

# 100MPA MedAlliance

**Building resilient MPAs  
to face the climate  
emergency by 2030**

The **100MPA MedAlliance** is a **collaborative initiative** aimed at **enhancing the resilience to climate change and effectiveness of the Mediterranean MPAs System** to climate change by integrating **climate adaptation strategies** in 100 MPAs across the basin by 2030.





# 100MPA MedAlliance in a nutshell



## Why the 100MPA MedAlliance is needed?

Climate change is severely affecting the Mediterranean Sea, with an alarming warming rate three times faster than the global ocean.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are recognized efficient nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, at present less than 8% of the Mediterranean MPA are addressing actions to face the escalating climate crisis.

Poor governance, lack of technical capacity, and insufficient expertise are **limiting the ability of MPAs to act as effective tools for climate resilience.**



## 100MPA MedAlliance making a Mediterranean resilient to climate emergency

The 100MPA MedAlliance is a strategic and collaborative initiative created to fill this gap. It aims to **support the integration of climate adaptation strategies** into the management of **at least 100 MPAs by 2030**. Through this joint effort, we seek to **strengthen and connect the Mediterranean MPA network**, making it more **resilient and effective** in the face of the climate emergency.

The 100MPA MedAlliance is built on three main pillars:

- **Provision of validated and practical adaptation toolkits**
- **Expert guidance through a dedicated roster of professionals**
- **Policy and advocacy support**

These pillars will ensure that **climate adaptation efforts are coordinated, science-based** and count with the necessary support to achieve this ambitious objective.



## Join the 100MPA MedAlliance

You can support the 100MPA MedAlliance by becoming an endorser, providing financial support as a donor, joining as an MPA ready to adopt climate adaptation solutions, or contributing your expertise to help other MPAs in their adaptation journey.



# 100MPA MedAlliance

Building resilient MPAs  
to face the climate  
emergency by 2030

# INDEX

Contact us

Why the 100MPA MedAlliance is needed?	1	The Mediterranean: <i>a Hotspot for Biodiversity and Climate Change</i>
	2	Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to halt biodiversity loss against climate change
	3	Main objectives of MPAs
100MPA MedAlliance making a Mediterranean resilient to climate emergency	4	Why the current Mediterranean MPA system is not effective to tackle the climate emergency?
	5	Equipping MPAs with the tools to increase climate resilience
	6	MPAs to halt biodiversity loss against climate change
Join the 100MPA MedAlliance	7	Be part of the change. How can I contribute?
	8	The vision: lighthouses for adaptation
	9	Endorsements



## 1

## The Mediterranean: a Hotspot for Biodiversity and Climate Change

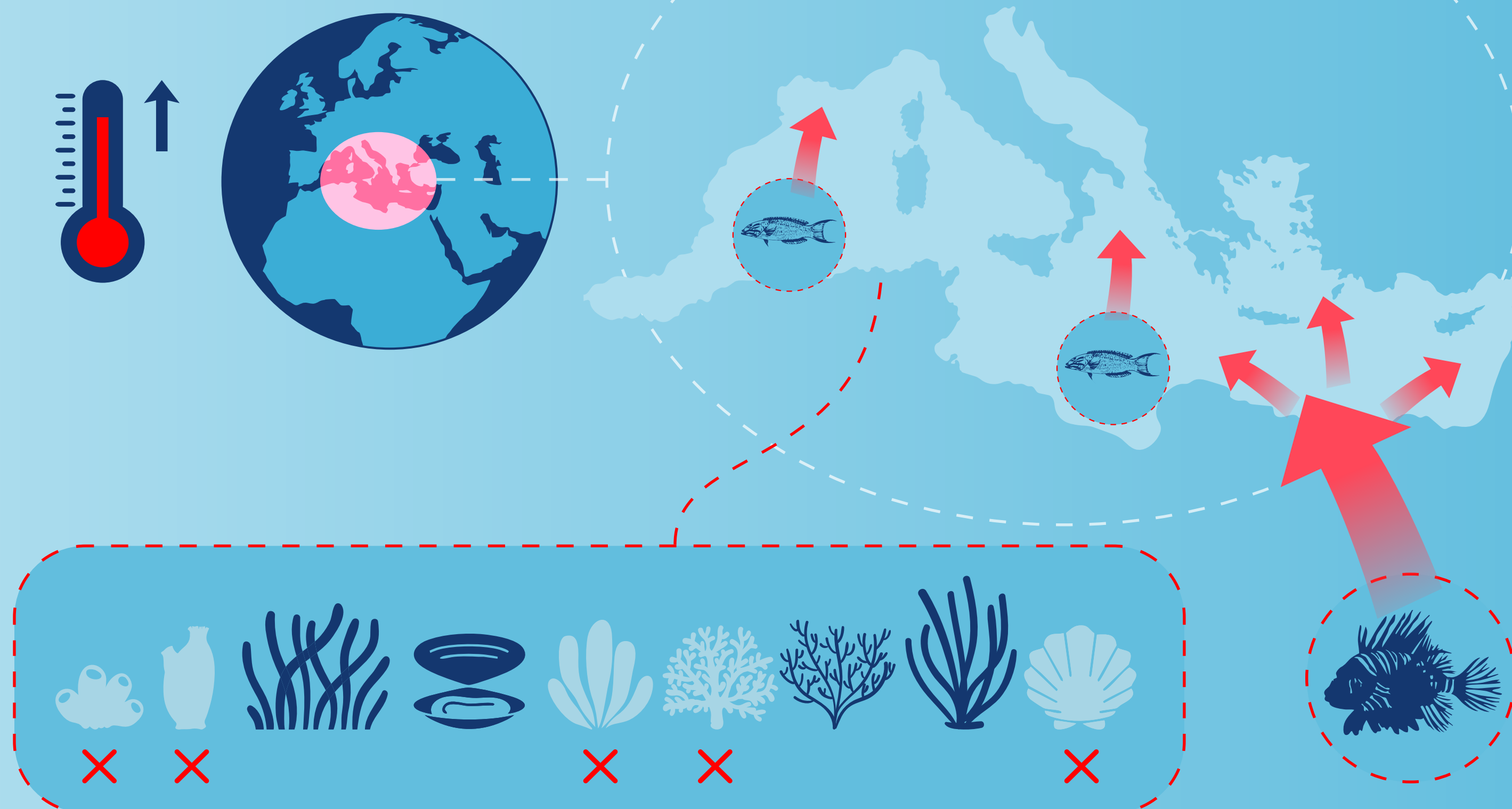
**The Mediterranean Sea is a global treasure, home to exceptional biodiversity and numerous species found nowhere else.**

This unique ecosystem supports thousands of coastal communities and a thriving marine economy.

However, it is also one of the regions most affected by climate change. Rising temperatures, sea level rise, increase in severe storms among other drivers are causing habitat loss, changes in species distribution, mass mortality events which are reshaping this fragile environment.

Without immediate and concrete actions, these losses could become irreversible. Protecting the Mediterranean isn't just about saving its marine life; it's about safeguarding a vital resource for future generations.

*“Climate change is affecting the Mediterranean more intensely than other regions of the world.”*







2

**Marine Protected Areas to halt biodiversity  
loss against climate change**

# **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

Delimited parts of the sea and coast where human activities are regulated to protect marine ecosystems, resources and species.

**Our society greatly benefits from them.**



# 3

## Main objectives of MPAs



### Protect biodiversity

Protect threatened species, critical habitats, and valuable marine ecosystems.



### Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Enhancing resilience to face climate-driven impacts on marine life mainly ocean warming and sea-level rise.



### Promote healthy and resilient marine ecosystems

Reducing the impacts of human activities.



### Provide societal benefits

Allowing the marine ecosystems to provide a wide array of services (e.g. food provision, carbon sequestration, coastal protection, sustainable tourism).

### Importance of MPAs:

Beyond preserving the conservation of marine ecosystems, MPAs also benefit local communities by improving water quality, ensuring sustainable resources, and boosting resilience against environmental and human-induced changes. They are essential for the planet's health and sustainability.



# 4

## Why the current Mediterranean MPA system is not effective to tackle the climate emergency?

At present the Mediterranean MPAs system counts with **+1000 MPAs covering about 8% of the Mediterranean surface**, from which only 0,04% is strictly protected of the Mediterranean's surface, **far below the 30% target** set by international, regional, and European agreements by 2030.

### 2030 Target

Set by international, regional, and European agreements

Protected surface

**30%**

Present\*

Total MPAs

**+1000**

Protected areas\*

**8%** Far below 2030 target

Strictly protected areas

**0,04%**



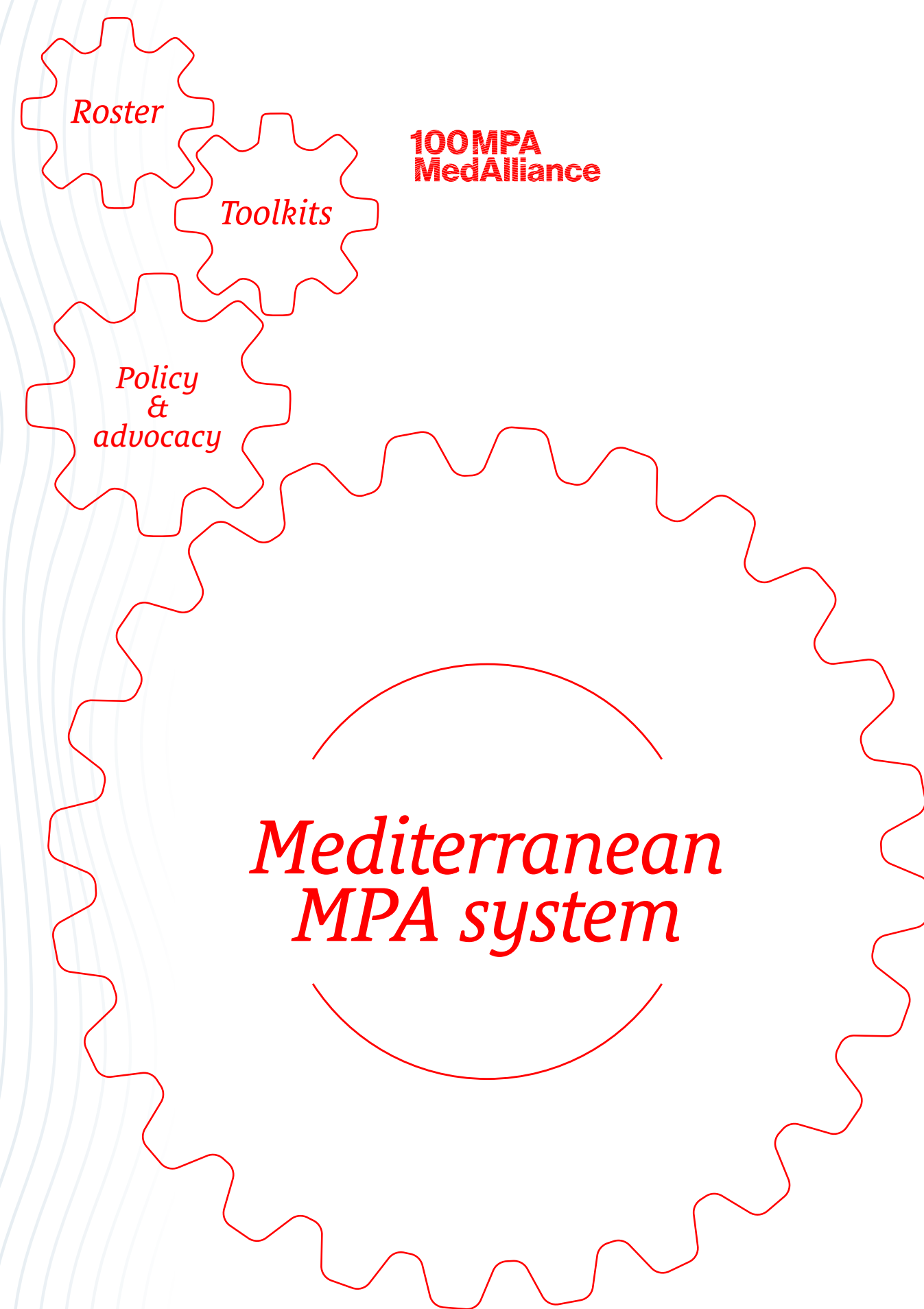
**This coverage is insufficient to safeguard Mediterranean marine ecosystems effectively**

Beyond the gap in the total protected surface, **most designed MPAs suffer from inadequate management practices**, which limits their effectiveness.

Besides **Mediterranean MPAs lack comprehensive climate adaptation strategies**. In fact, at present **less than 8% of the Mediterranean MPA** are addressing actions **to face the escalating climate crisis**.

**Poor governance, lack of capabilities and expertise of management teams** as well as **insufficient funding** further exacerbate these challenges, **impeding** progress towards achieving set **conservation targets**.





The 100MPA MedAlliance aims to strengthen the role of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency in the Mediterranean.

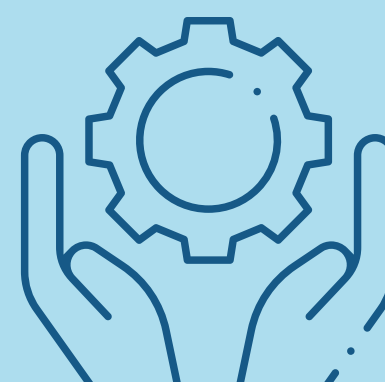
### How?

By integrating climate adaptation strategies into the management of **100 MPAs by 2030 across the Mediterranean**, the alliance ensures to support their **resilience and long-term sustainability**, enhancing their capacity to address climate challenges effectively.

This alliance is built on three main pillars:

**Ready to use toolkits to guide MPAs in deploying adaptation action plans**

1



**Dedicated long-term assistance mechanism with a roster of experts**

2



**Policy & advocacy actions to enhance the role of MPAs to effectively face the climate change crisis**

3





## Pillar 1

### Ready to use toolkits to guide MPAs in deploying adaptation action plans



This alliance builds on **proven tools and methodologies**, successfully tested in diverse **socio-ecological** contexts across the Mediterranean over the past decade. More than 30 partners from 9 Mediterranean countries have been actively testing the toolkits to ensure their effectiveness and applicability.

#### The toolkits cover the following topics:



Socio-ecological  
vulnerability assessment



Monitoring of climate  
change effects on  
biodiversity



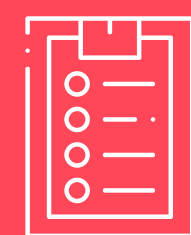
Ecosystem restoration



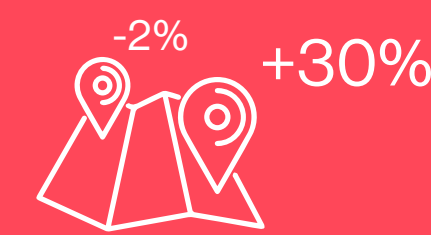
Citizen science and  
public engagement



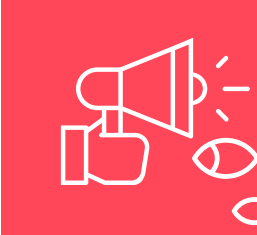
Participatory approach  
and stakeholder  
engagement



Adaptation action plan  
development



Geographic Information  
Systems for MPAs



Awareness and  
communication  
on climate change  
challenges

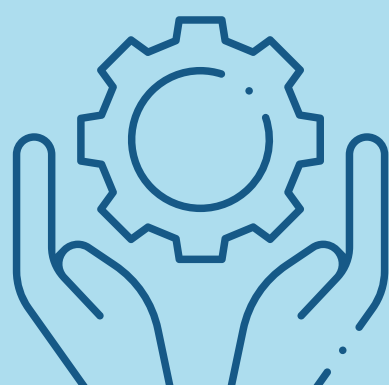
#### Practical toolkits for climate action:

The **MPA4Change toolkits** are a set of structured resources designed to support MPAs management bodies in implementing **climate adaptation strategies**. The toolkits cover the following topics:

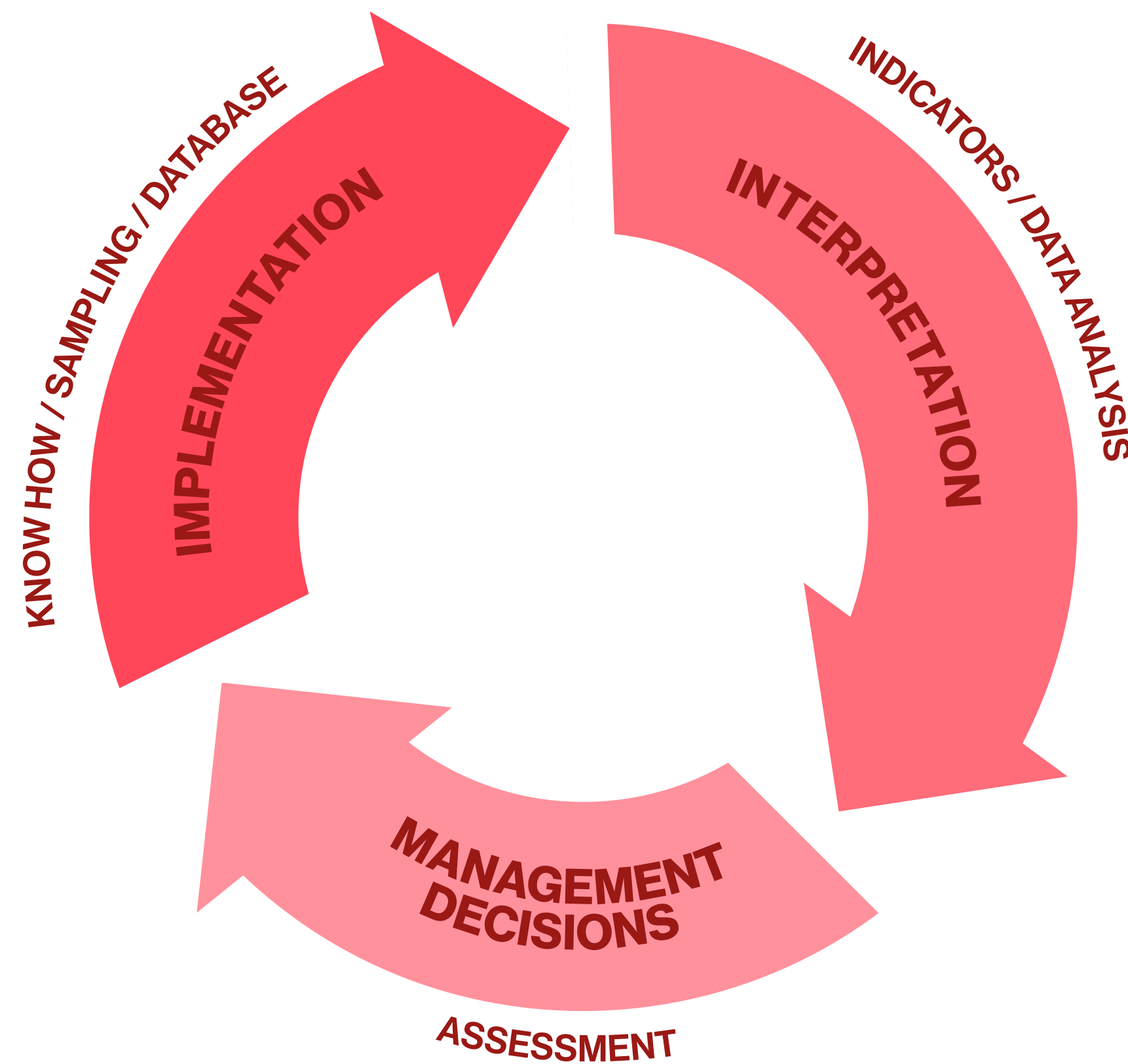


## Pillar 1

Ready to use toolkits  
to guide MPAs in  
deploying adaptation  
action plans



These toolkits provide **ready-to-use solutions -practical methodologies, protocols, and digital tools-** to guide MPAs through the whole process, from data collection to decision-making and actions implementation.



Graphic Resource: Icons representing each solution toolkits.

The **adoption** of the MPA4Change **toolkits empowers Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** to **enhance** their management capacity while **fostering regional collaboration** and alignment with international climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation frameworks.

By applying a common methodology, MPAs can generate comparable data and adopt a unified approach, enabling a deeper understanding of climate change impacts across the Mediterranean. Besides this shared knowledge facilitates the exchange of best practices and effective solutions, strengthening the resilience of the Mediterranean MPA system in the face of climate emergency.





## Pillar 2

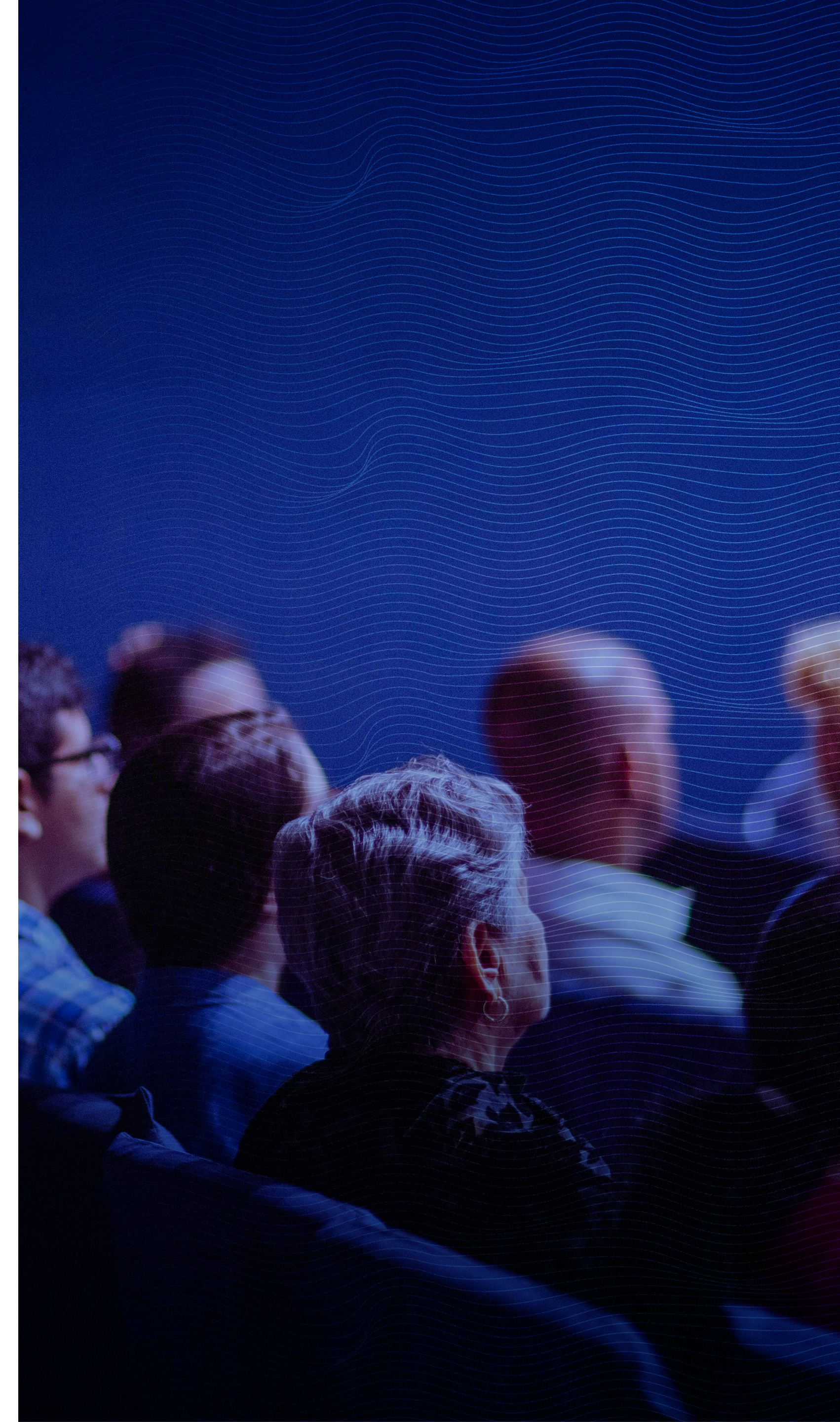
### Dedicated long-term assistance mechanism with a roster of experts



The **100MPA MedAlliance** provides a specialised support network of experts to guide MPAs in diagnostics, adaptation strategy implementation, and capacity-building. This Roster of experts serves as a key mechanism ensuring the effective application of tools, smooth operations, and continuous mentoring and technical assistance throughout the process of the integration of climate change adaptation actions in the MPAs management plans.

#### Why is the roster of experts essential?

Despite having ready-to-use toolkits, many MPAs lack the expertise and capacity to effectively implement them. Experts of the roster bridge this gap by ensuring that available resources are optimally utilised to strengthen climate adaptation efforts in Mediterranean MPAs.





## Pillar 2

### Dedicated long-term assistance mechanism with a roster of experts



The assistance mechanism **with a roster of experts** will provide support in the following key areas:

#### Definition of the MPAs climate change adaptation plan strategy:

- **Expert guidance** in the definition of the MPA strategy for the development of the climate change adaptation action plan based on the capabilities and opportunities of each MPA.
- **Advice in fundraising** opportunities and organisational strategies.

#### Digital tools and technical support

Thematic dedicated web platforms are available to support the coordination data collection and interpretation as well as toolkits resource hubs.

#### Continuous training

A comprehensive training program covering the different toolkits including e-learning sessions and field training workshops will provide skill development for MPA managers for the effective implementation of toolkits.

#### Implementation of the MPA4Change toolkits

**Scientific guidance** for the implementation of the different toolkits including step by step implementation plan including scales, resources and actors to consider to provide data-driven/science based decisions.

- **Toolkit guidelines** are essential for executing actions in a structured and reliable manner, minimising errors, and optimising results.

- **Toolkits update** to fine tune the existing toolkits according to the advancements and innovations in the different disciplines covered by the toolkits as well as to include new aspects not currently addressed by the toolkits.



*“Equipping MPAs  
with concrete tools  
to tackle climate challenges”*



## Pillar 3

**Policy & advocacy actions to enhance the role of MPAs to effectively face the climate change crisis**



**The 100MPA MedAlliance will leverage international, regional, and national alliance and regulations to:**

- **Advocate for and promote** Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as nature-based solutions to face climate change in global discussions.
- **Support the integration** of climate adaptation actions into MPA management plans.
- **Foster collaboration** on climate adaptation across all Mediterranean MPAs, strengthening links between the North and South.

**Globally, the 100MPA MedAlliance will provide:**

- **A unified framework for collective action:** A shared approach applied across all participating MPAs, generating greater problem-solving capacity and empowering local actors with the necessary skills to implement effective climate adaptation actions.
- **A permanent dialogue scheme:** An open alliance for MPAs, organisations, and policymakers to actively contribute to Mediterranean marine protection, fostering continuous collaborations between MPAs with the same goals
- **Representation:** A dedicated group of experts capable of representing the interests and goals of the 100MPA MedAlliance, highlighting the urge to respond to the climate emergency, fostering the engagement of members and institutions to further support the network and promoting the **integration** of climate change adaptation toolkits into the political framework.
- **Advance in International Commitments:** A step towards fulfilling current global, regional, and European obligations related to biodiversity protection and climate action.



### The broader impact:

Through these actions, the 100MPA MedAlliance will enable Mediterranean MPAs to effectively address the dual challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, fostering a resilient marine ecosystem while advancing towards the ambitious 30% protection goal by 2030.

## Improve Management effectiveness

Integrate **climate adaptation strategies** into the management plans, ensuring that MPAs are well-equipped to tackle the climate emergency.

## Promote Strictly protected areas

Increase MPA coverage by expanding existing protected areas and establishing new MPAs, with a focus on strictly protected zones — the most effective areas for conservation-. The goal is to increase strictly protected areas from 0.04% to 10% by 2030, aligning with international conservation targets.

## Enhance Representativeness

Ensure better protection of critical habitats and threatened species, creating a more comprehensive and resilient MPA network across the Mediterranean.



7

Be part of the change  
How can I contribute?

## As an International Organization

**Endorsing** the alliance.

**Bringing financial resources** to support the effective implementation of the alliance at the Mediterranean and local MPA levels

**Supporting** the alliance capacity-building schemes

**Promoting collaboration** on climate change adaptation across the Mediterranean MPAs network, strengthening North-South partnerships

## As an MPA

Join the 100MPA MedAlliance and **be part of a dynamic network of MPAs** working together for a climate-adapted Mediterranean

**Access tailored capacity-building opportunities** to strengthen your MPA's management

**Consult** the 100MPA MedAlliance group of experts for **guidance and best practices**

**Contribute with your data** to the network

**Advocate for the alliance** and support collective action for marine conservation.

## As Policymakers, National, Regional or local authorities

**Endorsing** the alliance

**Providing financial resources** to support the alliance's **effective implementation at national, regional, and local levels**

**Promoting the adoption** of climate adaptation toolkits in MPA management plans

**Encouraging collaboration** on climate change adaptation **across the Mediterranean MPAs network**

**Join us!** in shaping  
a sustainable future

100MPA  
MedAlliance

Together, we can protect our Mediterranean ecosystems to restore natural wealth for generations to come.

**#ActLocalThinkMediterranean**  
**#100MPAMedAlliance**  
**#ClimateEmergency**



# 8

## The Vision: Lighthouses for adaptation

**The MPAs engaged by the 100 MPA MedAlliance will serve as lighthouses, guiding neighboring MPAs in adopting climate adaptation strategies and improving management effectiveness.**

Their strategic geographical distribution will facilitate the spread of best practices, encouraging surrounding regions to implement similar solutions. By fostering regional cooperation and strengthening connections across the Mediterranean, this approach will amplify conservation efforts, enhance biodiversity protection, and contribute to a more resilient Mediterranean MPA system.

**Lorenzo Merotto**  
Area Marina Protetta  
Portofino (Italy)



“The monitoring toolkit adopted make MPAs sentinel sites for tracking the effects of climate change and are also useful for day-to-day management of the marine protected area.”

**Andrea Blaskovic**  
Brijuni National Park  
(Croatia)



“The vulnerability assessment toolkit has been essential to prioritize actions and allocate resources effectively for ecosystem-based management in our marine protected area.”





Major International and Mediterranean organizations such as UNEP-MAP, SPA/RAC, Union for the Mediterranean, MedPAN, WWF, and IUCN are already part of the change, supporting the transformation of MPAs into powerful tools for climate resilience.



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط





An alliance launched by the Interreg  
EuroMED project MPA4Change project  
led by the ICM-CSIC  
(Barcelona, Spain)

**For further information**

**100mpamedalliance.org**

**Visit our website**



**10**

**Contact us**

# **100 MPA MedAlliance**

An alliance launched by the Interreg  
EuroMED project MPA4Change project  
led by the ICM-CSIC  
(Barcelona, Spain)

**[info@mpamedalliance.org](mailto:info@mpamedalliance.org)**

**Join us in building a resilient Mediterranean Sea**

**[mpamedalliance.org](http://mpamedalliance.org)**



This brochure was funded by the  
**Interreg EuroMed MPA4Change** (EURO-MED0200736) project.



## Credits

Pictures:

**Page 1, 5** Josep Clotas, **Page 6** Joaquim Garrabou, **Page 10** Alexis Rosenfield. **Page 11** @jibarofoto / Pexels.

**Design** Ondeuev.



# **100 MPA MedAlliance**

**Building resilient MPAs  
to face the climate  
emergency by 2030**