Community of Practice on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean

MED-MSP-CoP

MED-MSP-CoP II 2025 Workshop

26th of May 2025

European MSP Platform

WESTMED blue economy initiative

Nature Protection – Technical Study

How Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) can improve Nature Protection with a specific emphasis on supporting the objectives of the European Green Deal (EGD).

For the Nature Protection component, this means exploring the role MSP can play in:

- Enhancing the spatial implementation of nature protection policies and frameworks (e.g. EU Biodiversity Strategy, 30x30 target, Barcelona Convention).
- Promoting the sustainable development of marine conservation areas through integrated planning approaches that consider ecosystem needs and human activities.
- Improving cross-sectoral coordination and spatial efficiency by embedding biodiversity goals into MSP decision-making.

Nature Protection – Technical Study

The technical paper on Nature Protection will be:

- Based on a literature review of scientific, policy, and technical sources.
- Structured around key analytical dimensions, including:
  - Current status, trends, and potentials
  - Environmental implications and climate change scenarios
  - Socio-economic impacts and social acceptance
  - Knowledge and technology gaps
  - Governance and policy drivers or obstacles
  - Interactions with other maritime sectors
- Conclude with a reflection on the role of MSP as a facilitator of EGD-aligned transformation in marine nature protection.

This technical paper is intended to **inform strategic MSP decision-making**.

Nature Protection – Technical Study

1. Introduction

1.1 Contextual relevance

1.2 Purpose, scope and relevance of the report

1.3 Methodology and data sources used

2. Current Status, Trends, and Potentials

2.1 Current status

2.2 Trends (future)

3. Governance Aspects and Policy Alignment

3.1 Existing policy landscape for nature protection

3.2 Institutional structures

3.3 Stakeholder involvement

4. Interactions with other Maritime Uses

4.1 Expansion of other maritime uses and sectoral interactions

4.2 MSP's role in addressing spatial pressures

Setting the Context: To introduce the rationale, scope, and methodology of the study.

Baseline, Governance, and Trends: To describe the current situation and governance structures, and anticipate future developments.

Cross-sector Interactions and Spatial Pressures: To analyse how nature protection interacts with other maritime activities and how MSP can manage these.

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5. Environmental Implications and Climate Change Impacts

5.1 MPAs vulnerability to CC

5.2 Climate change impacts on the nature and biodiversity

5.3 MSP's role in addressing climate and environmental implications in relation to nature protection/ MSP leverage

6. Socio-Economic Implications and Just Transition

6.1 Economic benefits and challenges

6.2 Social and cultural significance

6.3 Equity and inclusion in the sector

7. Knowledge and Gaps

7.1 Scientific and data gaps

7.2 Technological innovation needs

7.3 Gaps in governance, policies and management

7.4 Training, education, and cross-sectoral knowledge sharing

Environmental, Climate Change and Socio Economic challenges:
To examine the ecological impacts of climate change and the potential for MSP to mitigate them. As well as to explore the socio-economic role of marine nature protection and ensure equity in transition strategies.

Knowledge, Gaps, and Innovation Needs: To identify and highlight limitations and what is missing in terms of knowledge, technology, governance, and human capacity.

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8. The Role of MSP to enhance nature protection

8.1 Summary of how MSP incorporates specific nature protection requirements

8.2 EGD-driven transformation requirements

8.3 Transformation through marine spatial planning towards sustainability, innovation, and economic diversification

8.4 Indicators for Monitoring MSP Effectiveness

The Role of MSP in Driving Nature Protection: To synthesise how MSP can actively contribute to EGD objectives and nature protection.

9. Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 Summary of key findings

9.2 Policy and management recommendations

9.3 Future research needs and action priorities

Conclusions and Actionable Recommendations Purpose: To summarize insights and provide actionable guidance.