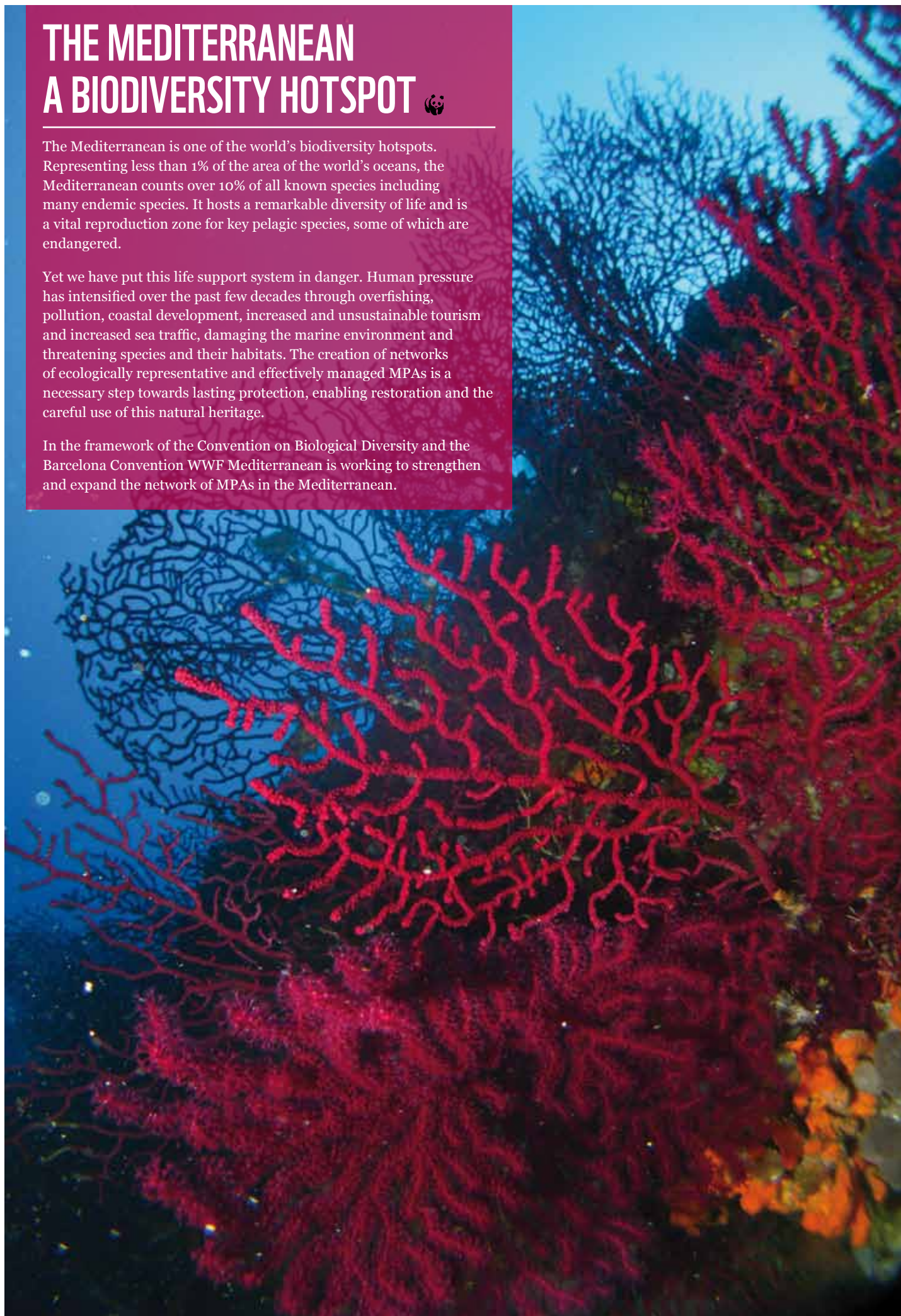


THE MEDITERRANEAN A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

The Mediterranean is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Representing less than 1% of the area of the world's oceans, the Mediterranean counts over 10% of all known species including many endemic species. It hosts a remarkable diversity of life and is a vital reproduction zone for key pelagic species, some of which are endangered.

Yet we have put this life support system in danger. Human pressure has intensified over the past few decades through overfishing, pollution, coastal development, increased and unsustainable tourism and increased sea traffic, damaging the marine environment and threatening species and their habitats. The creation of networks of ecologically representative and effectively managed MPAs is a necessary step towards lasting protection, enabling restoration and the careful use of this natural heritage.

In the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Barcelona Convention WWF Mediterranean is working to strengthen and expand the network of MPAs in the Mediterranean.



MEDPAN SOUTH PROJECT

The MedPAN South Project aims to enhance the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features by:

- supporting 11 countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean to improve the management effectiveness of their existing MPAs and establish new ones
- strengthening MedPAN, the Mediterranean network of MPA managers.

This mid-term report describes and evaluates the four complementary components that make up the MedPAN South Project:

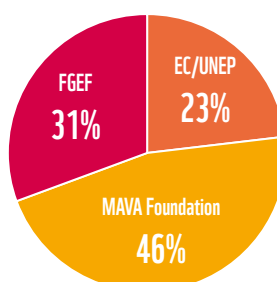
1. Pilot projects	04
Pilot projects on MPA design and management effectiveness in Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey.	
2. Capacity Building Programme	18
A capacity building programme to improve the management effectiveness of existing and future MPAs in the project countries.	
3. Communications activities	24
Communications activities to promote the project results and the MedPAN network, as well as the values and importance of MPAs and MPA networks in the Mediterranean.	
4. Project coordination	25
Overall coordination and networking with MedPAN South Project partners.	
The Project is managed by WWF Mediterranean in collaboration with UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA, as part of the Biodiversity Component of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem MedPartnership project, led by UNEP.	

THE 11 COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
3,800,100 EUROS

PROJECT DURATION
2009-2012

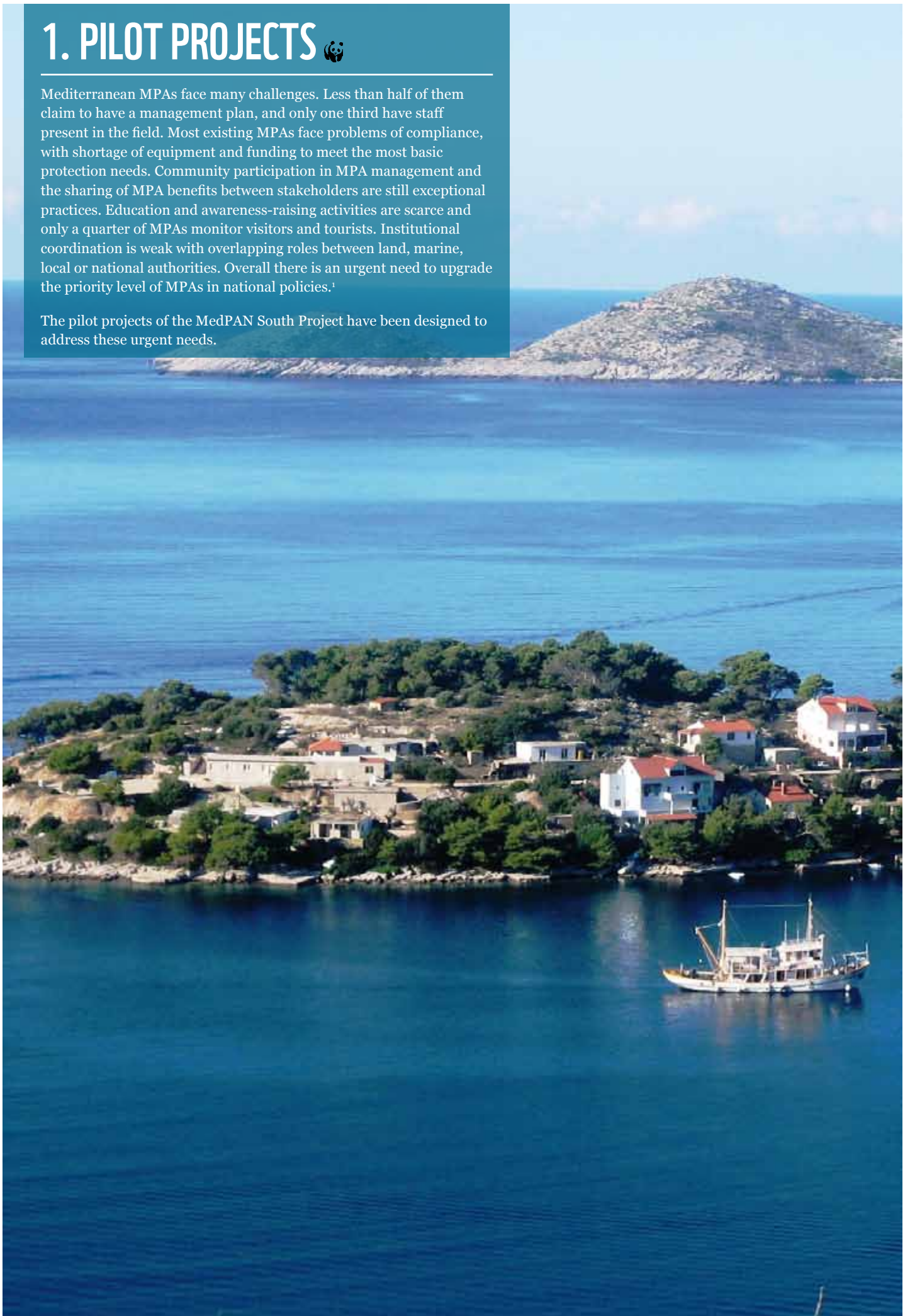


Funding breakdown for the MedPAN South Project, with financial support from the MAVA Foundation, the French Global Environmental Facility and EC/UNEP.

1. PILOT PROJECTS

Mediterranean MPAs face many challenges. Less than half of them claim to have a management plan, and only one third have staff present in the field. Most existing MPAs face problems of compliance, with shortage of equipment and funding to meet the most basic protection needs. Community participation in MPA management and the sharing of MPA benefits between stakeholders are still exceptional practices. Education and awareness-raising activities are scarce and only a quarter of MPAs monitor visitors and tourists. Institutional coordination is weak with overlapping roles between land, marine, local or national authorities. Overall there is an urgent need to upgrade the priority level of MPAs in national policies.¹

The pilot projects of the MedPAN South Project have been designed to address these urgent needs.



¹From “Status of MPAs in the Mediterranean sea”, IUCN, MedPAN and WWF (2008).



HIGHLIGHTS

- Inter-sectoral committees (Steering Committees) established at national and/or local level in Algeria, Croatia, Tunisia, and Turkey to assist in project implementation and ensure institutional support for field activities and the long-term success of target MPAs. Committees include representatives of all authorities that have a direct or indirect role in the management of the selected MPA.
- Local stakeholders' involvement in the activities of the pilot projects ensured through regular consultation workshops, informal meetings, media communication and international field visits.
- So far more than 200 people from the five pilot projects have taken part in training courses on MPA design and management planning.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- Algeria: Staff of the Taza National Park (north-eastern region of Algeria) have launched a fully participatory process to develop the management plan of the marine area adjacent to the Park involving all local stakeholders as well as the other two coastal national parks and all necessary national authorities.
- Croatia: All five existing Croatian MPAs have embarked on the coordinated development of their management plans towards a standardisation of the MPA management planning process in Croatia, while enhancing collaboration between MPA staff, relevant administrations, stakeholders and NGOs.
- Libya: Ain Al-Ghazalah Gulf (northeastern Libya) was identified as a priority marine and coastal area for protection and in January 2011 was officially declared an MPA. Baseline studies were completed and a detailed work plan was developed to build local capacity and ensure adequate preparation for the effective management of the new Libyan MPA.
- Tunisia: The office of the Cap Négro-Cap Serrat MPA was established, personnel recruited and the business plan developed setting out long-term, sustainable financing solutions for all activities in the MPA, as well as for all other MPAs in Tunisia.
- Turkey: A fully participatory process to develop the management plan for the marine area of Kaş-Kekova Specially Protected Area (SPA) was launched and is currently contributing to the national strategy towards strengthening the system of MPAs in Turkey.

National institutional coordination is a major priority for the project

MID-TERM EVALUATION

A mid-term self evaluation has been undertaken to assess the MedPAN South Project's overall progress in order to apply, if necessary, adaptive project management. Of the several approaches for evaluating project development, the Compass Card method for MPA assessments, which was developed and used in the framework of a review of FGEF's co-financed project experiences concerning MPAs in tropical zones (FGEF review 2010²), was selected as being most appropriate to MPA-related projects.

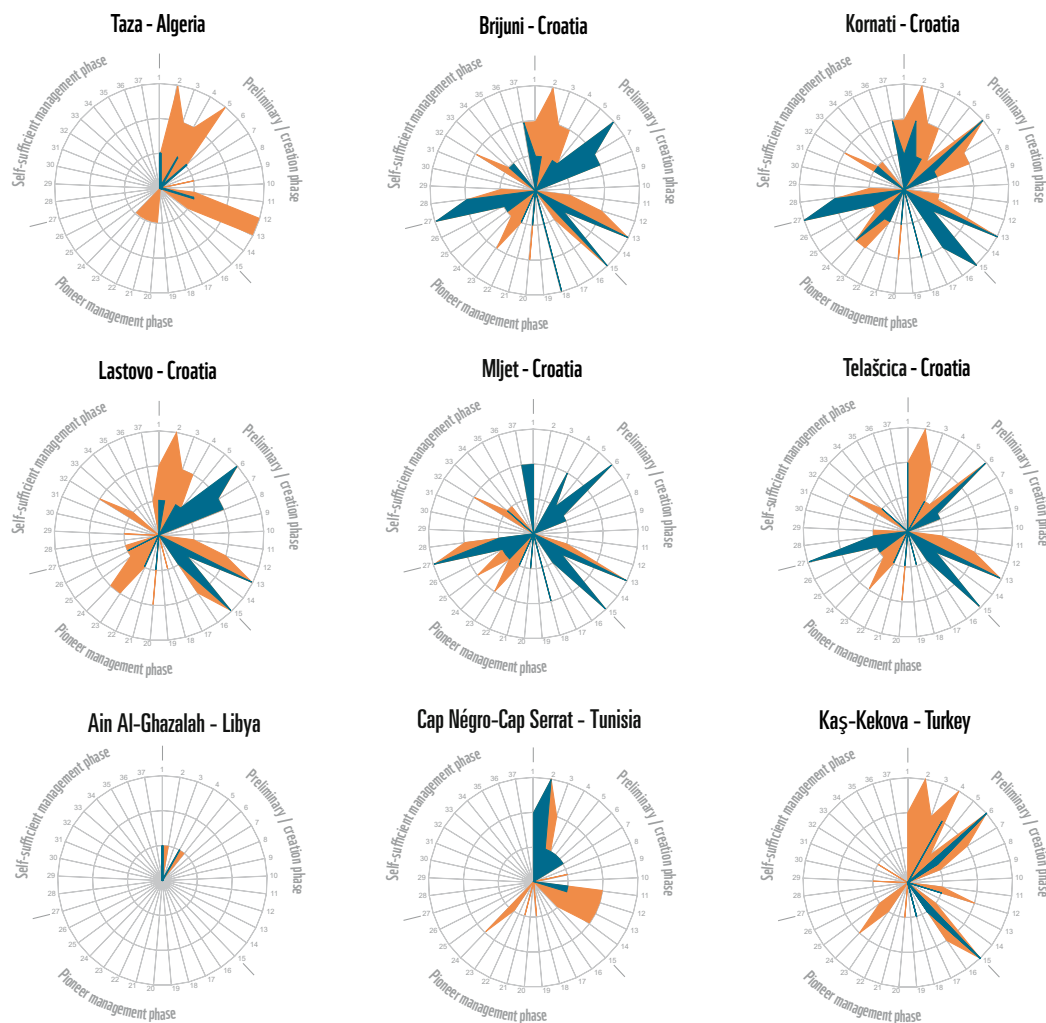
The Compass Card method builds on the idea that the process of establishing an MPA can be roughly divided into three phases, up to the point where the MPA is well on the way to financial, technical and institutional self-sufficiency. Each of these phases can, in turn, be divided into activities that serve as criteria to assess the project's state of progress and robustness.

MedPAN South pilot projects aim to improve the management effectiveness of 6 existing MPAs in Croatia and Turkey and promote the creation of 3 new ones in Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. This mid-term evaluation has provided a clearer understanding of the level of maturity of each MPA at the outset of the project and the way in which the project is contributing to the progress in the MPAs concerned, how this progress varies across MPAs and how the specific needs of each MPA are being effectively addressed.

The Compass Card evaluation highlights the following:

- In Taza National Park, Algeria, project activities concentrate on the preliminary steps necessary to gazetting the area as an MPA, such as site characterisation, stakeholders' involvement and institutional arrangements.
- In Croatia, the five National and Nature Parks involved in the project are already operative and well functioning. The project is thus strengthening the capacity of MPA managers on management planning and addressing the priority needs that they have in the preliminary and pioneer management phases.
- In Libya, where project activities started only in September 2010, major steps have been taken towards the designation of the new MPA in Ain Al-Ghazalah Gulf.
- In Cap Négro-Cap Serrat, Tunisia, the project is building on previous initiatives, allowing the characterisation of the site and development of a preliminary management plan. The MedPAN South Project is contributing to the consolidation of such preliminary actions by setting up an effective management body in the field and ensuring its long-term financial sustainability.
- Kaş-Kekova, Turkey, was officially designated an SPA in 2006. Since then, however, few activities have been undertaken to ensure the effective management of the site. The MedPAN South Project is now filling the main gaps in the preliminary phase of management to ensure the development of a concerted management plan and its effective implementation.

² French Global Environment Facility (FGEF), 2010. Marine Protected Areas - Review of FGEF's co-financed project experiences. Assessment carried out by Thierry Clément, Catherine Gabrie, Jean Roger Mercier and Héloïse You. Study coordinated by Julien Calas.



The Compass Card method applied to the nine MPAs of the MedPAN South Project.

The charts describe the status of each MPA at the beginning of the project (■ late 2008) and after two years (■ end 2010).

MPA PHASES AND INDICATIVE STAGES WITHIN EACH PHASE USED TO BUILD THE COMPASS CARD MODEL

Preliminary or creation phase

1. Identification of zones of ecological interest
2. Identification of stakeholders affected by the MPA
3. Stakeholder participation process
4. Natural resources baseline report (point 0)
5. Socio-economic baseline report (point 0)
6. Identification of the protected area perimeter
7. Identification of zoning
8. Identification of management rules per zone
9. Identification of alternative livelihoods projects
10. Identification of benefit-sharing rules
11. Ownership of the project by beneficiaries
12. Ownership of the project by the authorities
13. Creation of the management body
14. Creation of the management committee
15. Official declaration of MPA creation

Pioneer management phase

16. Communication on the MPA's creation
17. Delimitation of MPA boundaries
18. Start of management operations and surveillance
19. Preparation of a business plan
20. Finalisation and approval of the management plan
21. Start of alternative livelihoods project
22. Routine management committee work
23. Capacity building within the MPA

24. Continuation of information and awareness-raising programme

25. Monitoring begins (biological, socio-eco and management efficiency) and feedback to populations
26. Monitoring of management activities begins
27. Accounting system established

Self-sufficient management phase

28. Effective implementation of the management plan
29. Community involvement efforts continue
30. Checks on equitable benefit-sharing
31. Alternative livelihoods project established on a professional basis
32. Capacity building effort maintained within the MPA
33. Monitoring continues - project log
34. Demonstration of beneficial ecological effects
35. Demonstration of beneficial socio-economic effects
36. Review of the management plan and adaptive management
37. Long-term financing secured and reserves created for investments

Source : FGEF 2010.²

PILOT PROJECT IN ALGERIA



Biodiversity assessment © Taza National Park

A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TAZA NATIONAL PARK

The pilot project in Algeria aims to support the Taza National Park, in the province (*Wilaya*) of Jijel (north-east of Algeria), in the development of a management plan for the marine area adjacent to the Park. The future MPA will include the Banc of Kabyles, already designated a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) under the Barcelona Convention. The project will assist the Park in producing all necessary documents for official MPA designation by promoting the involvement of local communities in the development of the management plan and its future implementation. While waiting for the official designation, the management of the marine area will be based on the application of existing laws and the voluntary commitment of the stakeholders.

Local Coordinator: Taza National Park

Partners: Direction Générale des Forêts, Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme - MATET, Commissariat National du Littoral - CNL, University of Jijel and other local Universities.

MAKING MARINE CONSERVATION WORK

The legal and institutional framework in Algeria has been so far the main obstacle for the implementation of effective marine conservation measures. Creation and management of Protected Areas are under the responsibility of the Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF) for coastal National Parks, while the newly formed Commissariat National du Littoral (CNL), under the Ministry of the Environment, supervises the management of marine and coastal areas. As a result, several MPAs are still in the process of being created and existing ones need more consistent management measures. The recent law on MPAs, approved at the end of 2010, clarifies the authority of each relevant institution and should improve governance and implementation of management of marine resources.

Under the supervision of the DGF, Taza National Park is one of three coastal National Parks currently working on gazetting adjacent marine areas. In Taza this area hosts important spawning and nursery grounds for commercial fish, and a remarkable coralligenous community in a healthy state. It teems with several endangered species listed in the SP/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention as well as bio-indicator species for non-polluted water. However, this fragile equilibrium is today threatened by increasing human pressure, exacerbated by the mounting investments in the Jijel area of the tourism sector. The fishing community is already reporting significant reductions in fish catches.

With the support of WWF Mediterranean and of international experts in the field of marine conservation, Taza National Park is leading efforts to protect these remarkable natural values. A series of socio-economic and ecological assessments have been achieved in the past two years which have led to the revision of the preliminary zoning of the marine area covered by the project. Particular attention has been paid to building the capacity and the skills of the Park staff on MPA-related issues and in ensuring full participation of local stakeholders in the development of the MPA management plan. The local population depends largely on the direct exploitation of marine resources and fishing is a key source of income. Finding new strategies to better match conservation objectives with long-term socio-economic benefits for the local communities, ensuring fishermen support the establishment of the new MPA and eventually ensuring the co-management of this area with relevant parties, are some of the main challenges of this pilot project.

“Taza’s marine ecosystems are still in good shape but are endangered by increasing human pressure.”

Alfonso Ramos Esplar,
Professor, CIMAR
Universidad de Alicante,
Spain

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Management plan of the marine area of Taza National Park included in the submission for gazetting.



© Taza National Park

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

“A key element in the preparation of the documents is to ensure that we cooperate with all local stakeholders in a participatory process. Failure to do so would seriously compromise the chances of success of the project.”

Nadia Ramdane,
Local project coordinator Algeria,
Taza National Park

- Local Steering Committee of the project established, made up of about 20 members representing local institutions
- Technical Advisory Board (Comité de Concertation et de Consultation) and Scientific Advisory Board of the project established, including national and international experts on marine conservation
- Preliminary studies for site characterisation finalised, including a beach visitors survey as part of the carrying capacity study of the coastal area of Taza National Park, assessments of seabirds, coastal vegetation, socioeconomic and underwater marine biodiversity
- Project staff and local scientists have received specific training on:
 - GIS and use of satellite images for developing marine maps and databases
 - Underwater biodiversity assessment methods
 - Seagrass monitoring
 - Ecotourism in coastal protected areas
 - Socio-economic data for MPA creation
 - MPA management planning and planning for sustainable fishing
- Education and information workshops organised for local stakeholders on:
 - Introduction on MPAs and the future MPA of the Taza National Park
 - Sustainable fishing in MPAs
- Exchange visit to the Strait of Bonifacio Marine Reserve (France) organised for key representatives of the local Steering Committee
- Filming for a documentary about Taza National Park completed
- Awareness about the future MPA increased through local communications and media activities.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

In 2011, the project staff will organize a series of bilateral meetings with the Technical Advisory Board and key local representatives of the Steering Committee to develop a management plan. Preliminary results concerning zoning and management activities will be presented and discussed with main stakeholders, especially the three municipalities of the future MPAs and the fishermen. Alongside work at a local level, specific activities will be undertaken at a national level to promote the legal and institutional harmonisation of national policy related to marine conservation and enhance collaboration between the competent marine authorities.

PILOT PROJECT IN CROATIA



Workshop in Croatia © T. Fish

STRENGTHENING THE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

The pilot project in Croatia aims to assist the managers of five MPAs in developing their management and business plans. The MPAs involved are:

Brijuni National Park
Kornati National Park
Mljet National Park
Lastovo Archipelago Nature Park
Telašćica Nature Park

Local Coordinator: Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development (Sunce) under the supervision of the MedPAN South Project Focal Point appointed by the Ministry of Culture (responsible for protected areas).

Partners: Ministry of Culture, State Institute for Nature Protection, Brijuni National Park, Kornati National Park, Mljet National Park, Lastovo Archipelago Nature Park, Telašćica Nature Park and County level authorities.

CREATING STANDARDS FOR BETTER MANAGED AREAS

“With this project, MPAs, governmental institutions and stakeholders are gaining confidence and experience in the participatory approach to management planning.”

Zrinka Jakl,
Local project coordinator Croatia,
Sunce

Despite the relatively high number of MPAs in Croatia, their protection status and quality of management is rather low. Although some of them were established in the early 1960's, they still lack clear conservation objectives, management plans and procedures for monitoring their effectiveness. Much of this is caused by insufficient investment in nature conservation and insufficient capacity of management institutions. It is also due to the fact that Croatia is a relatively young country that is still building its nature conservation strategies. All Croatian MPAs share similar ecological features, problems, needs and capacity gaps. They also share most key stakeholders. A common planning approach has been developed, which will ultimately contribute to the networking of the MPAs in Croatia.

The project facilitates the consultation process at site level, provides technical assistance and builds the capacity of MPA managers and officers of relevant authorities on specific issues such as management planning, stakeholders' involvement, monitoring and business planning. The involvement of key stakeholders in the project will contribute to clarifying the complex legislation and competencies of institutions by creating a standardised approach to MPA management planning, implementation, and monitoring.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Management and business plans for the five MPAs involved in the pilot project.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

“This is one of our best protected areas management projects at the Ministry of Culture. Very few projects feature such planned outputs, and such intensive and productive intersectoral cooperation.”

Loris Elez,
Ministry of Culture, Croatia

- National Steering Committee established, including 25 representatives of all ministries and institutions in charge
- Assessments undertaken to identify gaps in data as well as priority capacity building needs for the development of the management plans of each MPA
- Complementary biodiversity and socioeconomic studies on-going at site level
- Technical assistance provided to MPA managers and lead staff in the step-by-step development of their management plans through thematic workshops or training on:
 - Croatian MPA legal framework
 - Site characterisation
 - Stakeholders involvement
 - Defining management targets, threats and actions
 - Underwater visual census techniques
 - Zoning (marine spatial planning)
- Increased involvement and ownership of stakeholders and park staff as a result of the site-based consultation process that was carried out after each national workshop
- Project staff trained in MPA management planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs
- Networking at national and Mediterranean level of Croatian MPAs improved through the exchange of best practices and lessons learnt with MPA experts and members of the MedPAN and AdriaPAN networks
- Proposal for a standardised national MPA zoning system developed by the Ministry of Culture and the State Institute for Nature Protection.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

By the end of 2011 the management plans, including monitoring and business plans, of the five MPA projects will be finalised and submitted to the Ministry of Culture for review. The coming months will be dedicated to disseminating the projects' achievements and further networking of the MPAs at national level.



PILOT PROJECT IN LIBYA



Training workshop in Libya © EGA

ESTABLISHING THE FIRST MPAs IN LIBYA

The pilot project in Libya is assisting the Environmental General Authority (EGA) of Libya in identifying new marine and coastal areas to be protected along the Libyan coast, while improving their knowledge and technical capacity on marine biodiversity assessment and MPA design and management. The pilot project is implemented with the MedMPAnet Project of UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA.

Local Coordinator: Environmental General Authority

Partners: UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA, Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC) of Tajura.

STRENGTHENING MPA DESIGN CAPACITY

Libya's National Report, elaborated within the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO), has identified that, before being in a position to successfully establish MPAs, the country needs to address several issues: to improve the basic level of knowledge about marine biodiversity; to study MPA design and implementation; to establish a legal framework for MPAs and clarify marine conservation policies. Libya has committed under the SAP BIO project to develop and implement the National Action Plan on MPAs, proposing a new legislation on MPAs and running pilot tests of policies and actions in pre-selected areas.

This situation has delayed the establishment of MPAs in one of the last near-pristine stretches of Mediterranean coastline. Long portions of the coast are unpopulated and host outstanding biodiversity hotspots, breeding and nesting grounds for several endangered and keystone species. In particular, previous surveys have revealed that the area encompassing Ain Al-Ghazalah and the Gulf of Bomba (at the easternmost stretch of the Libyan coastline) is characterised by old and extended seagrass meadows, salt marshes and sand beaches which host important migratory communities of marine turtles and birds. Human activity has had a relatively low impact on the marine environment. For these ecological reasons, the area was identified by Libyan authorities as a potential new MPA site.

“EGA has been studying sea turtles, Posidonia oceanica, and Sterna bengalensis at Ain Al-Ghazalah since 2005. Our collaboration with WWF and other international organisations helps us build this scientific knowledge and raise the awareness of local people about the importance of this area.”

Almokhtar Said,
EGA Focal point for the Pilot
Project in Libya



Exploratory mission - Ain Al-Ghazalah, Libya.
© WWF Mediterranean / F.Maamoura

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Proposal for the establishment of at least one new MPA, including MPA boundaries and zoning, monitoring plan, and education programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- Partnership established between EGA, MBRC, UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA, IUCN-Med, UNDP Libya and WWF to collaborate on a joint 4-year work plan for the identification of a system of MPAs along the Libyan coast
- Exploratory mission to collect scientific information for the design of a future MPA carried out in Ain Al-Ghazalah Gulf
- Capacity of local scientists and experts increased on MPA design, underwater biodiversity assessment and socio-economic aspects related to MPA establishment through on-the-job and formal training sessions
- Project staff trained in MPA management planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

The site characterisation of the area surrounding Ain Al-Ghazalah Gulf will be complemented by a more in-depth analysis of the socioeconomic profile of local fishermen and hunters and a draft of the new MPA will be finalised. In addition, education programmes will be developed to increase the capacity and involvement of local authorities and raise the awareness of local people on the sustainable use of marine resources. Local and international partners will foster the replication of the project's activities in other priority areas.



PILOT PROJECT IN TUNISIA

CREATION OF THE MCPA OF CAP NÉGRO-CAP SERRAT

The pilot project in Tunisia aims to establish an effective management unit for the Cap Négro-Cap Serrat MPA in the Kroumirie-Mogods region (northwest Tunisia), and ensure the financial framework to sustainably manage this area. While awaiting the official declaration of the area of Cap Négro-Cap Serrat as a Marine and Coastal Protected Area (MCPA) under Tunisian legislation, the pilot project is building on the results of the SMAP III Tunisia project within the framework of which an integrated coastal zone management plan for the Kroumirie-Mogods region was developed. During the planning process an MCPA was identified and a preliminary management plan for this area was developed.

Local Coordinator: WWF Mediterranean, Tunis Office

Partners: Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL), Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF), Commissariat Régional au Développement Agricole de Beja (CRDA)

JOINING FORCES FOR SUSTAINABLE MPAs

As in other North African countries, the lack of an adequate legal framework to regulate the designation and protection of MPAs in Tunisia has so far hampered their effective implementation. In 2009, a law on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Tunisia was approved and in the near future a number of MPAs will be gazetted, including Cap Négro-Cap Serrat.

Most Tunisian MPAs are islands and archipelagos, despite growing pressure on mainland coastal areas. Moreover, the existing MPAs rely heavily on foreign funds for their management and are still without a clear division of responsibilities between ministries and administrations for the management of their marine and coastal zones.

As Cap Négro-Cap Serrat includes both terrestrial and marine areas, the project partners with the coastal, forestry and agriculture institutions of the country (APAL, DGF and CRDA of Beja). Yet, the local coordination of the pilot project is entrusted to the Tunis office of WWF Mediterranean which is assisting the authorities in setting up the future MCPA. Special attention is given to the development of a business plan and the identification of the most appropriate mechanisms for the long-term financing of the Cap Négro-Cap Serrat MCPA, to move away from dependence on foreign aid funds. In addition, the project is building the capacity of the MCPA management unit and ensuring the integration of Cap Négro-Cap Serrat into the national strategy of APAL for the creation of a Tunisian system of MPAs.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The management body of Cap Négro-Cap Serrat MCPA is established and operating. A business plan is developed and sustainable financial mechanisms are identified for the new MPA.



Participants at the workshop on marine ecology.
© WWF Mediterranean / S.Dhouib
Rural women's awareness workshop.
© WWF Mediterranean



Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MCPA, Tunisia. © WWF Mediterranean / S.Dhouib

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- Local Steering Committee established, including all relevant authorities and partners
- Renovation work of the head office in Beja of the MCPA finalised
- Management body, including the Head of the MCPA and two rangers, hired by APAL
- Gazetting of the terrestrial part of the MCPA as National Park Cap Negro-Jebel Chitana (July, 2010)
- Business plan developed for Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MCPA
- Feasibility study on sustainable financial mechanisms for Tunisian MPAs completed
- 4th and 5th editions of the “Semaine de la Mer” (training workshop on marine ecology for students from Tunisia and Algeria) in Sidi-Mechreg (Cap Serrat) organised
- Training for local authorities and information activities for local people on MPA benefits and management, alternative livelihood programme organised
- Signage system for the inland protected area finalised
- Project staff trained in MPA management planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

In the next two years, the main activities will focus on training the staff of the management body of Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MCPA with the relevant national authorities, and the application of pilot financing options for this area.

PILOT PROJECT IN TURKEY



Site characterisation study in Kaş © WWF Turkey
Meeting with stakeholders in Kaş © WWF Turkey

DEVELOPING A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR KAŞ-KEKOVA SPA

The project is developing a management plan for the marine area of Kaş-Kekova SPA, in the Antalya region, with a special focus on the management of recreational activities which play an important role in the local economy.

Local Coordinator: WWF Turkey

Partner: Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (EPASA)

COLLABORATING FOR EFFECTIVE MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Turkey possesses an extended system of 15 marine Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Despite this noteworthy achievement, management arrangements have been slow to come into force for the effective protection of marine biodiversity. The Kaş-Kekova SPA was first established to protect the outstanding archaeological value of the Lycian ruins found along its coastline. In 2006 it was enlarged to include key marine ecological and biological areas. The area is thus under both the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (EPASA), established under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. To date, however, only the archaeological heritage has been effectively protected.

“Developing management activities and designing MPA Zoning plan will be based on the results of nearly 10 years solid scientific research in Kaş-Kekova. This is key to ensure the support of local stakeholders.”

Umut Tural, Local project coordinator Turkey, WWF Turkey

Within the framework of the MedPAN South project, WWF Turkey is assisting EPASA in the development of the management plan for the marine area of Kaş-Kekova SPA through a participatory process. The long-term success of the project will be ensured by the integration of this local initiative into a revision of the national marine conservation policy undertaken by EPASA. UNDP Turkey and EPASA have just started the implementation of a GEF project “Strengthening the Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas” which aims, among other objectives, to implement existing MPAs by setting up local management bodies, drafting management plans and proceeding with a review of MPA legislation.

The Pilot Project in Kaş-Kekova will pave the way for other MPAs in Turkey. Through the collaboration with UNDP and EPASA, it provides technical support for the government project by identifying legal and institutional gaps, building the capacity of EPASA officers and involving them in the participatory planning process.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Management plan for the marine area of Kaş-Kekova SPA.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- During the kick-off meeting of the MedPAN Pilot Project, a protocol between WWF Turkey and EPASA was signed for their collaboration in developing the management plan of Kaş-Kekova SPA
- A protocol established between WWF Turkey and UNDP Turkey for their cooperation on the implementation of both the MedPAN South and the GEF Projects
- National and local Steering Committees established, including representatives of relevant ministries, coast guard, local authorities and key stakeholders
- Preliminary studies for the site characterisation of the area completed and biodiversity monitoring launched
- Representatives of key ministries, project staff and local stakeholders trained on:
 - Marine spatial planning
 - Sustainable financing for MPAs
 - MPA management planning
 - Planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs
- Consultation process with local stakeholders for the development of the management plan - ongoing
- Activities to raise the awareness of the local communities and tourists on the new marine protected area in Kaş - ongoing
- A mooring system put in place for the benefit of the local diving centers.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

The consultation process to draft the management plan, including the new zoning of the marine area, will be finalised by 2011. In parallel, capacity building activities will target key stakeholders that will be closely involved in the future implementation of the SPA and a specific study visit will be organised in one MPA of the MedPAN network.

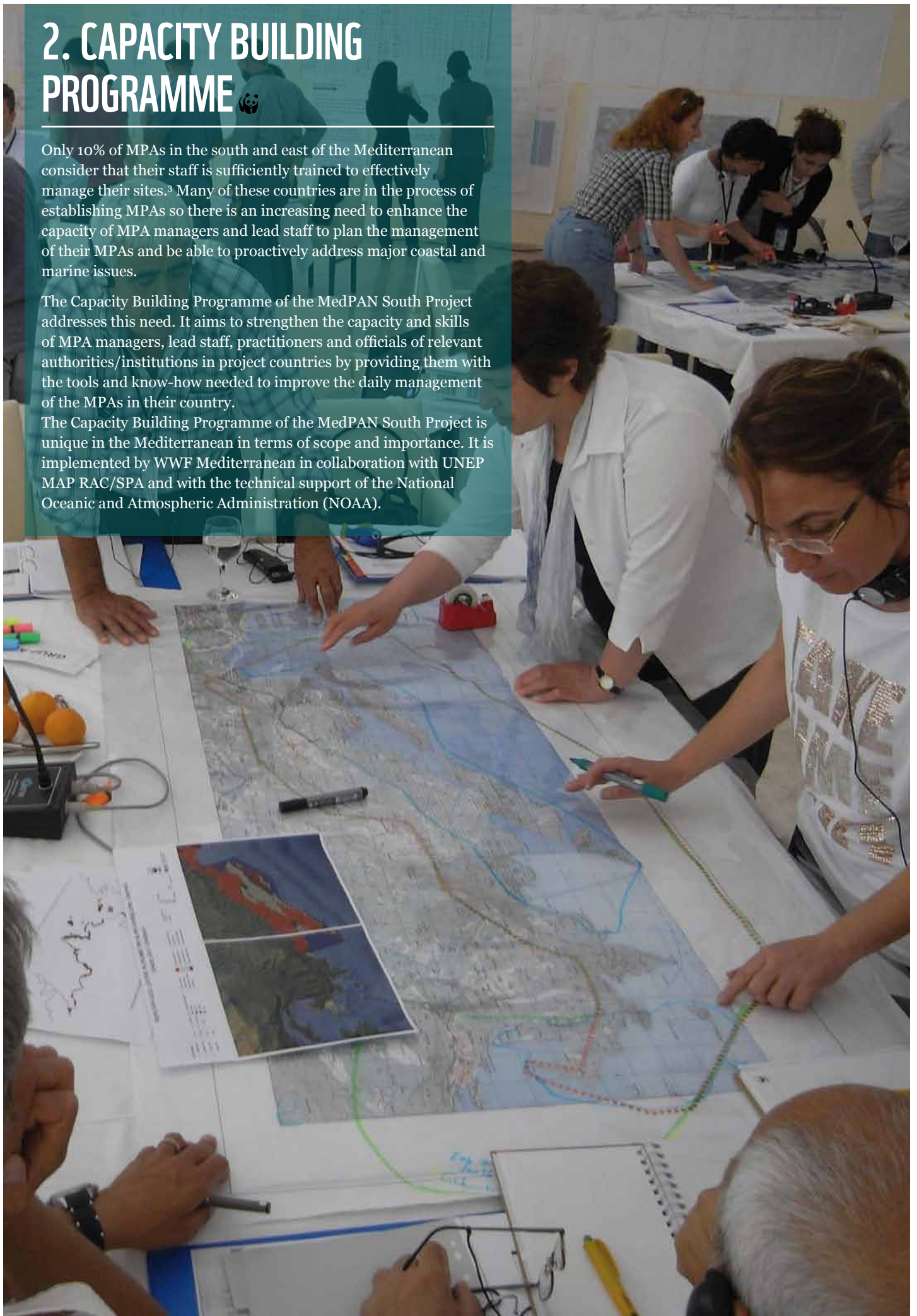


2. CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

Only 10% of MPAs in the south and east of the Mediterranean consider that their staff is sufficiently trained to effectively manage their sites.³ Many of these countries are in the process of establishing MPAs so there is an increasing need to enhance the capacity of MPA managers and lead staff to plan the management of their MPAs and be able to proactively address major coastal and marine issues.

The Capacity Building Programme of the MedPAN South Project addresses this need. It aims to strengthen the capacity and skills of MPA managers, lead staff, practitioners and officials of relevant authorities/institutions in project countries by providing them with the tools and know-how needed to improve the daily management of the MPAs in their country.

The Capacity Building Programme of the MedPAN South Project is unique in the Mediterranean in terms of scope and importance. It is implemented by WWF Mediterranean in collaboration with UNEP MAP RAC/SPA and with the technical support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



³ From "Status of MPAs in the Mediterranean sea", IUCN, MedPAN and WWF (2008).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2009-2010, WWF Mediterranean and partners contributed to the building of the capacities and skills of more than 200 MPA managers, practitioners and officials of relevant institutions in the target countries through a

series of training workshops organised both at regional and national levels (in the framework of the pilot projects)

- In early 2009, the Mentor Programme was officially launched involving 12 Mentors from the relevant authorities for MPAs in 11 of the countries concerned. This is the first step in the process of creating a professional network of trainers, which will ensure the sustainability of the Capacity Building Programme beyond the duration of the project
- In early 2009, an extensive capacity building and expertise assessment for MPA managers and practitioners was conducted for the first time in the 12 countries of the south and east of the Mediterranean
- Innovative and fully interactive training courses on MPA management planning and planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs were organised in Tunisia (2009) and Turkey (2010) for MPA managers, practitioners and officials of relevant institutions and authorities from the countries involved in the MedPAN South Project
- Comprehensive training manuals on MPA management planning and planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs – adapted to the Mediterranean context – were developed and made available to the participants of the training workshops
- An extensive system of technical assistance was established and implemented to support MPA managers and other target audiences in putting into practice the knowledge and tools acquired during the training workshops
- Networking of and experience sharing among MPA managers and officials of relevant institutions in the region (north-south and east-west) were ensured through the organisation of a series of tailored exchange visits
- An MPA experts and expertise database was established and is accessible online on the MedPAN website (www.medpan.org)
- Ongoing evaluation of the Capacity Building Programme is ensured to enhance the tangible results achieved in the field and ensure effective adaptive management.

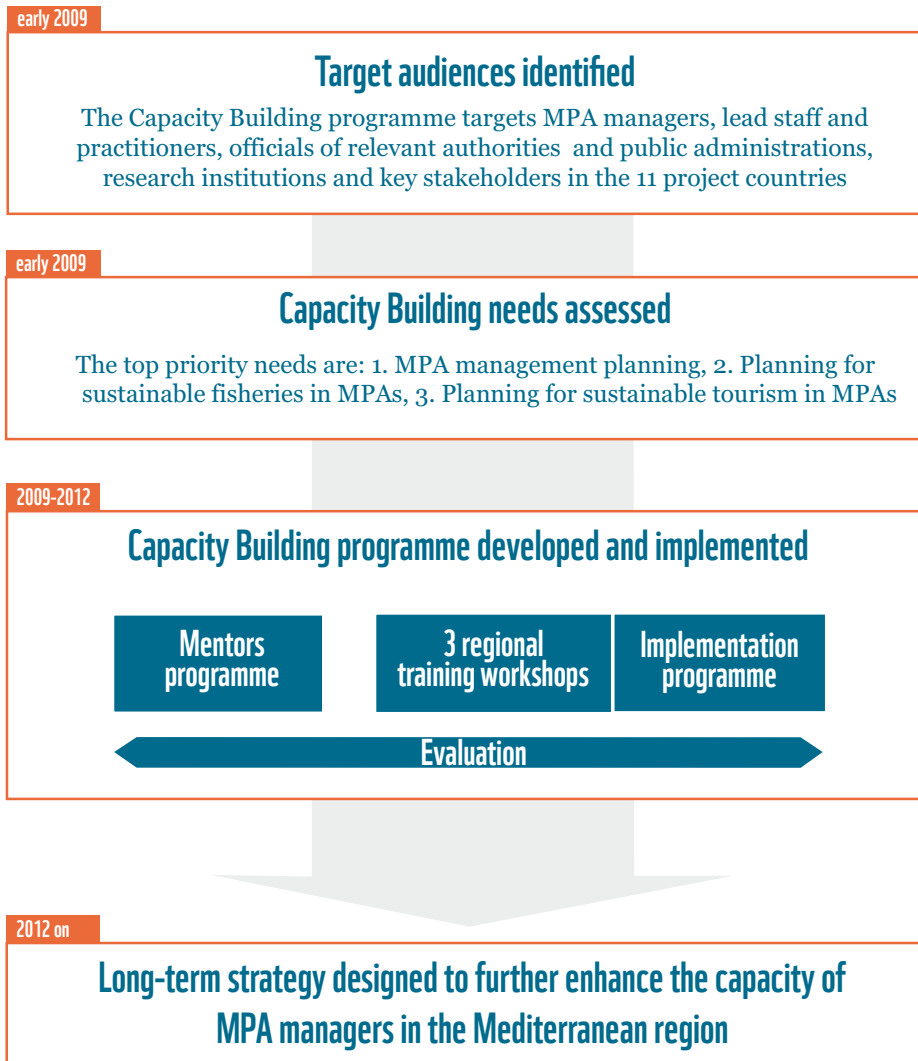


200
Mediterranean
MPA
practitioners
trained

NOAA

The National Marine Sanctuary International Program of NOAA helps strengthen global marine resources protection in the U.S.A. and internationally. Through international partnerships, the Program helps build better technical and management capacity in MPAs. It has developed specific curricula and training programmes for MPA managers, focusing on MPA designation, implementation and management. WWF Mediterranean partners with NOAA to benefit from this technical know-how and expertise. The MedPAN South Project thereby also gains from the experiences of other developing or developed nations, who may have a longer history of MPA management.

HOW WE WORK



NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

In 2011, a study will be launched in collaboration with the MedPAN organisation, RAC/SPA and other key partners, to design a long-term capacity building strategy to enhance the management of MPAs in the Mediterranean. The study will:

- Assess the existing capacity building needs for MPA management in the whole Mediterranean
- Identify the most feasible long-term capacity building delivery mechanism to enhance the capacity of MPA managers in the Mediterranean
- Define a strategy for the establishment of the capacity building delivery mechanism, including resources needed and timeline.

Specific guidebooks for MPA managers on priority themes will also be developed in partnership with other relevant players in the Mediterranean.

MENTORS PROGRAMME

The Mentor Programme is a “training of the trainers” programme for a selected group of officials and experts from the eligible countries. Mentors liaise between project staff and the MPA management bodies and relevant authorities in their countries. Through a series of targeted training workshops, Mentors acquire the necessary knowledge on MPA management and build effective facilitation and

communication skills. In return, they assist the project staff in the development and implementation of the Capacity Building Programme in their countries to ensure that it fully responds to the actual needs of MPA managers and effectively delivers in the field. The Mentors are an important asset for the Capacity Building Programme, as well as for the MedPAN South Project as a whole. They not only actively contribute to the effective implementation of the project, but they also ensure appropriate adaptive management measures according to the evolving political, institutional and socio-economic conditions of each of their countries. They constitute a professional network, which will ensure the sustainability of the Capacity Building Programme beyond the duration of the project.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- Mentor Programme officially launched in early 2009. 12 Mentors were appointed by the SAP BIO National Correspondents in project countries
- MPA Capacity Building Programme planning training workshop held in April 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. The objective was to develop the main outline of the MedPAN South Project’s Capacity Building Programme by building on the identified priority common needs and to train the Mentors on Capacity Building programme planning
- Interactive, Participatory Techniques training workshop held in November 2009, in Tabarka, Tunisia. The objective was to strengthen the training skills of the Mentors using interactive, participatory training methodology.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

Workshop on Communications for MPA managers, to be held in June 2011. The objective will be to develop the communication skills and knowledge necessary to engage and continuously involve key players in the steps of effectively managing MPAs.

Mentors:

From Albania

Mr Zamir Dedej.

From Algeria

Mr Halim Benaïda,

Mr Omar Khaber.

From Croatia

Mrs Dijana Zupan.

From Egypt

Mr Ayman Mabrouk.

From Lebanon

Mrs Grace Rachid.

From Libya

Mr Hisham Ghmati.

From Montenegro

Mrs Vesna Macic.

From Morocco

Mr Abdennadi Abarkach.

From Syria

Mr Amir Ibrahim.

From Tunisia

Mrs Sihem Slim.

From Turkey

Mr Güner Ergün.



REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Regional Training Workshops are the core of the Capacity Building Programme and are designed around the three priority themes identified in the capacity building needs assessment. They are participatory, interactive and require teamwork. Participants engage in sharing case studies and lessons learned, give presentations, work together on both group and individual projects and problem-solving exercises. In order to receive maximum

benefit from the training, participants are asked to commit to the entire duration of the training program, to maintain their “social network” and to build and implement demonstration projects after the training course.

All training activities have been organised in collaboration with UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA and are structured with the goal of moving all participants toward better coordination and collaboration. They are fostering a network-wide approach in the framework of the MedPAN network of Mediterranean MPA managers.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010



Participants' overall rating of the regional training workshop learning experience

- First Regional Training Workshop on MPA management planning held in November 2009, in Tabarka, Tunisia. 41 Participants from 13 countries, 6 experts from 5 Mediterranean countries, 3 trainers.

www.panda.org/tabarka_workshop



- Second Regional Training Workshop on planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs held in October 2010, in Kaş, Turkey. 48 participants from 11 countries participating in the project, 8 experts from 6 countries, 4 trainers.

www.panda.org/kas_workshop.

“Sharing expertise and lessons learned in MPAs within the Mediterranean and beyond is an effective way to build capacity for the network as a whole.”

Anne Walton, Program Director for NOAA's International MPA Capacity Building Program



Participants at the planning for sustainable fisheries workshop in Kaş, Turkey.
© WWF Mediterranean

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

The third regional training workshop on planning for sustainable tourism in MPAs is to be held in October 2011.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

During the Regional Training Workshops, participants are asked to identify areas of interest and develop specific projects that they intend to implement in their MPA or institution over the 10-12 months following the training. These projects are then included in a contract – an Implementation Agreement – with WWF. Through these contracts, participants commit to implementing the agreed

activities, while WWF commits to providing the necessary technical assistance for them to achieve the agreed objectives. Participants can request specific support for their implementation agreement either through direct technical assistance (experts, further training workshops), a small grant or the opportunity to visit an MPA in the region.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010



- Exchange visit of an Algerian delegation to the Strait of Bonifacio Marine Reserve, France, 24-27 May 2010, to learn about MPA management planning.
- Exchange visit of Albanian and Lebanese delegations to the Ras Mohammed National Park and Nabq Marine Resource Protected Area, Egypt, 22-25 June, 2010. Participants learnt from the experience of the Egyptian protectorates of the South Sinai on daily management, surveillance, zoning, working with tourist operators and government authorities, and involving stakeholders in the planning process.
- Two-day orientation training on Sustainable Financing for MPAs, Ankara, Turkey, 14-15 June, 2010 for staff of EPASA, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, WWF Turkey and UNDP Turkey (20 people). Participants studied Ecosystems Services, financing mechanisms and business planning principles for protected sites.
- Small grants allocated to:
 - Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, Lebanon, for a marine turtle monitoring programme
 - EEAA, Egypt, for a GIS database development for the Northern Protectorates
 - EEAA, Egypt, for a plan for measuring management effectiveness and development of a management plan for Zaranik PA
 - APAL, Tunisia, for a monitoring programme for Cap Négro
 - CRDA de Beja, DGF Tunisia, for training on MPA benefits for rural women.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

11 country-level Implementation Agreements will be implemented in 2011.

3. COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Marine Protected Areas are recognised as effective marine resource conservation and management tools which also benefit coastal communities. Their role, however, is still widely undervalued and misunderstood. The communication component of the MedPAN South Project is an integral part of the Project and aims to support its core objectives. A 3-year strategy has been developed to strengthen the Mediterranean network of MPA managers, promote the achievements of the Project in the region and raise the profile of MPAs and the Mediterranean MPA network on a regional level.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- A poster of the MedPAN South project was presented during the fourth edition of the biennial international event Slow Fish in April 2009 in Genoa, Italy. This event was dedicated to the world of fishing and its problems, and focused on MPAs
- The MedPAN South Project official web site was developed as part of the WWF International site, which attracts 500,000 visitors per month (www.panda.org/msp)
- Throughout the year visibility activities (including media events) were carried out by all local partners to reach out to their stakeholders and the general public and communicate on the progress of their demonstration projects
- MedPAN South activities and major achievements are regularly featured on the MedPAN website as well as in its monthly newsletter. This contributes to increasing the visibility of the MedPAN South Project in the entire region
- A fact sheet featuring the objectives and scope of the project was produced and distributed at the official Inception meeting of the Biodiversity Component of the MedPartnership in June 2010
- A brief leaflet was also produced and disseminated at the MedPAN meeting in Tunisia in December 2010
- In 2010, WWF contributed to the development of the communications strategy of the MedPAN network and to the enlargement of the network, which is now active in the south and east of the Mediterranean with most MedPAN South project countries represented
- The MedPAN South Project contributed technically and financially to some of the communications activities led by the MedPAN Network and thereby also gained exposure:
 - Web site content and database of experts in the Mediterranean
 - Participation of MPA managers from countries involved in the MedPAN South Project at MedPAN's workshops and conferences
 - Joint presentation of the MedPAN South Project and the MedPAN organisation at key regional and international events, including the CBD COP in Nagoya, Eurosite conference, World Ocean Network workshop
- WWF contributed to the development of the MedPartnership communications strategy (coordinated by UNEP-MAP) which will be implemented in 2011-2012.

NEXT STEPS 2011-2012

- Contribute to the activities planned by the MedPartnership and executed by MIO-ESCDE and INFO/RAC
- Develop a series of videos about the project and its achievements
- Further develop the MedPAN South Project website
- Continue working in close cooperation with the MedPAN network and its communications activities
- Identify a media partner to collaborate on an MPA awareness campaign.

4. PROJECT COORDINATION

WWF Mediterranean is responsible for the coordination and supervision of the MedPAN South Project with local Coordination Units established for each pilot project. To further enable the implementation of the project, over 20 official partnerships have been established with relevant Ministries, national MPA agencies, research institutes, NGOs, MPAs and international organisations.



Children playing, Tunisia. © WWF Mediterranean

ACHIEVEMENTS 2009-2010

- By May 2009, contracts with the three donors of the project (FGEF, the MAVA Foundation and UNEP/EC) and all local partners were finalised
- Two MedPAN South staff meetings were organised (May 2009 and December 2010) to discuss all administrative issues related to the implementation of the project's activities, pilot projects and communications with all Local Project Coordination Units
- The MedPAN South project was officially presented to all Mediterranean countries during the meeting of the SAP BIO Programme National Correspondents in Istanbul, Turkey (2 June, 2010) considered the official Inception Meeting of the Biodiversity Component of the MedPartnership
- An internal newsletter, providing updates on progress, staff, events and news is sent on a bi-monthly basis to all project staff, partners and donors
- Financial and technical support was ensured to the MedPAN Secretariat

THE MEDPAN SOUTH PROJECT WAS REPRESENTED AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- 8-13 March 2009. Establishment and management of MPAs for fisheries (Zaragoza, Spain)
- 19-24 May 2009. International Marine Conservation Congress - IMCC 2009 (Washington DC - USA)
- 3-6 June 2009. RAC SPA Focal Point meeting (Malta)
- 7-11 September 2009. Coordination group meeting at UNEP-MAP (Athens, Greece)
- 4-11 December 2009. MedPAN organisation 1st General Assembly (Hyères, France)
- 17-19 February 2010. The Strategic Partnership Inception Workshop/First Steering Committee Meeting (Budva, Montenegro)
- 8-9 May 2010. First Meeting of Technical Experts on Application of Ecosystem Approach (Rome, Italy)
- 2-3 June 2010. SAP BIO Programme National Correspondents (Istanbul, Turkey)
- 6-7 July 2010. 2nd Technical Experts Meeting on the Ecosystem Approach by MAP (Barcelona, Spain)
- 6-10 September 2010. Partners' meeting on the establishment of a regional MPA database (Marseilles, France)
- 18-19 October 2010. 2nd MedPartnership Coordination Group Meeting (Rome, Italy)
- 18-29 October 2010. 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention for Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan)
- 21-25 October 2010. IUCN Forum (Malaga, Spain)
- 28-29 October 2010. 3rd International Workshop on Biodiversity in the Adriatic (Piran, Slovenia)
- 5 November 2010. Comité de Pilotage Approche économique des écosystèmes marins en Méditerranée (Marseille, France)
- 15 December 2010. MedPAN organisation 2nd General Assembly (Korba, Tunisia).



MedPAN South Project staff. © WWF Mediterranean

PROJECT STAFF

COORDINATION UNIT

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ABOUT WWF MEDITERRANEAN

WWF Mediterranean's mandate is to pursue WWF global priorities to conserve biodiversity and reduce the human footprint on nature in the Mediterranean. Complementing the work of the five WWF National Organisations active in the region (France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey), WWF Mediterranean operates in fourteen countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia. WWF achieves its conservation objectives through field projects in priority landscapes, river basins and marine regions and through advocating improvements in regional and national policy processes affecting nature conservation and resource management. WWF Mediterranean and the other WWF offices involved in the region have together designed the Mediterranean Initiative, a common strategy aiming at scaling up WWF conservation efforts in the region. The Mediterranean Initiative is a response to the identification by the WWF Global network of the Mediterranean as one of the Global Priority Places.

www.panda.org/mediterranean

ABOUT MEDPAN

Created in 1990 and revived by WWF France in 2004, the MedPAN network brings together the managers of Mediterranean MPAs and supports them in their management activities. Now a legally independent structure based in Hyères, France, MedPAN teams up with partners to deliver on its objectives. It specifically partners with WWF Mediterranean on the implementation of the MedPAN South Project. MedPAN also partners with WWF France on the MedPAN North Project, an EU-funded project which began in July 2010.

www.medpan.org

ABOUT THE MEDPARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The MedPAN South Project is part of the MedPartnership GEF full-sized project, "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem", led by UNEP. The objective of the MedPartnership Project is to leverage reforms and investments to address marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities for the Mediterranean. The main project partner of WWF Mediterranean is the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of UNEP-MAP. In the framework of the MedPartnership Project, RAC/SPA is also coordinating the MedMPAnet Project, which is complementary to the MedPAN South Project and aims to promote the establishment of new MPAs in the south and east of the Mediterranean.

www.medpartnership.org

WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org/mediterranean