THE KEYS TO *A SUCCESSFUL MPA*

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN MPAS IN 2025

What does it really take for a MPA to work?
In 2025, 263 managers of Mediterranean MPAs shared their experiences via a survey. Their responses enable us to analyse the extent to which 12 key conditions, recognised as essential, are currently in place to ensure effective management and achieve management objectives.

DO THEY HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED SCIENTIFIC INDICATORS?

SCIENCE-BASED INDICATORS

NEGATIVE SCORE

DO THEY HAVE ENOUGH STAFF?

STAFF

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

IS SURVEILLANCE SUFFICIENT?

SURVEILLANCE

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

IS THE AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OUT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES EFFECTIVELY?

EQUIPMENT

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

DO THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDING?

FUNDING

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

ARE THE COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES BEING CARRIED OUT EFFECTIVELY?

COMMUNICATION

AVERAGE SCORE

IS COOPERATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS SATISFACTORY?

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

DO THEY HAVE A GOVERNANCE COUNCIL?

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

AVERAGE SCORE

DO THEY GENERATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

AVERAGE SCORE

MARINE PROTECTED AREA

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION PROVIDED BY YOUR MPA?

REGULATIONS

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

ARE THERE ANY SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ACTIVITIES ?

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

ARE THE MONITORING ACTIVITIES SATISFACTORY?

MONITORING

RATHER NEGATIVE SCORE

Top 3 factors conducive to achieving management objectives

Assessment of favourable conditions in Mediterranean MPAs

NEGATIVE | RATHER NEGATIVE | NEUTRAL | RATHER POSITIVE | POSITIVE

ANOTHER CONTRIBUTING KEY FACTOR

0 3 6 67

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Management effectiveness

In the Mediterranean, a management unit* oversees an average of six MPAs, with a median of three MPAs. Whilst the majority of managers are responsible for only a small number of MPAs, some management units oversee as many as 67. Our analyses also show that the more MPAs a management unit is responsible for, the less effectively these MPAs appear to achieve their management objectives.

***Management unit: The management body is the agency, organisation, individual or group responsible for managing the protected area.**

For further information, please see the full report on the status of Mediterranean MPAs in 2025:

MAPAMED | UN environment programme | Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention | SPA/RAC | MedPAN

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