




MINISTÈRE  
DE LA TRANSITION  
ÉCOLOGIQUE  
ET DE LA COHÉSION  
DES TERRITOIRES

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



# Implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy – France's approach to the challenges of protecting the marine environment

*Online networking event on strictly protected marine areas  
16 April 2024*

## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

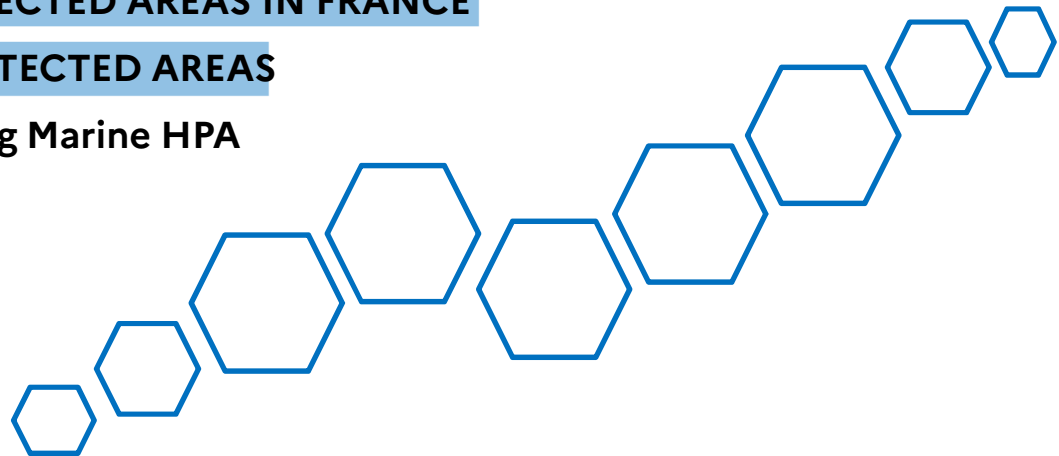
### I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

- France's national strategies
- The French concept of "high protection"

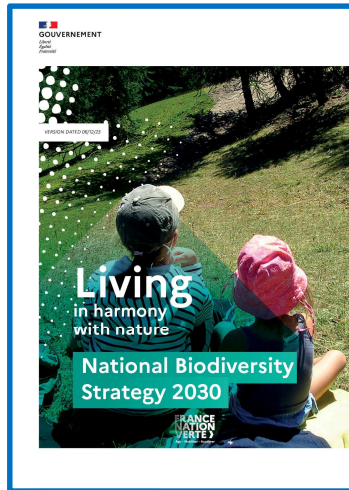
### II. THE CURRENT NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS IN FRANCE

### III. THE PLEDGE REPORTING FOR PROTECTED AREAS

- The French process for creating Marine HPA
- The French EU pledge

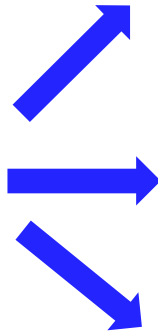
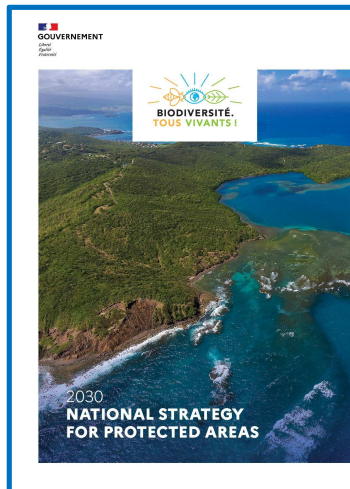


## Protected areas targets in national strategies



- **Protect 30%** of national territory
- **Highly protect 10%** of national territory
- Increase **financial means and quality of MPA management**

# « Standard » protection



UICN definition of protected areas  
11 legal categories (*enshrined in national law*)

No standard level of protection

No OECM

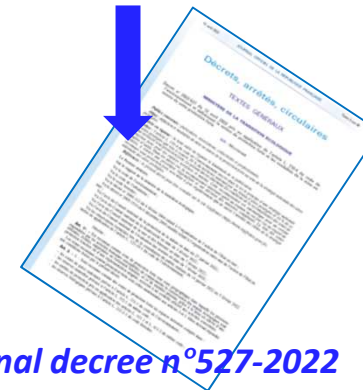
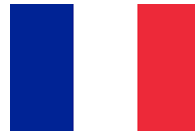


# Strict and high protection



**Strict protection :**  
*natural processes “left essentially undisturbed”*

**Highly protected areas** are “geographical areas in which the pressures generated by human activities that might compromise the conservation of the ecological features are eliminated or significantly reduced, in the long term, through the implementation of protection through property or an adapted regulation, associated with an **effective control** of these activities”



**National decree n°527-2022**  
*defining high protection and the way to implement it*

# Two processes to recognize Highly protected areas

## *Depending on its legal category*

### HP areas

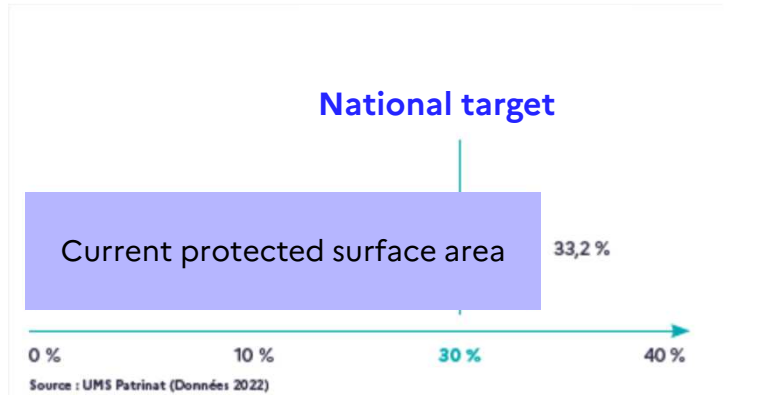
- **Prefectoral Orders**
- **Reinforced protection zones within Nature Reserves**
- **Core areas of National Parks**
- Sites of the Natura 2000 network
- Marine Nature Parks
- Sites of the Coastal Conservation Trust and of the Natural Areas Conservation Trusts
- Regional sea conventions

## *On a case by case basis*

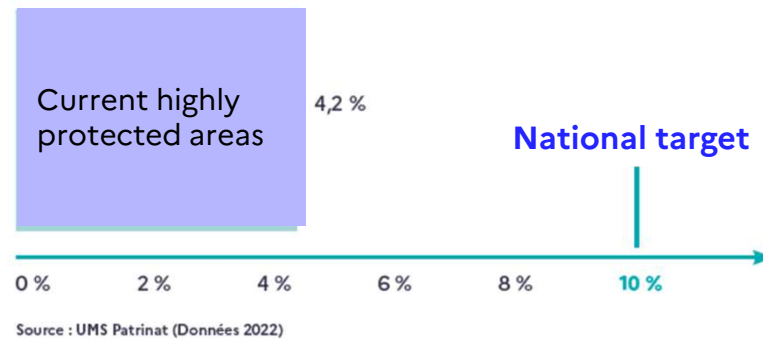
- Assessment of the level of pressure induced by each activity present in the area
- Depending on the sensitivity of ecological stakes in the area to these pressures
- *Activities can not be allowed unless the residual level of pressure is significantly reduced*
- *Except for seabed exploitation and windfarms (not compatible in principle, without analysis)*

# Where are we today ?

Protected areas



Highly protected areas



- 33,4% of MPAs

*Mainland France : 366 MPAs covering 45,62% of marine waters*

- 4,1% of marine HPA

*Mainland France : 0,1% of marine waters are highly protected*

## THE CURRENT NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS IN FRANCE

	TOTAL AREA	PROTECTED AREAS (target 30%)		HIGH PROTECTION (target 10%)	
		SURFACE (ha)	RATIO (%)	SURFACE (ha)	RATIO (%)
<b>NATIONAL TERRITORY</b>	<b>1 084 952 886 ha</b>	<b>363 291 156 ha</b>	<b>33,5 %</b>	<b>45 972 706 ha</b>	<b>4,2 %</b>
<b>NATIONAL MARINE TERRITORY</b>	<b>1 018 163 492 ha</b>	<b>342 435 865 ha</b>	<b>33,6 %</b>	<b>41 816 884 ha</b>	<b>4,1 %</b>
Mainland	37 589 481 ha	17 146 587 ha	45,6 %	28 349 ha	0,1 %
Overseas	980 574 011 ha	325 289 278 ha	33,2 %	41 788 535 ha	4,3 %
<b>NATIONAL LAND TERRITORY</b>	<b>66 789 394 ha</b>	<b>20 855 291 ha</b>	<b>31,2 %</b>	<b>4 155 822 ha</b>	<b>6,2 %</b>
Mainland	54 886 077 ha	15 415 841 ha	28,1 %	847 300 ha	1,5 %
Overseas	11 903 317 ha	5 439 450 ha	45,7 %	3 308 522 ha	27,8 %

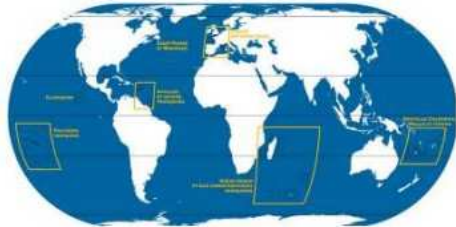
Source : PatriNat et OFB, base Espaces protégés, base Natura 2000, données ZPF marines septembre 2023. Indicateurs de référence 30, 31 et 32 relatifs aux protections contribuant à la SNAP



# The French MPA network

## II. THE CURRENT FRAMEWORK

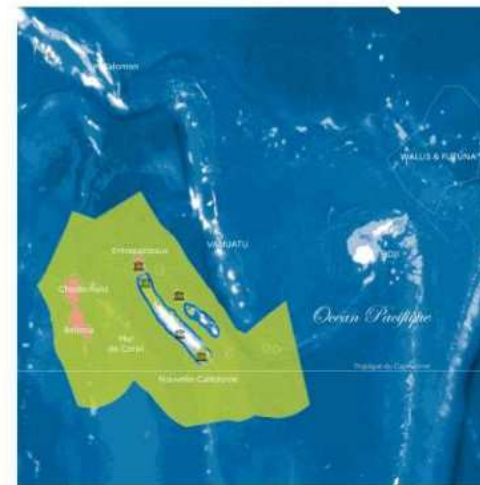
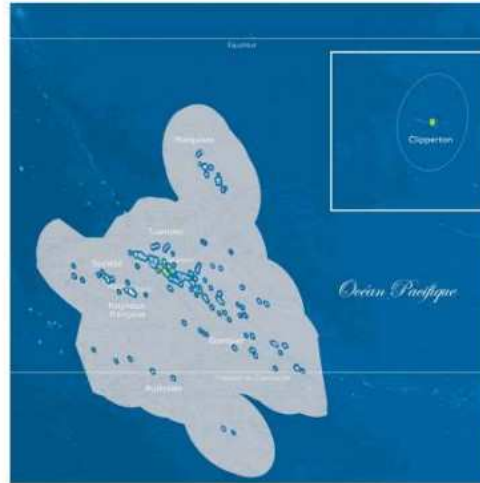
En 2022, un réseau de 565 aires marines protégées couvre près de 33 % de l'espace maritime français.



- Parc naturel marin
- Parc national
- Réserve naturelle
- Autres catégories (SMP) (avec la permission de l'Etat, territoires de collectivités locales...)
- Aire marine gérée de Polynésie Française (non inscrite dans le réseau)
- Bien inscrit au patrimoine mondial

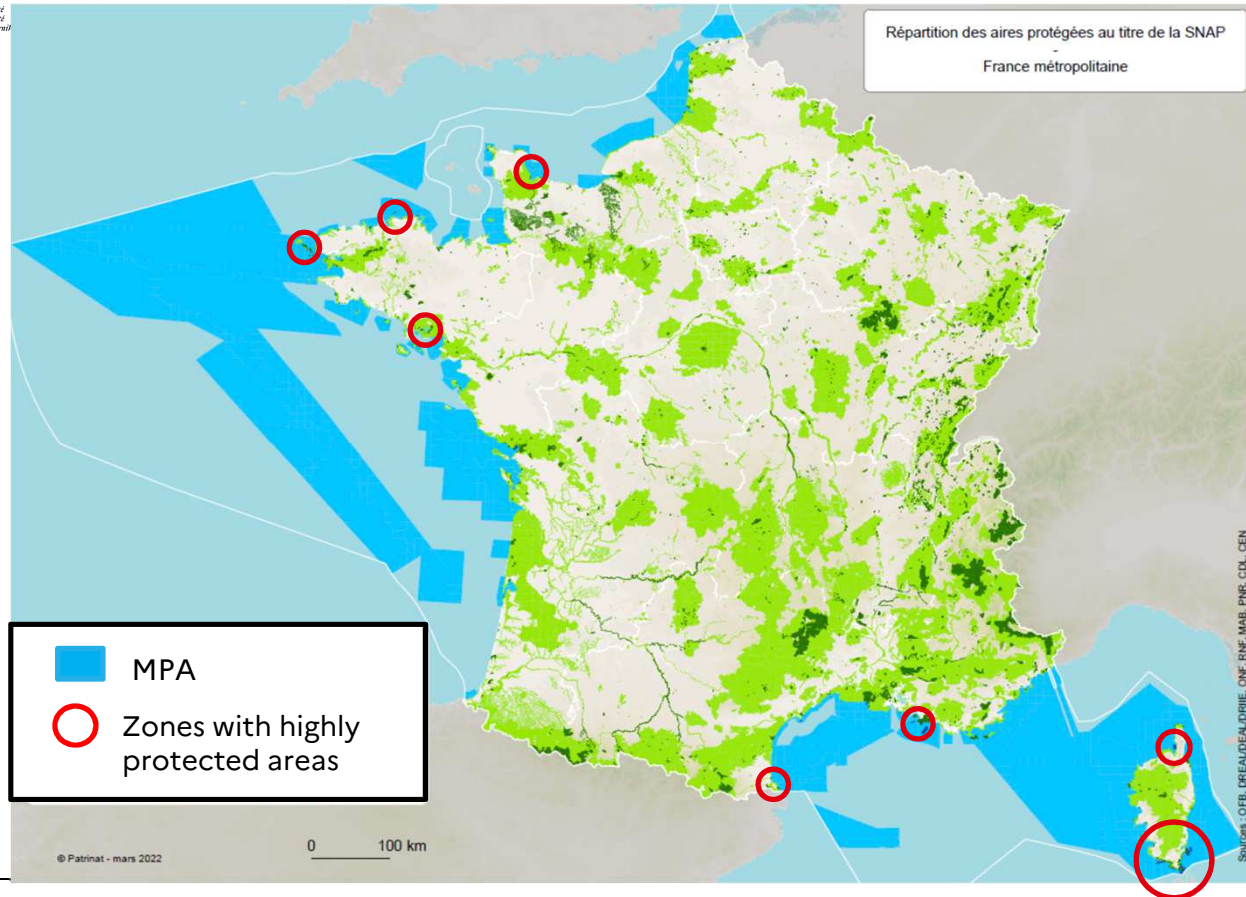
BREST EVENTS  
UN ÉVÉNEMENT ORGANISÉ  
PAR LE CLUSTER DE  
BREST-SCOP

10% subvention par le Cluster Brest-Scop 2022



# HPA network in mainland waters

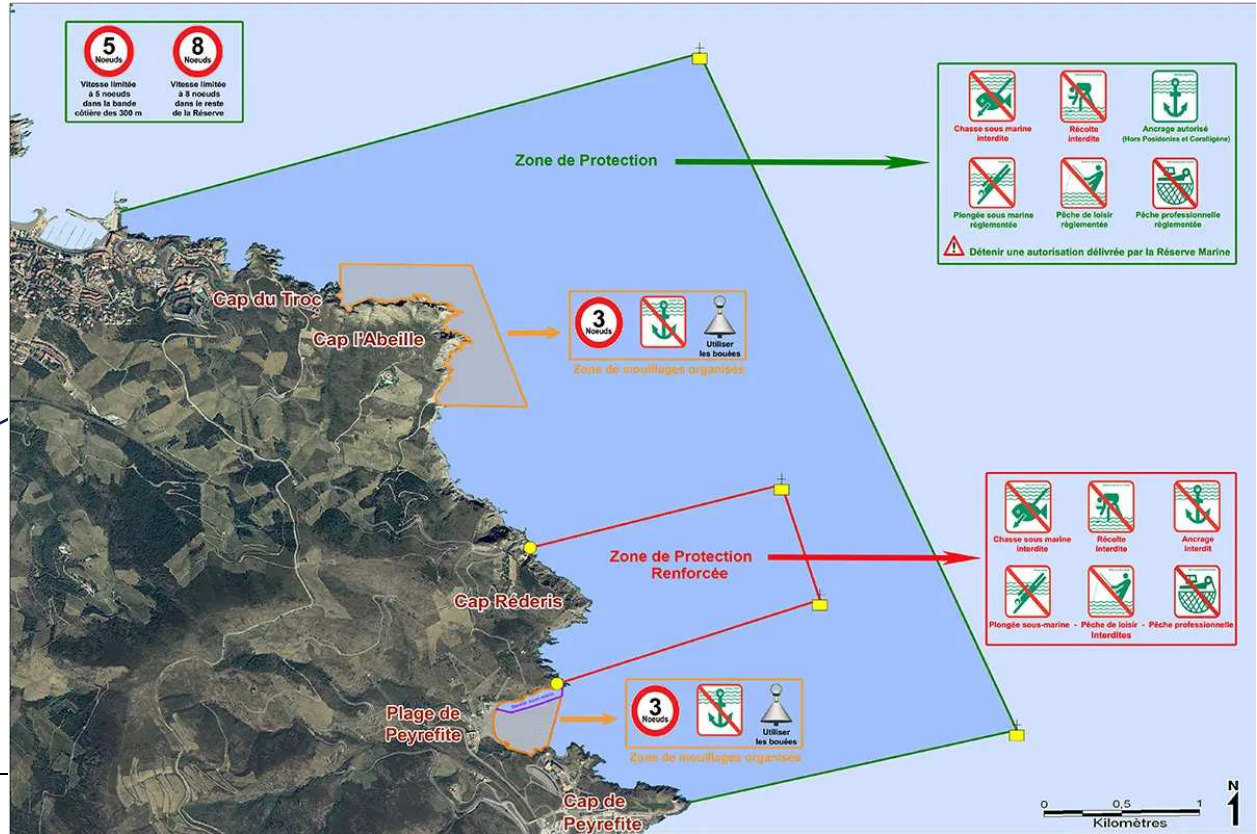
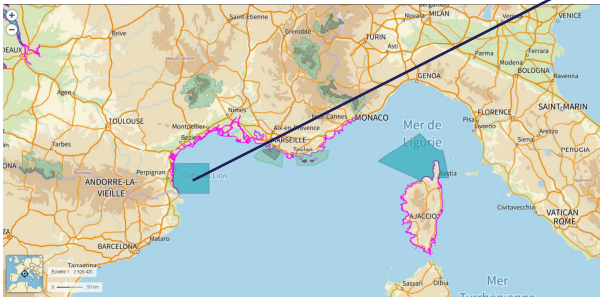
## II. THE CURRENT FRAMEWORK



- 28 HPA reported in the pledge
  - 7 recognized since
- => **0,1%** of mainland marine waters

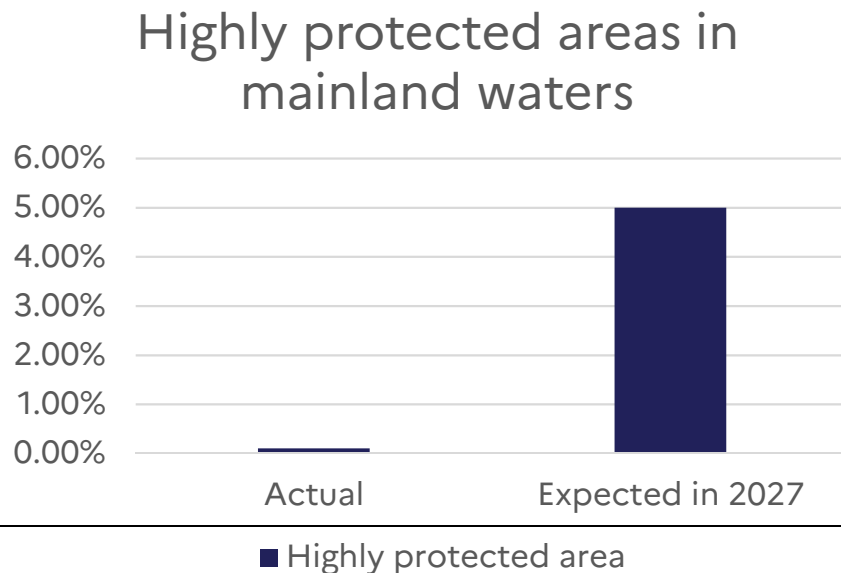
# Example of strictly protected area : the reinforced protection zones within the National Reserve of Cerbère-Banyuls

IUCN  
Ib



## Where are we going ?

- No major new MPA's – except for N2000 depending on sufficiency assessment
- No development of the OECM concept
- **Efforts focused on developing HPAs**



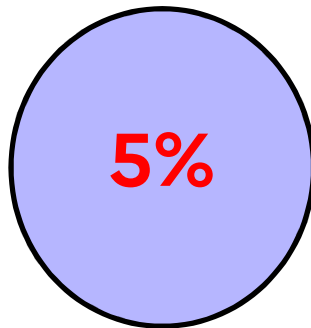
10% of national territory and waters highly protected in 2030

5% of mainland waters highly protected in 2027

100% of threatened seagrass bed under high protection in 2030

## Mainland France - highly protected areas targets

Target for mainland – 2030



Targets per Sea Basin - 2027

Mediterranean => 5%

South Atlantic => 3%

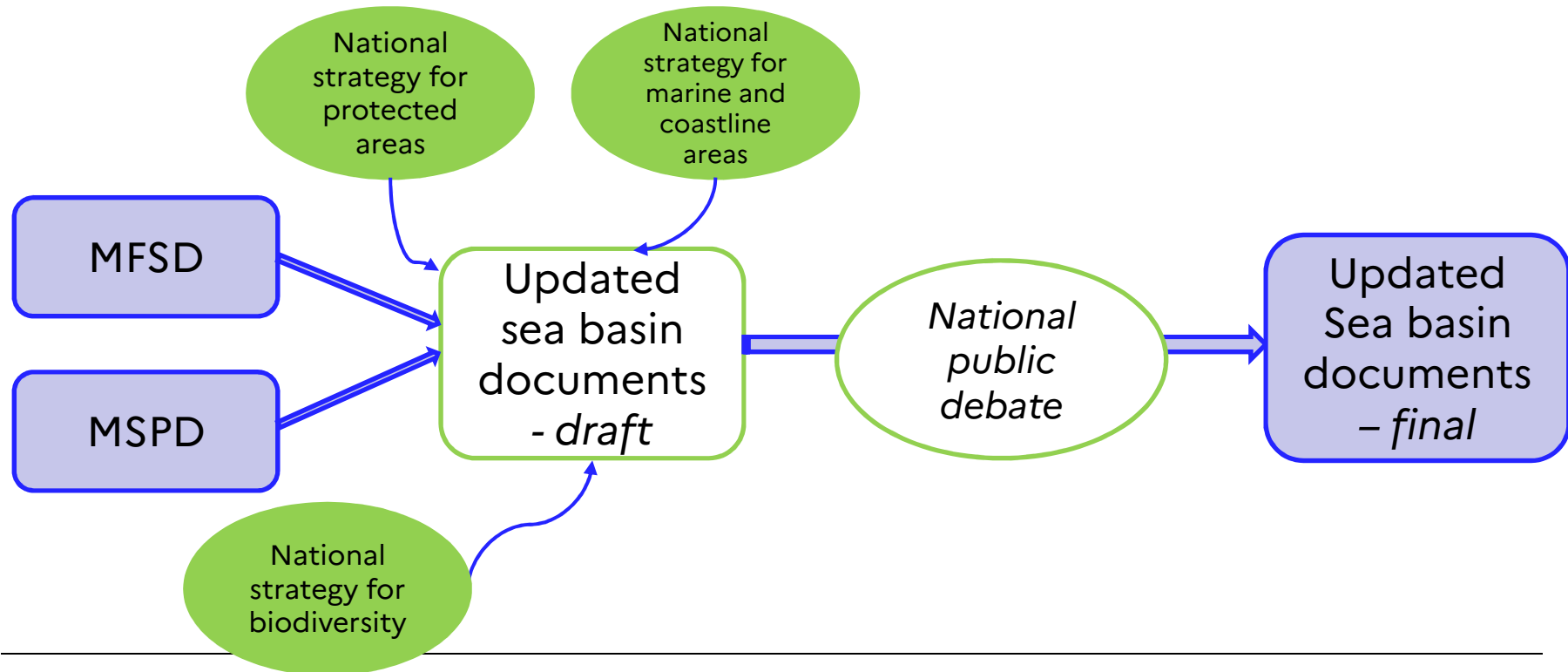
North Atlantic => 3%

North Sea => 1%

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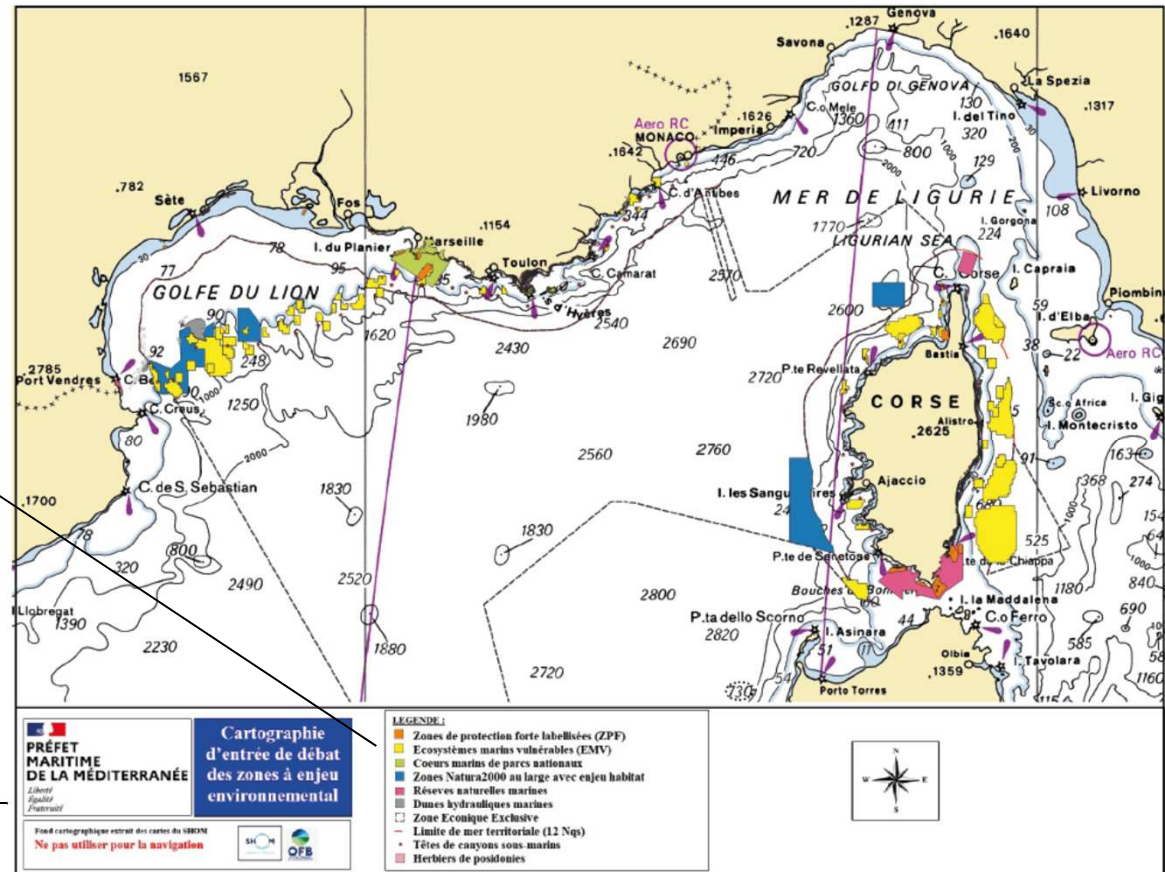
## The strategic planning process





# Ecological features of interest for high protection

-  Existing high protected areas
-  Vulnerable Marine ecosystems
-  Core of National Parks
-  Ashore N2000 sites designated for habitats
-  National reserves
-  Sub-aqueous dunes
-  Seagrass bed



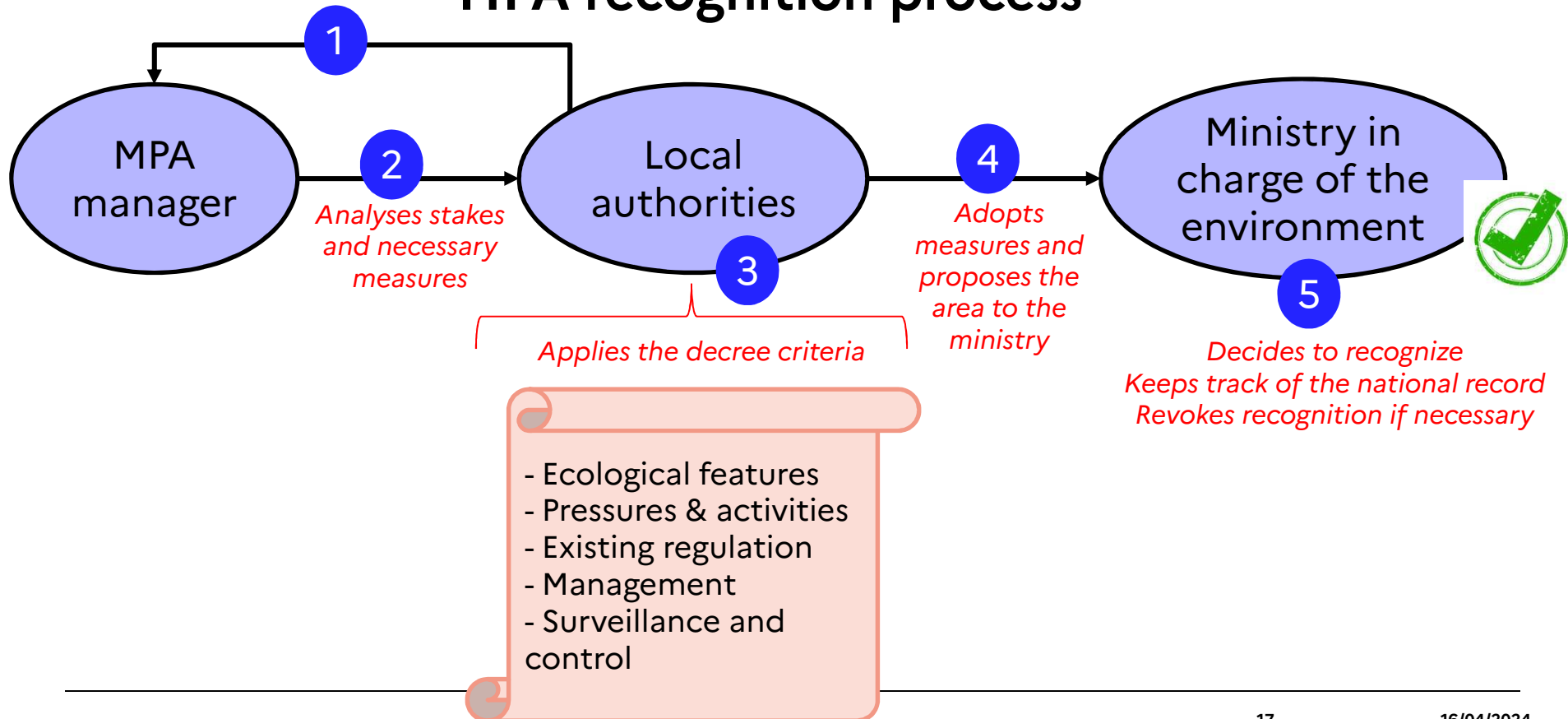
# Areas of interest for windfarm development

Zones propices au développement de l'éolien en mer à horizon 10 ans et à horizon 2050 / Méditerranée



Sources : ADMIN EXPRESS (©IGN 2022) ; EuroGlobalMap (©EuroGeographics 2022) ; SHOM

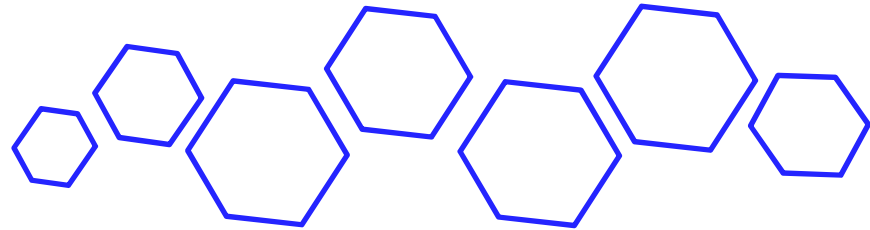
## HPA recognition process



## THE PLEDGE REPORTING FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### HOW DID FRANCE MANAGE TO SUBMIT PLEDGES?

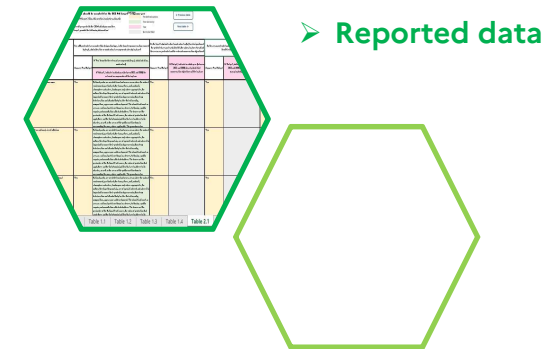
- non-exhaustive reporting based on available information only
- reporting of areas under high protection (no identification of "strict" protection)
- no reporting has been carried out on the protected areas and high protection projects to which France is committed by 2030, as the data is not yet sufficiently stable
- difficulty with certain protected areas that are recognized as high protection tools but are not systematically effectively managed
- overseas : outermost regions of the EU



## THE PLEDGE REPORTING FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### HOW DID FRANCE MANAGE TO SUBMIT PLEDGES?

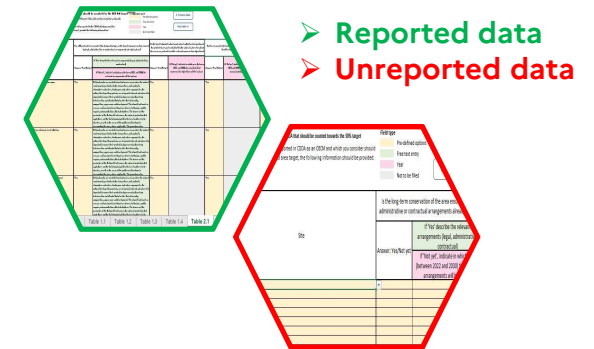
- Table 1.1 Protected area per biogeographical region
- Table 1.3 Area under strict protection per biogeographical region
- Table 1.4 Explanation on coherence of the network
- Table 2.1 Existing PA reported in CDDA, which should be counted for the 30% PA target (per designation type)
- Table 4.1 Strict protection - Areas reported in the CDDA that should be counted towards the 10% target (per designation type)



## THE PLEDGE REPORTING FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### HOW DID FRANCE MANAGE TO SUBMIT PLEDGES?

- **Table 1.1 Protected area per biogeographical region**
- **Table 1.2 OECM area per biogeographical region**
- **Table 1.3 Area under strict protection per biogeographical region**
- **Table 1.4 Explanation on coherence of the network**
- **Table 2.1 Existing PA reported in CDDA, which should be counted for the 30% PA target (per designation type)**
- **Table 2.2 Existing PA reported in CDDA, which should be counting for the 30% PA target – individual sites**
- **Table 3 OECMs already reported in the CDDA that should be counted towards the 30% target**
- **Table 4.1 Strict protection - Areas reported in the CDDA that should be counted towards the 10% target (per designation type)**
- **Table 4.2 Strict protection – Natura2000 sites or areas reported in the CDDA that should be counted towards the 10% target – individual sites**
- **Table 5 Pledges for future protected areas or OECMs**



➤ **Reported data**

➤ **Unreported data**



# Thank you for your attention



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