



WWF

FACTSHEET

2012

A photograph of two fishermen on a blue boat. The fisherman in the foreground is wearing a red and black jacket and white pants, holding two large fish. The fisherman in the background is wearing a yellow jacket and a white cap. A black crate filled with smaller fish is on the boat. The background shows calm water.

# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

## Guiding principles and benefits





## Good governance

A good governance system, combining top-down and bottom-up approaches, is key to achieve conflict-free, effective, and successful MPAs. This system should secure support and commitment from decision-makers and allow for dialogue among a multitude of public and private stakeholders.

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM ALGERIA

In Algeria, with the support of the park authority and WWF, a multi-stakeholder steering committee, endorsed by the national government and chaired by the provincial government, was created to establish a common vision and clear objectives for the development of a MPA within Taza National Park. The steering committee was key to catalyse the political will needed to mobilize resources, create a credible governance system, and establish an effective dialogue among scientists, fishermen, other local stakeholders, and decision-makers.



## Communication and awareness raising

MPAs are an important avenue to promote environmental education, to increase the efforts of local communities to protect natural resources, and to secure ownership of management and conservation actions.

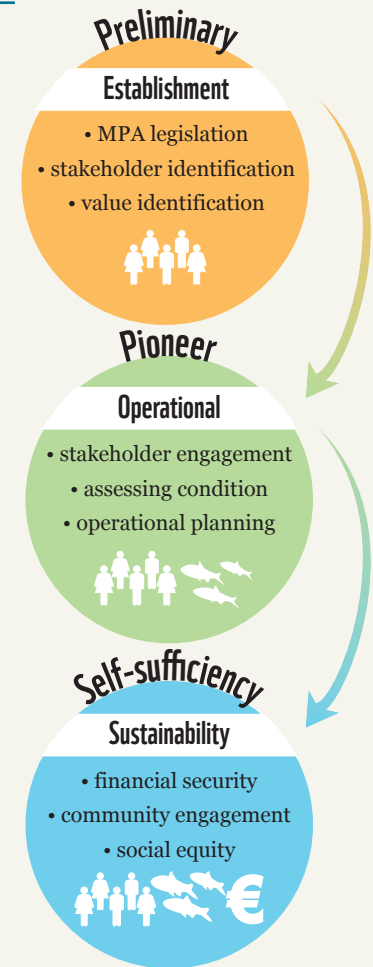
### LESSONS LEARNED FROM TUNISIA

In Tunisia, the coastal and marine protected area of Cap Négro-Cap Serrat is located in a rural area along the northern coast. Since 2004, WWF and APAL developed a communication and information programme focused on the value of marine resources and the importance of sustainable use. As the audience was diverse (artisanal fishermen, women groups, students, and teachers), different tools were developed including informal meetings in rural villages, camps for children, and signage. Education and awareness programmes were instrumental to engage the community in Cap Négro-Cap Serrat to endorse further development of this MPA and to become active in designing its rules and regulations.

# BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MARINE PROTECTED AREA

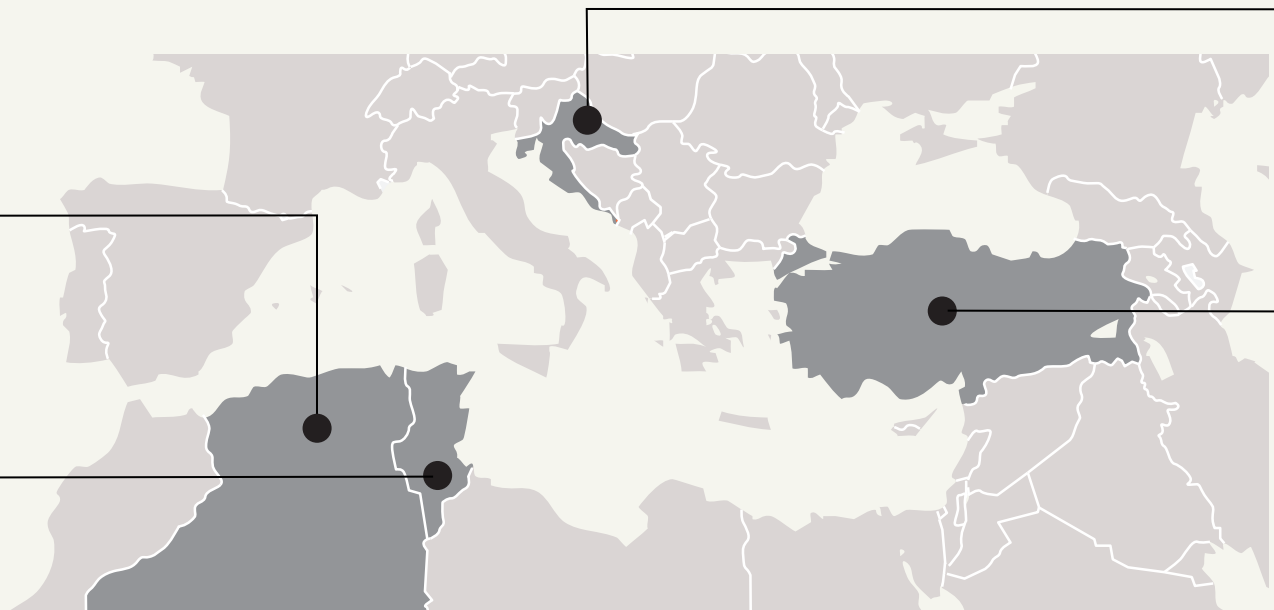
Creating a Marine Protected Area requires a holistic approach that includes and integrates ecological, biological, social, and economic considerations. This approach cannot be successful without proper legislation, a functional institutional framework, financial resources, and active engagement of stakeholders that support the approach through unique experience and skills.

This integrated approach takes time to be successful and can be divided into three distinct phases from a Preliminary, Pioneering, to a Self-Sufficient phase. These phases may not occur necessarily in the same sequence and they can also vary among MPAs. In practice, managers adapt the implementation of different tasks according to actual circumstances, capacity, and resource availability. However, to achieve functional and effective management, all steps have to be fulfilled.



## MAKING IT WORK

Making this work requires four key ingredients: good governance, communication and awareness raising, participatory decision making, and science-based management. Descriptions of these and examples of how they have been used can be seen on opposite pages. Additional information about WWF and MPAs can be found at [www.panda.org/med\\_mpa](http://www.panda.org/med_mpa).







## Participatory decision-making

Multi-stakeholder participatory decision-making is an excellent tool for improving political support, ownership, responsibility, and democracy for natural resource management. Engaging stakeholders from an early stage of the planning and throughout the implementation of an MPA is the foundation for a co-management framework and regulatory compliance.

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM CROATIA

In Croatia, MPA authorities teamed up with WWF and Sunce to enable a participatory process for the development of their management plans. At the national level, the engagement of government authorities and management agencies led to jointly address policy and legislative issues, and to agree on and enable the development of standardised management plans. At the MPA level, participatory planning among local authorities, communities, and fishermen secured approval on management objectives, conflict resolution over resource access, and cross-sector co-operation.



## Science-based management

Sound science that informs the establishment and management of MPAs is critical to achieve successful conservation targets. An open dialogue must exist between scientists and managers to ensure scientific rigour for MPA planning and the adaptive management of marine resources.

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM TURKEY

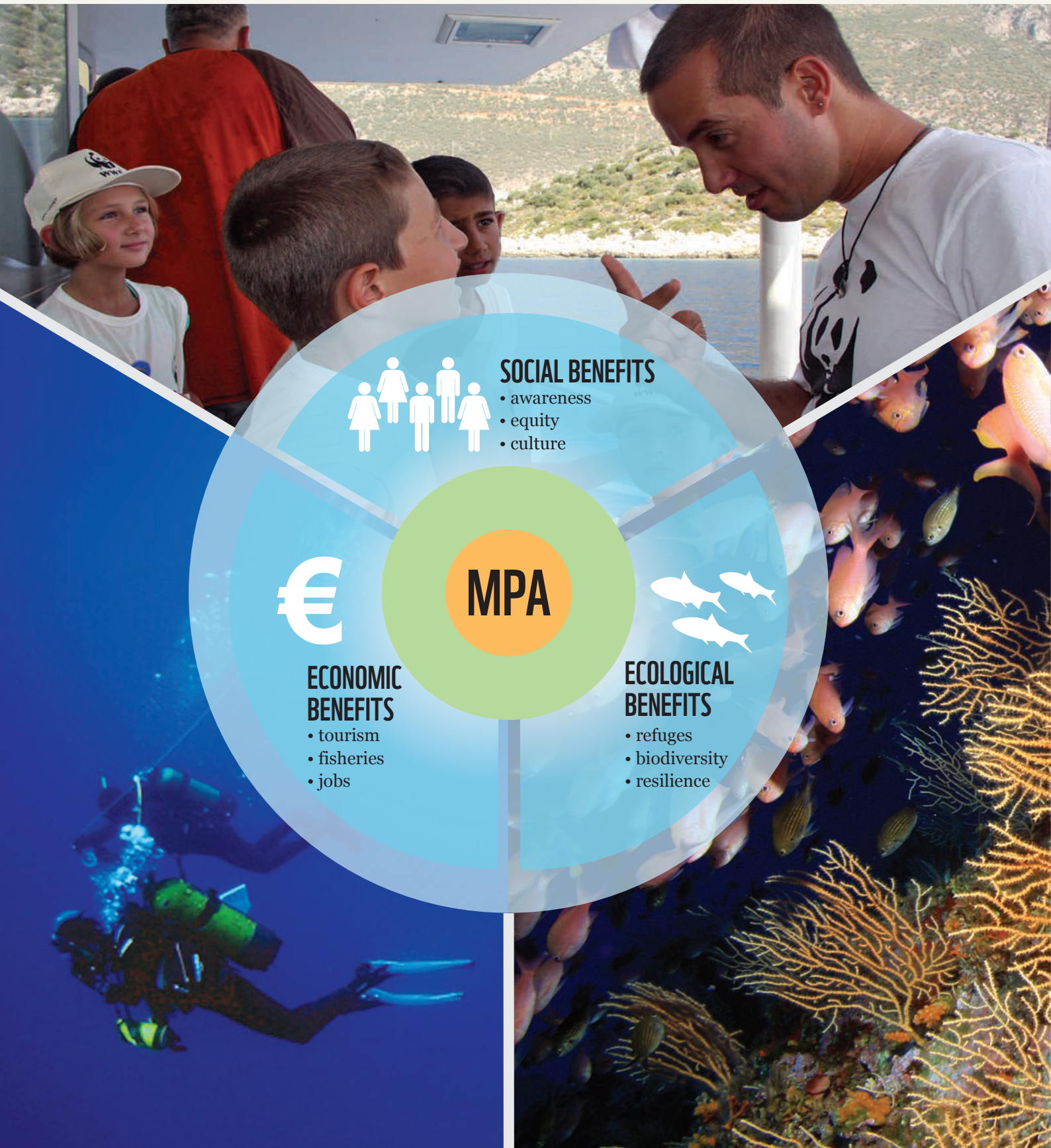
In Turkey, the Kaş-Kekova MPA management plan was developed collaboratively between WWF, Boğaziçi University, and the MPA management authority. Ten years of research data was used to establish important ecological areas for conservation and biodiversity, and socio-economic data was collected to guide the identification of management objectives and the design of user's zones and monitoring plans.



# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PROVIDE MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Marine protected areas are slices of the sea and coastline set aside because of their ecological importance. They safeguard the Mediterranean's amazing marine life, protect fishermen's livelihoods, boost local economies, and let tourists discover one of our planet's most stunning treasures.

**MPAs AND MAN ARE  
INTERCONNECTED IN WAYS  
THAT EMPOWER US BOTH**



# KEY ACTIONS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- Ensure good governance and dialogue among stakeholders by strengthening political efforts.
- Support and facilitate participatory planning and engagement of resource managers, governmental institutions, private sector, NGOs, and scientists.
- Guarantee adequate management bodies and strengthen their management capacity.
- Secure long-term financial and human resources through public and self-financing mechanisms.
- Enforce effectively through appropriate penalties and surveillance.
- Conduct regular monitoring assessments and share results to show actual and potential MPA benefits to stakeholders.
- Improve the collaboration between research and academic institutions, and develop initiatives to bridge existing gaps so the needs of MPA management guide scientific research.
- Integrate the MPAs into national and regional networks to develop common objectives, monitoring programmes, and effectiveness evaluations.

## 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, WWF works through field projects advocating improvements in regional and national policy processes affecting nature conservation and resource management. Complementing the work of the five WWF national organizations active in the region (France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey), WWF Mediterranean operates in fourteen countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Syria, and Tunisia.

[www.panda.org/mediterranean](http://www.panda.org/mediterranean)

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### Abbreviations

APAL Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral  
Sunce Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development



WWF supports MedPAN, the network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean.

In partnership with



and, with the kind 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.