

Marine Protected Area Targets in Greece: Progress and Achievements

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N.E.C.C.A. - GREECE

3rd Marine Biogeographical Seminar for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions

12-14 March 2024, Marseille, France



Natural Environment



Protected Areas



Climate Change

Biodiversity



Sustainable Development



N.E.C.C.A.





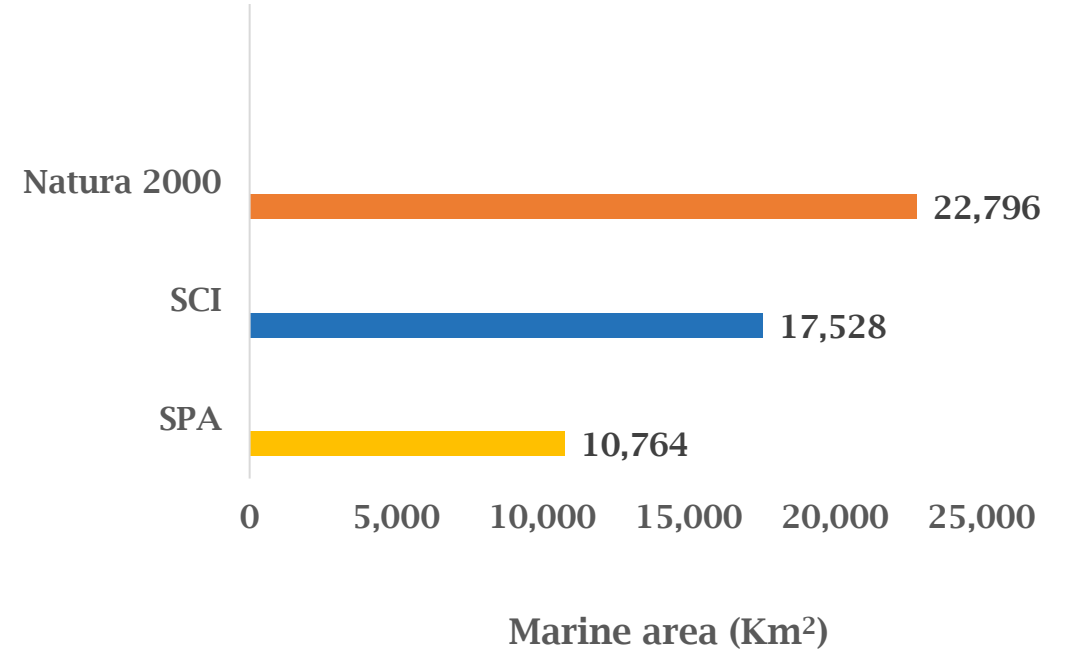
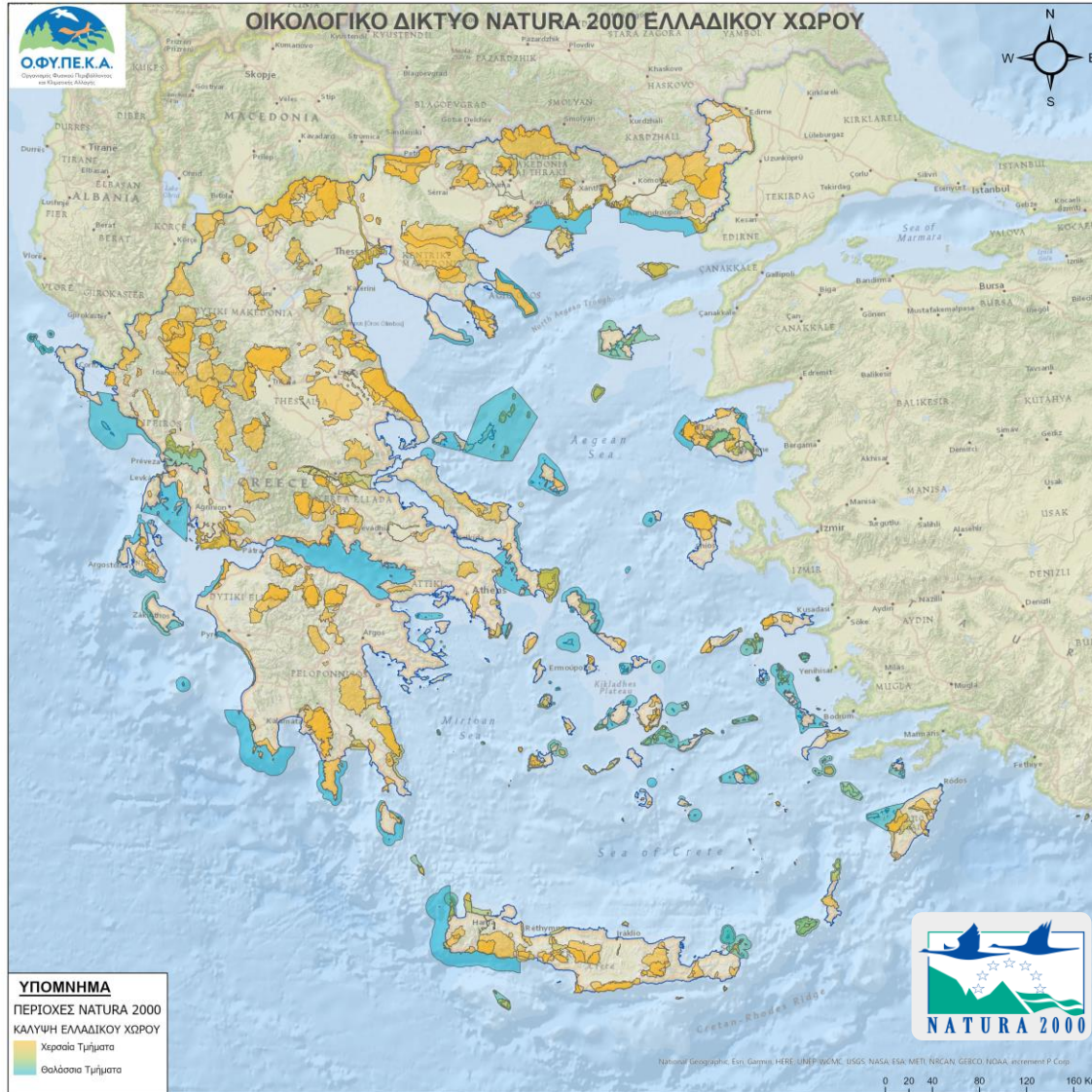
Presentation Overview

- European Natura 2000 Network – MPAs
- Relevant national **legislation**: A review
- National Designated MPAs

Best Practices:

- The case of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos
- The case of the National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades
- The case of Gyaros island
- LIFE MareNatura Project
- Other **Indicative Best Practices** aiming to achieve MPA Targets
- Indicative **Future Measures** regarding MPA targets

European Natura 2000 Network in Greece - MPAs



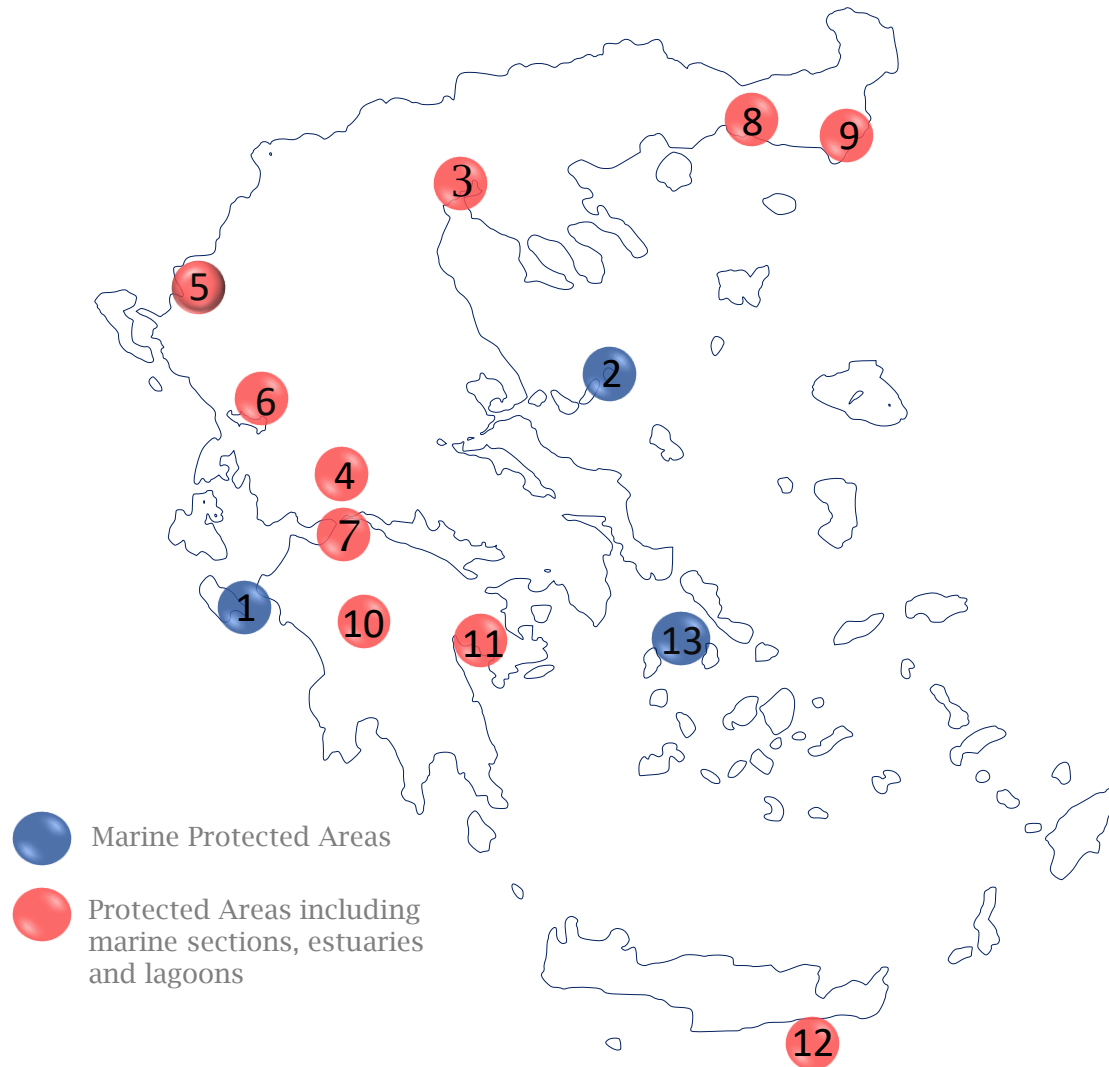
Source: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/natura-2000-barometer>

Relevant national legislation: A review



- **L. 1650/1986** “For the protection of the environment” (GG 59/1994)
- **J. M. Decision 33318/3028 (GG 1289/B’/1998)** "Establishment of the National Committee for Protected Areas "Natura 2000" to monitor compliance and effective implementation of the provisions of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
- **L. 3937 (GG 60/A/2011)**, “**Biodiversity conservation and other provisions**”: the N2K network have been integrated in the national system of protected areas, as **SACs & SPAs**; including general regulations aiming to protect and conserve the N2K network
- **M. Decision 40332 (GG 2383/B’/2014)** “Approval of the **National Biodiversity Strategy** for the years 2014-2029 and a five-year Action Plan”
- **J.M.D Decision 50743 (GG 4432/B’/2017)**, the national list of N2K sites has recently been updated with the inclusion of new sites and the enlargement of existing ones; With this update, the **marine part of the network has considerably increased**
- **L. 4685 (GG 92/A’/2020)** “**Modernization of environmental legislation**, transposition into Greek legislation of Directives 2018/844 and 2019/692 of the European Parliament and the Council and other provisions”

National Designated MPAs



1. National Marine Park of Zakynthos

2. National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades

3. Axios Delta National Park – Loudia – Aliakmona – Alikis Kitrou and Kalochori Lagoon

4. Messolonghi National Park

5. Acherontas – Kalamas National Park

6. Amvrakikos National Wetland Park

7. Kotyhi Strofilias National Wetlands Park

8. National Park of Eastern Macedonia Thrace

9. Evros Delta National Park

10. Nature Protection Area of Kyparissiakou Gulf and wider area

11. Mount Parnon and Moustos Wetland Protected Area

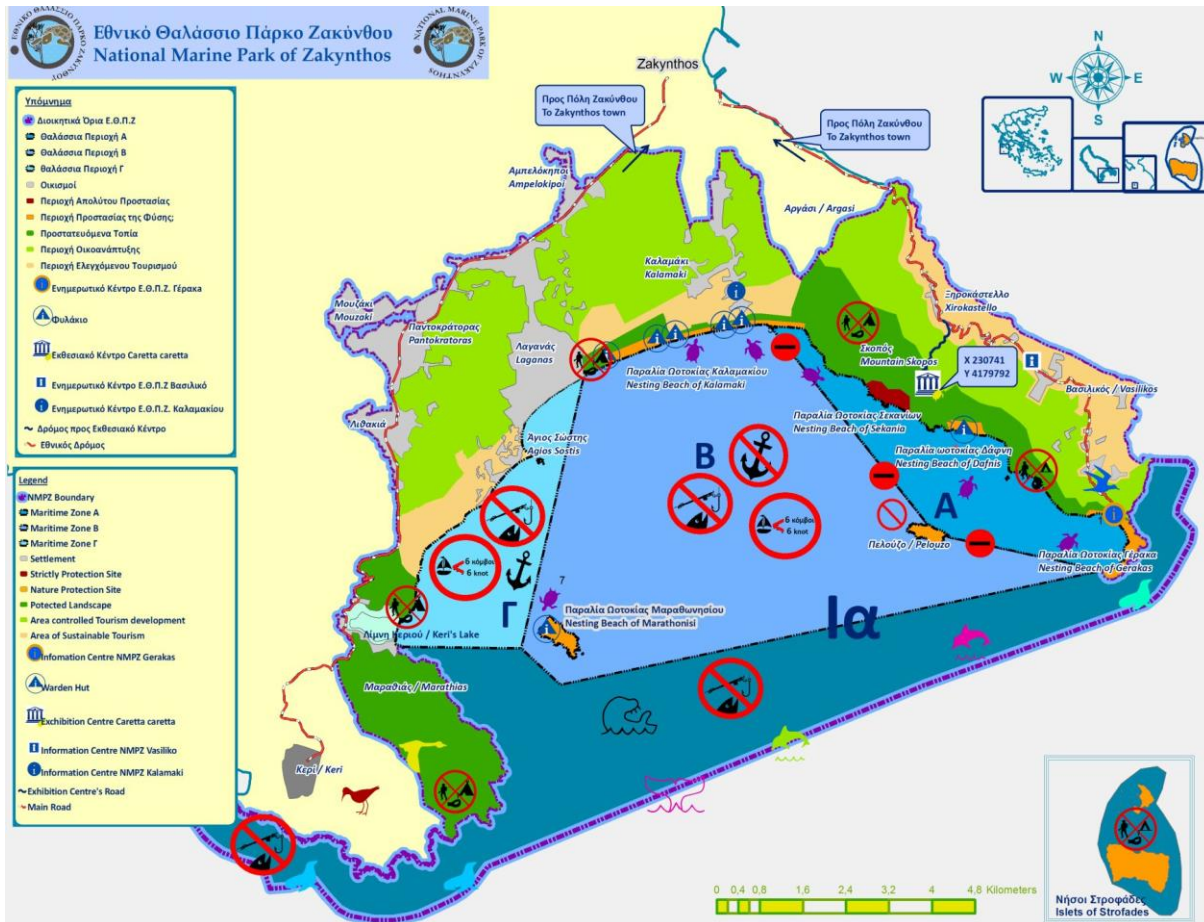
12. Chrissi island

13. Gyaros island

Best Practices: The case of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos

- Founded in 1999 (P. D. 906/D'/1999)
- Being the **first duly constituted Protected Area** in Greece, which was managed by a **Management Body**
- Human activities: **tourism & agriculture**
- It aims to **protect the nesting beaches of *Caretta caretta***, the habitat & population of the **Mediterranean monk seal**, **avifauna**, **terrestrial & coastal flora & fauna**, the **marine ecosystem & the fish stocks**
- It carries out **activities for the sustainable development of the region**, in harmony with the protection of nature, the countryside and the cultural heritage

Best Practices: The case of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos



- Within this designated area encounters may occur:
 - > **170 Plant species** extended in rocky & sandy areas (i.e. *Posidonia oceanica*)
 - > **30 Protected or threatened species of invertebrates, fish & mammals** (i.e. *Pinna nobilis*, *Sphaerechinus granularis*, *Epinephelus marginatus*, *Sparisoma cretense*, *Delphinus delphis*)
 - **Invasive species**
- Implement appropriate **management measures:** i.e. regulated prohibitions for fishery, water sports, navigation, swimming & other activities

Best Practices:

The case of the National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades

- Main activities taking place: **agriculture, livestock, fishing & tourism**
- Aims: **protection, preservation & management of nature & species**
- Within this designated area encounters may occur:
 - Significant & rare species of **terrestrial and marine flora** (pine forests, brushwood, Posidonia meadows)
 - Significant & rare fauna species (i.e. Alonissos Tuna, Red coral, Gorgonia, Pinna)
 - **Invasive species**
 - the largest known population of the **Mediterranean monk seal** (*Monachus monachus*)
- Implement appropriate **management measures**:
 - i.e. prohibitions of fishing activity, water sports, camping, use of fire, snorkeling, navigation, tourism & visitor management & other activities per Park Zone

Best Practices: The case of Gyaros island

- The Protected Area of Gyaros is designated as **SCI-SPA-Wildlife Refuge (KAZ)**:
 - **M. D. 58979/1531 (GG 389/D'/2019)** “Determination of conditions & restrictions for the protection, conservation and management of the nature of the land & sea area of the island of Gyaros”, as amended by D. 67391/2552 (GG 412/D'/2021), D 38930/1109 (GG 321/D'/2022) & D. 92566/2630 (GG 586/D'/2022)
 - **Decision 91881 (GG 463/D'/2015)** “Establishment of a Marine Wildlife Refuge (KAZ) in the marine zone around the island of Gyaros, Regional Unit of Syros”
- Total area: **26,114.31 ha (93.2% is a marine area)**
- Within this designated area encounters may occur:
 - Many **threatened species of terrestrial & marine flora and fauna** (i.e. *Monachus monachus*)
 - Significant marine habitats, such as **Posidonia meadows, coral formations & sea caves**
 - A significant colony of about **2,000 pairs** of Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*)
 - Other **bird species** such as the Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*), Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*), Scopoli's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea* s. str.), European storm petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*), Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonora*)



Best Practices: The case of Gyaros island

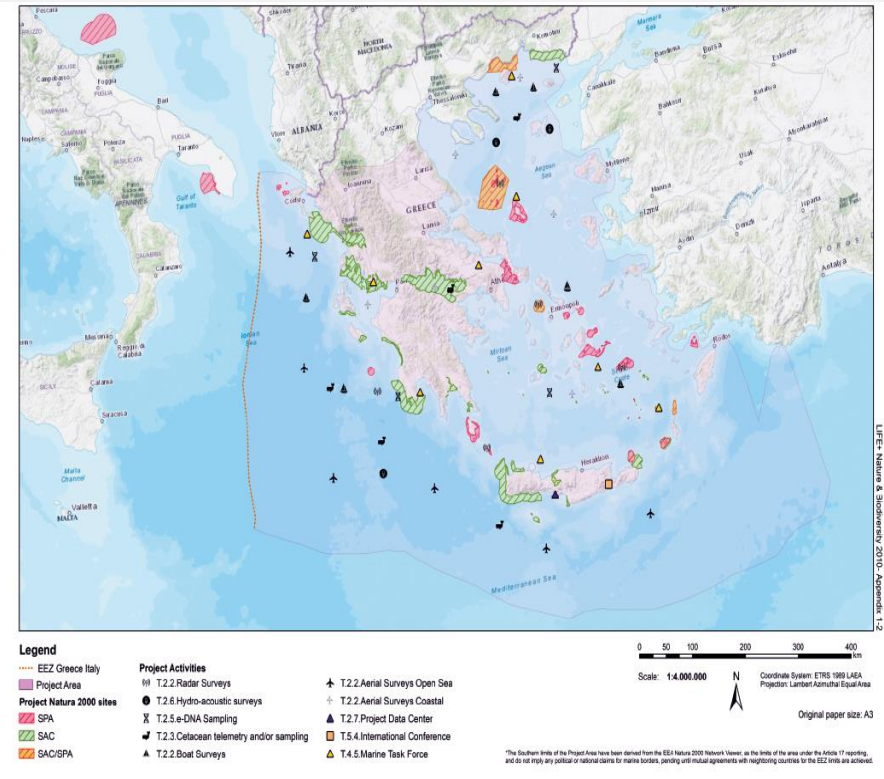
- **Protection zones & restrictions:** i.e. fisheries, fish farming, hunting
- **Memorandum of Cooperation** between the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, N.E.C.C.A., & WWF Hellas is under implementation for the management of an **integrated remote surveillance system for the effective supervision of the Gyaros MPA**, developed in the framework of the Cyclades-LIFE program by WWF Hellas

AIM: Efficient protection for 9 priority species of Mediterranean marine megafauna

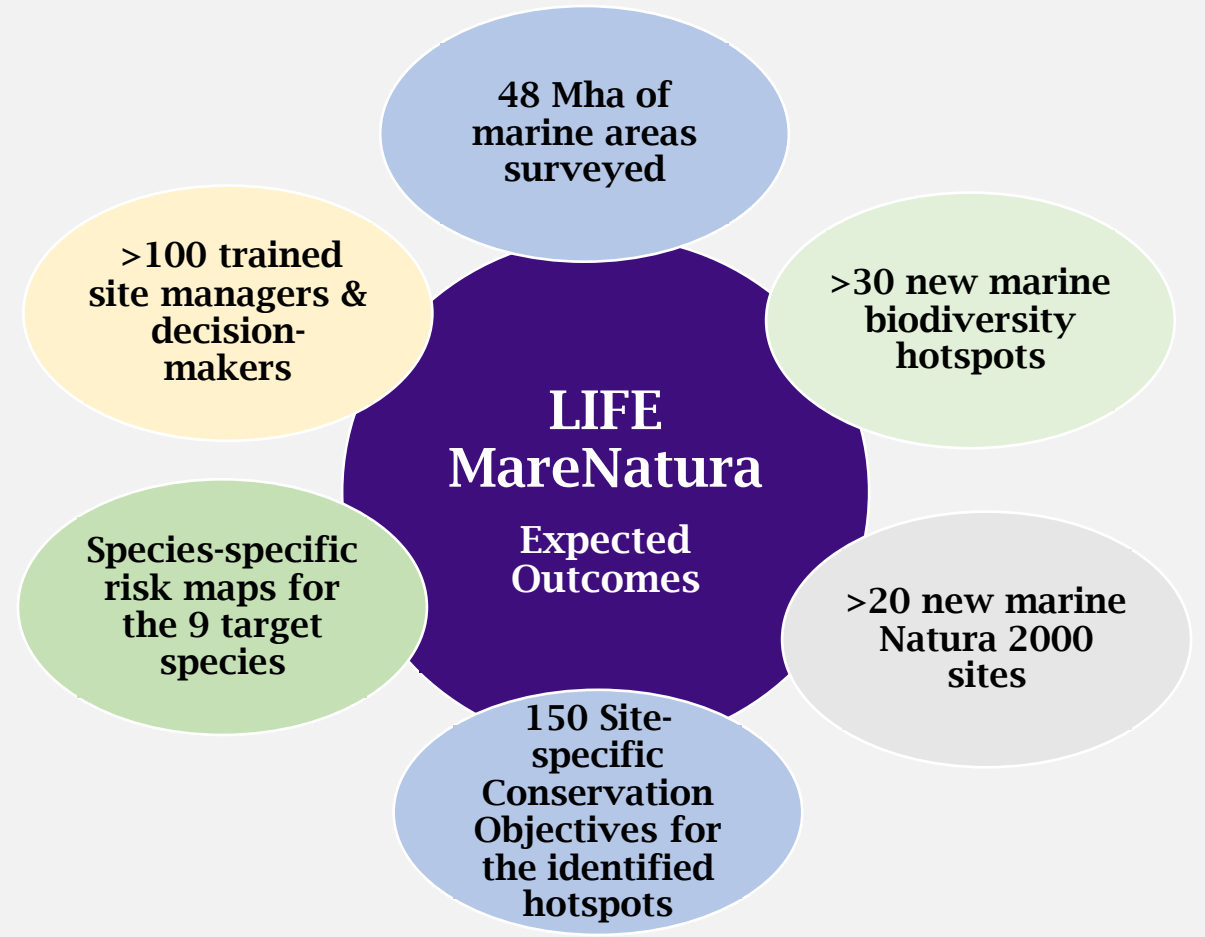
OBJECTIVES: Identification, delineation and proposal for designation of new offshore Natura 2000 sites in the Greek territorial waters and the Greek EEZ, Improved spatial planning in the Aegean, Ionian and South Adriatic Seas, Establishment of a modern and cost-effective monitoring scheme for the regular assessment of the conservation status of the priority species

Start: 01/07/2023
End: 30/06/2029
Budget: 10,707,187.54€
EC Co-funding: 75%





Area of implementation
Greece: 41 N2K area
Italy: 3 N2K areas



Other Indicative Best Practices aiming to achieve MPA Targets



BEST PRACTICES

Fund: Operational Program YMEPERAA
Budget: 12,790,597.69 €
Status: In progress

“Completion of the National System of Protected Areas & Management Structures of Natura 2000 Areas” - Launch of the startup of the 7 new Management Units of Protected Areas and the central service of N.E.C.C.A.

Fund: Interreg Med - MPA Networks
Budget: 61,500.00 €, Status: In progress

“Supporting the effectiveness of marine protected areas through strong & connected networks in the Mediterranean”

Fund: Recovery & Resilience Facility
Budget: 124,000,000 €
Status: In progress

“Biodiversity protection is a key driver for sustainable development”

Fund: LIFE EL BIOS (LIFE20 GIE/GR/001317)
Budget: 2,571,132 €
Status: In progress

“Hellenic Biodiversity Information System - An innovative tool for biodiversity conservation”

Fund: INTERREG MED
Budget: 241,638.00 €, Status: Completed

“TUNE UP”, Promoting multilevel governance for tuning up biodiversity protection in marine areas”

Fund: Interreg Med - MPA Engage
Budget: 107,853.34 €
Status: Completed

“Engaging Mediterranean key actors in Ecosystem Approach to manage Marine Protected Areas to face Climate change”



Indicative Future Measures regarding MPA targets

- Completion of **Special Environmental Studies**, issuance of relevant Presidential Decrees, establishment of **management plans**
- Prioritization & characterization of **strictly protected zones regarding MPAs**
- Percentage **increase in the marine part** of the network from 10.28% to **>30% by 2030**
- Gathering potential ecological data to **designate more MPAs**
- Enhancing **monitoring & surveillance** in MPAs

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The water is exceptionally clear, showing various shades of turquoise and green, revealing the rocky seabed. The shoreline is composed of large, light-colored rock formations and cliffs. Sparse green vegetation is visible on the land. The text 'Thank You' is written in a white, elegant serif font, arched across the center of the image.

Thank You

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