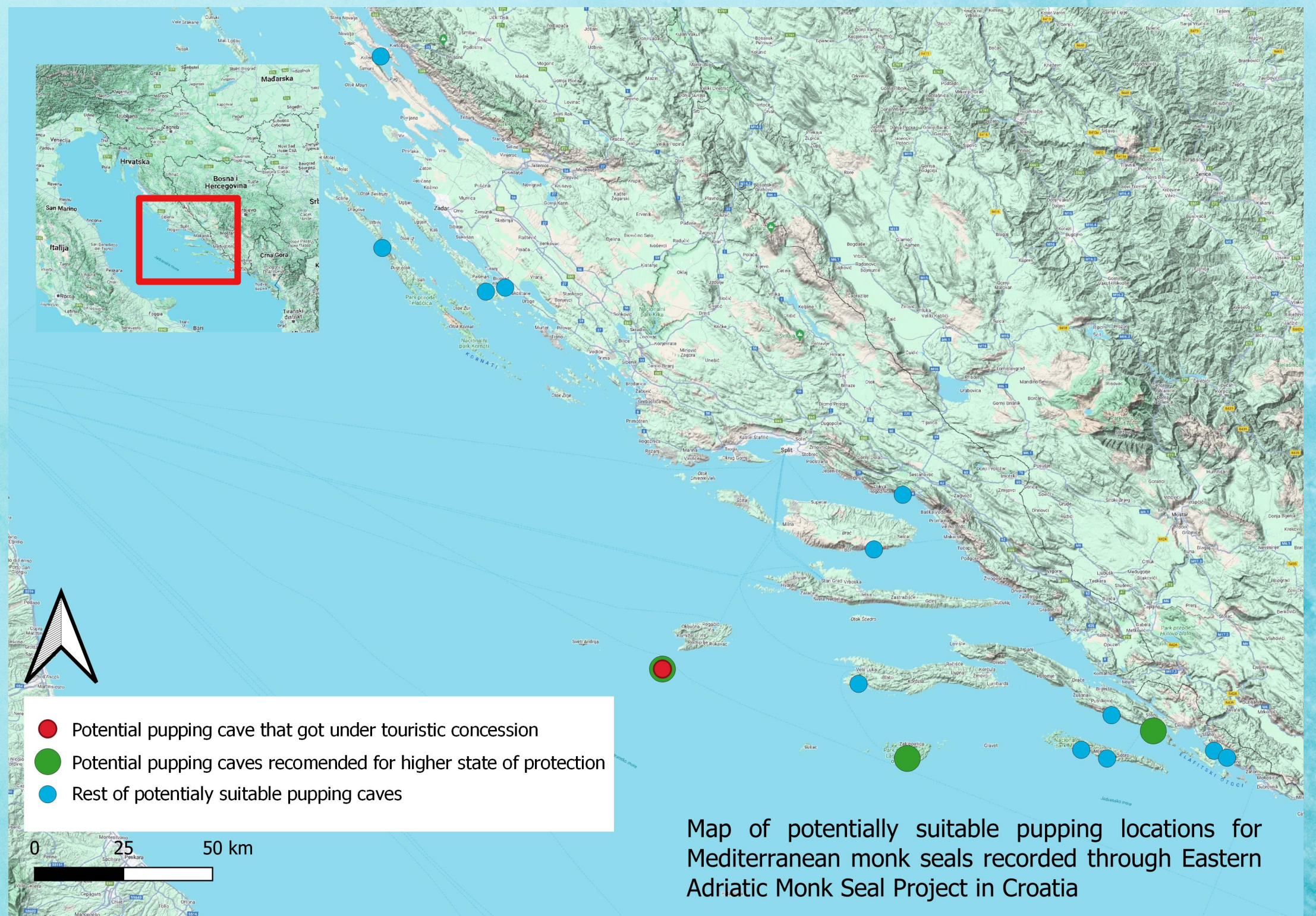


# Creation of prerequisites for the return of the Mediterranean monk seal to the area of the eastern Adriatic



The Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) is the most iconic species of the Mediterranean Sea. Yet also, it is one of the most endangered marine mammals on earth. **Species pupping and resting habitats (i.e. marine caves) are threatened by human activities such as tourism development and urbanization, resulting in habitat deterioration, destruction and fragmentation.** Deliberate killing by fishermen and drowning due to accidental entanglement in fishing gear are additional problems. Through the joint efforts of **MOM** from Greece, **PPNA** from Albania, **CZIP** from Monte Negro, **Biom** from Croatia and coordinated by **EuroNatur**, the Eastern Adriatic monk seal project has been developed to **meet the challenges of creating circumstances that enable the safe and sustainable return of the species to the Eastern Adriatic.**



## Project activities:

### Habitat mapping:

- Field surveys, data analysis, and reporting

### Information sharing network building and expansion:

- Promotion of existing reporting tools for sighting monk seals and implementation of new ones

### Estimation of the current conditions for the reestablishment of the species population in the Adriatic Sea:

- Roadmap document containing draft guidelines for species and habitat protection
- Paper on analysis of the Croatian fishing sector

### Awareness-raising activities:

- Education for the general public
- Meetings and workshops with stakeholders on the decision-making level and representatives of the fishing sector
- Development and distribution of promo materials
- Cleaning marine habitats actions

### Capacity rising education and events:

- For project partner staff
- Top national veterinarians specialists for marine mammals

