



# MED Talks

fostering dialogue between  
Northern and Southern shores

16 December 2024

10:00 - 12:30 CET - online



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# Mission for Natural Heritage

*Contributing to nature restoration with Thematic Projects'  
practices and common policy recommendations*

*Carolina Pérez, MedCities*

*Atef Ouerghi, SPA/RAC*

*Romina D'Ascanio, Roma Tre University*

*Joaquim Garrabou, CSIC- Spanish Research Council*



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# Policy Recommendations on Restoration

*Carolina Pérez, MedCities*

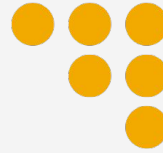
*Atef Ouerghi, SPA/RAC*



# The Natural Heritage Community



- Community4Nature
- Dialogue4Nature
- Other Key Stakeholders
- Associated Partners
- Thematic Projects



## 13 PROJECTS

have got the green light and are funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme in the Natural Heritage area!  
[natural-heritage.interreg-euro-med.eu](http://natural-heritage.interreg-euro-med.eu)





# Yearly Policy and Advocacy Support

- **2 online webinars** per year offering capacity-building and encouraging knowledge sharing
- **1 in-person event** per year dealing with a specific policy issue related to the current policy agenda



**Policy paper**

Sharing the views from the Natural Heritage Community on a specific topic (this year, **restoration**), that is **aligned with strategic policy discussion, with working group focus and with thematic projects**

To be positioned at key Mediterranean, European and international events







Convention on  
Biological Diversity

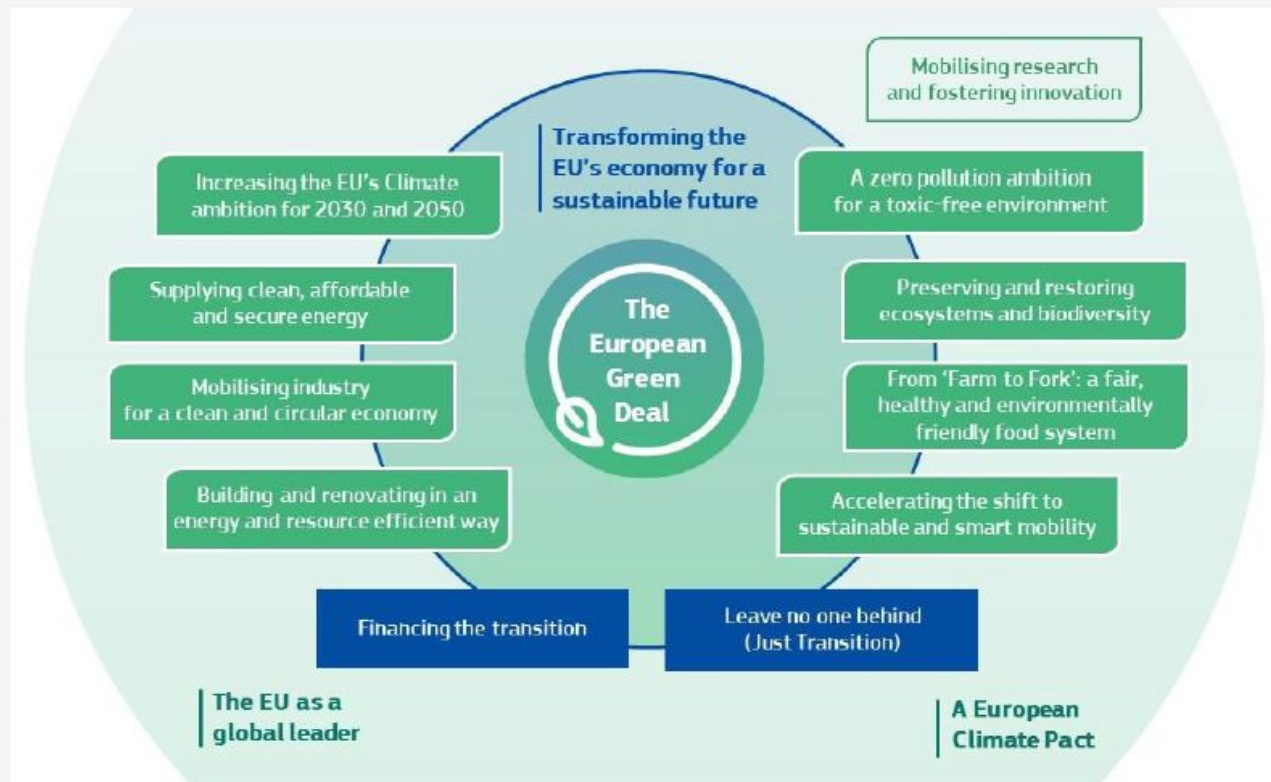


### What is Target 2?

Restore 30% of all  
Degraded Ecosystems

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

# Where does the NRL come from?



- **European Green Deal**
  - EU's flagship initiative to put us on the path to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- **EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030**
  - Functions as the **EU's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** to the Global Biodiversity Framework, so it aligns with global biodiversity goals
- **One of the objectives of the NRL is to meet the EU's international commitments, such as the GBF**



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## Context & Objectives

- **Aim:** Provide **actionable recommendations** for the implementation of Target 2 GBF and NRL, bridge the ambition of high-level policy with on-the-ground action
- **Focus first** in **Mediterranean** coastal and marine areas
- Support the same goal of ecosystem restoration **across all the Mediterranean**. Stressing **policy synergies**.
- Role of **Thematic Projects** as a source of best practices, knowledge and solutions
- **Call to action** for urgent and ambitious efforts to bring Target 2 GBF and NRL to life in the Mediterranean





## Contents:

Implementation **challenges** of Target 2 of the GBF and the NRL

**Actionable recommendations** for the implementation of Target 2 of the GBF and the NRL

- How the Mission can contribute to effective implementation
- The role of sub-national stakeholders for effective implementation

**Best practices** and **innovative solutions from** the Mission's projects

*Group recommendations according to targets (EU, national, regional, sub-national authorities) and sectors (governments, civil society, NGOs, academia,...)*







## Some key facts and concepts

- Significant **gap of scientific knowledge** on marine ecosystems
- Importance of the **non-deterioration clause**
- In marine regions, **passive restoration** is the most important, **tackling the root causes of degradation**, reducing pressures. This must be a priority in National Restoration Plans.
- Interconnection of restoration. **Source-to-sea concept.**
- **key role of the sub-national level in NRL** implementation: although the regulation only contains obligations for Member States, they should consult sub-national authorities. Cities cannot be seen or treated as the last mile but as actors in the process.
- Acknowledge the **ecological and environmental cost of war and conflicts.**



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## Advocacy goals of the policy document

- **Influencing** major policy frameworks at **different levels**;
- Identify **gaps** in policy and funding;
- Give **visibility to Interreg EuroMED project's outcomes**

## Advocacy activities 2025

- **Align community communication efforts and campaigns** with the outcomes of the Policy document
- Prepare **key messages and talking points** to be shared by the whole mission: eg. non-degradation principle; source to sea concept.
- Meetings and conferences: present the outcomes during **key events and specific bilateral meetings**



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# Transferability/uptake to principles and regulation to the Mediterranean

Atef Ouerghi, SPA/RAC

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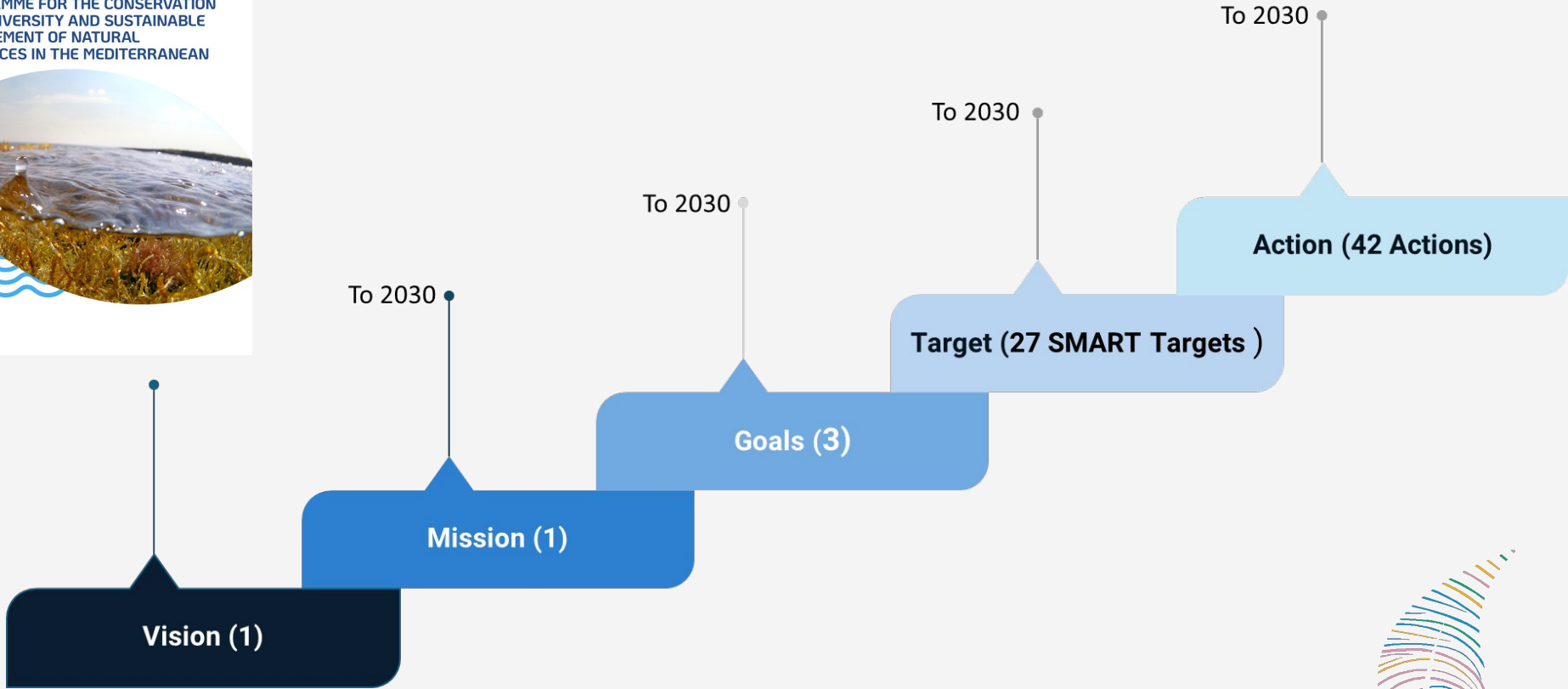




**Protocol concerning  
Specially Protected Areas  
and Biological Diversity in the  
Mediterranean**

The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BI Protocol) was adopted on 10 June 1995. The Protocol entered into force on 12 December 1999, replacing the Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, adopted on 3 April 1982, in the relationship among the Parties to both instruments.

The Annexes to the Protocol were adopted on 24 November 1996 and entered into force on 12 December 1999. Annex II was last amended on 20 December 2017 and amendments entered into force on 14 September 2018. Annex III was last amended on 6 December 2013 and amendments entered into force on 16 April 2015.





### Goal 1. Reduce the threats to biodiversity

1. SPECIES AND HABITATS PLANS
2. SPECIES RECOVERY
3. MARITIME TRAFFIC
4. NIS/IAS COMMITMENT
5. NIS/IAS CAPACITY
6. NIS/IAS CONTROL
7. LITTER
8. EIA/SEA
9. WIND ENERGY
10. MINERALS
11. SPATIAL PLANNING
12. RESTORATION
13. CLIMATE CHANGE
14. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS
15. MCPAs AND OECSMs

### Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions Table

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
12. RESTORATION Support restoration of ecosystems providing key services, those degraded and expected to become increasingly critical in a changing climate, such as wetlands and shallow seashore habitats among others	T1.6. T1.8. T3.5. T3.7.	Countries have developed the inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or regeneration potential (as nursery areas, carbon stocks, avoiding coastal erosion, preventing or reducing the impact of natural disasters) such as Posidonia beds, coralligenous assemblages, wetlands, and dune systems,	Most Mediterranean countries have completed the inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or highest regeneration potential, and have started restoration activities on 30% of those selected, favouring nature-based solutions	All Mediterranean countries have developed inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or regeneration potential, and most Mediterranean countries have completed restoration activities on most of those selected between the identified priority areas	High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	SDG 14.2. Aichi T.15 CBD/GBF T.1 EU/2030 MAP/MTS 9 & 15 P BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)







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# WE GO COOP

## Implementing a Community of Practice of Wetland Contracts at EuroMED Level

*Romina D'Ascanio, Roma Tre University*



## THE PROJECT

Despite the need for conservation, Mediterranean wetlands are still **destroyed**, dried up and exploited.

The anthropic origin of wetland **deterioration** can only be effectively faced by setting a common governance strategy that overcomes complex territorial dynamics. **WE GO COOP** promotes the implementation of Wetland Contracts, a collaborative governance tool for negotiated planning of wetland, by:

**Setting a Community of Practice among actors engaged in Wetland Contracts**

**Transferring the tool to new Mediterranean wetlands**

## MAIN OUTPUTS

Mediterranean Community of Practice on Wetland Contracts, supported by a virtual **collaborative platform**, promoting the exchange, capitalization and transfer of good practices.

**Strategies** for the implementation of Wetland Contracts in **three new pilots** (Croatia, Albania, Portugal) and at least one in the South and Middle East Mediterranean region.

**Exchanging practices and knowledge** on wetland collaborative governance at local level in countries already involved in wetland contract processes (Greece, Italy, Spain).





## WETLAND CONTRACTS

### EXPERIENCED WETLAND CONTRACT AREAS

- 1 CENTRAL REGION OF MACEDONIA  
*Macedonia | ANATOLIKI*
- 2 COAST OF AGROPONTINO  
*Province of Latina, Italy | Università Roma Tre*
- 3 ANDALUSIA AND VALENCIA REGIONS  
*Spain | FAMP*

### NEW WETLAND CONTRACT PILOT

- 4 NATURE PARK VRANSKO JEZERO  
*Croatia | PPNEA*
- 5 VJOSA-NARTA PROTECTED AREA  
*Albania | VRANSKO*
- 6 CARVALHAL WETLANDS  
*Portugal | RCDI*

## WHAT WE DO?



**WE GO COOP** aims to transfer the tool of Wetland Contract at a local level in new EU nations (Croatia, Portugal and Albania),

Partners **PPNEA**, **VRANSKO** and **RCDI**, will organize a Roadshow in these new target areas with the support of experienced partners.

Using the **Roadshow Approach**, partners will be able to engage local **stakeholders** to:

- Define a strategy to activate a collaborative governance process based on the Wetland Contract tool
- Sign a Local Protocol to formalize the transferring of the Wetland Contract methodology

## OUR PARTNERS







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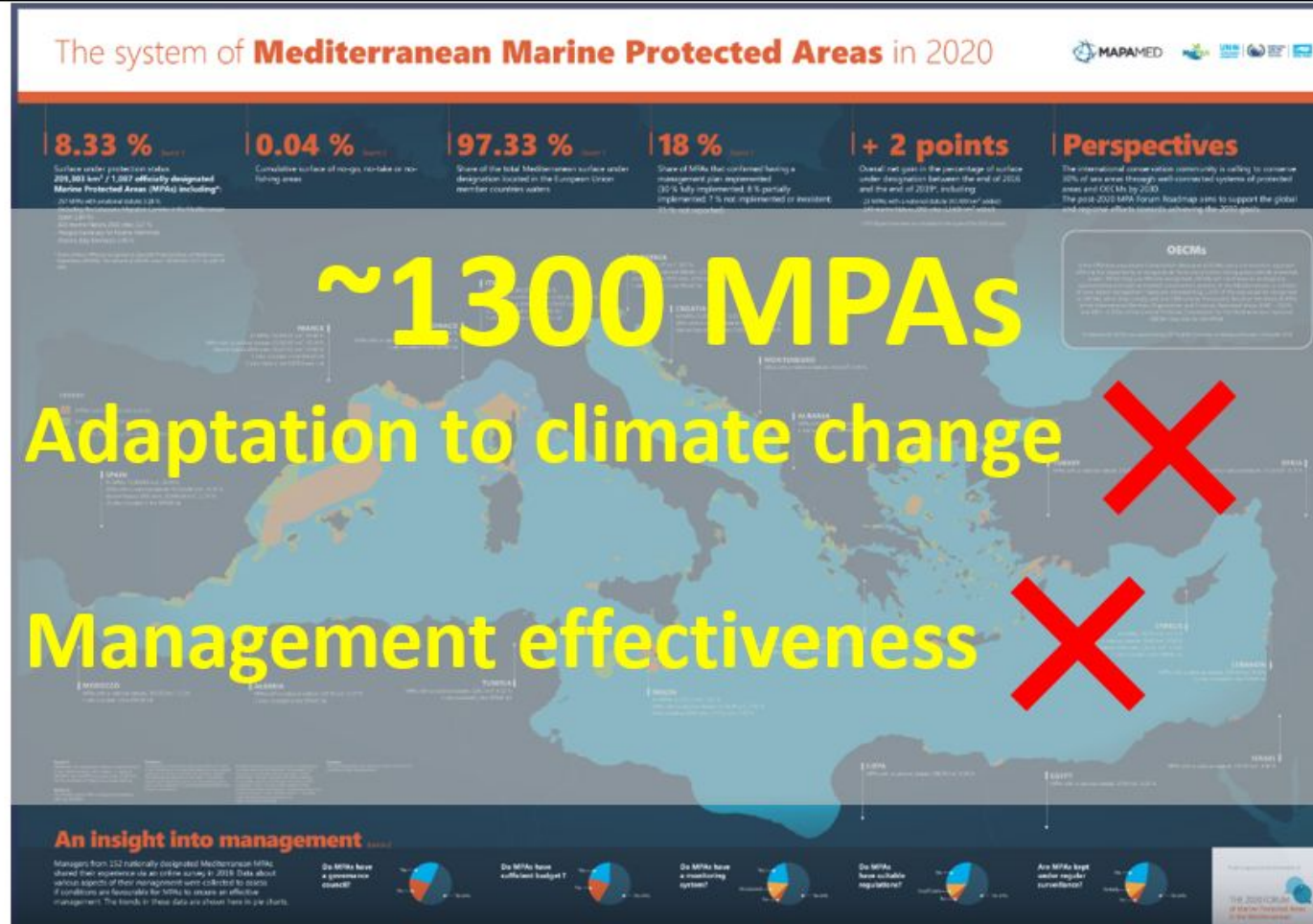
# MPA4CHANGE

## Building Resilient MPAs to Face Climate Emergency

*Joaquim Garrabou, CSIC- Spanish Research Council*



# Mediterranean a multiple hot spot







# Marine Protected Areas as **EFFECTIVE** ocean based **SOLUTIONS** to adapt and mitigate **CLIMATE EMERGENCY**





## TOOLKITS FOR MPAs ADAPTATION ACTION PLANS TO CLIMATE CHANGE SUCCESSFULLY TESTED & IMPLEMENTED READY TO SCALE UP



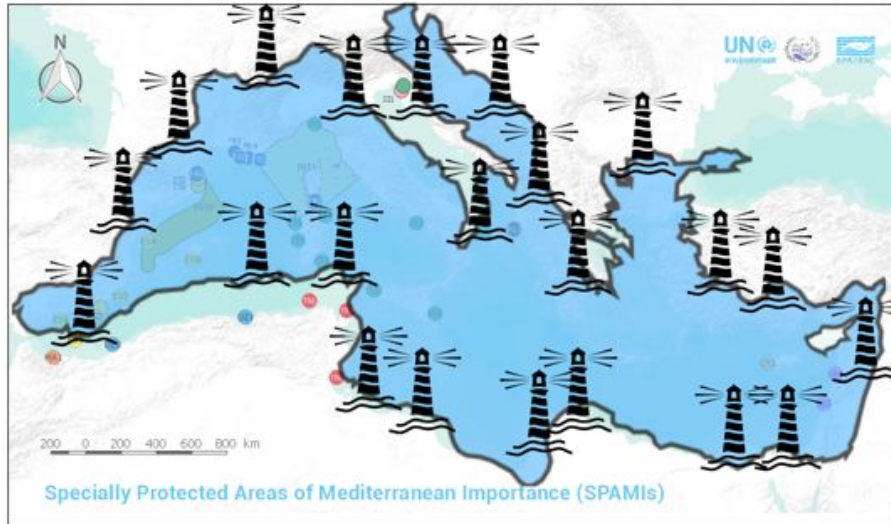
## TOOLKITS FROM DATA COLLECTION TO MANGEMENT ACTIONS





# 100 MPA MedAlliance

Building resilient MPAs  
to face climate emergency  
by 2030



100 MPAs by 2030  
have implemented  
Climate Change  
adaptation plans  
across the Mediterranean

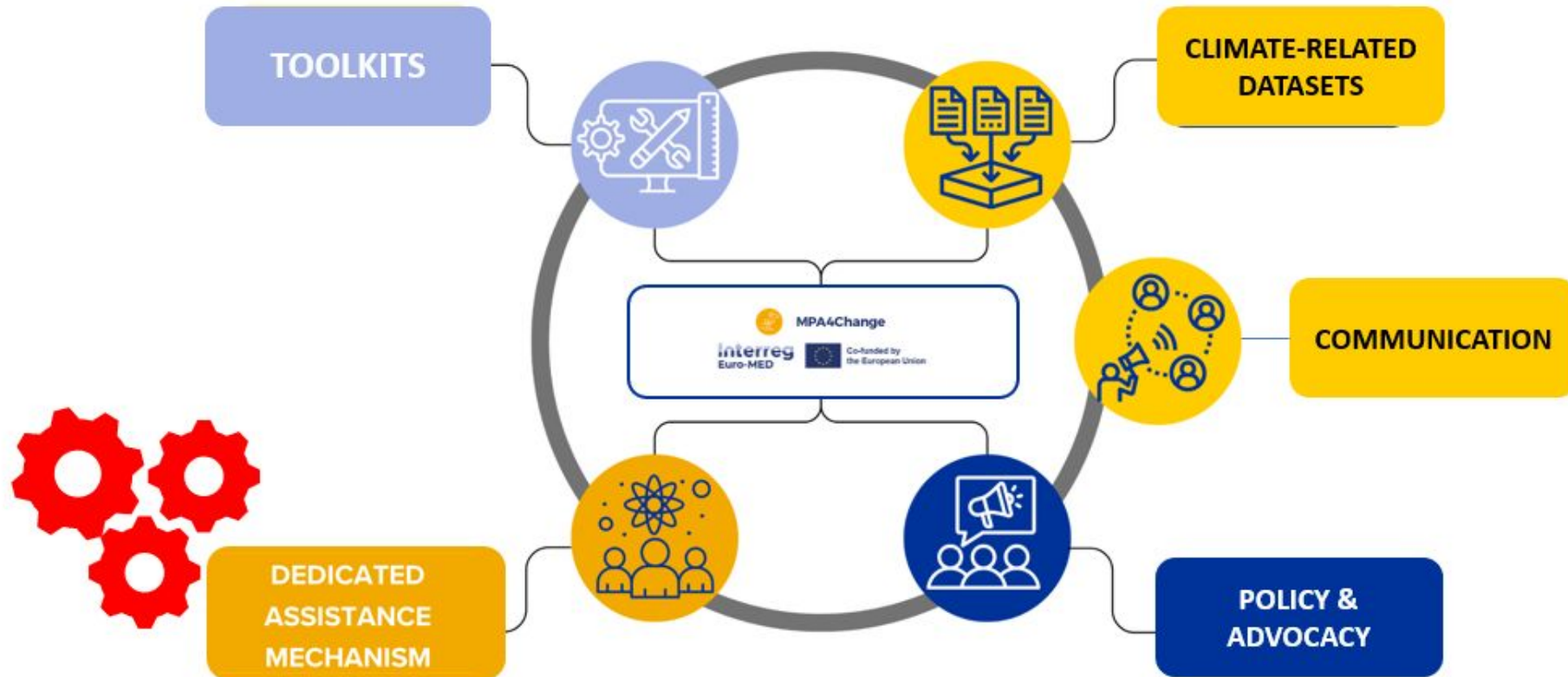






# 100 MPA MedAlliance

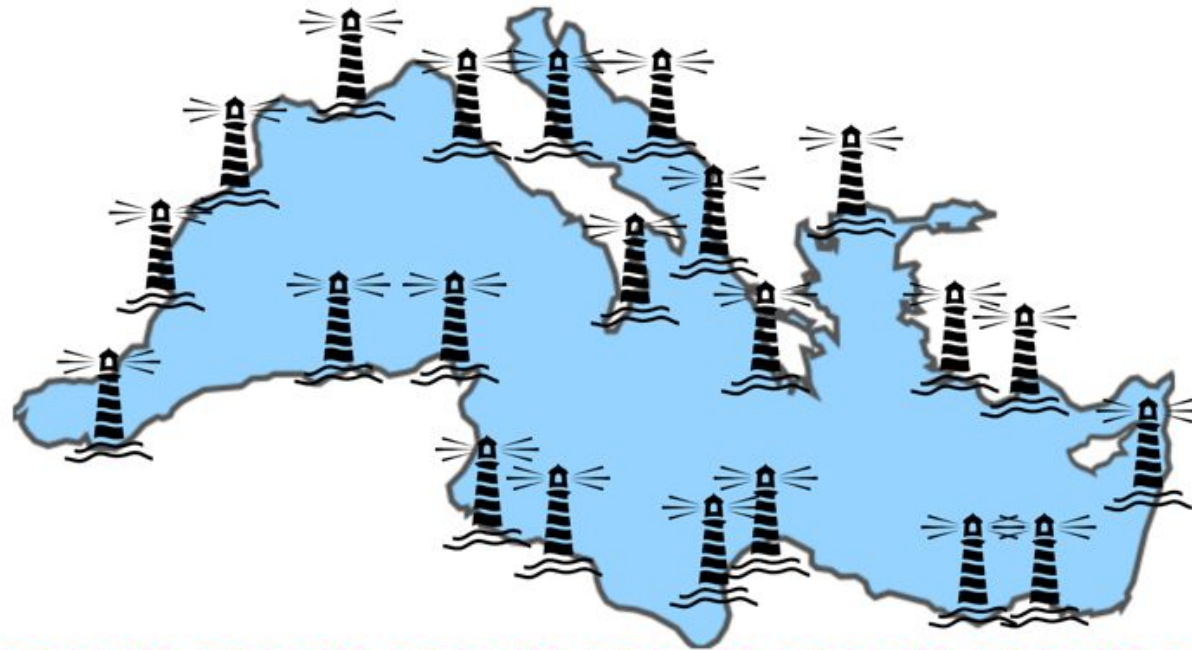
Building resilient MPAs  
to face climate emergency  
by 2030





**100 MPA  
MedAlliance**  
Building resilient MPAs  
to face climate emergency  
by 2030

## MPAs effective frontline for adaptation and mitigation to climate change



**JOIN the 100 MPA MedAlliance campaign!**

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**Thank you**