Coastal management tools and instruments, databases

Coherence And Efficiency Of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas

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Over the past 20 years, progress has been made to advance marine conservation in the Mediterranean. MPAs have been developed to better manage either natural resources or activities that jeopardize their sustainability. International, European, Mediterranean and National agreements and laws are now in place to protect our biodiversity and ecosystems and to create Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Businesses from many sectors are demonstrating environmental and social responsibility. There is a greater understanding of the economic benefits from MPAs. However, despite the efforts deployed, the Mediterranean network of MPAs is still suffering significant weaknesses: it is not based on ecological representativeness and connectivity, it lacks effective and integrated management of the coastal zone and sustainable financing as well as effective coordination among its stakeholders. Prospects of achieving Convention on Biological Diversity targets of effective protection of at least 10% of the Mediterranean ecological region, as well as considerable improvements in management effectiveness over the next years will be possible only if there is renewed, stronger and consistent commitment to such a strategy by riparian nations, NGOs, institutional and scientific institutions, MPA managers and the private sector. Since 1990, the MedPAN network has demonstrated its efficiency to facilitate exchanges between Mediterranean MPAs managers and other stakeholders to improve their management efficiency, between scientists and managers to improve science-based management and finally to bridge the gap between decision makers and managers in the field. MedPAN has co-organized the 2012 MPA Forum that came out with a 2020 roadmap to improve marine conservation and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. MedPAN has also produced a Mediterranean Status of MPAs and has developed a 2013-2017 Strategy. MedPAN is also developing a regional project to make some MPAs becoming models and laboratories of ICZM and to establish some long-term financing mechanisms for MPA management and networking of MPAs.