



Latest developments of MSP4BIO

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

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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”

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) 2030

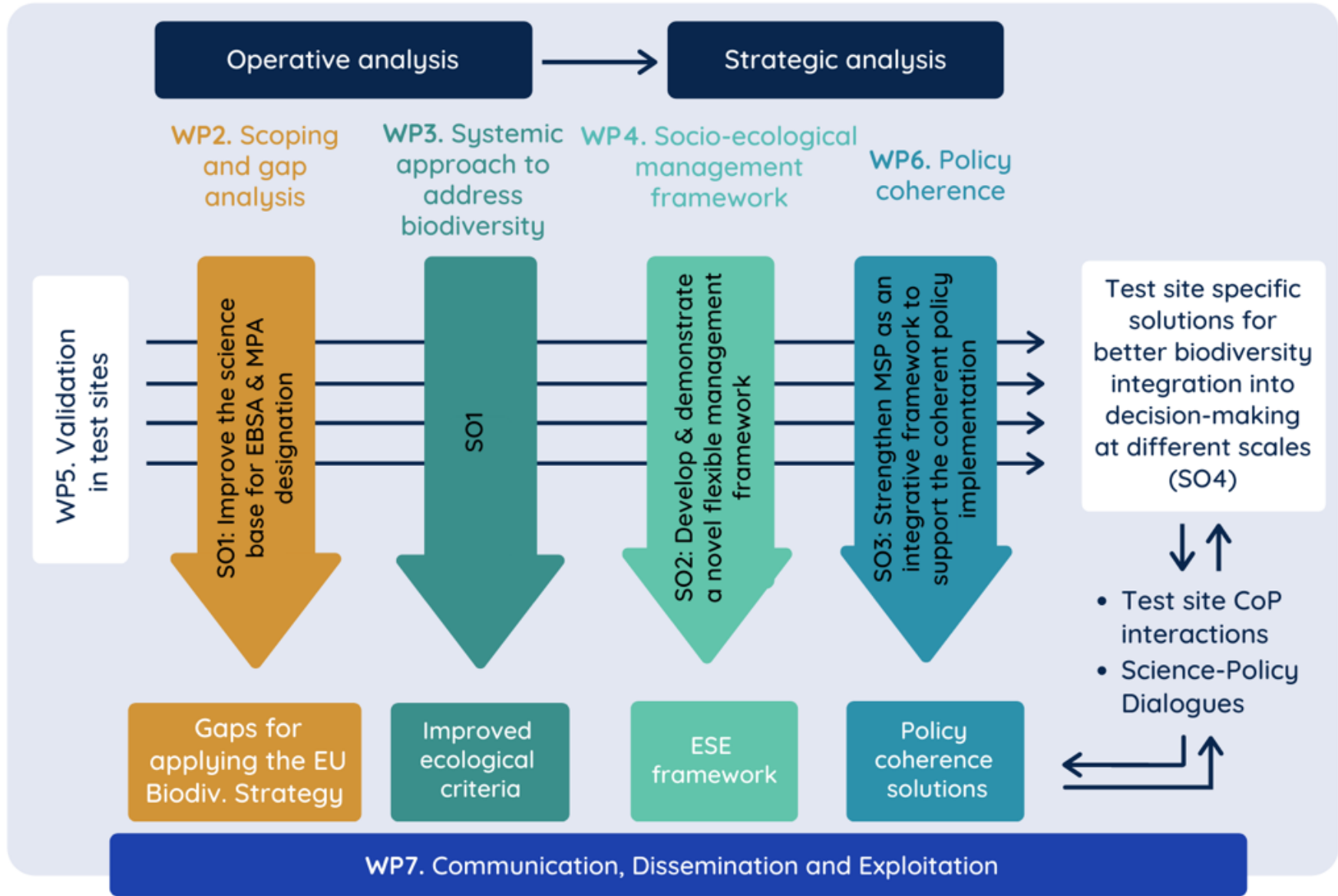
EU Green Deal

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION



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Operative analysis

Strategic analysis

WP2. Scoping and gap analysis

WP3. Systemic approach to address biodiversity

WP4. Socio-ecological management framework

WP6. Policy coherence

WP5. Validation in test sites

SO1: Improve the science base for EBSA & MPA designation

SO1

SO2: Develop & demonstrate a novel flexible management framework

SO3: Strengthen MSP as an integrative framework to support the coherent policy implementation

Test site specific solutions for better biodiversity integration into decision-making at different scales (SO4)



- Test site CoP interactions
- Science-Policy Dialogues



Gaps for applying the EU Biodiv. Strategy

Improved ecological criteria

ESE framework

Policy coherence solutions

WP7. Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation



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)

NW-MED CNR / CEREMA

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

*Transnational (Italy, France, Monaco)

BLACK SEA NIMRD / CCMS

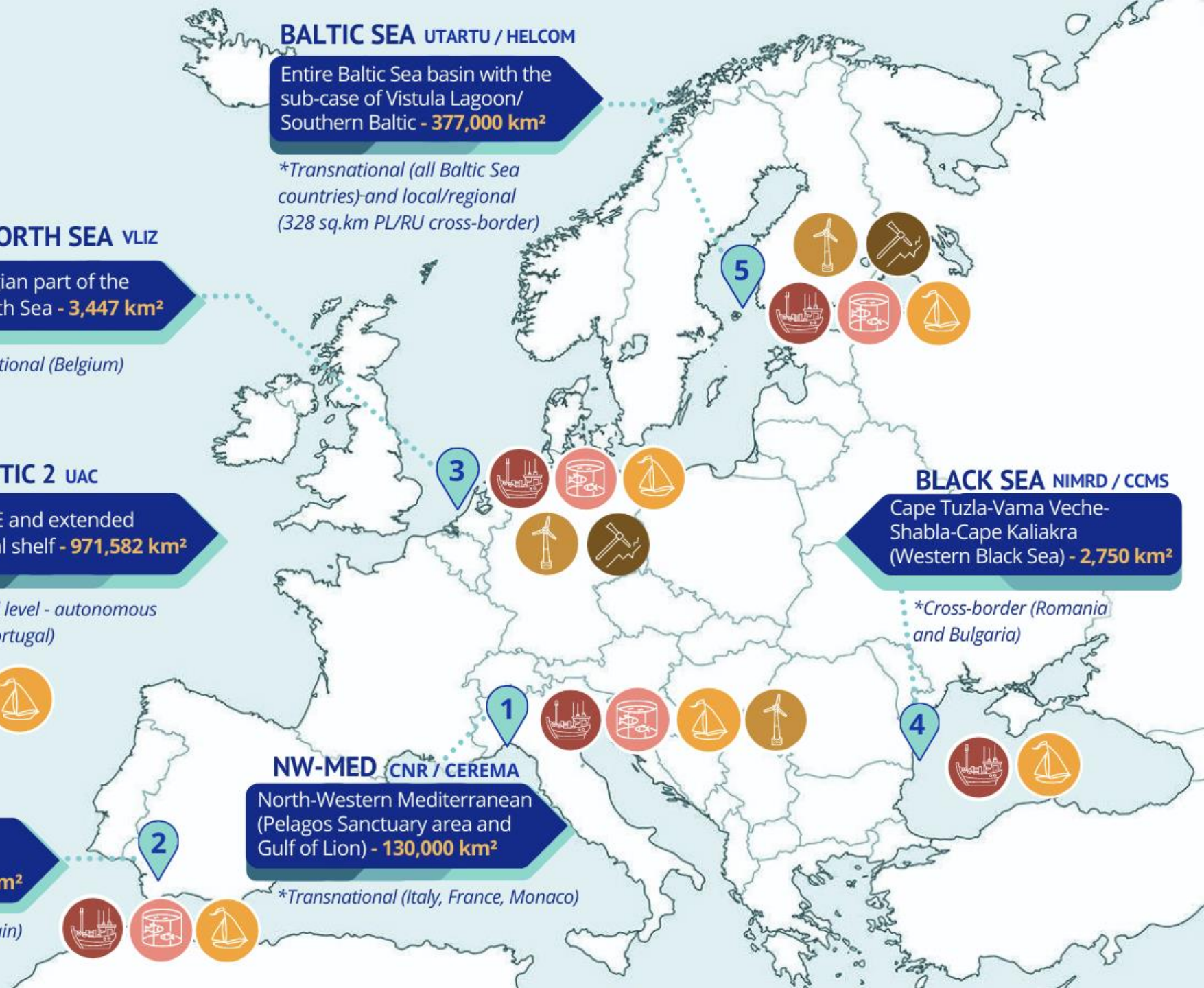
Cape Tuzla-Vama Veche-Shabla-Cape Kaliakra (Western Black Sea) - **2,750 km²**

*Cross-border (Romania and Bulgaria)

ATLANTIC 1 UCA

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

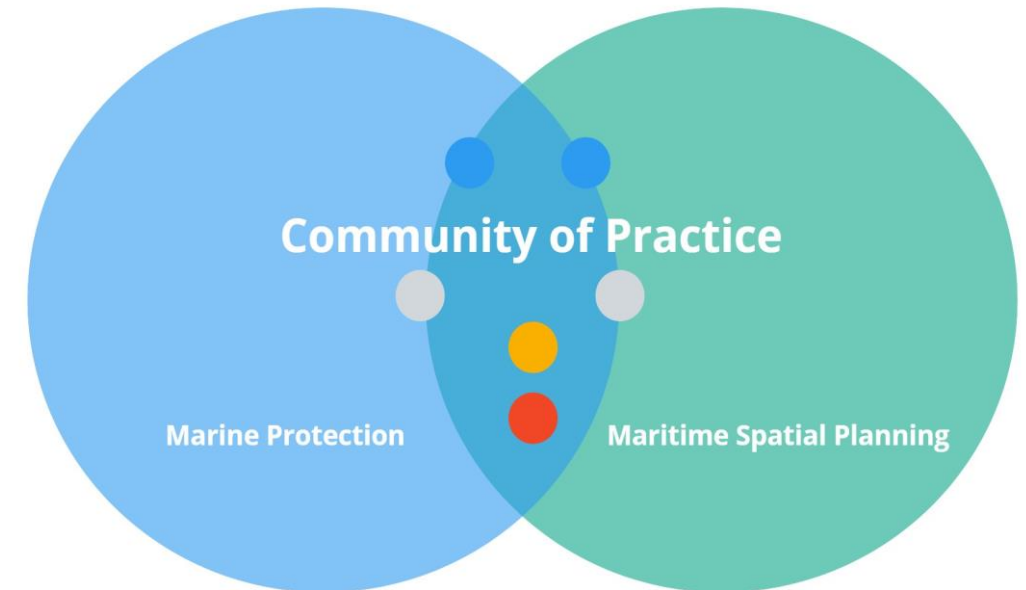
*Subnational/national (Spain)



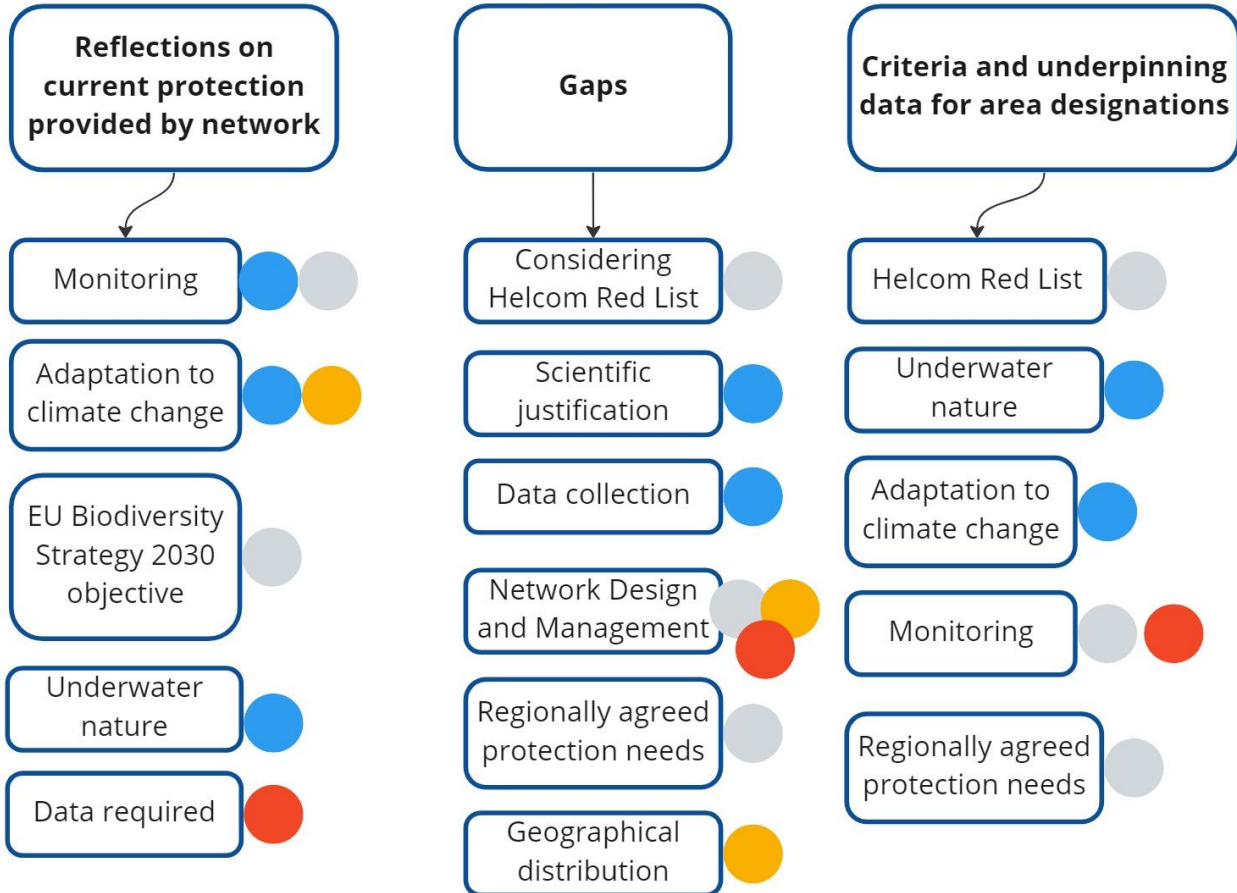
Latest developments

- **Interviews with CoP members**

- Good MPA practices – measure analysis
- Policy coherence analysis - interviews and policy document analysis
- Think tank on policy coherence (online)
- Data availability for the Baltic Sea test site
- Workshop on MSP and ecosystem-based management with eMSP project in June 13-15, in Helsinki
- Coordination with Sister Projects (eMSP, MarinePlan, BLUE4ALL etc.)



1. Current status of MPA network



Criteria used for identification of existing MPAs:

- Biological diversity and endangered species/habitats
- Network coherence and connection with other MPAs
- Ecological and biological importance of the area
- Social-economic considerations
- Range of species and habitats
- Data/information driven approach
- Biodiversity, ecosystem function and resilience
- Societal needs
- Nature conservation goals
- Current occurrence
- Conservation status
- Biological value

Consideration of social and economic criteria:

Estonia: Site-specific data, EU directives, lack of clear scientific rationale, consideration of traditional fishery areas, shipping routes/ports, marine wind parks, and military areas.

Finland: Lack of information on marine habitats and species, need for improvement in coherence, need for including social and economic aspects in the designation process to improve conservation effort.

Latvia: Considering social and economic interests, consultation with society, considering ports in designation of MPAs.

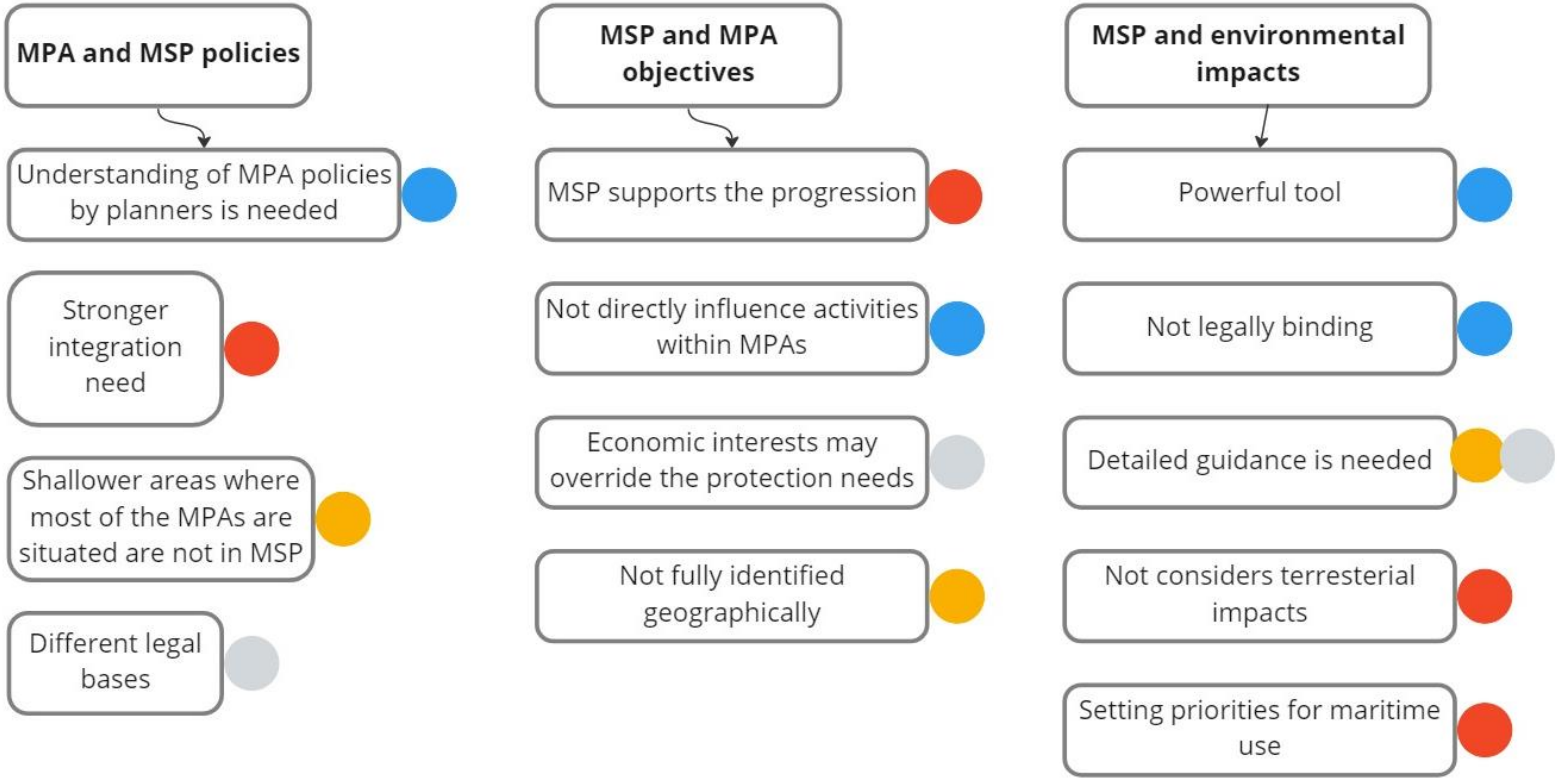
Sweden: Need for strategic location of MPAs, need for inclusive governance structure, need for evidence-based decision making, development of a dashboard to make data clear and transparent.

The current management practices have **gaps** in terms of restrictions on human activities, insufficient control and assessment, and lack of resources and implementation. This results in a lack of enforcement, tracking, and adaptation to changing conditions.

In the Baltic Sea, most areas were designated **before the consideration of connectivity** became more commonplace, and many countries still do not incorporate connectivity in the planning process.



2. The coherence between MPAs/OECMs and the (transboundary) MSP process as well as related governance such as MSFD



MSFD or WFD implementation is effective

The MPAs are integrated into the MSP process in all countries

MSP has so far not been used as an explicit tool to promote restoration of ecosystems.

Baltic Sea countries have MPAs and MSPs that are partly coherent with neighboring countries





Proposed solutions:

1. Aligning maritime uses within MPA limits with MPA conservation objectives
2. Balancing economic interests with nature protection
3. Improving the adaptive management approach
4. Understanding and managing multiple pressures and impacts on MPAs.

3. The integration of social and economic aspects with MPAs

Management issues and gaps

Identification and understanding of multiple pressures and impacts
 Communication with stakeholders
 Co-existence between maritime activities and conservation
 Safeguarding traditional uses of the area by the local population

Better understanding of the positive impact of sea-based windmills on the marine environment and biodiversity

Co-existence between conservation and maritime activities
 Understanding of multiple pressures and impacts.

Co-existence between different activities
 Awareness raising on marine ecosystem functioning and interlinkages between pressures-state-impacts
 Explanation of positive sides of MPAs and nature protection to other marine users



4. The (re)building of stakeholder confidence in the MPA/MSP implementation

Stakeholder involvement and participation

hearing with relevant stakeholders



the MPA framework



Collaboration and coordination between relevant actors

public meetings, bilateral consultations, online information, surveys, questionnaires



Methods for involving relevant actors

Marine Spatial Planning Working Group



Integration of sectoral policy objectives

Coastal Cooperation and Coordination Group



Multi-level Governance Agenda



The biggest challenges in participation include **inaccessibility** and **fragmentation** of the area, difficulty in **reaching all key stakeholders**, and **limited resources and time pressures**.

There is a need for a more **transparent** and **results-based evaluation** of the functionality of MPAs and effective management.



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Gaps in Current Practice of Stakeholder Engagement:

Insufficient time for preparation of management plans: This results in delays beyond the planned timetable and makes it difficult to involve and inform stakeholders.

Proposed solution: Adopt a project-based approach to keep work on schedule and relieve experts of other responsibilities.

Seasonal nature of work: Tourists and recreational users are usually available in the summer while locals and tourism operators are busy with other work, making it difficult to involve all stakeholders.

Proposed solution: Develop a more comprehensive approach to participation that takes the seasonal nature of work into account.

Irregular communication on MSP issues: Stakeholders may not be well informed about MSP issues, leading to a lack of involvement in the planning process.

Proposed solution: Improve communication and transparency, and involve stakeholders more effectively in the planning process.

Conflicting interests among stakeholders: Stakeholders may have differing interests that make it difficult to find a proper solution.

Proposed solution: Increase public explanations and public hearings, and use new effective methods to involve stakeholders more effectively in the planning process.

Political decisions or unwillingness: Political decisions or unwillingness may become a roadblock in the engagement process.

Proposed solution: Foster open communication and transparency, and involve stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Lack of feedback: Feedback from stakeholders is important to ensure the engagement process is effective.

Proposed solution: Encourage stakeholders to provide feedback and take this feedback into account when making decisions.

Acceptance for MPAs on a regional level: Stakeholder engagement and acceptance for MPAs may be limited to a regional level.

Proposed solution: Improve communication, provide transparency, and showcase good examples and results to increase acceptance of MPAs.





Thank you

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