

Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

EU Strategy for
the Alpine Region
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strategy
Prosperity through Diversity

**TEDEN SREDOZEMSKO OBAL
IN MAKROREGIONALNIH
STRATEGIJ**
Izola, Slovenija
18. – 22. september 2023

**MEDITERRANEAN COAST
AND MACRO-REGIONAL
STRATEGIES WEEK**
Izola, Slovenia
18 – 22 September 2023

Biodiversity and Marine Protection in EUSAIR: A Contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy

Study of the possible scenario

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THE AIM OF THE STUDY

The analysis covers the overview of marine protection under national and supranational legislation within individual AI member state. Legal analysis evaluates the basis for expansion of MPA under law.

The aim of the legal analysis is to offer a comprehensive overview of the responsibilities and instruments available for spatial marine protection in the region with case studies and exchange of practices. The main addressees are:

- Member states ministries for marine protection and other national and regional governmental institutions involved in marine resource planning and licencing;
- International organisation and EU institutions, can benefit from the analysis of EU and non-EU national law and practice;
- Not least other private and public sectors that are involved in marine exploitation, should be addressed as stakeholder as well as
- NGO for marine protection on national and international level



LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The MSFD recognise that spatial protection measures, including MPAs, should form part of the programmes of measures required for its implementation

- The European Commission is adopting a pragmatic approach, namely: even when a species is not listed in the annexes of the **Directives, the NATURA 2000 network**, through its umbrella effect, covers a high proportion of species of conservation concern beyond those listed in the Annexes.
- By reference to the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)** it is up to member States to protect all marine species and habitats, without need to refer to each individual species (listed in the Nature Directives).



MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AN INSTRUMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Directive 2014/89/EU (MSP Directive) as “a process by which the relevant authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives”.

Restrictions related to human uses can be established via the MSP Directive, which requires member States to establish and implement MSP following the ecosystem-based approach.

- These objectives represent potential synergies for marine protection and MPAs networks. Establishing ecologically coherent networks of MPAs at eco-regional and sub-regional scales is the cornerstone of MSP.
- The importance for biodiversity protection of MSP might only become fully apparent during the first review of the national marine plans.

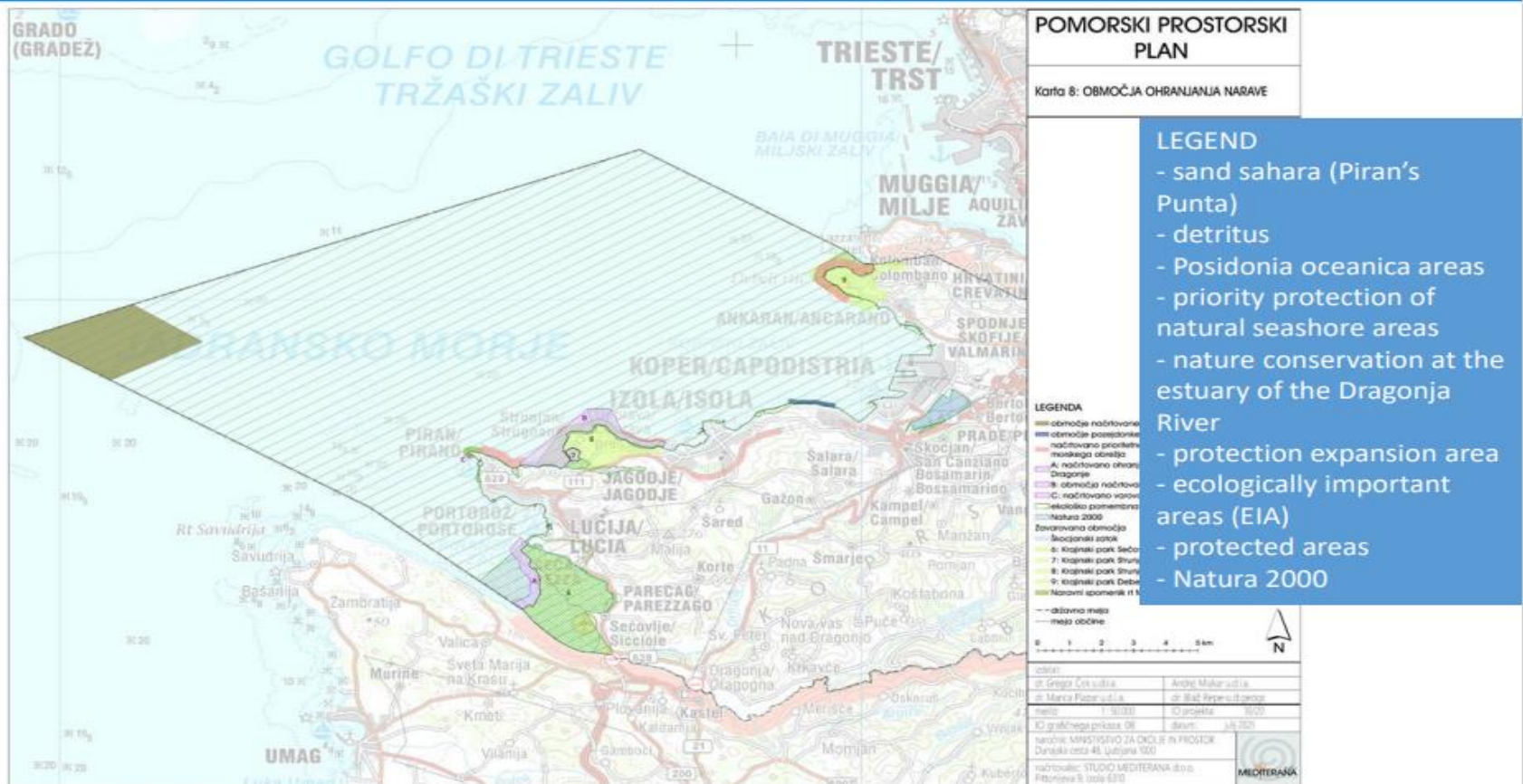
UNEP/MAP Conceptual framework for MSP is a tool for the implementation of MSP and is considered as a tool of the ICZM Protocol available to non-EU EUSAIR States .



MSP OF SLOVENIA PROPOSED MSP FOR ITALY

Map 8: NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS

- general presentation of protection regimes and restrictions
- protection expansion area



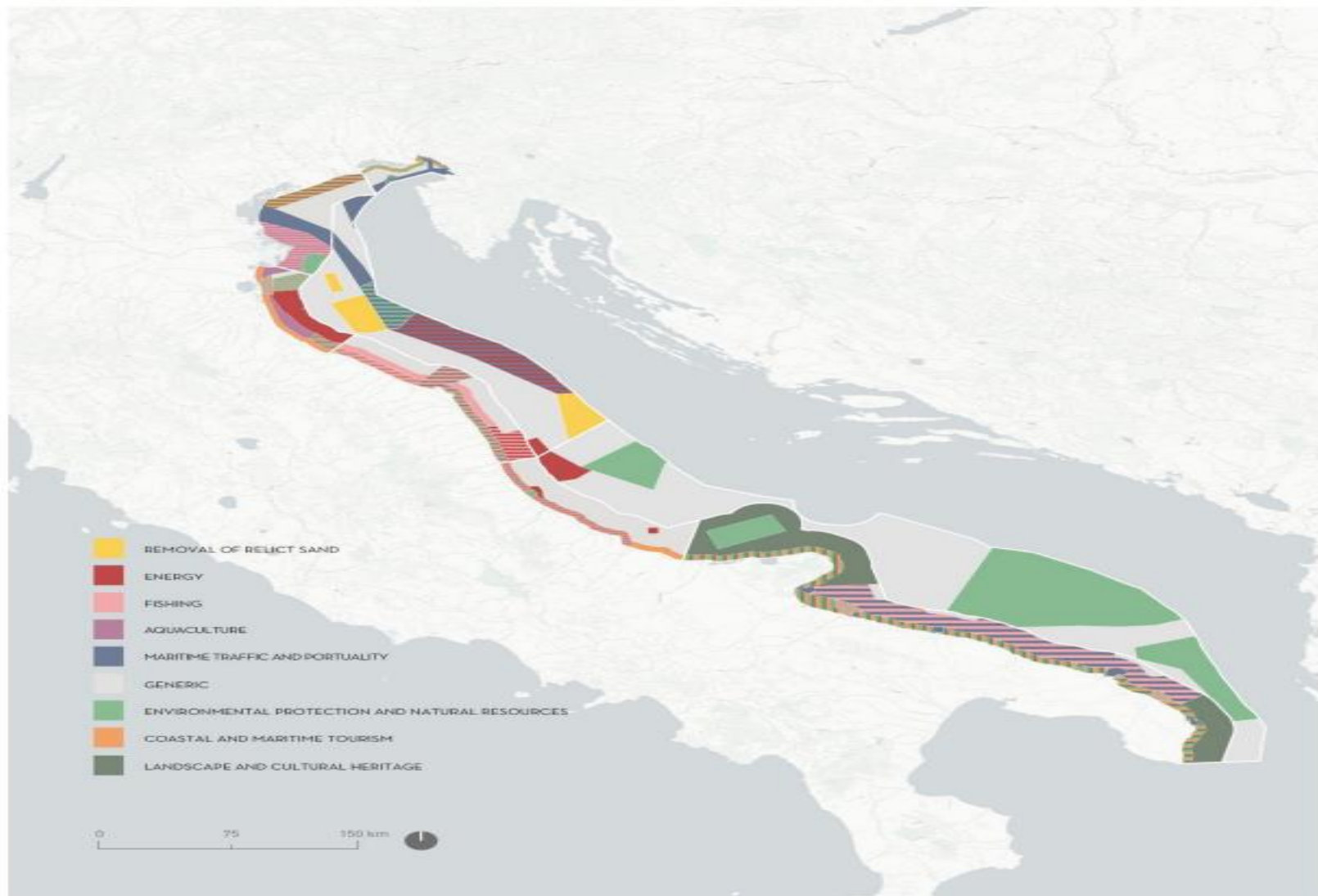
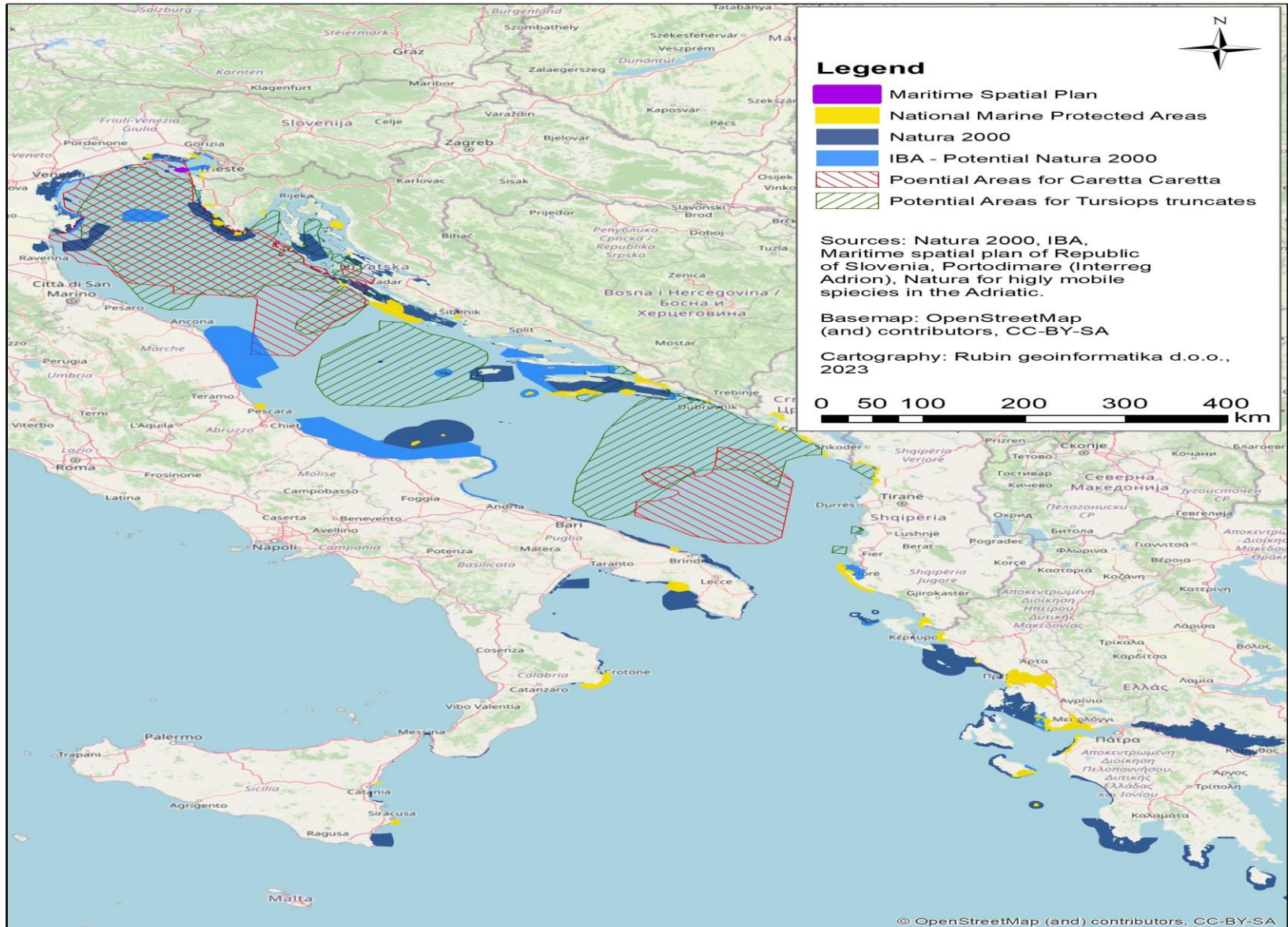


Figure 16 Planning Unit of the Maritime Area "Adriatic".



EXISTING MPAs AND AREAS OF POTENTIAL DESIGNATION IN INDIVIDUAL EUSAIR MEMEBR STATES



OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECM)

- “OECM” is a broad concept that includes also MPAs, but is not limited to them. *While MPAs are established exclusively for conservation purposes, OECMs, while indirectly contributing to conservation objectives, may be adopted also for other purposes.*
- **Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA)** means a “geographically defined area in which some specific fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation patterns and conservation of specific stocks as well as of habitats and deep-sea ecosystems”
- FRAs can therefore be considered as an example of OECM



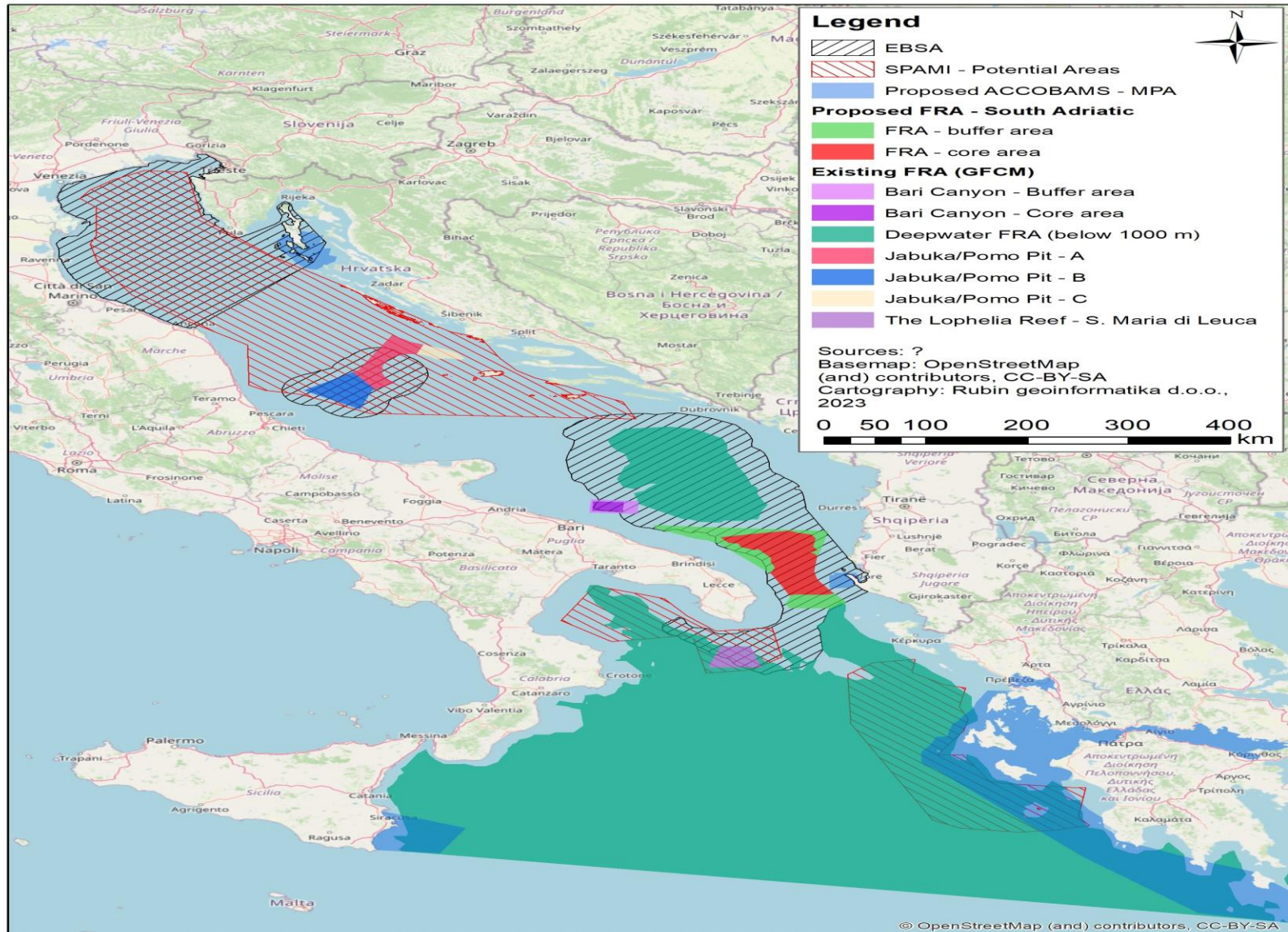
ESTABLISHING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, INCLUDING TRANSBOUNDARY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

Establishing a transboundary SPAMIs or one bigger SPAMI in the Northern and Central Adriatic (including the Jabuka/Pomo Pit area) based upon a joint proposal by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia;

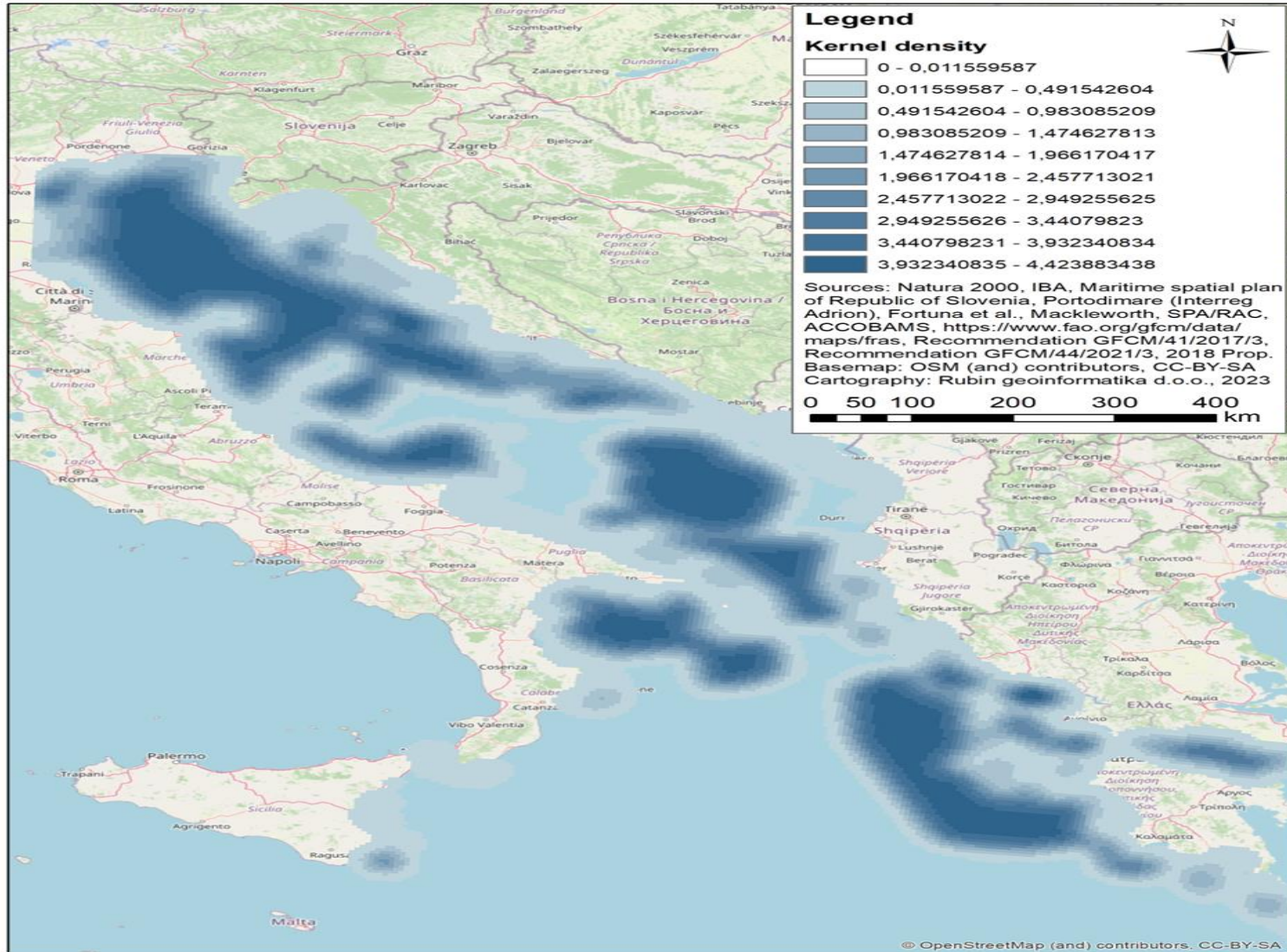
- The **scientific basis for such proposals** may be found, among other, in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, which in 2014 *identified the Northern, Central (including Jabuka/Pomo pit) and Southern Adriatic, including the Strait of Otranto area and nearby Ionian Sea, as Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)*,
- The report presented in 2010 to the extraordinary meeting of the focal points for the Areas Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, which listed the *Northern and Central Adriatic as “priority conservation areas” and, together with Santa Maria di Leuca and Northeastern Ionian, as potential SPAMIs.*
- Following the eventual ratification of the Areas protocol by Greece, a similar move could be envisaged in the Southern Adriatic (Channel of Otranto area) and the Ionian Sea.



PRESENTATION OF THE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL TRANSBOUNDARY MARINE AREAS IN EUSAIR REGION



Density of existing and potential areas form marine biodiversity protection in the plan



PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR THE REGION

Graphic illustrations show the existing marine protection areas and possible extensions within the region that would meet the Strategy objectives.

- MPA areas that would be extended more than 24% from the existing 8,5% to 33%. With respect to strict protection part the area would be extended to more than 12%, from the exiting 0,1%
- The scenario is built on the analysis of the legal and legally relevant scientific framework already in place;
- Areas of strict protection were mostly identified beyond 12 NM.

Such a scenario would require close, comprehensive as well as operational cooperation on the regional level as part of the EU policy.



Existing marine protection and possible extensions within the region that would meet the strategy objectives

