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**MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PROVIDE MULTIPLE BENEFITS**

- **Economic benefits**
  - Tourism
  - Fisheries
  - Jobs

- **Ecological benefits**
  - Refuges
  - Biodiversity
  - Resilience

- **Social benefits**
  - Awareness
  - Equity
  - Culture

**MPA: AND MAN ARE INTERCONNECTED IN WAYS THAT EMPOWER US BOTH**

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.

**KEY ACTIONS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

- Ensure good governance and dialogue among stakeholders by strengthening political efforts.
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- 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.

**SOCIAL BENEFITS**

- Awareness
- Equity
- Culture

**ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS**

- Refuges
- Biodiversity
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**ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

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

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Science-based management
Sound scientific input 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.

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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 joint policy and legislative work, and to agree on and enable the development of operational management plans. At the MPA level, participatory planning among local authorities, managers, and fishermen ensured approval on management objectives, conflict resolution over resource access, and cross-sector co-operation.

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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 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.

Communication and awareness raising
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.

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MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Provide multiple benefits

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**Guiding principles and benefits**

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- culture

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- biodiversity
- resilience

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
- tourism
- fisheries
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**MPA**

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

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**Contact:**

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** Abbreviations**

ADPL: Agency for the Protection and Conservation of the Littoral in the Alboran Sea
APAL: A gence de Protection et d’Aménagement du Littoral
ATZ: System of National Park, Environment and Sustainable Development

**Design by:** Jane Hawkey and Simon Costanzo

Integration & Application Network
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
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In partnership with

and, with the kind support of

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