

Sharing best practices and lessons learned in the Mediterranean Sea towards achieving UN SDG 14 and Aichi Targets

Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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Outline of the presentation

- I. The Mediterranean Sea: Mare Nostrum
- II. Implementation of UN SDG 14 and Aichi Targets: regional institutional outlook
- III. Background information on GFCM-FAO
- IV. Background information on UNEP/MAP
- V. 2012 MoU between GFCM-FAO and UNEP-MAP
- VI. Implementation of the 2012 MoU
- VII. Some noteworthy results
- VIII. Ongoing coordinated efforts: the Ecosystem Approach (UNEP-MAP led)
- IX. Ongoing coordinated efforts: mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries (GFCM led)
- X. Conclusions



General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean

Commission générale des pêches pour la
Méditerranée



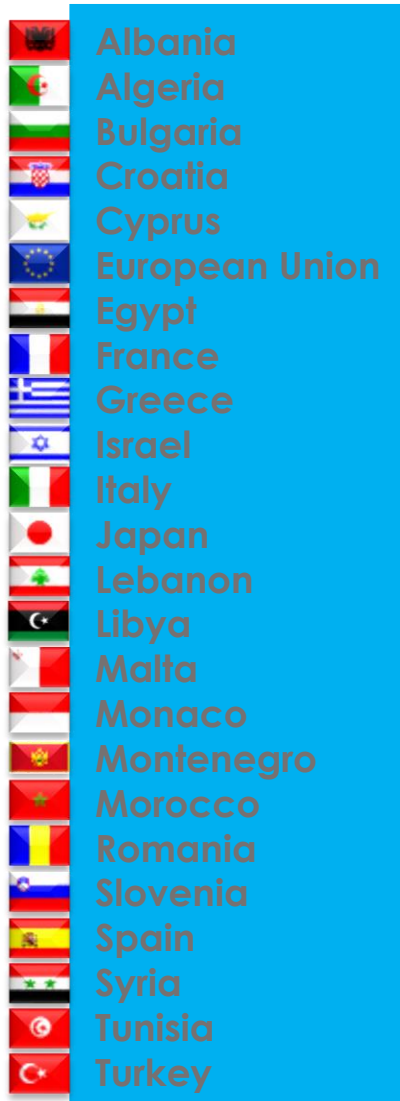
I. The Mediterranean Sea: Mare Nostrum



II. Implementation of UN SDG 14 and Aichi Targets: regional institutional outlook

- **Decision X/2 by CBD COP10 in 2010 on the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with its Aichi Biodiversity Targets**
 - Ambitious agenda: achieving a future where the global community can sustainably and equitably benefit from biodiversity without impacting the ability of future generations to do so
- **UNGA Resolution 66/288 – outcome document of the 2012 Rio +20 summit (“*The Future We Want*”)**
 - Oceans and Seas related follow-up actions tackling common challenges (paras 158-177)
- **UNGA Resolution 70/226 (2015) – UN SDG 14 “*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*”**
 - Common key targets for RSOs and RFMOs addressing: pollution (14.1), habitats, ecosystems, MPAs (14.2, 14.5), ocean acidification (14.3), fisheries, including overfishing, IUU, destructive fishing practices (14.2, 14.6, 14.7b), knowledge and technology transfer, small scale fisheries, implementation of legal obligations (14.7a, 14.7b and 14.7c)
- **Ongoing discussions at the UNGA to develop a comprehensive global regime to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction**
- **CHALLENGE:** Several organizations (inter-governmental and non-governmental) in the Mediterranean are currently concerned by the commitments under the Aichi Targets and the UN SDG 14 (sectoral competence + fragmentation)
- **OPPORUTNITY:** The Mediterranean institutional framework has attained a good level of maturity

III. Background information on GFCM-FAO (the RFMO for the Mediterranean Sea)



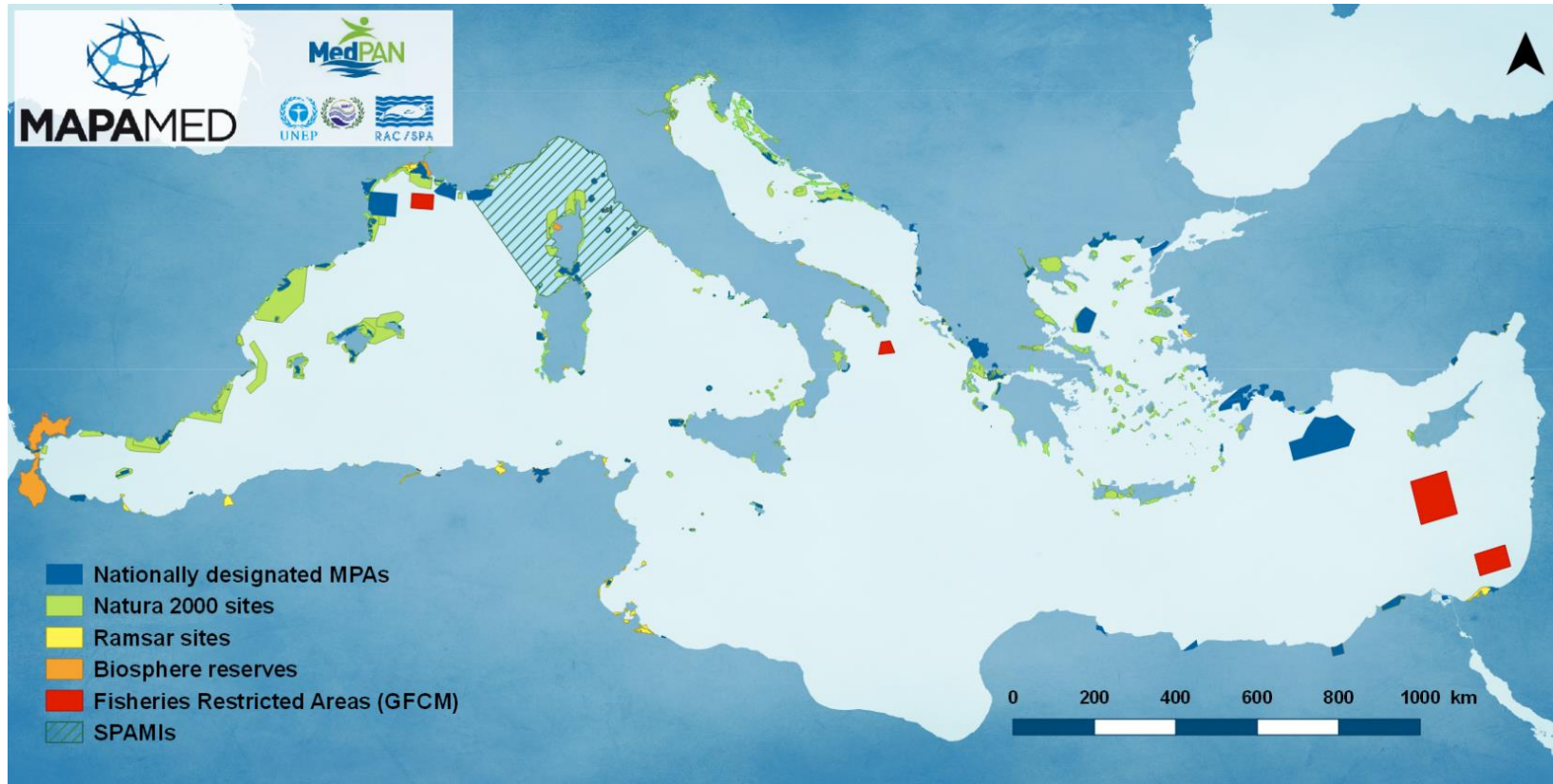
- The GFCM is the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) with competence over the Mediterranean (and the Black Sea)
- 1949 Constitutive Agreement under Article XIV of FAO
- Amended agreement endorsed in May 2014 (38th session of the Commission)
- 24 Members and 3 cooperating non-Members (BiH, Georgia, Ukraine)
- Objective: to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture
- Power to adopt recommendations binding upon its Members, consistent with United Nations and FAO policies, including on the following issues:
 - sub-regional multiannual management plans
 - data collection and analysis
 - small-scale fisheries, including their socio-economic role
 - establishment of fishing restricted areas
 - fight against IUU fishing, including port State measures

IV. Background information on UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention (the RSO for the Mediterranean Sea)

Background	Objectives	Milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adopted in 1975 by the Mediterranean countries and the European Community• first regional sea to adopt an Action Plan under UNEP• evolved in light of the results of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro 1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• assess and control marine pollution• ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources• integrate the environment in social and economic development• protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention and reduction of pollution and as far as possible elimination of pollution whether land or sea-based• protect the natural and cultural heritage• strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal States and• contribute to the improvement of the quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2008 : implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and adoption of roadmap to reach Good Environmental Status• 2012: adoption of 11 priority Ecological Objectives to ensure a healthy Mediterranean• 2016:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six main Themes for the MTS:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance• Pollution• Biodiversity• Land-sea Interactions• ICZM• Sustainable Consumption and Production• Climate Change Adaptation• A package of strategic documents at COP 19

The Mediterranean: Marine Protected Areas

- 190 nationally designated MPAs
- 896 Natura 2000 sites
- 34 SPAMIs
- 97 Ramsar sites
- 11 Biosphere reserves
- 8 International Fisheries Restricted Areas (including all seabed below 1000m)



V. 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP MAP and GFCM-FAO (1/2)

- UNEP-MAP and GFCM-FAO have been informally cooperating for many years
- With a view to provide a legal framework to this cooperation, bilateral discussions took place on 2011-2012 to draft a memorandum of understanding, according with the rules and procedures of UNEP and FAO
- On May 2012, on occasion of the 36th Session of the GFCM, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two organizations (already approved of internally by the COP of UNEP-MAP)
- The MoU includes 5 areas of cooperation:
 - Promotion of ecosystem based approach for the conservation of marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources
 - Mitigation of the impacts of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species
 - Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning
 - Legal and policy cooperation

VI. Implementation of the 2012 MoU (1/2)

- The MoU is to be implemented over a multiannual period and it is subject to renewal
- In order to ensure its smooth implementation, three bilateral meetings have already taken place already (last one in April 2016)
- Specific activities for each area of cooperation are spelled out in a technical annex and they are implemented progressively
- Both Secretariats report to the Parties outcomes achieved every year, usually by means of a matrix is annually developed based on the technical annex to monitor progress (or lack thereof)

AREA OF COOPERATION	ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT/ONGOING	OUTCOMES/PLANS THUS FAR
<u>Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living and natural resources</u>	Contribute to the formulation/implementation of a regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living natural resources (ONGOING)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First MedSuit Regional Workshop (November 2014) which led to the proposal of common indicators to measure GES for commercially exploited fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. - GFCM inputs to the EcAp process in relation to EO3.

VII. Some noteworthy results

- The MoU has already led to several tangible results:
 - Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment (supported by EcAp-MEDI, EcAp MEDII and MedSuit Projects)
 - Integration of environmental concerns in the context of social and economic development, especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, through a joint regional strategy, also involving other partner organizations (i.e. ACCOBAMS and IUCN)
 - Harmonization of existing respective criteria to identify Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), in particular those located partially or wholly in areas beyond national jurisdiction (Res. GFCM/37/2013/1 “on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of FRAs and coordination with the UNEP-MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs”)
 - Joint participation in relevant international fora to raise awareness on the positive results stemming from enhanced cooperation between RSCs and RFMOs

VIII. Ongoing coordinated efforts: the Ecosystem Approach (UNEP-MAP led)

- The implementation of the Ecosystem Approach has been - and continues to be - a major focus both for UNEP/MAP and GFCM. This includes:
 - Assisting and building capacity of Southern Mediterranean Countries to implement IMAP
 - Cooperating towards a Quality Status Report (QSR) for the Mediterranean, by 2017, which will be based on the IMAP common indicators
 - In line with the Ecosystem Approach and with the overall aim to achieve, inter alia, the Aichi 11 target, coordinating further with ACCOBAMS, IUCN-Med and MedPAN on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity (preparation of a draft Joint Strategy is ongoing)
 - Contributing to SDG 14 via a regional strategy which has been adopted by the GFCM, including specific regional targets tantamount to those in SDG 14, to be implemented jointly (active involvement of UNEP-MAP)

IX. Ongoing coordinated efforts: mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries(GFCM led)

Outputs:
 5.1 – Improved **national capacity** for the management of fisheries resources
 5.2 – Strengthened **fisheries governance** in the Black Sea
 5.3 – Increased cooperation with relevant actors

TARGET 5
 Enhance **capacity-building and cooperation**

TARGET 1
 Reverse the declining trend of fish stocks through strengthened scientific advice in support of management

Outputs:
 1.1 - **Improved knowledge** and expertise on Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries
 1.2 - **Socio-economic information** and analysis incorporated into scientific and management advice
 1.3 - Enhanced **science-based GFCM regulations** on fisheries management

TARGET 2
 Support livelihoods for coastal communities through **sustainable small-scale fisheries**

Outputs:
 2.1 – Robust and timely information on the impact of **small-scale and recreational fisheries** on coastal communities
 2.2 – **FAO SSF Guidelines** tailored to the specificities of the GFCM area of application

Implement at the regional level UN SDG 14 and Aichi Targets

Improve, by 2020, the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries:

Outputs:
 4.1 – **Reduced bycatch rates** in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries
 4.2 – **Healthier marine ecosystems** and more **productive fisheries**

TARGET 4
 Minimize and **mitigate unwanted interactions** between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment

TARGET 3
 Curb **IUU fishing** through a regional plan of action

Outputs:
 3.1 – Regular quantification of **IUU fishing** in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
 3.2 – **Reinforced inspection** procedures in the framework of port State control
 3.3 – **Enhanced MCS** at the regional level

X. Conclusions

Building on the existing MoU, UNEP-MAP and GFCM will seek to attain:

- Closer, strategic and operational cooperation in order to strengthen regional ocean governance in the Mediterranean Sea and particularly to:
 - implement SDG14 and meet its specific targets in an effective manner
 - achieve Aichi 11 and closer cooperation on management of SPAMIs
 - collaborate for implementation of IMAP, especially in relation to EO3 and exchange of data for the purpose of assessment
 - strengthen the common Contracting Parties' efforts and capacities to implement their existing legal obligations under the respective frameworks of GFCM and UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention (especially SPA/Biodiversity Protocol, ICZM Protocol, Marine Litter Regional Plan, SAP/BIO, further work on implementing the Ecosystem Approach, the IMAP and the Joint Strategy) through coordinated/joint activities
- Regular monitoring of achievements and sharing of information on implementation of MoU with other organizations
- Enhancement of cooperation in light of recent decisions taken at the international level, including UNGA related processes

Thank you for your attention!

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Food and Agriculture
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General Fisheries Commission for the
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