

## 3<sup>rd</sup> MED-MSP-CoP Workshop

# The MSP Community of Practice in the Mediterranean: progress and next steps

- A short study -

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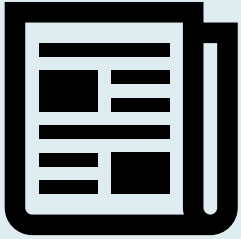
*Madrid, 29th January 2024*

1. Objectives
2. Base of information
3. Achievements so far: key topics and available knowledge
4. Challenges, available solutions and persisting gaps
5. Benefits of MSP at regional level
6. Possible priority actions and perspectives for the MED-MSP-CoP.

- To summarize CoP's activities so far
- To report on some key CoP's results (knowledge needs, available knowledge and gaps) with focus on some priority topics
- To reflect on what exchange of expertise can bring for advancing towards a regional perspective on MSP in the Mediterranean
- To identify activities that are more feasible to be implemented on which to focus the continuation of the CoP's work.

## Target users

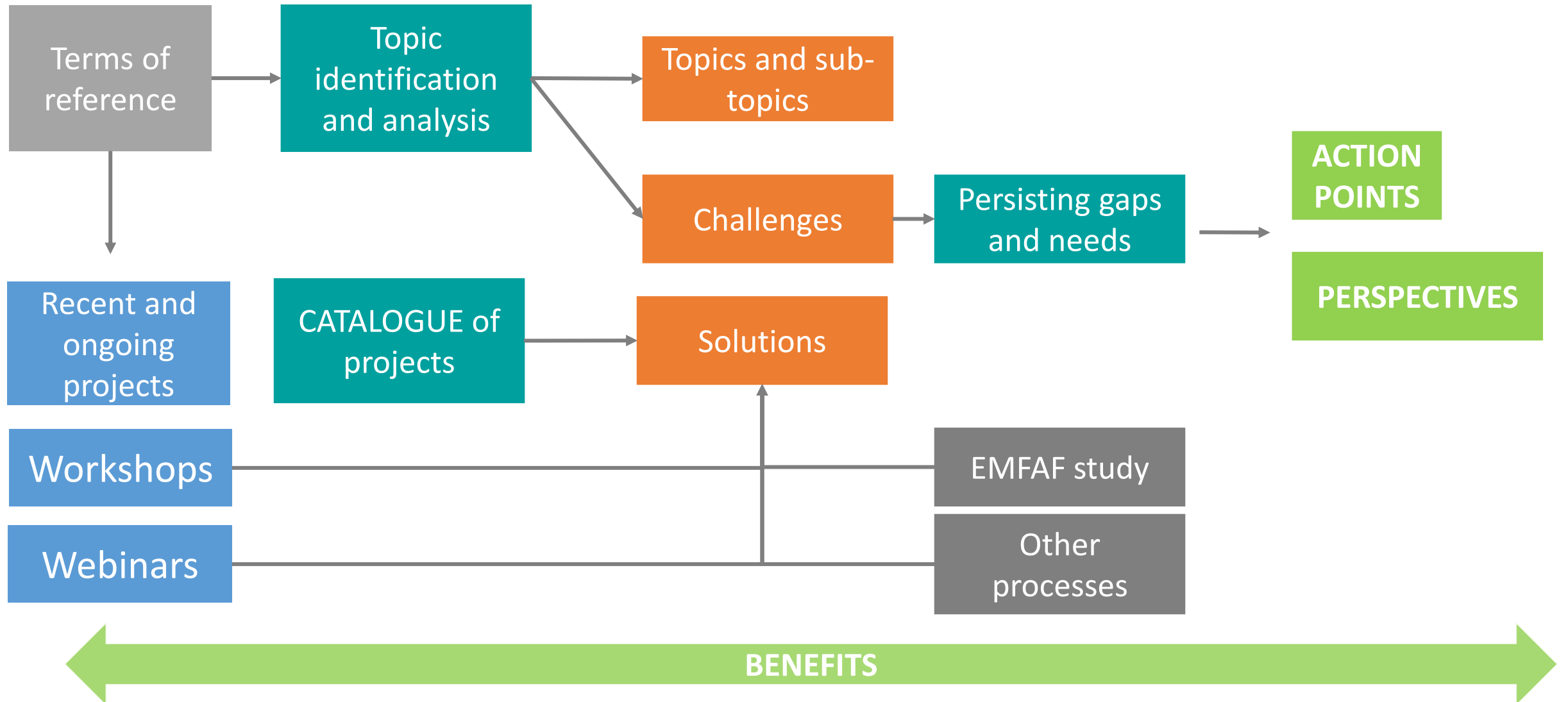
- MED-MSP-CoP itself
- external audience e.g. UNEP/MAP (WKG), UfM, EUSAIR, WESTMED...



The study largely focuses on two sub-topics, co-identified by the CoP's members:

- Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management
- MSP as a strategic framework for Sustainable Blue Economy.

# Concept of the study



Terms of  
reference

Workshops

Webinars

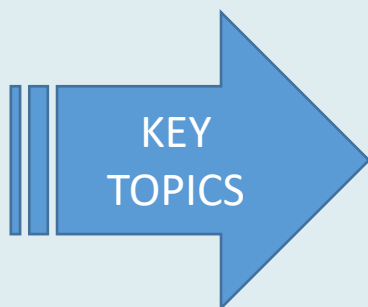
Reports

Presentations

Project database

MSP AM Study on  
EMFAF projects

<p><b>TOPIC 1</b></p> <p><b>MSP supporting the extension, improved management and improved connection of Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in the Mediterranean, towards the targets set at the international and EU level on marine biodiversity protection.</b></p>	<p><b>TOPIC 2</b></p> <p><b>MSP as key enabler for the implementation of national Sustainable Blue Economy strategies and initiatives, through the adoption of an integrated approach and towards the balanced distribution of benefits.</b></p>
<p>SUB-TOPICS</p>	<p>SUB-TOPICS</p>
<p>1. Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management</p>	<p>1. MSP as a strategic framework for SBE</p>
<p>2. Planning and conservation coherence across scales</p>	<p>2. Practical implementation of SBE through MSP</p>
<p>3. Climate change and environmental conservation</p>	<p>3. MSP supporting multi-use</p>
<p>4. Monitoring and adaptive management</p>	<p>4. Stakeholder engagement</p>
<p>5. MPA designation and integration in MSP</p>	<p>5. Reducing environmental effects</p>
<p>6. Environmental Restoration</p>	<p>6. Transboundary coherence between SBE</p>
<p>7. Data</p>	<p>7. Land-Sea interactions</p>
<p>8. Ocean Literacy for MSP</p>	<p>8. Climate change consideration when planning for SBE</p>
<p>9. Decision support tools</p>	<p>9. Performance assessment and monitoring of MS plans</p>
	<p>10. Capacity building</p>



## Task A What we have

32 past, on-going and upcoming projects and initiatives were mapped, including regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national actions.

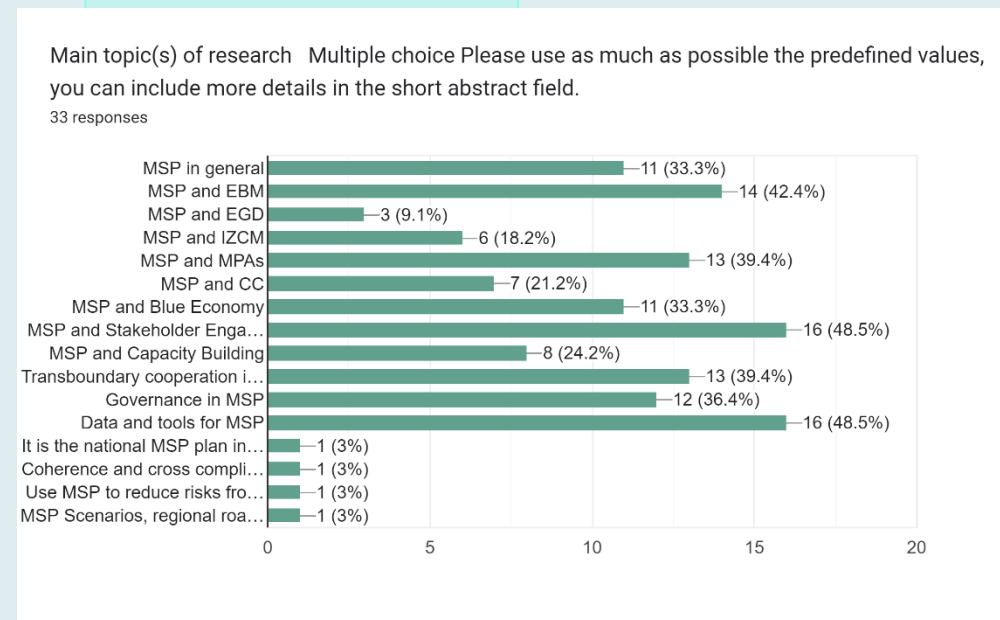
## Task B Where we are

**Catalogue of projects** was prepared providing synthetic guidance to available solutions.

**The Catalogue will be made available on the EU MSP Platform web site.**

## Task C What we need

**Needs and gaps**





**Table 3 – Examples of answers: Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management**

The table presents some examples of answers to key questions and other issues under the sub-topic “Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management”, provided by recent and ongoing projects (EMFAF study + CoP analysis) and from the MED-MSP-CoP Webinars.

Problem/Questions	Examples of answers	Source
Engaging with maritime sectors – What are the ways to involve stakeholders of private sectors in environmental conservation?	A network for fishermen communities was established among Tunisia, France, and Italy, with the aim to develop Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) strategies. Starting from CLLD initiatives in Italy and France, the project aimed to empower local communities in North Africa for sustainable coastal development, through a participatory process. Training activities were designed to engage fishermen, youth, and women. The project also promoted sustainable tourism starting from local territorial, environmental, and cultural resources, including sea-related traditions, through community involvement.	ENSABLE project (2019-2021)
– What are the ways to involve stakeholders of local communities in environmental conservation?	The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN) provides an open forum for discussion between wind energy developers, transmission system operators, and non-governmental organizations active in the field of nature conservation, aimed at improving and speeding up the planning deployment of offshore wind development and grid infrastructure, while preserving and restoring our European seas. The Renewable Grid Initiative (RGI) is a founding member of OCEaN, acting as moderator of the group.	MED-MSP-CoP Webinar 13.11.2023
Integration of ecological and socio-economic needs	An integrated and modular Ecological-Socio-Economic (ESE) management framework has been developed for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. The ESE looks at the compatibility between maritime/coastal uses and protection measures. Methods and tools to assess the impact of maritime uses as well as identification of trade-offs between Blue Economy sectors and marine conservation are provided. Several good practices related to the environmental compatibility of maritime sectors are showcased.	MSP4BIO project (2022-2025)
	An approach to pressures/impacts assessment of maritime sectors is provided, as well as the formulation of alternative scenarios for improved spatial management in the Northern Mediterranean. In the Greek case study, cumulative impact assessment results were coupled with scientific diving/ground-truthing in identified hot-spots of conflict: anchoring on sea grass meadows and derelict fishing gears on coralligenous were identified as major threats of priority conservation habitats. Ecosystem services valuation related to <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> and coralligenous formations was applied to explore options supporting more effective decision-making: environmental impact was combined with cumulative monetized impact assessment. Recommendations stemming from a participatory approach achieved through the engagement of key stakeholders were linked with spatial and non-spatial management scenarios, as conservation objectives seem to be better supported in cases when sustainable development (socio-economic) ones are also accomplished.	AMAre project (2016-2019)

## INFO SOURCES

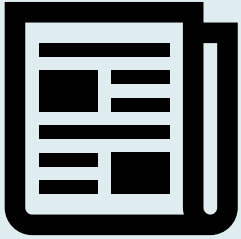
- Catalogues of projects
- study on EMFF - EMFAF projects (2024)
- Webinars organized by the CoP
- Other e.g. UfM webinar on OECMs

**Table 4 – Examples of answers: MSP as a strategic framework for SBE**

The table presents some examples of answers to key questions and other issues under the sub-topic “MSP as a strategic framework for SBE”, provided by recent and ongoing projects (EMFAF study +CoP analysis) and from the MED-MSP-CoP Webinars.

Problem/Questions	Examples of answers	Source
<p>MSP as enable of SBE: improving coexistence and promoting synergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– How to develop scenarios for the future and quantify trade-offs between them?</li> <li>– How to consider new or future uses in MSP?</li> <li>- Are maritime spatial plans enough specific to drive SBE strategies' elaboration?</li> <li>- Can MSP be a surrogate of an SBE strategy? In which cases?</li> </ul>	<p>The effect of human activities impacting the marine environment in the Eastern Mediterranean was assessed, including their cumulative environmental effects and projected future trends, especially for the Adriatic, Ionian, and Aegean-Myrtoon Seas. The analysis considered fish and shellfish harvesting, oil and gas extraction, aquaculture, shipping, shipbuilding, renewable energy generation, and maritime tourism. In addition, the project identified the spatial demands for maritime sectors at both basin and marine waters scales, with a focus on reducing conflicts and promoting synergies, particularly through multi-use approaches within an ecosystem-based framework.</p> <p>Opportunities for co-development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture were explored following different options. The project dealt with innovation speed-up and uptake in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors aiming to contribute to the sustainable development of the two sectors and the minimization of existing conflicts. The project capitalized the outcomes of the ECOAST (COFASP ERA-NET) project in which spatial conflicts between the two sectors were explored, and were further tackled in ARIEL to promote Blue Economy objectives in the Ionian Sea. The project provides approaches to modelling of potential interactions (effect on fisheries production of settling aquaculture) and examples of compensatory measures for fishing sector (e.g., Developing fishing tourism) through planning.</p>	<p>SUPREME project (2017-2018)</p> <p>Ariel project (2022)</p>

More answers to questions related with the key topics are available in the Catalogue



After this preliminary stage, the CoP focused its activities during the first biennium on the two first-ranked sub-topics.

<p><b>Sub-topic 1</b> <b>Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management</b></p>	<p><b>Sub-topic 2</b> <b>MSP as a strategic framework for SBE</b></p>
<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>	<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>
<p>1. Improved nature conservation and protection through MSP implementation</p>	<p>1. MSP cross-border collaboration to enhance the coherence of sectorial strategies at the basin scale</p>
<p>2. Sectors engagement in marine conservation: effectiveness assessment, monitoring and integration in MSP</p>	<p>2. Alignment of existing “stand-alone” sectors’ strategies through MSP implementation</p>
<p>3. Valuation of economic impacts and benefits of environmental management measures</p>	<p>3. Improved coherence between policies in formulation and implementation stages</p>
<p>4. MSP alignment across borders to meet regional conservation objectives</p>	<p>4. Integration of existing sector’s strategies into MSP</p>
<p>5. Valuation and spatialization of economic and social values for maritime sectors</p>	<p>5. Using MSP to elaborate strategies for less structured sectors</p>
<p>6. Funding environmental measures/action from maritime sectors</p>	<p>6. MSP influence on sectors regulated at regional/international scale</p>
	<p>7. MSP role in stakeholders’ engagement to align sectorial strategies.</p>

# Challenges: available solutions

**Table 6 – Available solutions to challenges: Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management**

The table presents some solutions to the challenges identified for the sub-topic "Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management", provided by recent and ongoing projects (analysis undertaken by the CoP) and from the MED-MSP-CoP Workshops.



Challenge	Solution	Source and details		
1. Improved nature conservation and protection through MSP implementation	Benchmark of MSP instruments for marine conservation	MSP-GREEN	Recommendations on how to include marine conservation and restoration in MSP	
	Building scenarios of marine uses' evolution with regard to potential conservation measures	MSP4BIODIVERSITY (IT)		
		MPA EUROPE		Scenario building, marine sectors evolution with regard to ecosystem and biodiversity conservation
		<a href="#">FutureMARES</a>		Ecosystem models to develop future scenarios examining how to reach targets on biodiversity conservation
		<a href="#">WestMed Initiative</a>		Tool to conduct cumulative impact assessments
	Coherence between MSP and MSFD measures	<a href="#">ReMAP</a>		Spatial overlapping between MSP plans and GES assessment under MSFD
		<a href="#">CrossGov</a>		Methodologies developed to assess the coherence between different policies and to assess the transfer from science-to-policy-to-society to improve policy coherence
	Ecosystem approach in MSP	Mediterranean MSP Workspace (PAP/RAC)		Self-assessment method
		Marine Plan		3D planning, to prioritise conservation areas. 3D is very important to be able to consider the depth dimension in the conservation of marine ecosystems
	Assess uses compatibility with ecosystem sensitivity	<a href="#">ReMAP</a>		Tool to assess compatibility between MPA objectives and maritime uses

## INFO SOURCES

- Catalogues of projects
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> CoP workshops

# Challenges: available solutions

**Table 7 – Available solutions to challenges: MSP as a strategic framework for SBE**

The table presents some solutions to the challenges identified for the sub-topic “MSP as a strategic framework for SBE”, provided by recent and ongoing projects (analysis undertaken by the CoP) and from the MED-MSP-CoP Workshops.

Challenge	Solution	Source and details	
1. MSP cross-border collaboration to enhance the coherence of sectorial strategies at the basin scale	Scenarios for maritime uses in the Western Mediterranean, based on different visions.	MSP Global	Three scenarios: trend scenario, conservationist scenario and integrated scenario. Methodology to discuss them in a regional workshop.
	Improved governance	REGINA MSP	Articulation of region's maritime policies with national MSP
		Marine PLAN	Study on transboundary governance and recommendations
		MEDIGREEN	Technical study on the role of EGD-MSP for key sectors: fisheries, aquaculture, OWE
	Fora to agree on common objectives and with political will	MED-MSP-CoP	The political level will more accessible with an operative connection with the UNEP/MAP MSP WG.
2. Alignment of existing sectorial strategies through MSP implementation	Alignment of sector strategies with EGD objectives	MSP-GREEN	Recommendations to integrate the EGD objectives into MSP, per “EGD element” but also crosscutting.
	Calls that make mandatory the collaboration between sectors to advance on certain topics.		
	Methodology/approach to identify key developments/trajectories/scenarios and select the related key elements from existing sector strategies	MSP4BIODIVERSITY (IT)	Proposals for improving and adapting MSP plans for SBE in three pilot areas
	Options to improve governance structure for national maritime policy		
	Identification of synergies amongst sectors that can improve ocean governance		



Even though most of the Mediterranean non-EU countries don't have proper MSP plans, challenges and solutions related to MSP could also be encountered/addressed throughout a less formalised maritime management process (such as a sector-based or a local management initiative).

# Persisting and emerging gaps and needs

<b>Sub-topic 1</b> <b>Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management</b>	<b>Sub-topic 2</b> <b>MSP as a strategic framework for SBE</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">GAPS &amp; NEEDS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GAPS &amp; NEEDS</p>
<p>Real case application of dialogue and co-construction with maritime sectors</p>	<p>Heterogeneity of situations across the Med</p>
<p>Valuation and spatialization of maritime sectors</p>	<p>Regional dimension of SBE</p>
<p>Social and economic impact of MSP</p>	<p>Need to start with cross-border and sub-regional cases, possibly focused on one or few key sectors</p>
<p>Effectiveness of sustainability measures for maritime sectors in MS plan</p>	
<p>Progresses towards the European Green Deal objectives</p>	<div data-bbox="1595 1008 2181 1196" style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>INFO SOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalogues of projects</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> CoP workshops</li> </ul> </div>
<p>Identification, designation, monitoring and assessment of OECMs</p>	

- Exchange of knowledge between experts is fundamental to build common background and language, shared concepts and approaches, commonly recognized tools and methods for MSP, as well as use of available solutions.
- Opportunity to build on the shared knowledge and create capacity building opportunities for CoP's members and, more in general, for all interested actors
- Continuous progress towards a shared and commonly recognized base of data and tools.

Continue working on these aspects would allow progress towards a regional perspective for MSP in the Mediterranean. This process would at the same time reinforce national capacity to develop MSP plans at country level.



# Action points

<b>Sub-topic 1</b> <b>Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management</b>	<b>Sub-topic 2</b> <b>MSP as a strategic framework for SBE</b>	<b>Topics deserving additional work though projects and initiatives</b>
<p>Strengthen MSP support to sustainable management of SSF: knowledge on spatial distribution, collaboration with marine protection initiatives</p>	<p>Map the availability and analyse the relationship between SBE strategies development and MS plans in the Mediterranean countries</p>	<p>Assessing the economic impacts of MS plans</p>
<p>Strengthen MSP support to extension and sustainability of aquaculture</p>	<p>Identify topics and cross-border or sub-regional cases to develop tests/exercises of coordination between SBE developments and MSP</p>	<p>Assessing the societal impact of MS plans</p>
<p>Identification and designation of OECMs</p>	<p>Regularly exchange and possibly establish active cooperation and mutual support with the UNEP Working Group on MSP</p>	<p>Assessing the effectiveness of conservation measures</p>
<p>Capacity building on available tools to support the involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management and conservation</p>		<p>Assessing the contribution of MS plans towards EGD objectives</p>

# Perspectives for the MED-MSP-CoP

- The MED-MSP-CoP can play an important role in extending and strengthening the implementation of MSP in the region, representing a fundamental tool for dialogue, exchange and capacity building.
- The CoP should not be seen in isolation but it would benefit and contribute from synergies with other initiatives: in particular with the UNEP-MAP WG on MSP, national/sub-national CoPs, and at the global level with MSP Global
- The CoP could become the voice of MSP practitioners from the region, also in the exchanges with similar CoPs from other sea basins
- Additional work is recommended towards implementation oriented-projects, by increasing the active involvement of MSP responsible authorities in projects, also e.g communicating regularly the CoP's findings to national authorities.

# Still a lot to work on!

- draft recommendation paper
- from solutions to operational recommendations... the workshop today!
- The future of the MED-MSP- Cop



Thank you!

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