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Foreword



The Mediterranean is one of the most fascinating biomes on the planet thanks to the thousands of species it is home to, many of which have yet to be discovered. This unique area is at the centre of our concerns and deserves the full attention of political, institutional, associative, professional, and scientific actors. Together, we must ensure its protection against all types of impacts likely to harm its resilience and that of the populations who have lived on its coasts for centuries.

This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the initiative to create a financing and cooperation tool aimed at supporting the preservation of Mediterranean ecosystems. This initiative was launched by France, Monaco and Tunisia, with support from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, during the 3rd World Congress of Marine Protected Areas (IMPAC3) in 2013. Since then, the initiative has evolved into a fully operational environmental fund known as *The MedFund*, supporting the effectiveness and good governance of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean. The preservation of MPAs is vital for maintaining the environmental services provided by these ecosystems.

In December 2022 in Montreal, at the conclusion of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, 188 countries endorsed a new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and committed to protecting 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030. *The MedFund* is dedicated to assisting Mediterranean countries in implementing this new framework.

To date, *The MedFund* supports around fifteen MPAs in 7 Mediterranean countries, contributing to the preservation of more than 6 400 km2 of coastal and marine areas, with a financial commitment of more than 4.6 million euros intended to be disbursed over the next 5 years. The Fund builds upon these promising achievements and the commitment and shared efforts of all stakeholders towards a vision of preserving our common heritage – this Mare Nostrum which is not only a natural but also and mainly a cultural and civilizational legacy. *The Medfund* thus aspires to contribute to consolidating the foundations of sustainable development for current and future generations.

Ms. Leïla Chikhaoui-Mahdaoui

President of the MedFund Minister of the Environment of Tunisia







Protecting the Mediterranean – what an ambition! And what complexity...

It would be presumptuous to think that we alone could slow down the erosion of its biodiversity or restore its marine ecosystems and fisheries resources.

To address this challenge, our approach is to build innovative and sustainable alliances.

Alliances between the the shores of Mediterranean, alliances between national authorities and civil societies, alliances between scientists and managers of marine protected areas, alliances between the world of finance and the world of science, alliances between public, philanthropic and private donors, and finally alliances between women and men of good will eager to bring their expertise and their energies to build a preserved and resilient Mediterranean.

This annual report attests to their commitments and the dynamics set in motion.

Thank you for standing by our side.

Mr. Romain Renoux

Executive Director of The MedFund



2022 - MORE EFFECTIVE MPAS

In 2022, The MedFund committed approximately 650 000 euros to support 10 marine protected areas. In each of these MPAs, the teams implement management plans on the ground, organize governance, surveillance, scientific monitoring and awareness-raising about the marine environment. Below are some "flagship" actions carried out over the past year.



TÜRKIYE / GOKOVA

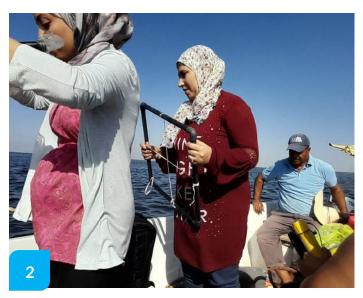
Co-management: Ministry of environment – Mediterranean Conservation Society (MCS)

A lionfish on your plate?

The eastern part of the Mediterranean is particularly affected by climate change and the increasing number of invasive species. In some areas of Turkey, these species now represent 80% of fishers' catches. In the Gokova MPA, an interesting initiative has been launched to turn this trend into an economic opportunity while helping to relieve disturbed ecosystems.

When fishers catch invasive species such as lionfish or rabbitfish, the MCS association, co-manager of the site, offers to buy these catches at fixed price and takes care of their marketing to partner restaurants.

A network of hotels was mobilized to develop tasty recipes and put these little-known species on their menus, thus contributing to the protection of marine ecosystems.



TUNISIA / KNEISS

Co-management: Coastal Protection and Management Agency (APAL) - Association Continuité des Générations (ACG)

From clams to razor clams

Shore fishing is a subsistence activity carried out mainly by women from local communities in the Gulf of Gabès. Despite its essential role in the local economic context, its development has not been without impact on the biodiversity of the site.

Today, in order to restore declining clam populations, the management team of the Kneiss MPA is developing a project to shift the focus of fishing towards razor clams, a less vulnerable species.

The ACG association, as a co-manager, has supported the promotion of razor clams through culinary workshops and the adaptation of the legal framework for their marketing.

At the same time, women fishers are involved in scientific monitoring of clams to estimate stocks, thus contributing to the preservation of coastal biodiversity.



TUNISIA / ZEMBRA

Co-management: Coastal Protection and Management

Agency (APAL) - ASPEN

Posidonia in good hands

The management team of the marine and coastal protected area has received training in the scientific monitoring of Posidonia at the Zembra site. With the support of an expert, the team collected samples and density data, and installed tags to monitor the upper limit of the seagrass. Indicators are in place for optimal monitoring of these seagrass beds. The MedFund finances the monitoring of the state of health of Posidonia meadows, which are precious ecosystems in the Mediterranean.



TUNISIA / LA GALITE

Co-management: Coastal Protection and Management

Agency (APAL) - Mediterranée Action Nature

Rising from the ashes

Following the wildfire that devastated part of the Galite island in October 2021, the management team carried out various post-fire management missions: assessing the impacts on fauna and flora, removing invasive Aleppo pines that were growing in open areas, restructuring trails and setting up of a nursery to initiate the restoration of the site.

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TUNISIA / KURIAT

Co-management: Coastal Protection and Management
Agency (APAL) - Notre Grand Bleu

Volunteer power

Once again, this year, the managers of the Kuriat Islands carried out scientific monitoring of sea turtle nesting in a participatory manner, with the support of several dozen volunteers who took turns night and day for several weeks to protect, accompany and count turtle hatchings. Since 2015, the number of nesting sites has been steadily increasing.







MOROCCO / AL HOCEIMA

Co-management: Department of Water and Forests – Association AGIR

Marine monitoring protocols in place

In 2022, the Al Hoceima MPA adopted long-term monitoring protocols for seagrass beds that serve as indicators of the health of both the environment and the octopus populations, highly valued by fishers. Monitoring will be carried out annually in partnership with the University of Al Hoceima and the Marine Observatory in order to monitor and assess the MPA's effectiveness.

MOROCCO / JBEL MOUSSA

Co-management: Department of Water and Forests – Association GREPOM

Raising awareness among local communities

In the marine protected area of Jbel Moussa, significant efforts were made to engage stakeholders in eliminating waste and reduce pollution from anthropogenic sources. Residents, local associations and businesses were sensitized to the importance of preserving the sites. This has produced visible results in the first year in terms of cleaner beaches and seabed.



ALBANIA / KARABURUN SAZAN

Co-management: RAPA - Association FlagPine

A year of awareness

In 2022, the Karaburun Sazan MPA teams raised awareness among 410 young people from 7 different schools in the Vlore region. A total of 23 workshops were organized on topics such as marine biodiversity, scientific monitoring of heritage species and the threats and pollution affecting the marine environment. The protection of the marine environment is everyone's responsibility.

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Guided by science and encouraged by the commitments of several countries to increase the number of highly protected MPAs in the Mediterranean, the MedFund Board of Directors decided in July 2021 – in line with the Fund's institutional strategy – to create a new window dedicated to MPAs with a high level of protection called the **Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative**.

The MAVA Foundation, which has been committed to the protection of nature in the Mediterranean for many years, has decided to support this initiative with 2 million Swiss francs (1.8 M€), thus becoming the first financial partner to join this window.

In 2021, The MedFund launched the first call for interest dedicated to highly protected MPAs for priority countries designated in its strategy, namely Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia and Türkiye.

Following this first call for interest, 6 applications from MPAs were received and evaluated by the Grant Award Committee. The Board of Directors, held in July 2022, decided to select the two strongest applications for this first call.

A second call for interest will be launched in 2023.





HIGH PROTECTION WINDOW

The MPAs selected for this thematic window for the period 2023-2027 are:

- Telascica MPA in Croatia
- Datça Bozburun MPA in Türkiye
- + 620 000 € were committed for these two MPAs over 5 years



TELASCICA MPA-CROATIA

Co-management: Telascica Nature Park - WWF Adria

The Telascica MPA contains Croatia's first notake zone, established through a participatory experience with fishers from local communities. The implementation and effective management of this no-take zone will make it possible to observe the ecological and socio-economic benefits of strong protection in the marine protected area. This 1.6 km² area will undergo consideration for a potential expansion to improve its efficiency.





For a more effective management of MPAs, The MedFund promotes the alliance between national authorities and civil society.

Depending on the country, the implementation of co-management differs, but in general, national authorities are responsible for establishing and implementing national policies and regulations. On the other hand, NGOs provide additional human and technical resources to promote a greater presence in the field, more flexibility and responsiveness in management actions, and better acceptance of the regulations by local communities.

The MedFund encourages this co-management approach, which allows many Mediterranean countries to address conservation challenges in an appropriate manner and thus ensures the management effectiveness of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean

In 2022 The MedFund supported

9 NGOs

that are co-managers and collaborate with national authorities to implement national MPA management strategies.



RESOURCE MOBILISATION

THE MEDFUND IS SUPPORTED BY AN ALLIANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DONORS



The MedFund continues to implement its resource mobilization strategy, aiming to achieve its goal of supporting around twenty MPAs by 2025.

NEW PARTERSHIP WITH AN AQUARIUM:

During the Monaco Ocean Week 2022, The MedFund signed a **5-year** partnership agreement with the Seaquarium Institut Marin. Seaquarium commits to donating a portion $(0.04 \, \text{€})$ of the entry ticket price from each visitor to the Fund in support of the Mediterranean marine protected areas. This financial support is estimated to be between $60\,000$ and $75\,000\,\text{€}$ over 5 years.



NEW CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FRENCH FACILITY FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT:

The French facility for global environment has provided 1 M€ distributed between the endowment fund and the sinking fund over 5 years.



A NEW GEF FUNDING "BUILD BACK A BLUE AND STRONGER

MEDITERRANEAN"







The MedFund and MedPAN, the network of Mediterranean MPA managers, will work jointly with Conservation International as part of a project funded by GEF, "Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean". The project aims to provide comprehensive and integrated support to 20 MPAs in 6 Mediterranean countries.

By enhancing the effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs, this project will significantly boost the efforts to restore and preserve fisheries resources and support the resilience of marine ecosystems for the benefit of local communities.

The funding agreement between The MedFund and the implementing agency CI-GEF was officially signed on September 2, 2022, for a total amount of approximately 4 million dollars and a duration of 5 years from September 2022 to August 2027.



Project Objective | To achieve strong, effective, and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs to address global changes and provide long-term socioecological benefits in the Mediterranean in the context of post-COVID recovery.



Beneficiary Countries | Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro and Tunisia



Indicative Budget | 5,450 M\$ financed by the GEF Area of intervention: International Waters



Project Duration 60 months

In April 2022, the MedFund launched a call for interest to the partner countries of this GEF project: Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro and Tunisia.

During the Board of Directors meeting in July 2022, 5 new MPAs were preselected as part of this project.

TUNISIA **KERKENNAH**

Co-manager **KRATEN APAL**

MONTENEGRO KATI

Co-manager Public entreprise for coastal zone management of Montenegro

MONTENEGRO PLATAMUNI

Co-manager Public entreprise for coastal zone management of Montenegro

MOROCCO CAP DES TROIS FOURCHES

Co-manager Association Marchica Dept. of Water and forests

LEBANON PALM ISLAND

Co-manager IndyAct **APAC**



In 2022, The MedFund participated in numerous international events to promote the establishment and management of MPAs in the Mediterranean.























HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Parallel to the Board of Directors held on October 17, 2022 in Tunis, the executive management of The MedFund organized a working session with the Tunisian NGOs that are beneficiaries of the Fund, as well as a time for discussion with the administrators. The executive management also visited the Kuriat Islands, an MPA supported by The MedFund, with the co-managers of the site, Notre Grand Bleu and APAL.





Working session with Tunisian beneficiaries of the Fund and Field visit - Kuriat Island MPA, October 18, 2022 the Board of Directors - Tunis, October 17, 2022



Working session with Tunisian beneficiaries of the Fund -Tunis, October 17, 2022



Working session with the NGO Notre Grand Bleu - Monastir, October 18, 2022.

During the Regional Workshop of Mediterranean MPAs organized by MedPAN, The MedFund held the official launch meeting of the joint MedFund/MedPAN project "Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean" on October 28, 2022 in Montenegro, in the presence of the donor Conservation International.







In July 2022, 4 M€ were capitalized by the portfolio manager in accordance with the responsible investment policy adopted by The MedFund.



Financial Performance

Every three months, The MedFund's Investment Committee meets to monitor the financial and non-financial performance of the portfolio. As of December 31, 2022, the portfolio's performance stands at -3% in a highly volatile market and in an international context of war in Ukraine and inflation. In such a context, sustainable investments experience a performance lag compared to conventional investments.



The investment process systematically integrates analyses of companies' environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects.

The MedFund invests in the best performing companies from an ESG perspective.



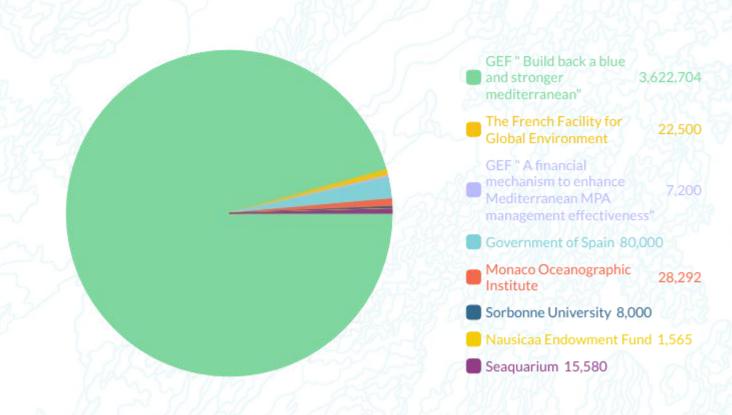
The members of the Board of Directors and executive management were trained on sustainable finance issues by Anne Catherine Husson Traoré, CEO of Novethic (subsidiary of the Caisse des Dépôts Group) and member of the MedFund Investment Committee.



The 2022 financial statement of The MedFund shows assets of 10 011 067 € and a surplus of 2 566 148 € in the income statement.

This substantial surplus is linked to the payment of the GEF subsidy.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN 2022 (EURO)



SUPPORT FOR MEDITERRANEAN MPAS

COUNTRY	MPA- BENEFICIARIES	Cumulative amount paid as of 31/12/2022	Remaining amount to be paid	Total amount
ALBANIA	KARABURUN SAZAN MPA - NAPA / FLAG PINE	175 117,00 €	116 162,00 €	291 279,00 €
TUNISIA	KURIAT ISLANDS MCPA- APAL / NGB	178 537,00 €	172 442,00 €	350 979,00 €
	ZEMBRA MCPA- APAL / ASPEN	98 096,00 €	231 557,00 €	329 653,00 €
	LA GALITE MCPA- APAL / MAN	121 035,00 €	251 350,00 €	372 385,00 €
	KNEISS ISLANDS MCPA- APAL / ACG	124 598,00 €	202 005,00 €	326 603,00 €
MOROCCO	AL HOCEIMA MPA - WATER AND FORESTS DEPT. Morocco / Agir	72 548,00 €	258 857,00 €	331 405,00 €
	JBEL MOUSSA MPA - WATER AND FORESTS DEPT. MOROCCO / GREPOM	72 586,00 €	287 034,00 €	359 620,00 €
TÜRKIYE	GOKOVA BAY MPA - MINISTRY OF ENV. AND URBANISATION / MCS	132 654,00€	222 346,00 €	355 000,00 €
	DATCA BOZBURUN MPA -MINISTRY OF ENV. AND URBANISATION / MCS	33 973, 00 €	314 669,00 €	348 642,00 €
CROATIA	TELASCICA MPA - Telascica Nature park Public Institution / WWF Adria	57 500,00 €	215 575,00 €	273 075,00 €
	TOTAL COMMITTED	1 066 644, 00 €	2 271 997,00 €	3 338 641,00 €

COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF THE FUNDS COMMITTED BY THE MEDFUND OVER THE PERIOD 2020- 2025

3,3 M € committed to Mediterranean MPAs





This year, the MedFund held several statutory meetings:

1 ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On November 28, on the International Day of the Mediterranean

The General Assembly represents the supreme authority of the association. It is responsible for the statutory and strategic decisions of The MedFund.

3 GRANT AWARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On February 23, June 10 and September 9

The Grant Award Committee is responsible for evaluating funding requests for access to the resources generated by The MedFund

4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

On January 12, March 22, July 7 and October 17

The Board of Directors takes all the decisions regarding the operational and financial management of the Fund.

3 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On February 24, May 31 and October 7

The Investment Committee is responsible for advising the Board of Directors on all financial matters relating in particular to the definition and monitoring of the Fund's investment policy.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP

Establishment of an Adhoc working group to follow up on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of The French facility

for global environment project

ORGANISATION CHART



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- President Ms. Leila CHIKHAOUI MAHDAOUI, Minister of the Environment of Tunisia
- Vice-President Ms. Sylvie LEMMET, French Ambassador for the Environment
- General Secretary His Excellence Mr. Bernard FAUTRIER, Special Advisor of HSH the Sovereign Prince and member of the Executive Board of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Treasurer Mr. Fabrice BERNARD, Delegate for Europe and International, Conservatoire du littoral
- Ms. Isabelle Berro-Amadeï, Government Advisor, Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of the Principality of Monaco
- Mr. Khalil ATTIA, Director of SPA/RAC
- Ms. Puri CANALS, President of the MedPAN organisation
- Mr. Antonio TROYA, Director of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation IUCN

GRANT AWARD COMMITTEE



As experts: Mr. Habib BEN MOUSSA Ms. Melina MARCOU Ms. Awatef ABIADH

LE COMITE D'INVESTISSEMENT



As experts:
Mr. Paul-Marie JACQUES
Ms. Anne -Catherine HUSSON TRAORE
Mr. Robert LAURE

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



- Romain RENOUX, Executive Director
 NARPHICCHELLI
- Laura MARRUCCHELLI, Administrative and Financial Executive Assistant
 Elodie COURAUD,
- Project & Communication Manager

MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS

France, Tunisia, Monaco, Morocco, Albania, Spain,
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation,
Oceanographic Institute Prince Albert 1St of Monaco Foundation,
Specially Protected Area / Regional Activity Center MAP/UN Environment,
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund,
Association of Mediterranean MPA Managers MedPAN,
WWF-Mediterranean,
UICN-Mediterranean,
Conservatoire du Littoral,

Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative

2022 Dashboard

This dashboard aims to ensure a simple and reliable monitoring of the actions implemented by The MedFund. The performance indicators defined here allow for the assessment of both the performance and the effectiveness of The MedFund in the conduct of its various activities (fundraising, income generation), as well as the impact of these activities on the management improvement of beneficiary MPAs.

Indicators	Baseline situation (2019)	2022	2025 targets
Several possible modalities:	Endowment fund: 0 M€ Sinking fund: 1 M€	Endowment fund: 4 M€ Sinking fund: 1 M€ FPA2 + 2 M CHF MAVA + 3.5 M€ GEF7	Several possible modalities: → An endowment fund of 30 M€ (with an assumption of 4% average return); or → An additional sinking fund of 3,3 M€ disbursed over the period 2020-2025; or → The additional mobilisation of several types of financial mechanisms (endowment fund, sinking fund, revolving fund, project grants, etc.)
Number of funding sources	5 active donors in 2019 (Government of Monaco, AFD, FFEM, GEF, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation)	6 active donors (AFD, FFEM, GEF, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, MAVA, Spanish government) + 4 aquariums and zoos contributing to the Fund	8 public and private donors
Number of additional public and private actors mobilised	NA	5 institutional donors 2 philanthropic donors 3 private donors	NA
Investment performance of the funds	NA	The capitalization of funds began mid-2022	4%
Number of MPAs supported	3 MPAs supported (Albania, Morocco, Tunisia)	10 MPAs supported (Albania, Morocco, Tunisia, Türkiye) including 2 highly protected MPAs selected (Türkiye and Croatia) under the HPMI window (starting in 2023) 43 000 € on average per year and per MPA 5 MPAs selected (Morocco, Lebanon, Montenegro and Tunisia) under the main window - GEF7 funds (starting in 2023)	15 to 20 MPAs in total (with financial support ranging from 50 000 to 75 000 € per year per AMP)

2022 Dashboard

Indicators	Baseline situation (2019)	2022	2025 targets
Number of co-management agreements supported by The MedFund	3	10 co-management agreements established	15 co-management agreements
Total area of protected areas financed by the Fund	1 164 km²	6 400 km²	4 500 to 7 000 km² (i.e., 85% of the surface area of non-European MPAs in the Mediterranean).
Annual amount of grants awarded by the Fund	104 500 €	Committed amount 650 000 €	975 000 € to 1.3 M€
Evolution of the effectiveness and efficiency of MPA management	NA	Structuring Context Indicator: +13,4% Effectiveness Indicator: +11%	NA
Community benefiting directly from the projects on sustainable management of fisheries resources - number of direct beneficiaries (M/F)	/	28 900	
Number of MPAs that include climate aspects in their management plan	/	3	
% of women in management bodies	/	40 %	

The MedFund

Villa Girasole 16 Boulevard de Suisse 98000 Monaco

contact@themedfund.org