

Regional Approach to ABNJ: the Mediterranean experience

17th Global Meeting of the RSCAPs
Istanbul, Turkey, 20 October 2015



United Nations Environment Programme /
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention

ABNJ in the Mediterranean: a historic overview

- Overall framework: **UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention** for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;
- **SPA Protocol**: applies to all the maritime waters of the Mediterranean, including ABNJ, seabed and subsoil;
- **Offshore Protocol**: applies to the Mediterranean, including ABNJ, to the continental shelf, to the seabed and its subsoil.



SPA Protocol - SPAMIs

- SPA Protocol provides the procedure for the establishment of SPAMIs (joint proposals, also possible on high seas);
- By 2012, 32 SPAMIs have been established in the Mediterranean;
- EcAp-MED EU-funded project assisted with the identification of criteria and the establishment of SPAMIs in the three priority areas of Alboran Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau.



SPA Protocol - SPAMIs

1. Alboran Sea area: meetings with representatives of Algeria, Morocco and Spain on the March 2011 and relaunched on December 2013
2. Gulf of Lions area: meetings with representatives of France and Spain on March 2011 and December 2011
3. Adriatic area: meetings with representatives of Adriatic riparian countries on September 2014 and in April 2015
4. Sicily Channel-Tunisian Plateau area: meetings with representatives of Italy, Libya, Malta and Tunisia on September 2014 and in April 2015

For all areas draft roadmaps were agreed, indicating way forward in the process to identify, establish and declare SPAMIs in the open seas.

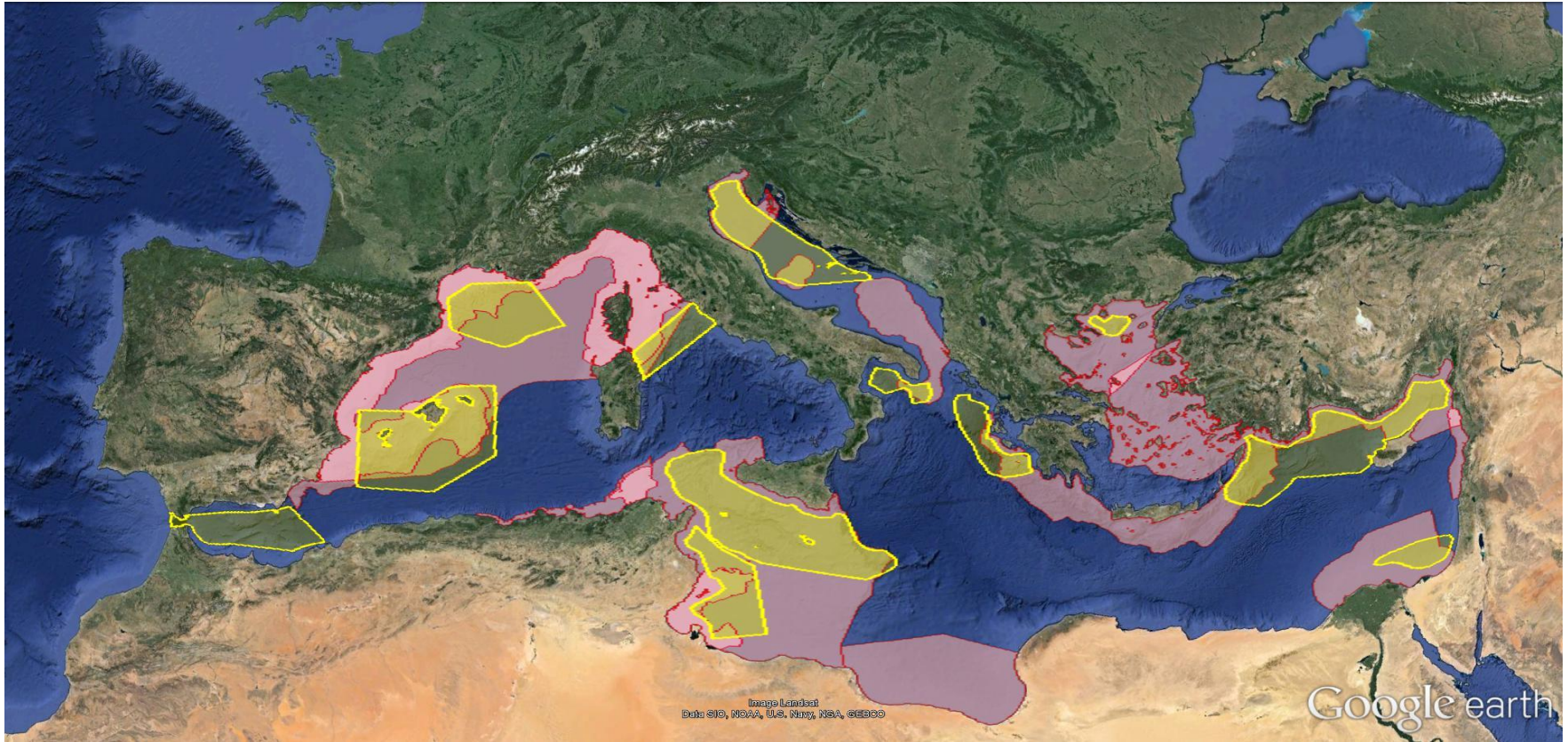


Joint Strategy (Regional Ocean Governance)

- Coordinated work towards establishment of SPAMIs in open seas between key regional players;
- Achieve SDG14, Aichi Target 11;
- ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP in cooperation with MedPAN to develop a Joint Strategy on how to address issues of common interest;
- Strategic alliance- based on an analysis of mandates, existing MoUs;
- To be developed during 2016, with aim to have final draft by end of 2016.



Recent developments - EBSAs



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Implementation of EBM (EcAp and ICZM)

- For area based management, key management tools in Mediterranean are the Ecosystem Approach and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- EcAp is integrated into all UNEP MAP policies (objectives for 2016-2021 MTS, 2016-2017 PoW),
- All our policies were analyzed in light of EcAp Targets;
- Overall aim is to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES)
- ICZM Protocol is key and unique Mediterranean legal instrument/management tool;
- ICZM is also cross-cutting theme for our MTS, integrated into all policies as well



Integrated Monitoring and Assessment

- Contracting Parties agreed at COP18 on GES descriptions, targets and integrated list of indicators covering biodiversity, NIS, pollution, marine litter, coast and hydrography;
- During 2014-2015 common indicators were agreed on and technical meetings, discussions took place to agree on key elements of a common, region-wide monitoring programme covering all the above areas;
- Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) draft Decision was approved for submission to COP19 at the recent MAP Focal Points Meeting
- IMAP first cycle: 2016-2021 (cyclical approach, based on Ecosystem Approach/EBM)



Conclusions, lessons learnt

- Regional experience on ABNJ and related areas, such as biodiversity protection in ABNJ, area based management, environmental impact assessment, are key to be included/built on in international discussions;
- Strengthening regional ocean governance and cooperation among various regional players (RSCs and RFOs, other key sectoral organizations with common interest) will be essential for addressing biodiversity in ABNJ (as well as to achieve Aichi Target 11 and implement SDG14);
- Exchange of best practices in the area between various RSCs is beneficial and should be further encouraged, with a focus on further analyzing replication potentials.



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