

# ANTALYA DECLARATION

**VISION:** "To achieve by 2020 a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas which ensures the long-term conservation of the key components of the marine biodiversity and gives significant support to the sustainable development of the region."

This declaration, and the roadmap from which it stems, are the result of a large participatory process involving all stakeholders (scientists, managers, decision-makers, private sector, civil society) engaged with Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.

They were developed under the overall coordination of the MedPAN organisation and the RAC/SPA secretariat with the support of two consultants, David de Monbrison of BRL Engineering and Chedly Rais of Okianos.

## The Roadmap elaboration process was conducted using a step by step approach.

Ahead of the 2012 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean that took place in Antalya, Turkey from 25 to 28 November 2012, input was sought from the Forum Steering Committee, members and partners of the MedPAN network, the main European Mediterranean and international institutions, the Ministries in charge of MPAs (RAC/SPA focal points in particular), and all the participants of the Forum (scientists, managers, fishermen representatives, NGOs, donors ...).

The roadmap was in a second phase enriched with the results of all discussions and exchanges that took place at the Forum.

It was approved by all the participants during the last day of the Forum.

The roadmap is not today a document committing countries formally but it makes it possible to define the steps that Mediterranean countries, relevant organisations and other stakeholders could individually and/or jointly undertake to achieve the 2020 objectives set for the MPA network in the Mediterranean.

The full roadmap can be downloaded from [www.medmpaforum2012.org](http://www.medmpaforum2012.org)

Forum organised by:



Technical partners of the Forum:



Financial partners of the Forum:



The **Mediterranean Sea** and the services provided by its ecosystems are a **common natural heritage** which complements the region's cultural heritage. The anthropogenic pressure and impacts, associated with climate change, affect national economies and populations, more so in this region of the world than in many others. Most Mediterranean countries have made an effort to reduce these impacts and set up **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** to improve the conservation of marine biodiversity in zones under their jurisdiction. However, despite the efforts deployed, the Mediterranean network of MPAs is still suffering **significant weaknesses**: it is not based on ecological representativity and connectivity, it lacks effective management and sustainable financing as well as effective coordination among its stakeholders.

Improving the state of the Mediterranean MPA network will help Mediterranean countries achieve the **Aichi Targets set under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and/or fulfil their obligations towards the Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS, GFCM as well as the Bern and Ramsar conventions. It will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments taken within the framework of RIO+20. It will also help the Mediterranean EU Member countries implement the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Biodiversity Strategy.**

In this context, the commitments made on a regional level by Mediterranean countries provide a solid foundation for establishing a network of MPAs in the Mediterranean. Such commitments have been set within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (Paris Declaration, Decision IG 20/4), ACCOBAMS and GFCM.

However, **stronger political commitment**, further effort on a national level as well as greater cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance on a Mediterranean level are needed. New integrated management and governance approaches must be developed at all levels and translated into political commitments.

Consolidation of the knowledge base and integration processes and mechanisms (institutional, co-management...) should give support to an effective management of the existing system of MPAs, and thus strengthen trust between all stakeholders, whilst mobilising them to achieve more ambitious objectives on different geographic levels. An iterative and adaptive management, regularly evaluated, is highly recommended.

During the **Forum held in Antalya (Turkey, 25-28 November 2012)**, the Mediterranean MPA community reviewed the status of MPAs in the region and identified the **actions needed to establish an ecological network of MPAs which is effectively and sustainably managed.** They elaborated a **roadmap calling for urgent action** and aimed at achieving, by 2020, the objectives set by international commitments.

**All involved stakeholders are invited to adopt the vision developed during the Forum, to adhere to the roadmap and to actively contribute to achieving its four strategic objectives.**

THE 2012 FORUM  
of Marine Protected Areas  
in the Mediterranean

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:  
**Everyone's Business.**

Boosting the Marine Protected Areas network  
for the benefit of the Mediterranean society.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Establish an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected.

With the view of improving the representativity and connectivity of the Mediterranean MPA network, ecosystems and other components of marine biodiversity that are under-represented should be identified, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This would help transform the network from a group of individual sites, into a true ecological network of MPAs.

In this context, special effort should be made to improve the quality, reliability and spatial coverage of inventories, habitat and species monitoring, as well as monitoring of uses (in and around MPAs) in a view to consolidate regional monitoring. A recognised and standardised methodology will help clarify the terms of connectivity and representativity on a regional level, but also criteria for assessing the achievement of these goals.

Efforts should be made to develop and maintain national and regional MPA databases (MAPAMED) and to ensure they are integrated in the IUCN and UNEP World Database on Protected Areas. Collecting and compiling protected areas data are essential in both MPA planning and management and in informing decision-makers and the general public on the progress made as regards the network.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Achieve an effective, efficient and sustainable management and a good governance in Mediterranean MPAs.

Improving the management and the protection of Mediterranean MPAs is a priority and requires the implementation of all the strategic objectives of this roadmap. Management systems (including fisheries reserves) should be assessed, if possible in a harmonised way on a national level and consolidated on a regional level. Clarification and simplification of the institutional frameworks governing MPAs will be undertaken, as well as strengthening the enforcement of regulations and removing barriers to the proper institutional functioning of MPAs.

Mediterranean MPAs must implement and update management and financial plans while reinforcing synergies with an involvement of all stakeholders. Furthermore, programmes for raising awareness, exchanging experience and building the management capacities of MPA managers and those of stakeholders should be developed and adapted to the identified needs and the challenges of co-management.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Develop a territorially and sectorially integrated governance of Mediterranean MPAs while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits.

MPA governance should be directed towards further involvement of stakeholders and further integration of MPAs into their surrounding territory. It should also integrate other public policies using, as appropriate, relevant tools which correspond to integrated ecosystem-based management and territorial planning.

National, European and international policies should be further harmonised and adapted to better integrate biodiversity governance with other sectors. Thus, institutional and operational synergies with other sectors (especially fisheries, river basin management, sea patrolling, taxation, tourism) should be developed on local, national or international levels, while highlighting the benefits for local communities (in particular those linked to the traditional activities of artisanal fishing and eco-tourism). MPA co-management based on zoning should be systematically reinforced.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity approaches (TEEB) on marine issues and MPAs will support countries in implementing integrative approaches to MPA co-management. Institutions should regularly develop evaluations of ecosystem services and their value on a local, national and regional level. This information will need to be integrated into statistical systems, national and regional databases (MAPAMED) in order to help with a mapping of ecosystem services.

In addition, Mediterranean riparian countries and European, Mediterranean and international institutions should regularly identify and progressively replace subsidies which may be detrimental to the marine and coastal environment. They should test innovative "green" policies and procurement procedures, relevant to marine conservation and a "blue economy" which respects biodiversity and the marine environment.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Increase the allocation of financial resources to establish and maintain an ecological network of effectively managed MPAs.

The identification and analysis of MPAs financial needs/gaps and a regular evaluation of funding schemes should be done in order to reinforce national policies and institutional frameworks (local, national, international) to improve the funding and diversification of financial resources.

New sustainable financial mechanisms (trust funds, payment for ecosystem services, earmarked taxes, etc.) need to be tested and developed on a local, national and regional level. The lessons learnt will be regularly capitalised on by stakeholders.

The status of national and regional financing of MPAs should be regularly presented to the parties of the Barcelona Convention as an indicator of their compliance to the Aichi Target 20. Donors will be invited to support the development of long-term sustainable financing mechanisms. Furthermore, new donors should be identified and mobilised to support MPAs.