

The Ecosystem Approach in Mediterranean marine policies - current application and main gaps

WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative

IUCN Med

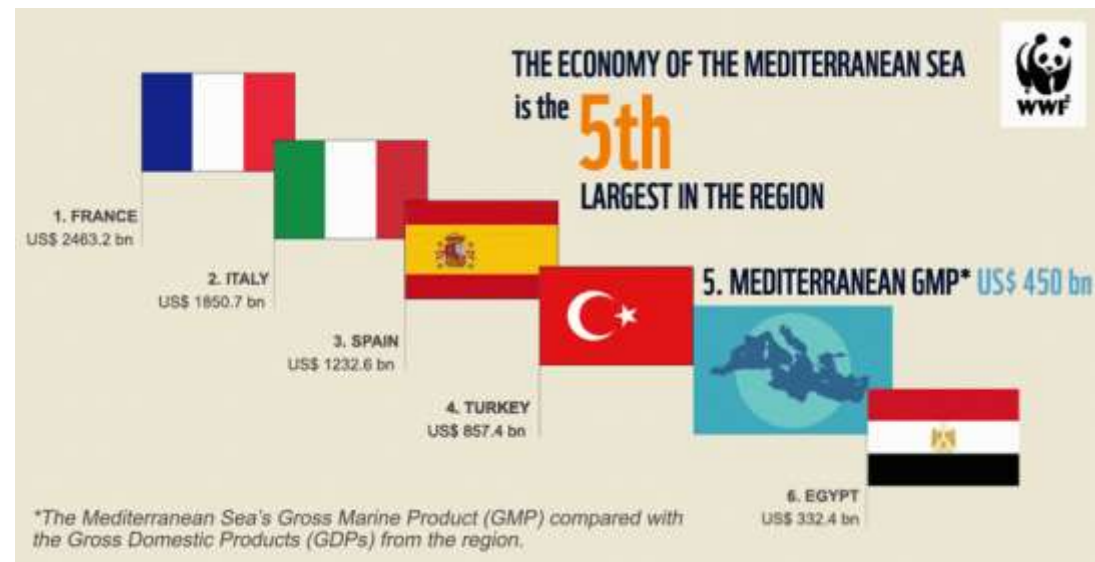
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The value of the Mediterranean Sea



**GROSS MARINE
PRODUCT:
US\$ 450 BN**



Status of Mediterranean assets

MARINE MAMMALS AND FISH IN DECLINE

Over the past 50 years,



the Mediterranean has lost 41% of marine mammal populations -

- and 34% of the total fish population.¹

SHARKS UNDER THREAT



53% of Mediterranean sharks at risk of **EXTINCTION**.²

SEAGRASS IN DECLINE



Posidonia seagrass has suffered a 34% decline in distribution areas or degradation in the last 50 years.⁴

ANTHOZOANS UNDER THREAT



More than 13% of anthozoan species in the Mediterranean Sea - which include corals and related species - are threatened with **EXTINCTION**.⁵



SEA LEVEL RISE

Sea levels could rise up to 25 cm by 2040-2050.⁶



TURTLES AT RISK

The green turtle population in the Mediterranean is **ENDANGERED**.³



SOURCES: 1. Piroddi et al., 2017. 2. Dulvy et al., 2016. 3. IUCN Red List, 2017. 4. Telesca et al., 2015. 5. Otero et al., 2017. 6. Galassi et al., 2014.

The Ecosystem Approach

*“The Ecosystem Approach **is a strategy** for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.”*
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Ecosystems Knowledge Network

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Mitigation measures

Subsidiarity and coherence

Adaptive planning Participation/stakeholder engagement

Ecosystem services

Best knowledge

Precautionary approach

How to implement it practically?

Some ideas for the shipping sector:

- Identify **shipping routes** that may have a **negative impact** on the marine environment (areas of high ecological values, etc)
- Assess potential **spatial solutions** (**consider re-routing**)
- Ensure that **correct safety zones** are established in MSP and coordinate with neighboring countries
- Take into account **future shipping trends**



EcAp in the Mediterranean

POLICIES

EcAP STATUS

EcAp Process +
MSFD

- New MSFD guidance (May 2017) GES definition, IMAP
- Integration with MSP?

MSP Directive

- Transposition in the national legislation (early stage)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Some countries addressing the EcAP in MSP (France)

ICZM Protocol

- CAMP projects
- Ratified but not yet implemented at the expected scale
- Some best practices

MAIN ISSUES:

- *Lack of guidance*
- *Weak stakeholder engagement and participation*
- *Lack of integration between policies (EcAp process and MSP?)*

Which way forward?

The practical implementation of the Ecosystem Approach still needs to be better understood

- Create a **regional Working Group** under the Barcelona Convention
- Produce **guidelines and check lists** for regional planners
- Develop **capacity on EcAp** implementation at regional level with a particular focus on the Southern Mediterranean region
- Harmonize different **policy frameworks** (MSP, MSFD, ICZM and SPA-BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOLs)
- Strengthen the **network of Mediterranean MPAs** and their connectivity

A sustainable **Blue Economy...**

Provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations

Restores, protects and maintains diverse, productive and resilient marine ecosystems

Is based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows

Thank you!

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