

## TANGIER DECLARATION

### CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVE THE AICHI TARGETS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The participants<sup>1</sup> in the 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, held in Tangier (Morocco) on 28 November - 1 December 2016,

Having reviewed the progress achieved since 2012 in implementing the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap,

Having discussed the remaining challenges to 2020,

Having considered recent global, regional and sub-regional marine policy developments regarding the ecosystem approach, sustainable development and climate change issues, and

Having considered the recommendations from the different sessions in the Forum, in an Annex to this Declaration,

Agree to update the Roadmap with the following elements:

- 1) **Institutional framework** taking into consideration the recent developments<sup>2</sup>;
- 2) **Strategic Objective 5 of the Roadmap** “Strengthen and develop the role of MPAs as a marine spatial management tool in supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change”; and
- 3) **Key operational and action-oriented steps, complementary to the Antalya Declaration of 2012, to improve and help achieving the Roadmap objectives by 2020** as developed here below:

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<sup>1</sup> This Declaration doesn't engage intergovernmental organizations involved and their respective Members.

<sup>2</sup> Consideration of oceans by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP21 within the Paris Agreement, International Blue Carbon Initiative, 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress motions, Action Plan of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative of the CBD (Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)) - 2015-2020, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans, the 3<sup>rd</sup> International MPA Congress (IMPAC3) recommendations, the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025, the UNEP/MAP Mid-term Strategy 2016-2021, the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change in 2014 and on Blue Economy in 2015, the Venice Declaration on Mediterranean Sea Cooperation, the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, the EU Directive establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning and the EU Blue Growth strategy, the Mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

**In relation to Strategic Objective 1: “Establish an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected”:**

- 1.1 Accelerating efforts to achieve the Aichi Target 11 to effectively conserve at least 10% of the Mediterranean coastal and marine areas by 2020 and to consider increasing thereafter this coverage in the open seas through the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) network, Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), adapting as needed other initiatives and targets<sup>3</sup> that could contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.5 “to conserve and promote sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.
- 1.2 By 2020 increase the coverage and implementation of no-entry, no-take and no-fishing zones<sup>4</sup>, within either existing or future MPAs, from the current coverage of 0.04% of the Mediterranean Sea to reach at least 2% of no-take zones, especially in key functional areas.
- 1.3 To support boosting MPA coverage in non-EU Mediterranean country waters, through habitat identification processes (as in e.g. Natura 2000 or Emerald Network), increasing the MPA complementarity and representativity, while creating strong north-south and south-south cooperation opportunities.
- 1.4 Consider the establishment of transboundary MPAs where appropriate by using the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention as instrument.
- 1.5 Declare new MPAs in the open sea, including the deep sea, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, using in particular the available information gathered by the joint description of Mediterranean Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSAs) done by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP).
- 1.6 Complete the mapping of the most significant marine habitats, in particular seagrass meadows and coralligenous formations and other biogenic habitats, and increase efforts to describe pelagic habitats and map deep-sea habitats.
- 1.7 Increase regional support to:
  - 1.7.1 observing, monitoring and assessing, systems within MPAs, and ensure that such monitoring network is representative of the whole Mediterranean; and
  - 1.7.2 observing, monitoring and assessing the MPA system representativity and connectivity and reporting effeciently.
- 1.8 Strengthen by all available means the science-policy interface, to incorporate the increasing scientific, traditional and local knowledge and citizen science into the implementation of the MPA Roadmap and in ecosystem approach-related decision making processes.

**In relation to Strategic Objective 2: “Achieve an effective, efficient and sustainable management and good governance in Mediterranean MPAs”:**

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<sup>3</sup> Such as the IUCN Promise of Sydney (2014) outcomes and the World Conservation Congress (Hawaii 2016) Recommendation 1 to protect by 2030 at least a 30% of each marine habitat.

<sup>4</sup> No-entry refers to no access (exception done for scientific research purposes under special permit); No-take refers to no extraction of any resource; No-fishing refers to the prohibition of all fishing gears and all types of fishing.

- 2.1 Provide the necessary support for effective, equitable and efficient management by 2020 of all MPA sites currently established.
- 2.2 Formulate a management plan for each Mediterranean MPA by 2020. This includes in particular:
  - 2.2.1 To progress in the development and implementation of management plans for Natura 2000 marine sites; and
  - 2.2.2 To support management planning in every MPA with weak technical or institutional capacities by facilitating, through regional coordinated efforts, the basic cartography and the development of biological and socio-economic baselines, including uses and pressures.
- 2.3 Support MPA effective and equitable management, especially of “young MPAs” by adopting minimum standards for effective management and recommendations for good governance, through sharing the best field practices.
- 2.4 Encourage and support the establishment and implementation of fishery management measures within MPAs, where relevant, in line with the existing regulations and relevant international instruments.
- 2.5 Encourage and foster MPA co-management practices with stakeholders as a means to achieve effective and sustainable management and good governance.
- 2.6 Support capacity development for fishing communities and resource users to allow them to effectively participate in decision-making relating to MPAs.
- 2.7 Include at least one MPA in each national monitoring programme for biodiversity and non-indigenous species, in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) adopted under the Barcelona Convention (COP19, Athens, February 2016).
- 2.8 At an MPA network level, make progress towards harmonized monitoring systems including comparable sets of natural, socioeconomic and management effectiveness indicators at national and regional levels.
- 2.9 Consider the challenges and impacts of climate change both in MPA management plans and their monitoring activities.
- 2.10 Implement practices to prevent, control, or adapt to the invasive non-indigenous species within Mediterranean MPAs.
- 2.11 Incorporate water quality issues in MPA management, and as central components in future Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) schemes taking into account objectives on Good Environmental Status (under the Ecosystem Approach of the Barcelona Convention and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive), objectives in the Protocol on Land-Based Sources of Pollution, and the Good Environmental Status (under Water Framework Directive).
- 2.12 The MPA manager network can play a role in supporting the EC to strengthen the effective management of marine Natura 2000 sites, including capacity building activities for a Mediterranean manager network of Natura 2000, therefore improving the integration of the Natura 2000 biogeographic approach.

- 2.13 Strengthen exchange of experience, best practices and knowledge among MPA managers, including through increased cooperation between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries, especially for addressing conservation needs for highly mobile marine species.

**In relation to Strategic Objective 3: “Develop a territorially and sectorially integrated governance of Mediterranean MPAs while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits”:**

- 3.1 In addition to biodiversity conservation, disseminate the evidence for multiple ecosystem and socio-economic benefits of MPAs, aiming at their recognition as demonstration sites applying the ecosystem approach, including contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 3.2 Work towards creating a win-win relationship of MPAs with decision-makers, donors and private sector interested in marine and maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, blue growth strategies, sustainable tourism and sustainable fisheries policies, in order to respond to pressures beyond MPA borders, while considering MPAs as natural capital and a management instrument to reach sustainability targets.
- 3.3 Strengthen cooperation between fisheries agencies and environment agencies among and between countries, and with other regional MPA human networks, Regional Seas Conventions and relevant regional organizations and agreements (e.g. the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) etc.).
- 3.4 Ensure that artisanal fishing communities dependent on marine resources for their livelihoods are effectively participating in decision-making on MPA designation, planning and management in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.
- 3.5 Encourage the establishment of communication channels and participatory procedures between the conservation and fisheries authorities and stakeholders for the future proper management of MPAs in the pelagic realm.
- 3.6 Make use of relevant regional and international policy frameworks and fora to promote MPAs as contributors to the wider development agenda.

**In relation to Strategic Objective 4: “Increase the allocation of financial resources to establish and maintain an ecological network of effectively managed MPAs”:**

- 4.1 Encourage leverage mechanisms to support the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and other relevant organisations in guaranteeing the basic funding needs of their national MPA systems.
- 4.2 Encourage Official Development Assistance agencies and private donors to invest in MPAs as a potential contributor to achieving SDGs through food security, poverty alleviation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- 4.3 Support the development of small funding programmes within MPAs as means, *inter alia*, to develop local project management capacities and as a lever to attract new and matching funding sources.
- 4.4 Support, as an example of innovative financial mechanism, the establishment of the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs, and welcome the recent progress made in this regard.
- 4.5 Support the creation of a permanent financing facility to ensure, in case needed in times of crisis and during limited periods, the continuity of management in certain MPAs.

**Finally, the participants to the 2016 Forum recognized the crucial role of regional and inter-regional cooperation and of joint mobilization among human networks working on MPAs, Regional Seas Conventions** and relevant regional organizations at all levels in order to:

- Catalyse knowledge and resources and foster strategic approaches for MPA human networks efficiency and visibility;
- Reinforce actions toward the sustainable financing of MPAs and MPA human networks;
- Enhance and strengthen MPA managers' capacity to face challenges related to climate change;
- Highlight the MPA networks function in climate change mitigation and adaptation as nature-based solutions, and enhance their role for such purpose; and
- Integrate and promote science, traditional local knowledge and innovative solutions to improve MPA effective management.