A blue grid-patterned map of the Mediterranean region, showing the outlines of the continents and the sea.

# Building a Mediterranean MPA network

*Ameer Abdulla<sup>1,2</sup>, Marina Gomei<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Piante<sup>2,6</sup>, Elodie Mason<sup>6</sup>,  
David Hyrenbach<sup>2,3</sup>, Giuseppe Notarbartolo<sup>2,4</sup>, and Tundi Agardy<sup>2,5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>IUCN Global and Mediterranean Marine Programme

<sup>2</sup>IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas – Marine Working Group

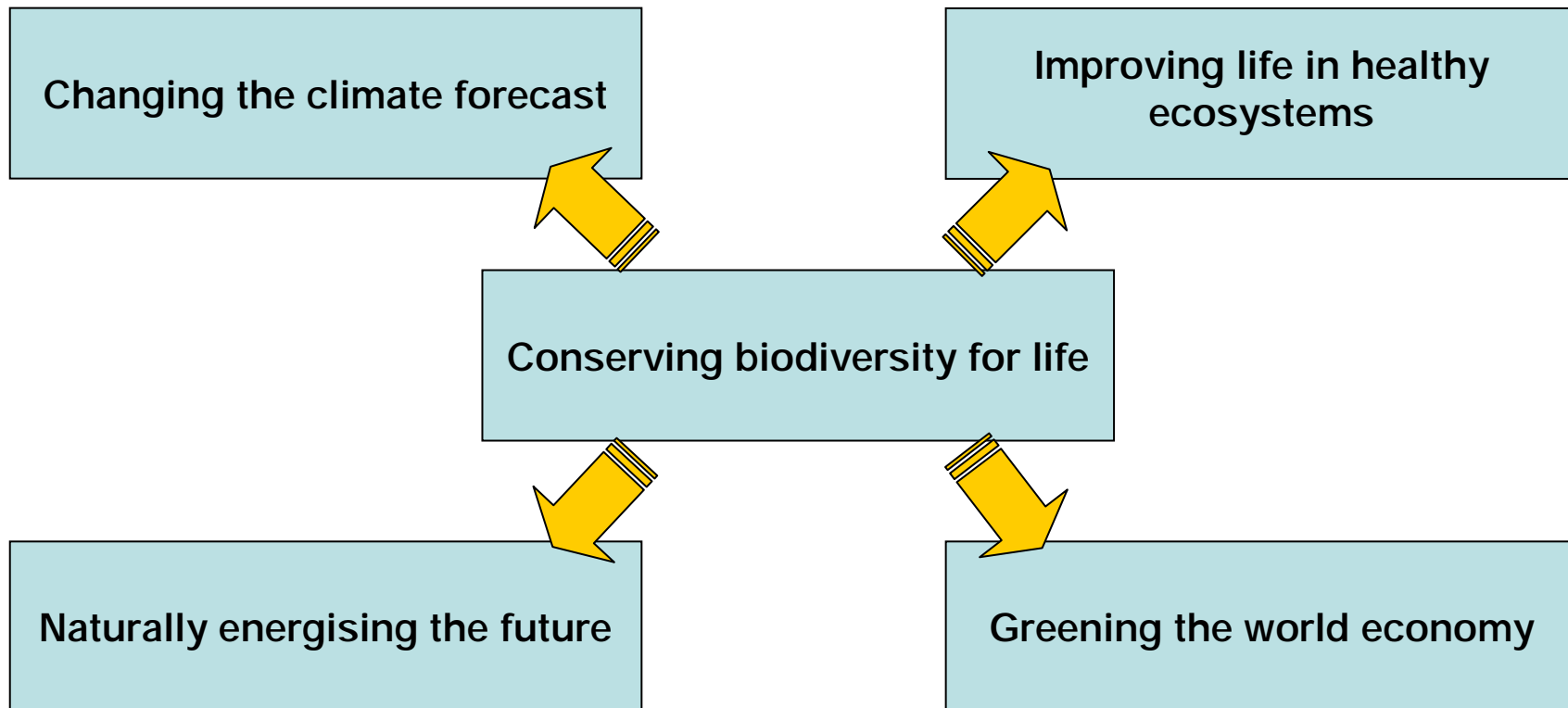
<sup>3</sup>University of Washington

<sup>4</sup>Tethys Research Institute

<sup>5</sup>Sound Seas

<sup>6</sup>MedPAN

# 2009-2012: IUCN Intersessional Program



**Utilizing multi-disciplinary expertise to address complex  
environmental & socio-ecological challenges**



# Current challenges towards a representative network of Mediterranean MPAs

# Outline



- I. Non-European coastal habitats and high / deep seas biomes are under-represented in the current network**
  
- II. Under-represented areas are vital for ecosystem functioning of the Mediterranean**
  
- III. South and Eastern Mediterranean face institutional and social challenges to MPAs**

# Current Regional Protection



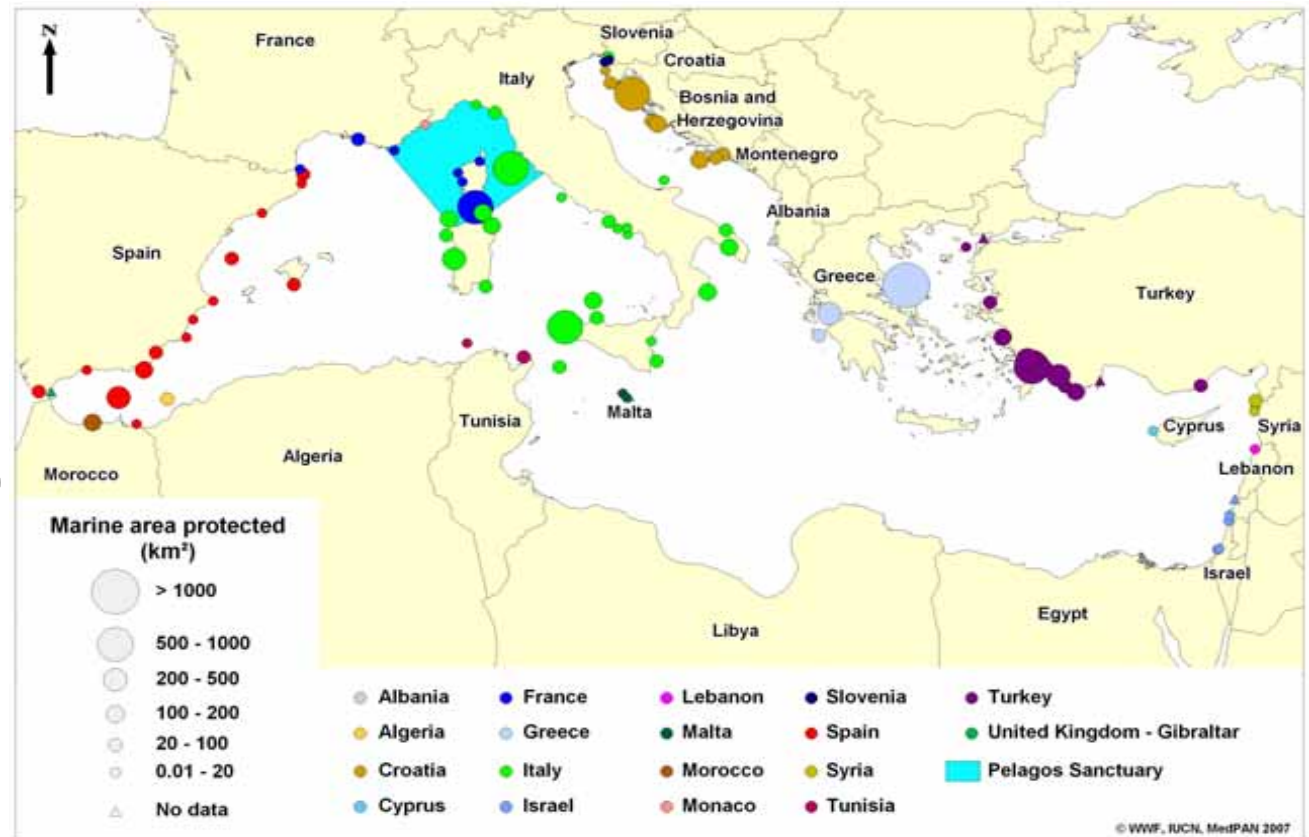
## COSTAL AREA

94 MPAs (41 with no-take zone area)

## HIGH SEA

Pelagos Sanctuary

- **0.4 %** (100,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Mediterranean is managed
- Only **0.01%** (200 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Mediterranean is fully protected, no-take area



Regional survey – join WWF/MedPAN IUCN project

# Outline



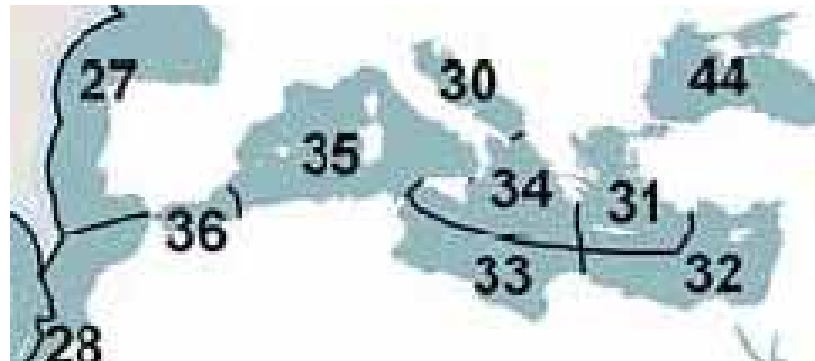
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# Unique regions: South and East Mediterranean



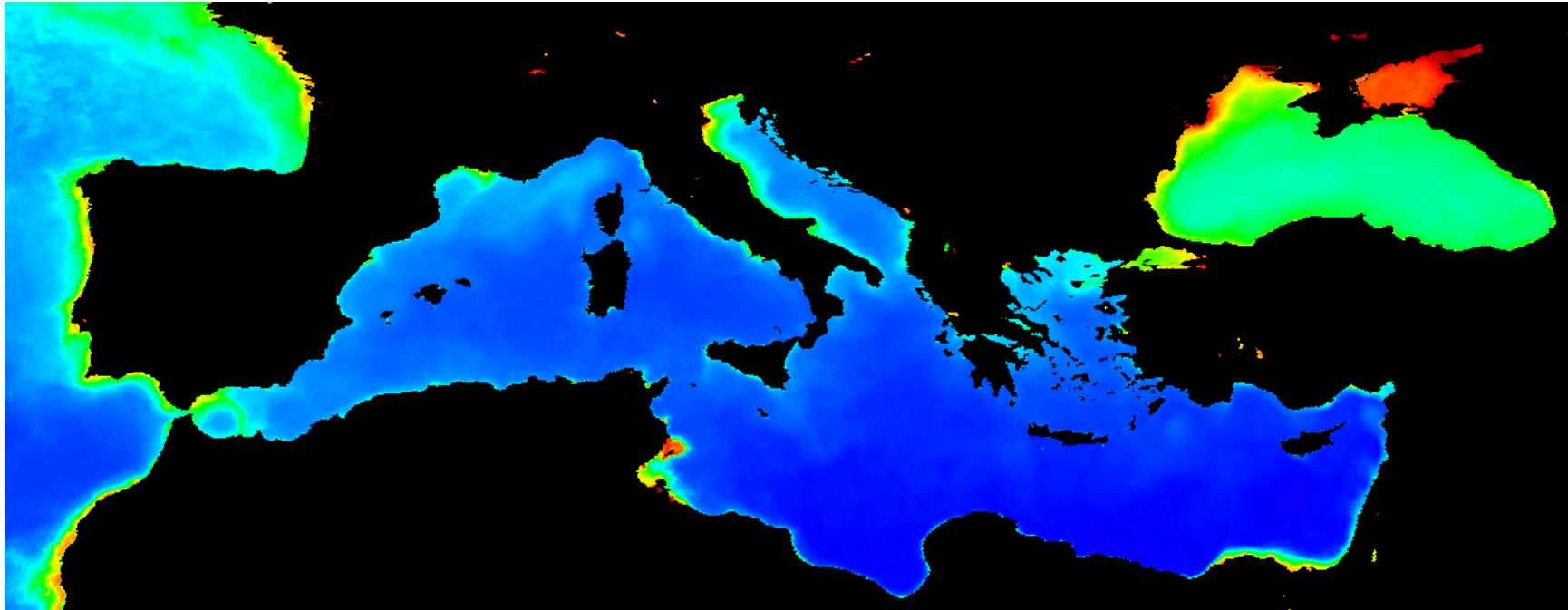
3 of the unique ecoregions are represented solely by the southeastern East Mediterranean:

- Tunisian Plateau / Gulf of Sidra;
- Aegean Sea,
- Levantine Sea



Mediterranean Marine Ecoregions  
(Spalding *et al.* 2007)

# Ocean Productivity



**Eutrophic**  
( $> 1$ )

**Meso-trophic**  
(0.3-0.1)

**Oligotrophic**  
( $< 0.1$ )

Chlorophyll-a Concentration (mg m<sup>-3</sup>)

# Ecologically critical



## East Mediterranean

- **Mediterranean monk seal** (*Monachus monachus*): Aegean Sea (Borrel et al 1997)
- **Loggerhead turtle** (*Caretta caretta*) and **Green turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*): Turkey, Greece and Cyprus (Margaritoulis D. 2003, Canbolat 2004)
- **Vermetid reefs**: eastern part of the basin (Antonioli et al. 1999)

## South Mediterranean

- **Loggerhead turtle** (*Caretta caretta*): Libya coast (Hamza et al. 2005)
- **Great White Shark** (*Carcharodon carcharias*): Sicilian Channel Waters (Tudela 2004, Abdulla 2004)
- **Bluefin Tuna** (*Thunnus thynnus*): Libyans waters (Medina et al. 2007)

# Outline



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# Socio-economic and institutional challenges to MPA designation



## Issues

- High population numbers on coastline with competing demands
- Low cultural affinity with marine resource
- Economic situation non-conducive to MPAs
- Lack of political incentive to co-ordinate all relevant ministries (e.g. tourism, environment, industry) towards MPAs
- Low capacity for community management
- Locals have had bad experiences with conservation
- Lack of contextual social and economic data to assess resilience

## Needs

- Serious mitigation of likely socio-economic impacts
- Dedication to developing awareness / culture for community management
- Stronger legal structures
- Extensive environmental education

*\*(Marshall and Abdulla in Review)*





# Opportunities

# *Opportunities*



- 1. Existing legal framework embodied in the UNEP Barcelona Convention and its SPA protocol**
- 2. Unified conservation agenda and strong funding sources made possible by the EU (i.e. Euro-Mediterranean Partnership; European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)**
- 3. Vast high seas region as an opportunity for multi-lateral efforts (e.g. Pelagos Sanctuary)**
- 4. Three deep-sea sites protected under FAO-GFCM**

# *Opportunities*



## 5. Effective regional programs

- UNEP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
- ACCOBAMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
- WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
- WWF MedPAN - Network of managers of Med MPAs
- IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation



## Bilateral collaborations and developing of regional partnership



# Future Mediterranean MPA Agenda



## National

- Systematic surveys in poorly represented / studied regions (e.g., southern and eastern Mediterranean) and biomes (e.g., the high seas and the deep sea)
- Improvement of legal and institutional frameworks related to setting up and managing MPAs
- MPA implementation developing customized management plans in conjunction with local resource users and conservationists

## Regional

- Integrated network of Mediterranean protected areas, with a full complement of representative habitats
- Enhanced resource distribution, capacity building, and scientific / technical exchange between EU and non-EU countries

# IUCN's global work on MPA networks



## IUCN WCPA - Marine

- Establishment of a network of 18 Regional Coordinators to serve as focal points in their regions
- Cooperation between CI/TNC/WWF
- Forthcoming publications
  - Establishing MPA Networks
  - How is your MPA Managed?
  - How is your MPA Governed?

# World Conservation Congress



Barcelona, Spain

5 - 14 October 2008

8,000 expected participants world's leading decision makers in sustainable development

## World Conservation Forum

The four marine thematic areas:

1. Oceans and high seas governance
2. Marine protected areas
3. Climate change and oceans
4. Fisheries



IUCN  
World  
Conservation  
Congress  
Barcelona 2008

**particular emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea**



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