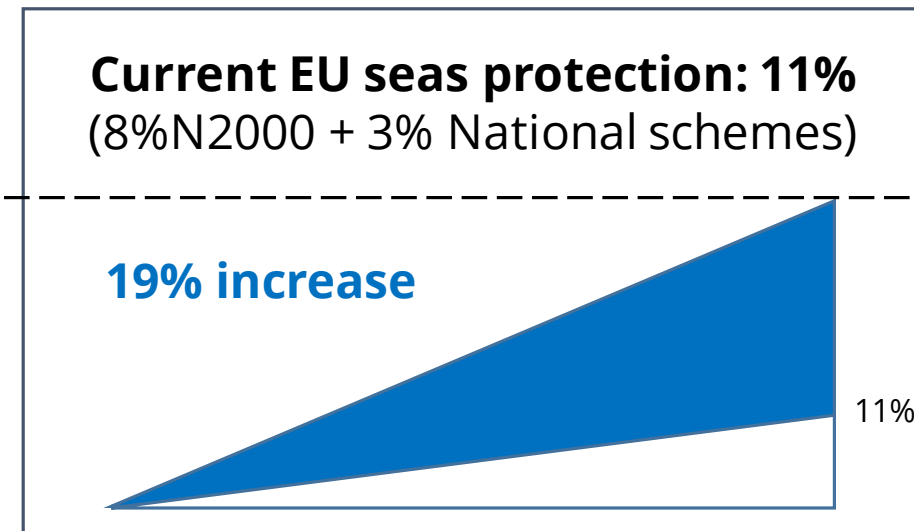
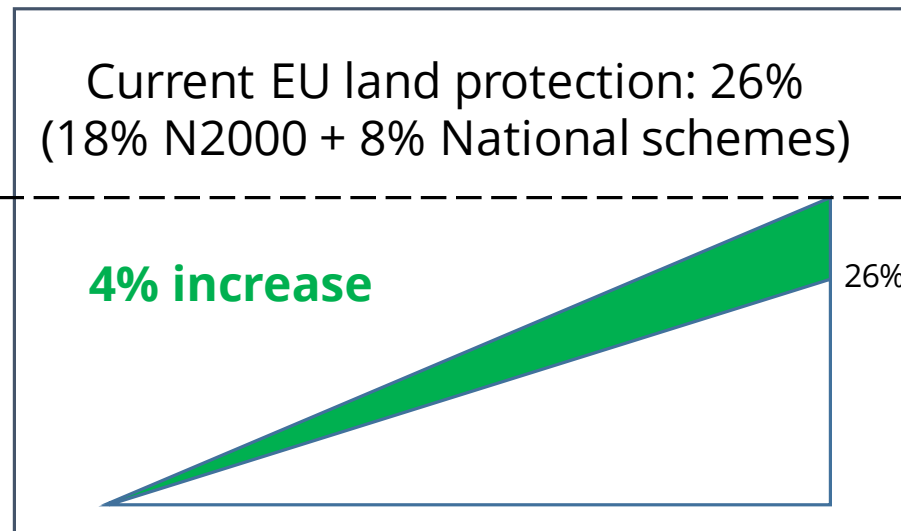
Main elements:

- Establish a larger **EU-wide network of protected areas** on land and at sea;
- **EU Nature Restoration Plan** - concrete commitments and actions to RESTORE degraded ecosystems and manage them sustainably;
- Measures to enable the necessary **transformative change** – improved governance framework and tackle the global biodiversity challenge.



Highlights of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 for the marine environment

- Legally protect a minimum of **30% of the EU's sea** area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true **Trans-European Nature Network**.
- Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas **10% of MPAs**.
- **Effectively manage all protected areas**, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.



(Latest EU-27 statistics (European database of nationally designated protected areas) v. 2019, and Natura 2000 dataset 'end 2018')

Other important implications of the Biodiversity Strategy



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- **Relevance:** Marine Protected Areas are increasingly gaining relevance in European Policies to protect marine environments and halt biodiversity lost.
- **Restoration:** Protection of nature is not enough anymore.
- **Farm to Fork Strategy “for a fair, healthy and envi-friendly food system”**
Production, market, distribution of sea food: sust. fishery, aquaculture and algae industry (what role/impact for MPAs and N2000? They are not mentioned in the strategy)



Impacts arising from the Biodiversity Strategy



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Regarding the protection of 30% of the EU's seas/ 10% strict protection of MPAs?

- 30% of protection on each biogeographical region/regional seas must be achieved?
- Does strictly protected mean No-Take? Is this realistic?
- What does it mean in regards to the overseas and EU territories overseas?

Regarding the 19% increase (on sea) from the current protection levels...

- What are the expected impacts at social level? Increased conflicts,...
- What implications has for MPA users and stakeholders, especially fishermen?

Regarding Farm to Fork Strategy

- How to push fishermen towards sustainability?
- Is aquaculture a viable alternative and safe for biodiversity?
- Algae industry: what risks?
- MPAs: what role?



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Thank you – Questions?

In regards of needs and competencies for MPA Managers and Stakeholders:

Q1. What are the potential impacts arising from the Biodiversity Strategy implementation?

Q.2 What roles do PAs have in their practical implementation?



LIFE INTEMARES



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An example on expanding MPAs in Spain and building competencies for an effective management of MPAs.

INTEMARES





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Discussion in groups

Q3. Apart from what we learned from INTEMARES project, what other capacity building tools and programmes are needed for an effective MPAs co-management - all levels?

Q4. What practical competencies Protected Areas staff need to be able to do their work?

