MSP4BIO

Improved Science-Based Maritime Spatial Planning to Safeguard and Restore Biodiversity in a Coherent European MPA Network

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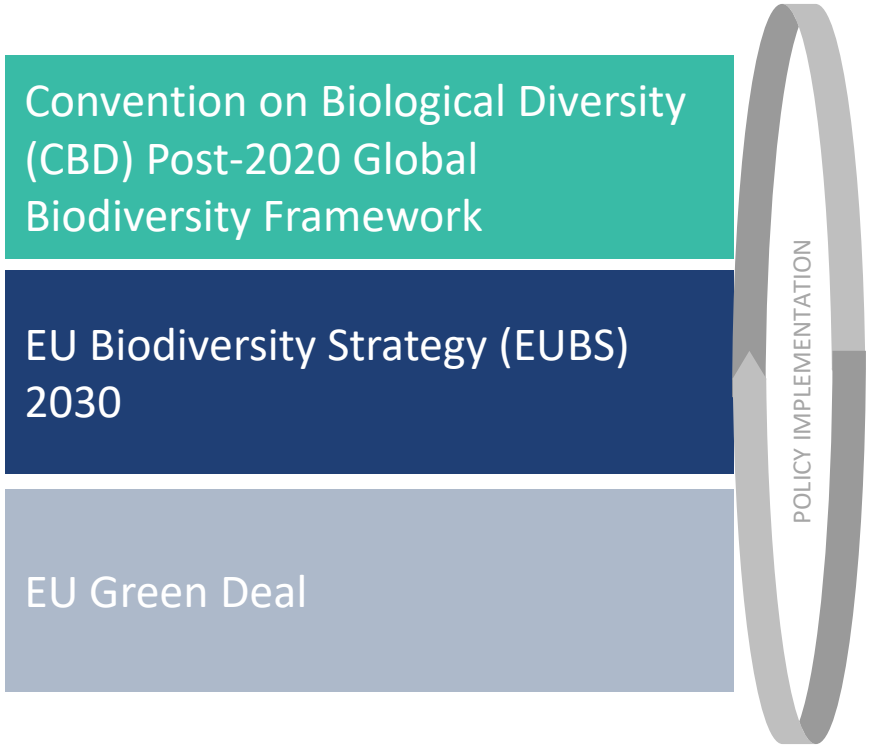
HELCOM Secretariat

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101060707

MSP4BIO - Overall Objective

"Develop and demonstrate the ways in which knowledge-based **MSP** becomes **a vehicle** and **a tool** for the **protection and restoration of biodiversity**"

"How can **the biodiversity** be mainstreamed into policy decisions?"



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Specific Objectives

- **SO1. Improve the science base** for the description of EBSAs and, identification of new, restoration, enlargement and management of existing MPAs
- **SO2. Develop and demonstrate a novel flexible management framework** that integrates ecological and socio-economic dimensions for the prioritization of strategic and spatial conservation-management measures
- **SO3. Strengthen the role of MSP as an integrative framework** to support the coherent implementation of relevant policies (MSFD, WFD, MSPD, BHD, Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), etc.) as well as the EUBS2030 and the CBD post-2020.
- **SO4. Improved biodiversity and natural capital integration** into public and business decision-making at all levels for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and their services.

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Project Partners

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Project Partners

1 (Coo)	**s.Pro - sustainable projects GmbH (SPRO)**	Germany
2	Centre d'études et d'expertise sur les risques, l'environnement, la mobilité et l'aménagement (CEREMA)	France
3	Center for Coastal and Marine Studies (CCMS)	Bulgaria
4	Uniwersytet Morski W Gdyni (GMU)	**Poland**
5	Universidad De Cadiz (UCA)	Spain
6	Universite De Nantes (UNANTES)	France
7	Tartu Ülikool (UTARTU)	**Estonia**
8	Fondazione WWF Mediterranean (WWF-MED)	Italy
9 (Affil.)	WWF European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)	Belgium
10	Coastal Research and Planning Institute (CORPI)	**Lithuania**
11	The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)	**Finland**
12	Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche (CNR)	Italy
13	Vlaams Instituut Voor De Zee (VLIZ)	Belgium
14	Suomen Ymparistokeskus (SYKE)	**Finland**
15	Universidade Dos Acores Ponta Delgada S Miguel Acores, Pt (UAC)	Portugal
16	Institutul National De Cercetare-dezvoltare Marina Grigore Antipa (NIMRD)	Romania
17	Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC)	Croatia
18 (Assoc.)	Seascape Consultants Ltd. (SEASC)	UK

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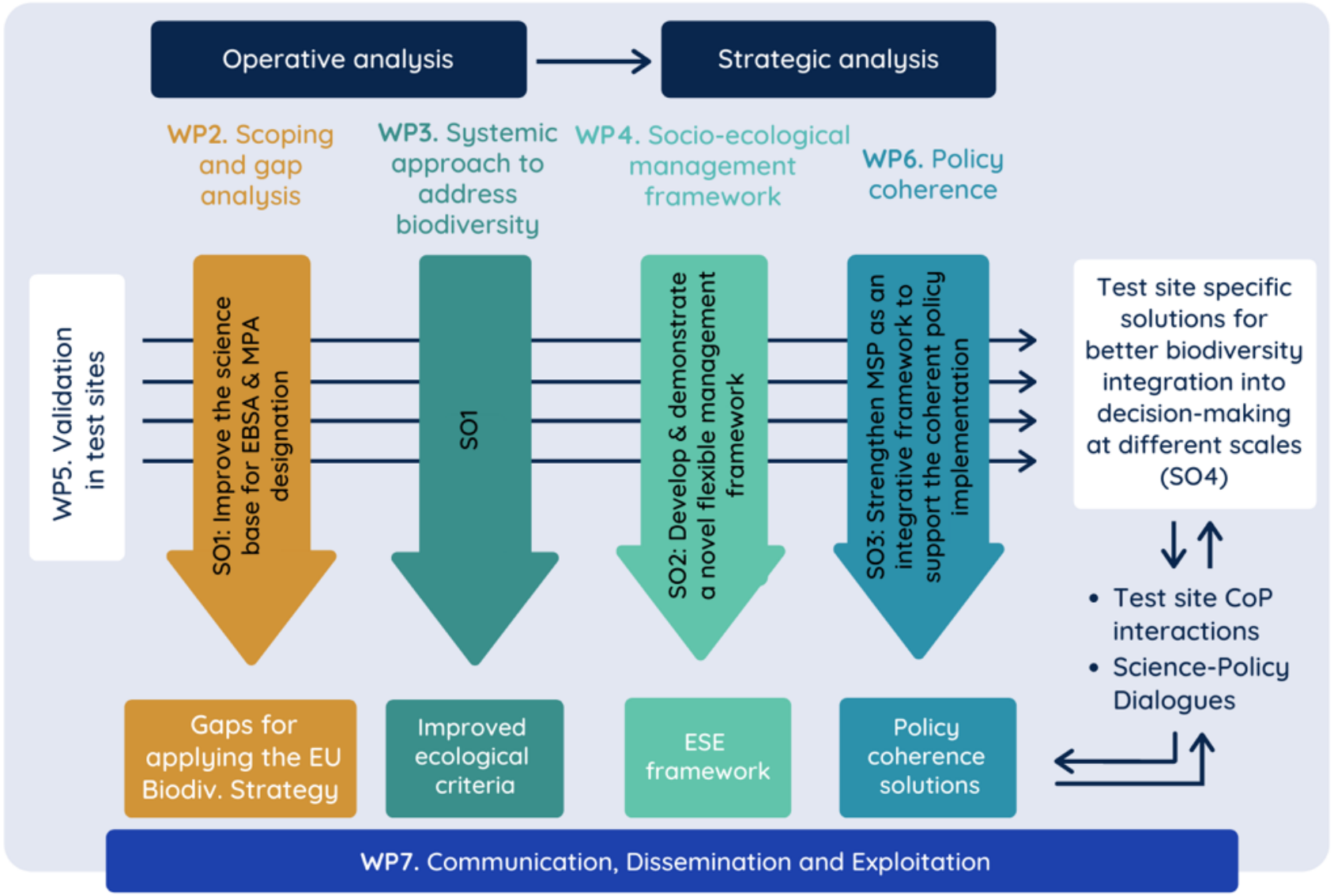
Overview



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MSP4BIO Test Sites

MSP4BIO test site locations

Environment

- Coastal
- Offshore
- Deep-sea

*Administrative level

Sectors covered

- Fishery
- Aquaculture
- Tourism
- Renewables
- Mineral extraction

BALTIC SEA UTARTU / HELCOM

Entire Baltic Sea basin with the sub-case of Vistula Lagoon/ Southern Baltic - **377,000 km²**

*Transnational (all Baltic Sea countries)-and local/regional (328 sq.km PL/RU cross-border)

NORTH SEA VLIZ

Belgian part of the North Sea - **3,447 km²**

*National (Belgium)

ATLANTIC 2 UAC

Azores ZEE and extended continental shelf - **971,582 km²**

*Regional level - autonomous region (Portugal)

BLACK SEA NIMRD / CCMS

Cape Tuzla-Vama Veche-Shabla-Cape Kaliakra (Western Black Sea) - **2,750 km²**

*Cross-border (Romania and Bulgaria)

NW-MED CNR / CEREMA

North-Western Mediterranean (Pelagos Sanctuary area and Gulf of Lion) - **130,000 km²**

*Transnational (Italy, France, Monaco)

ATLANTIC 1 UCA

Gulf of Cadiz: Cadiz Bay, Guadalquivir Estuarine area - **15,652 km²**

*Subnational/national (Spain)

Expected key results

EU-wide overview of biodiversity data availability

Improved ecological criteria for identification of MPAs and EBSAs and improvement of MPAs network

Integrated modular management framework allowing for better integration of biodiversity considerations in MSP, wider participation and adaptations

Ecological Toolkit ensuring better integration of data in decision making (improved DSTs)

Policy coherence solutions to strengthen MSPs compatibility with the new biodiversity policy requirements

6 demonstrators at different governance levels producing **site specific solutions**

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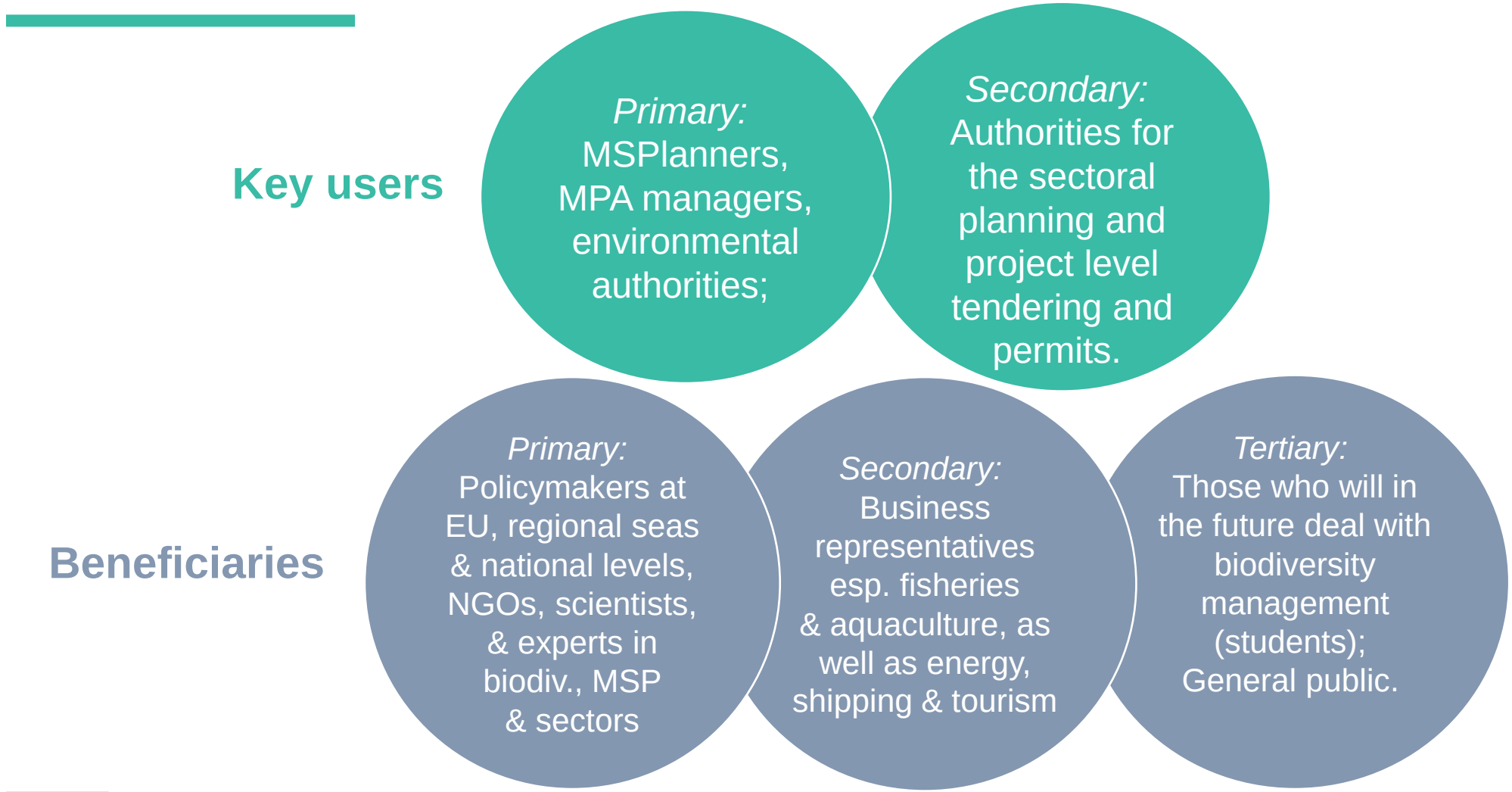
Key users and beneficiaries



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Contribution to MSP Roadmap 2021-2030

1. Implementation of maritime spatial plans **builds knowledge base** for the new MSP cycle

- Facilitate **exchange of information** on the best practices of MSP implementation, monitoring and evaluation across the BSR and **other sea basins**
- Improve MSP related data retention and flows and **assuring data actuality**
- Establishing of **links with relevant scientific frameworks** and maritime knowledge

2. Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional **policy coherence**

- Study the **relationship between various policies** related to **protection and sustainable use of marine resources** by continuously following national MSP implementation as well as other related processes concerning marine and coastal domain

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Contribution to MSP Roadmap 2021-2030

3. Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to achieving progress towards **good environmental status** of the Baltic Sea set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan

- Establish cooperation between HELCOM VASAB MSP Working Group and **HELCOM STATE and CONSERVATION** and relevant HELCOM bodies to develop common language and views on Ecosystem based management and green infrastructure, cumulative assessment methods, spatial data, status assessments
- Identify how MSP can support conservation and sustainable use in equitable way reflecting **marine protected areas** (MPAs) and possible Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) or other areas of high natural values in maritime spatial plans
- and identify possibilities for MSP to support the **BSAP targets** related to protected areas as well as national and regional strategies.

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Contribution to MSP Roadmap 2021-2030

4. Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to **sustainable blue economy**

- Share experiences in guiding sectoral development to minimize economic losses and the weakening of **ecosystem services**, identify actions that can be enhanced on the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) level through implementation of MSP and apply them in the view of sustainable blue economy, including cross-border perspective
- Investigate the linkage between environmental and social-economic dimensions through an **ecosystem services analysis** with cross-border MSP perspective
- Encourage participatory and **transparent processes with all stakeholders** of sea use to ensure successful integrated and holistic MSP and management towards sustainable blue economy

5. Spatial planning contributes to **climate change** mitigation, adaptation and increased resilience of the Baltic Sea Region

- Identify **how MSP can support adaptive conservation strategies** to cater for spatial changes in ecosystems (e.g., migration of species, change of critical conditions for habitats), including the further exploration of the potential for including climate refugia in MSP for the entire Baltic Sea

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BSAP - Spatial Conservation Management **B1-B7**

- By 2030 at the latest, establish a resilient, **regionally coherent**, **effectively** and **equitably managed**, **ecologically representative** and **well-connected** system of HELCOM marine protected areas (MPAs), supported by those other spatial conservation measures, under alternative regimes for marine protection.
- Come to common understanding of the Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) criteria and their use to support the **coherence of the Baltic Sea MPA network**.
- Develop, implement and share information on **effective management measures**, including measures to ensure compliance/control measures, to reduce the impact of fisheries inside marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to contribute to achieving their conservation objectives.
- Assess coherence of the MPA network and identify possible **spatial conservation expansion needs** to improve coherence.

MSP4BIO will support BSAP implementation

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Cooperation between *successor of* State and Conservation WG and MSP WG

- As a **catalyst** for further work, **to get the two group representatives in the same room at the same time and talk,**
- Figure out what the barriers are, and where we could start to overcome them
- MSP4BIO can support BSAP actions

THIRD HELCOM HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA 2016-2021
HOLAS 3

- Cumulative impact assessment (i.e., SPIA)
- Economic and social analyses (i.e., use of marine waters)
- Ecosystem service benefit estimates (i.e., ecosystem service maps)
- Data update (i.e., environmental data and data on human activities)

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Thank you

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