



**THE
MED
FUND**



The Environmental Fund
for Mediterranean Marine
Protected Areas





The Mediterranean sea is often seen as a frontier. A frontier between continents, religions, civilizations, economic and social situations. Far from being an impassable frontier, the sea reveals our common environmental challenges and our collective responsibilities. It reveals what would otherwise remain abstract or uncertain: the fact that we share the same Planet, that we must protect it together, and that we must unite to do so.

We know that marine protected areas are among the most effective tools to protect marine ecosystems. These areas preserve the most fragile ecosystems, restore fish stocks including in the surrounding areas, and develop new economic resources for coastal populations.

This is why it is essential to develop these marine protected areas in a rapid, significant and coordinated manner, as the scientists urge us to do. They agree in considering that it would be necessary to place at least 30% of the marine area of the Planet under protected status to effectively ensure the future of our oceans, with 10% of that area under high or even full protection. It is estimated that the proportion currently protected is around 7% - with large variations in the effectiveness of protection.

This is one of the reasons why, in 2015, we created - with Tunisia and France first, and with other countries and institutions that joined later - The MedFund, an innovative trust fund dedicated to the development of Mediterranean marine protected areas.

The sea, there too, favors fruitful alliances between those who usually struggle to work together such as fishermen with defenders of fish, or finance with science.

Our civilization was invented here, on these shores where so many cultures, religions, arts, techniques and businesses have met. It is here again that it must reinvent itself today.

For this, it is important to understand that the Mediterranean is not, as we sometimes believe, a space where distinct worlds meet, but a space where a single world is built, with of course contrasts and differences which are those of our time, and perhaps of all times.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco

Extracts from the opening address of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco - Forum Mondial de la Mer -
" La Méditerranée des projets, l'Europe de la mer " - Bizerte, September 24, 2021

THE MEDITERRANEAN, A SEA UNDER PRESSURE

The Mediterranean Sea is a precious natural space, which plays a fundamental role in the development of the territories bordering its shores. However, it is today faced with many challenges that compromise its balance and the quality of life of its populations: climate change, demographic pressure, pollution and the excessive use of its natural resources.

Global marine biodiversity hotspot

The Mediterranean is bordered by 21 countries and constitutes a large marine ecosystem whose health depends on the cooperation of all countries.

It represents a vital refuge and reproduction area for many emblematic species. Some of them, such as the monk seal, the mobula ray or the brown grouper, are seriously threatened.

+1%

of the global ocean surface

+10%

marine species known to the world

+17 000

marine species⁽¹⁾

One of the most sensitive seas to climate change

The coastal areas of many territories are already affected by extreme climate events, rising sea levels or biological invasions. Rising temperatures particularly threaten biodiversity and the living spaces of neighboring populations.

The Mediterranean is heating up

20 %

faster than the world average⁽²⁾

An increasing demographic and economic concentration

The traditional sectors of the maritime economy, fisheries, transport, tourism, aquaculture, continue to grow and generate significant pressures on the natural resources and marine and coastal ecosystems of the Mediterranean. In 2030, 550 million inhabitants will be living around the Mediterranean basin⁽³⁾.

7%

of the world's population

1/3

of global maritime traffic

1st

tourist destination in the world
and 30 % of global tourism

85% of fish stocks overfished

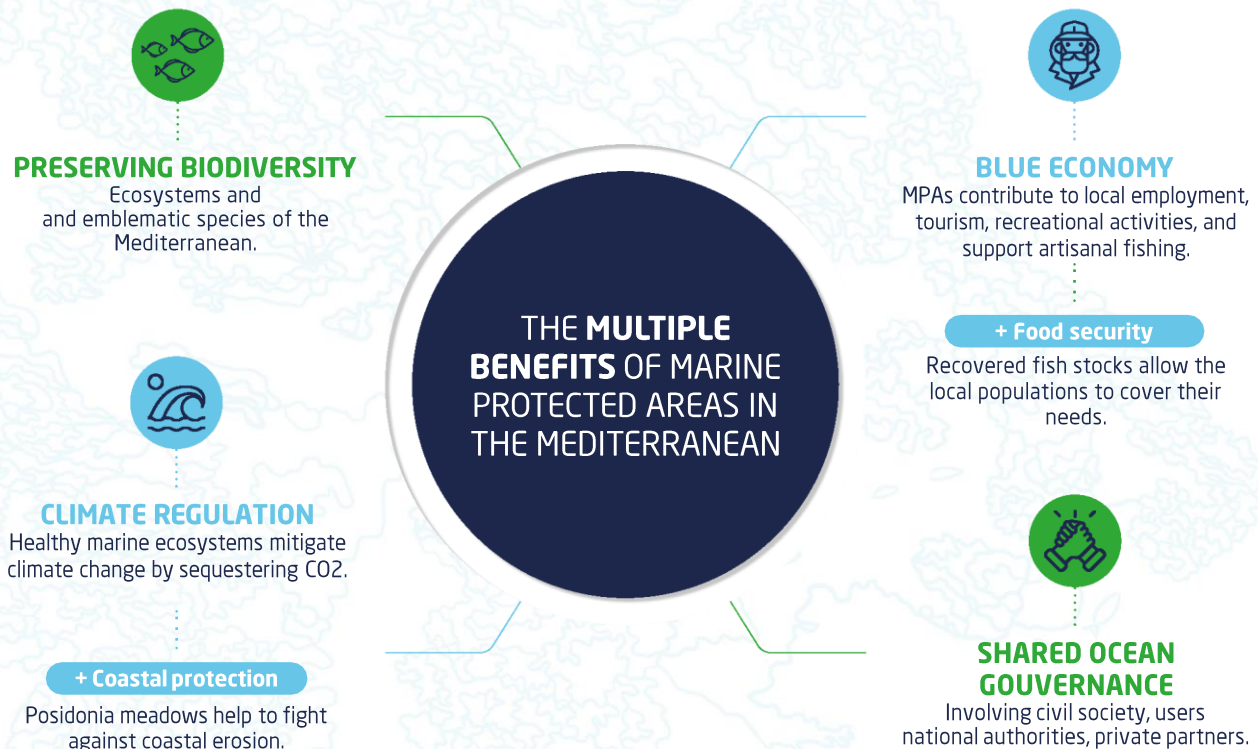


MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Recognized as efficient tools for protecting ecosystems, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are marine and coastal areas that are delimited and managed with the aim of conserving biodiversity. Creating a balance between biodiversity conservation and sustainable human activities, Mediterranean MPAs restore the resources needed for the economic and social development of neighboring populations.

In some MPAs, the establishment of highly protected areas with no fishing activity, accelerates the restoration of ecosystems and fishery resources.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS : BRING HEALTH, PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE TO OUR ECOSYSTEMS



**When efficiently managed,
MPAs are valuable assets whose
benefits are shared equitably.**



© Flag Pine, Karaburun Sazan MPA

AN ALARMING SITUATION

At a time when some countries are committed to protecting 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030, MPAs represent about 7% to 8%* of the Mediterranean and still too few of them are managed effectively.

Without sustainable and dedicated management resources, many Mediterranean MPAs are only “paper MPAs” and do not protect marine biodiversity.

* Source MAPAMED 2019

The first step in the process is the designation as MPA. The real challenge lies in a long-term management of MPAs to preserve marine ecosystems.

Today, we have ten years to build a new future for the Mediterranean. Let's invest together in marine conservation.

THE MEDFUND

STABLE AND LONG-TERM FINANCING OF MPAs

The MedFund is an environmental trust fund based in Monaco, specifically dedicated to the financing of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.

Established in 2015 by France, Tunisia and Monaco with the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, this initiative embodies the commitment of several Mediterranean States and international environmental organizations convinced that the future of the Mediterranean and its populations require immediate action.



Our vision

Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems that are preserved, resilient, sustainably managed with and for the benefit of society

The management of natural resources requires close collaboration between national authorities and civil society.

Our mission

Sustainable financing of the effective management of Mediterranean MPAs

The MedFund relies on public and private actors to mobilize additional funding. It finances the operational costs of MPAs over the long term and supports the capacity building of organizations involved in the management of these MPAs.

Our values

- Respect for the sovereignty of each country
- Dialogue and participation
- Sustainability of actions
- Integrity and transparency

The MedFund is a non-profit organization under Monegasque private law, registered on March 4, 2015.

Its Board of Directors consists of States, international organizations and NGOs.

Its governance is supported by advisory bodies: the investment committee and the grant awarding committee, as well as adhoc technical committees.

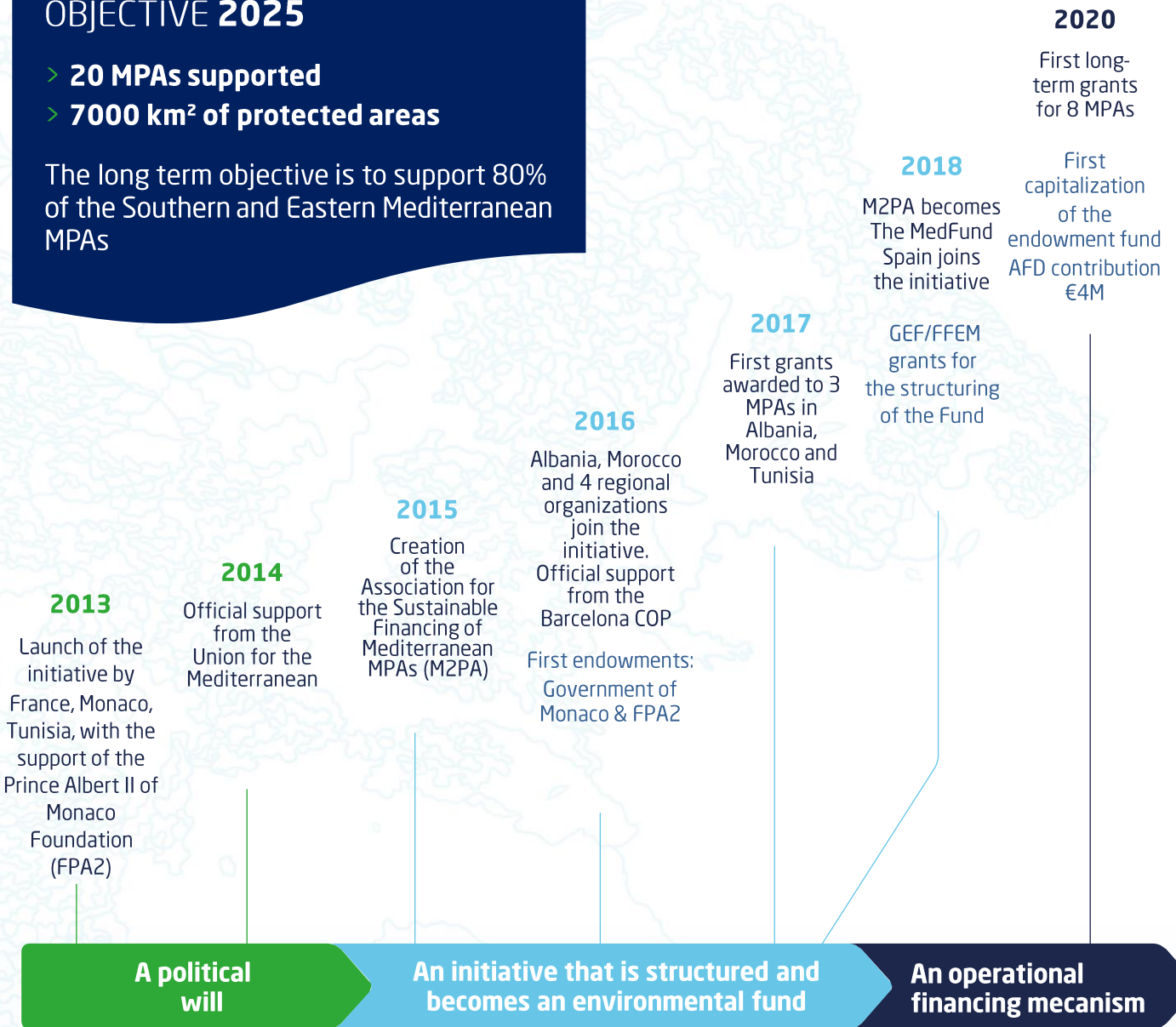
The executive management, based in Monaco, monitors and implements the Fund's actions, in accordance with the strategic action plan.

THE MEDFUND CONTRIBUTES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS
 Barcelona Convention | Convention on Biological Diversity | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | 2030 Sustainable Development Goals durable 2030

OBJECTIVE 2025

- > 20 MPAs supported
- > 7000 km² of protected areas

The long term objective is to support 80% of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean MPAs



AT THE CORE OF MPAs' ACTIVITIES PROTECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN

The MedFund finances the organizations in charge of the management of marine protected areas (local NGOs, national agencies) and supports the implementation of concrete activities that are essential to the management of these natural spaces, such as:

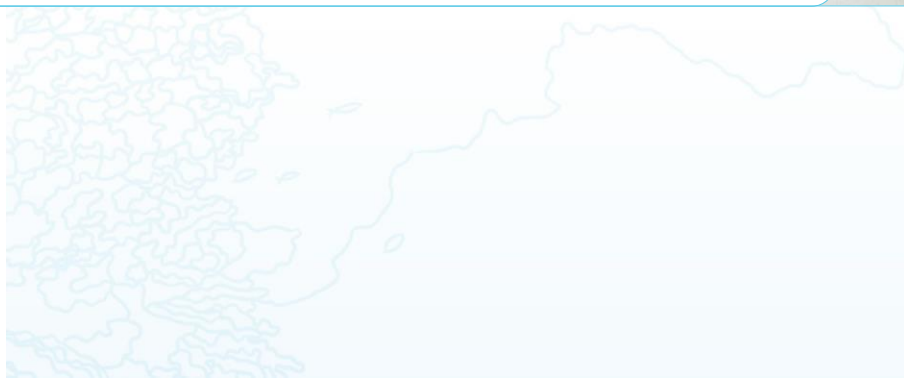
- **The implementation of management plans**, documents defining for each MPA a precise framework of intervention;
- **A shared governance** that actively and regularly engages the authorities, economic actors, civil society and local communities;
- **Qualified human resources in the field**: The MedFund supports the men and women who work in MPAs and encourages the training and capacity of teams;
- **Appropriate equipment**, well-maintained and secure, necessary for the work of the teams;
- **High-quality scientific monitoring** that allows managers to assess the state of health of ecosystems, to take relevant decisions according to the local context, to evaluate their effectiveness and promote their results;
- **A high level of surveillance** that guarantees the application of regulations ensuring the conservation of the marine environment;
- **Environmental education and awareness on sustainable activities** that contribute to the development of local initiatives with high added value: ecotourism, sustainable fisheries.



MPAs and women

The MedFund ensures that the benefits and opportunities related to the management of MPAs are equitably distributed between men and women. We support the participation and leadership of women in conservation and management activities of marine areas and within decision-making bodies.

© Klajdi Kucaj, Karaburun Sazan MPA





1ST MPAs SUPPORTED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Each year The MedFund issues a call for interest to support MPAs.

The eligible countries for the 2020-2025 period are: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Greece and Croatia.



Applicant MPAs must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- > Be an officially created MPA or in the process of being created
- > Have an updated management plan or a management guidance document
- > Identify one or more dedicated management bodies (local NGOs, associations, public institutions, national agencies, etc.)
- > Involve local partners and civil society in the management of the MPA

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND?

The MedFund is an innovative financial instrument designed to support over the long term the actions that are fundamental to the management of MPAs.



This trust fund is based on three complementary financing mechanisms:



ENDOWMENT FUND

The capital is preserved. The interest generated every year is used to support MPAs



SINKING FUND

Every year, the interest generated and part of the capital are used to support MPAs



REVOLVING FUND

Regular income is generated from private donations, particularly from a network of partner aquariums and zoos that dedicate a percentage of their admissions to The MedFund.

These funds are used up as they come in to support MPAs.

Geographic or thematic financing windows complement these intervention mechanisms.

The MedFund manages the combination of these funds according to the expectations of the various donors. It thus develops an innovative solution to ensure the management of the Fund and to finance the Mediterranean MPAs in the short, medium and long term.



© ACG, Kneiss MPA



A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICY

The investments made by The MedFund are ethical and transparent. They take into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria and meet sustainable development objectives.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDS (CTF)

CTFs are private, legally independent institutions that provide sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation.

Without replacing the responsibilities of States, they ensure a steady influx of additional resources necessary for the successful implementation of management plans of conservation areas.

The MedFund is a member of the Conservation Finance Alliance network, which regularly publishes “practice standards” to disseminate best management practices for these CTFs.

The MedFund has embedded these international standards into its management processes.

CLIMATE : MPAs BETWEEN MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

As areas that are protected and representative of Mediterranean ecosystems, well-managed MPAs are sentinel sites that contribute to assess climate change and its impacts.

By maintaining functional ecosystems and the ecosystem services that we depend on, MPAs mitigate the consequences of climate change.

They support the adaptation of local communities, protect coasts and moderate the potential impacts of rising temperatures.

The MedFund provides enhanced support to MPAs to tackle climate change, and encourages:

- Embedding of climate issues into the management plan;
- Implementation of dedicated scientific monitoring and participation in international monitoring networks;
- Conservation of vulnerable species and key habitats for their role in fixing carbon, such as Posidonia meadows or Coralligenous;
- Management of invasive species;
- Training and raising awareness of local communities about the challenges of climate change.

Consequences of the climate change in MPAs

- Large-scale species mortality phenomena
- Proliferation of invasive species impacting tourism and fisheries
- Changes in species' breeding calendars and migration patterns
- Coastal erosion and sea level rise



© Flag Pine, Karaburun Sazan MPA

Karaburun Sazan (Albania) is a pilot area for the embedding of climate change into MPA management. Regular monitoring is carried out in accordance with international standards and the recommendations of the UNEP-Mediterranean Action Plan and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.



BLUE ECONOMY : SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Most of the activities developed in the coastal zone depend directly or indirectly on the environmental quality of marine and coastal areas. MPAs maintain and improve a wide range of ecosystem services and open up many prospects for sustainable development for neighboring areas.

Reviving small-scale fisheries

MPAs generate biological and ecological benefits both within and outside their boundaries. By involving professionals of the sea in the management, MPA managers support the transition towards sustainable fishing practices, and promote the development of short supply chains.

The efficient management of an MPA leads to the recovery of fishery resources and significantly increases the yields of small-scale fishermen in surrounding areas.

Development of responsible tourism

The unspoiled nature of the protected coastal areas and the exceptional biodiversity of the sites enhance the attractiveness of the territories.

Since they promote the development of environmentally friendly tourism and leisure activities, MPAs provide real development opportunities and direct benefits for local populations.



© Zafer Kızılkaya, Gökova MPA

In Turkey, in the Gökova Bay MPA, after five years of effective management based on strong collaboration between marine professionals and stakeholders, the results are there:



+ **27%**
Fish
population



+ **19%**
Brown grouper
population



+ **53%**
Income of fishermen
from the Akyaka fishing
cooperative

Source : Kızılkaya, Zafer & Ünal, Vahdet & Yildirim, Zeynep. (2013). Three years' experience with small-scale fishers and No-Take-Zones in Gökova Bay (Eastern Mediterranean), Turkey.



© Méditerranée Action Nature, La Galite MPA

CO-MANAGEMENT OF MPAs AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

By promoting consultation and collective engagement around MPAs, The MedFund supports the establishment of shared governance in favor of the natural marine areas of the countries in which it operates. Collaboration between national authorities and civil society builds resilience, responsiveness and dialogue, essential to the success of conservation projects.

Shared governance of the sea

People who live around a protected coastal area are the guardians of a natural, cultural and landscape heritage that has passed through generations.

Each marine protected area that receives support sets up a management committee to share decisions and involve all stakeholders in the protection of the site.



MEASURING THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS

The MedFund ensures continuous monitoring of its performance and of the effectiveness of activities funded using an assessment tool specifically developed for Mediterranean MPAs. This tool is built around 3 categories:

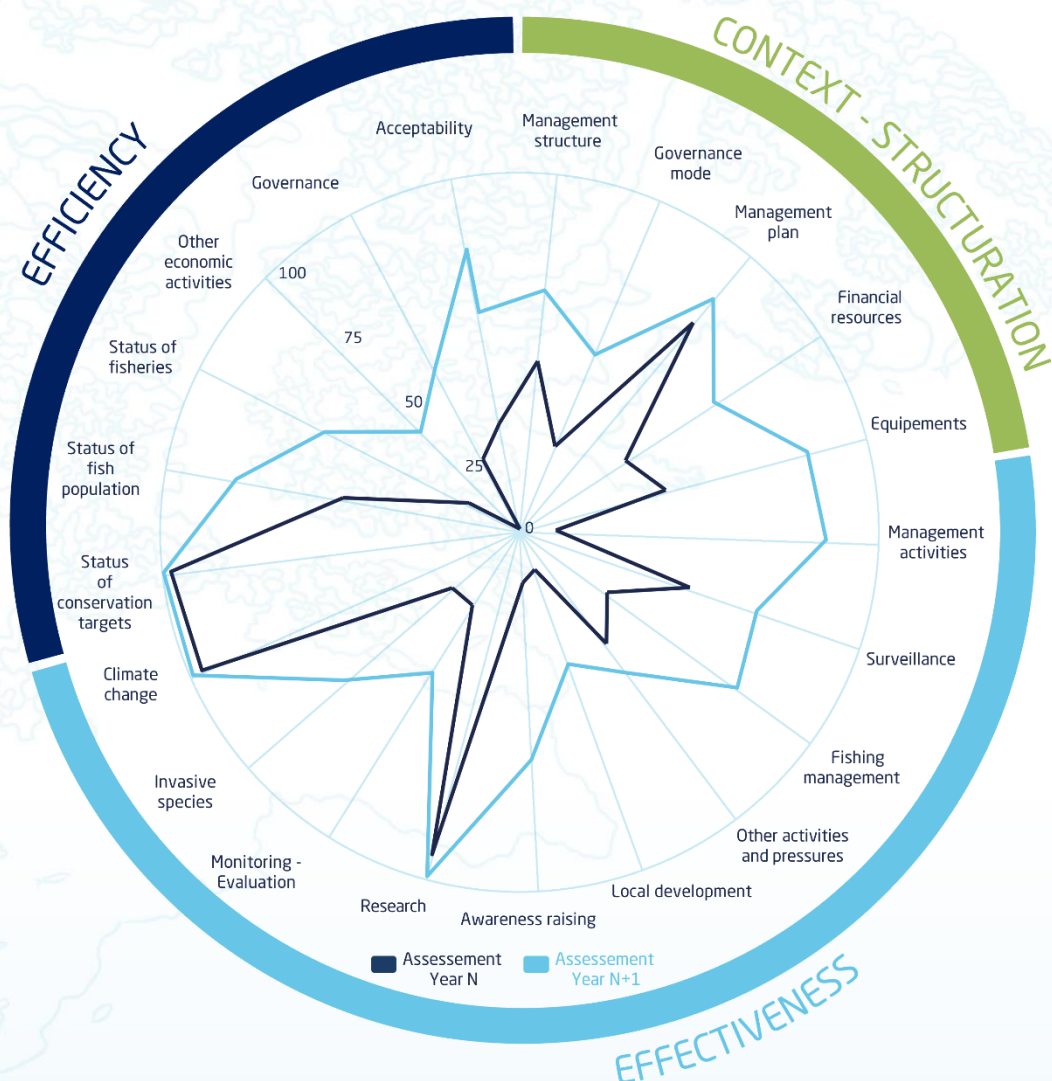
- **Context and structure of the MPA:** Are the structure and the governance in place? Is the management plan up-to-date? Does the MPA have the necessary financial resources and equipment?
- **Management effectiveness:** These indicators monitor annually the implementation of management activities such as surveillance, fisheries management, awareness raising, habitat conservation, scientific monitoring, etc.
- **Management efficiency:** These data enable the assessment of the impact of the management on the marine environment, the evolution of conservation targets, fishery resources, as well as the socio-economic benefits and the acceptability by local populations.

For each MPA

Three conservation targets are selected - it could be emblematic species or habitats that are under pressure in the MPA. They will be the subject of special long-term monitoring. An initial baseline is established and scientific indicators are monitored over time.

The assessment is completed online via a set of indicators that attributes a score of 0 to 100% for each category of the tool.

This allows MPAs to identify areas for improvement and adapt their management activities.



THE MEDFUND :

A FUNDING MECHANISM DEDICATED TO MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



MEMBER COUNTRIES



FINANCIAL PARTNERS



The MedFund is labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean



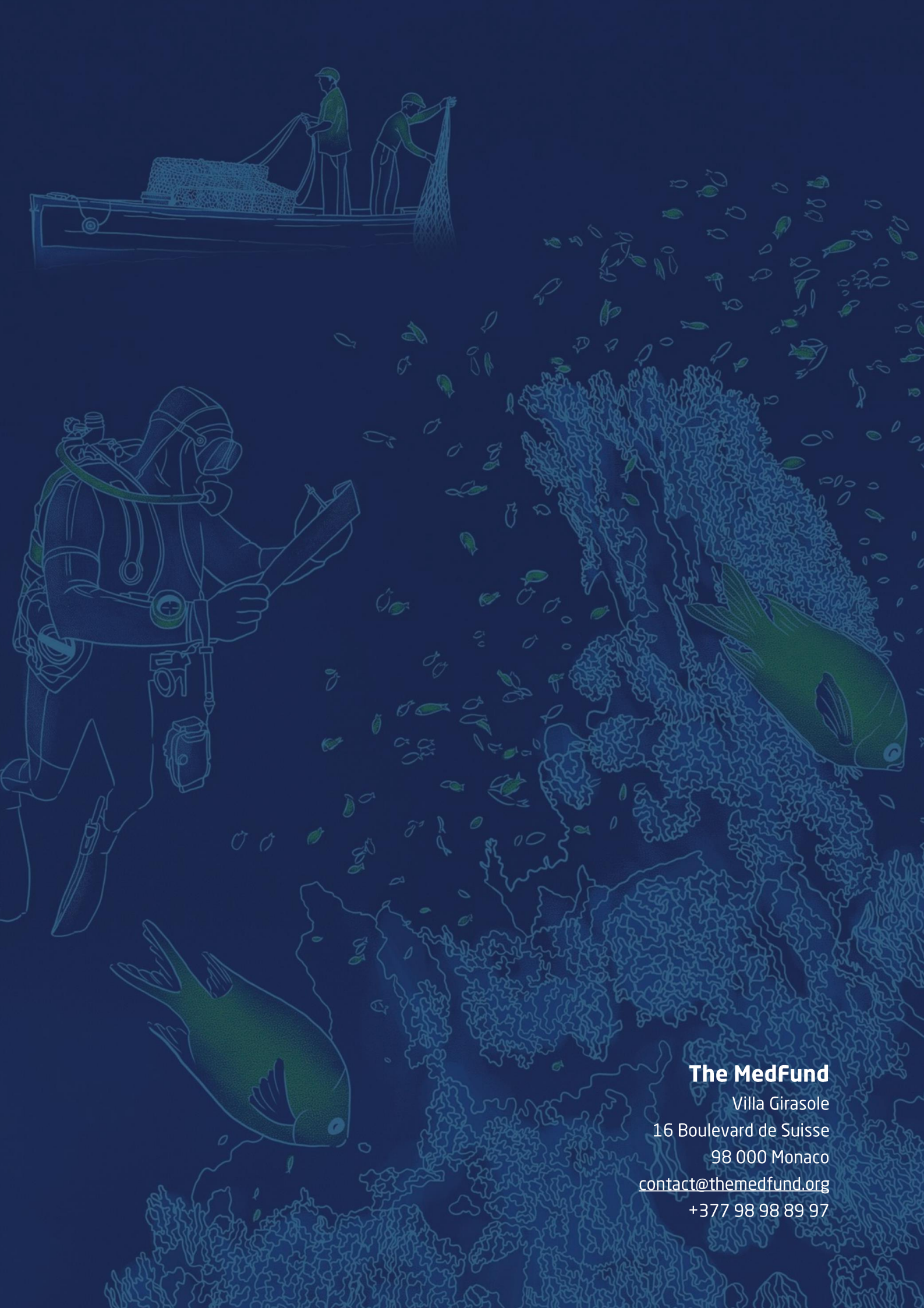
The MedFund is a member of the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment



The actions we take today define the future of the Mediterranean.

**Take part in building a new sustainable future,
contribute to the environmental fund The MedFund.**

themedfund.org



The MedFund

Villa Girasole

16 Boulevard de Suisse

98 000 Monaco

contact@themedfund.org

+377 98 98 89 97