



MSP & MPA

Boosting cross-sectoral integration for resilient marine ecosystems

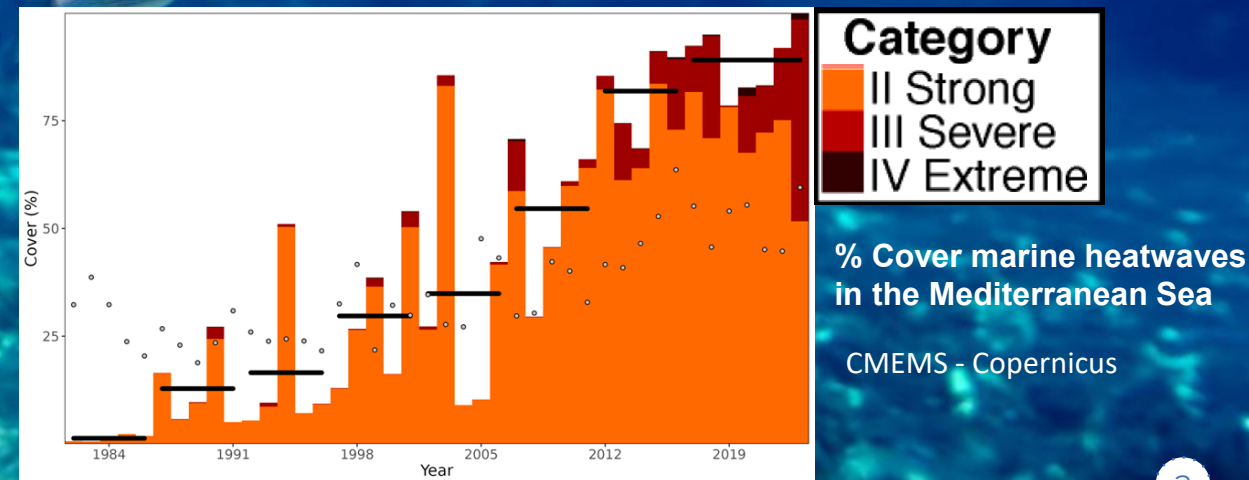
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The Mediterranean Sea

A hotspot under pressure

- **One of the world's top 36** marine & coastal biodiversity hotspot
- **0.7 %** of the global ocean surface but comprises **4 to 18 %** of the world known marine species, depending on taxonomic group
- **20 %** of endemism for all species found in the basin

- **150 millions** people live on the coast
- **1/3** of global maritime traffic
- **1st** world tourist destination
- **Booming exploitation** of hydrocarbons at sea
- **Overexploited** resources
- Land based **pollution**
- **Climate change hotspot** that is warming 20% more than the global average

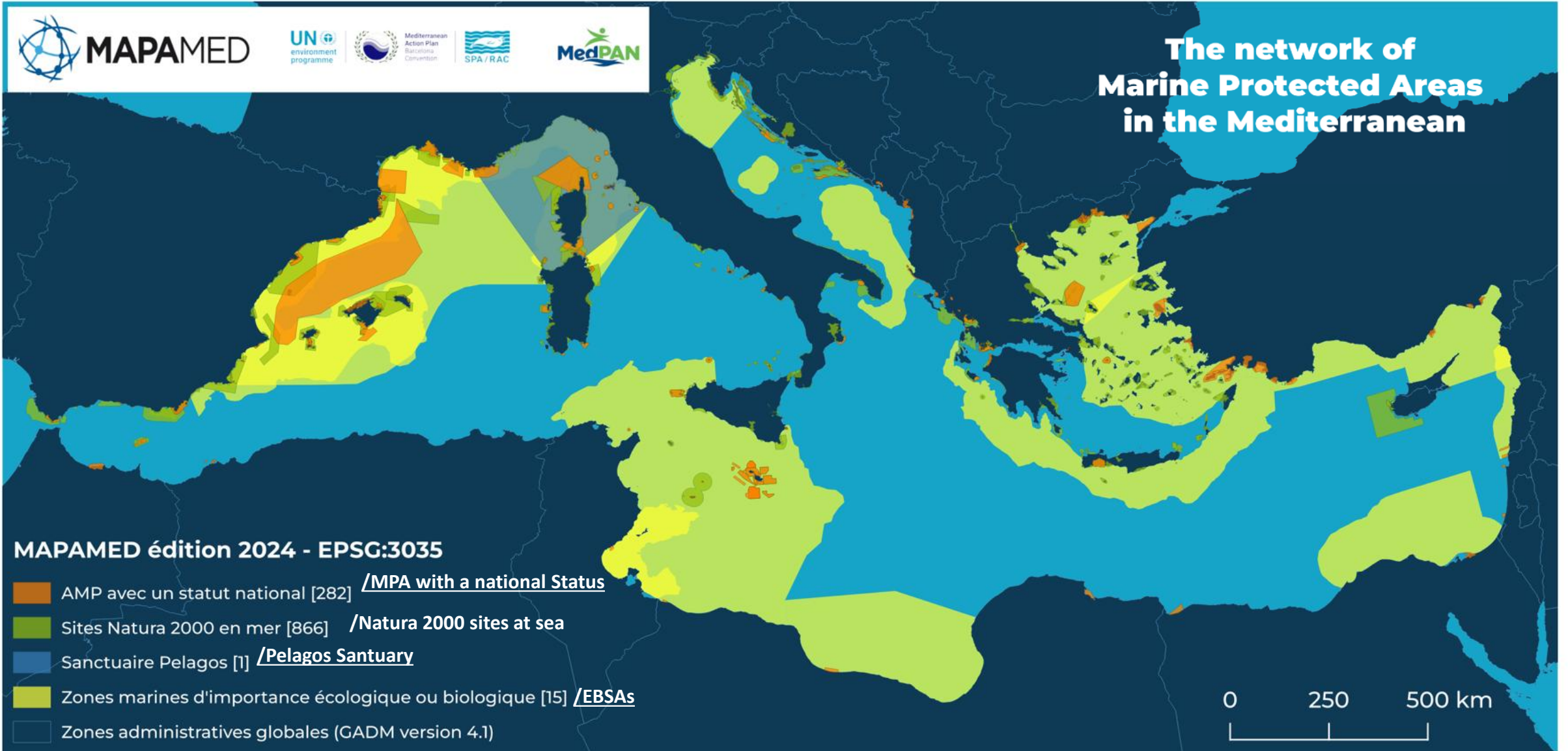


An MPA network to be strengthened:

8.8 %
MPA coverage

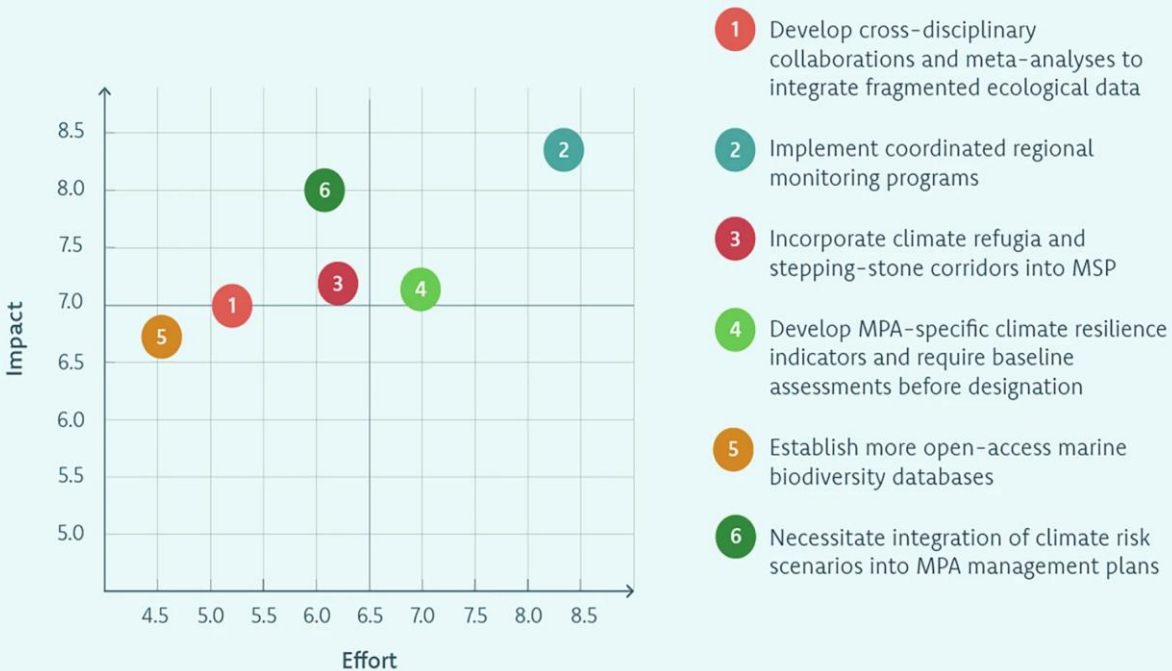
0.04 %
Cumulative surface of no-go,
no-take & no-fishing zones

97.4 %
Share of MPA coverage in
EU waters

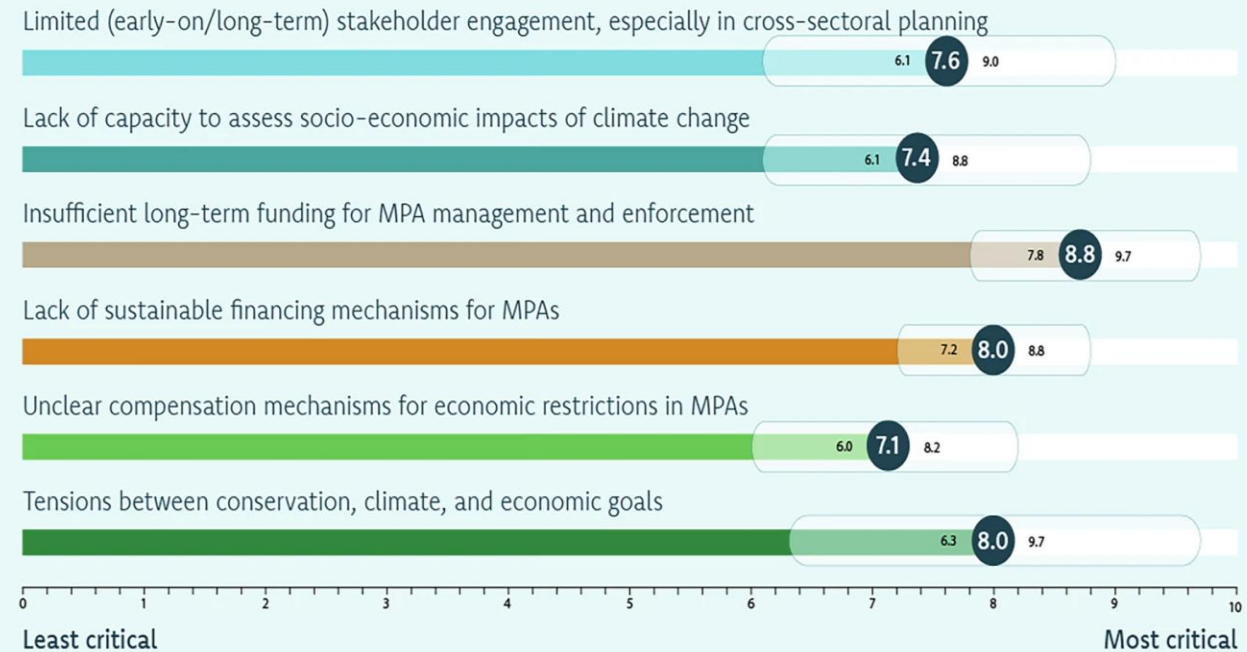


Squaring the circle of a climate smart MSP: Sectoral measures/Socio-economic and ecological resilience/ ecological shifts

WHICH ECOLOGICAL ACTIONS REQUIRE LEAST EFFORT AND HIGHEST IMPACT?



HOW CRITICAL ARE THESE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND GAPS?



From: [Towards climate-ready marine protected areas: challenges and strategic pathways](#), Fuchs, G., Stelljes, N., Kroos, F. et al. *Towards climate-ready marine protected areas: challenges and strategic pathways*. npj Ocean Sustain 5, 15 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-026-00184-32026>

ANALYTICAL DIMENSIONS

ECOLOGICAL RESPONSES

- Species shifts
- Climate refugia
- Monitoring
- Connectivity



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

- Community participation
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Equity



GOVERNANCE & POLICY

- Legal flexibility
- Cross-sectoral coordination
- Adaptive management



- MPA planning and management and MSP must anticipate ecological change and incorporate adaptive, learning-oriented approaches that allow action even under imperfect knowledge.
- Better cross-sectoral coordination is an important area of progress to better manage necessary trade-offs with competing sectors is needed.
- Sensible articulation between tools including OECMs and adaptive spatial measures such as temporary closures .
- Modelling of change in functional connectivity, shifting species distributions, emerging habitat transformations and potential refuges / restoration sites is needed.
- Coordinating the MSP national process at the basin / sub-basin level for an ecosystem-based approach, a better integrated approach and strategic alignment with scenarios.
- Be clear of cumulative impacts.
- Be inclusive of different stakeholders – take into account all types of knowledge.

MSP can potentially offer a governance framework to coordinate adaptive protection across space and sectors, ensuring coherence between conservation and other marine uses. But a **greater horizontal and vertical alignment is needed !**



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