

GREEN LIST FOR MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

GL4MMPAs project in a nutshell

GreenList4MMPAs has contributed to advancing the fair and effective conservation of the Mediterranean's rich natural heritage through the [IUCN Green List Standard](#): a global benchmark to help all types of Protected Areas, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) assess and improve their quality.

The problem

The Mediterranean Sea is a global biodiversity hotspot, home to a diversity of unique species. Its **1,200+ MPAs**, covering around 9% of the basin, create vital refuges for marine life. Yet only a small fraction is effectively managed, adequately enforced or sustainably financed. Closing this gap is urgent to safeguard the Mediterranean's nature and the communities who depend on it.

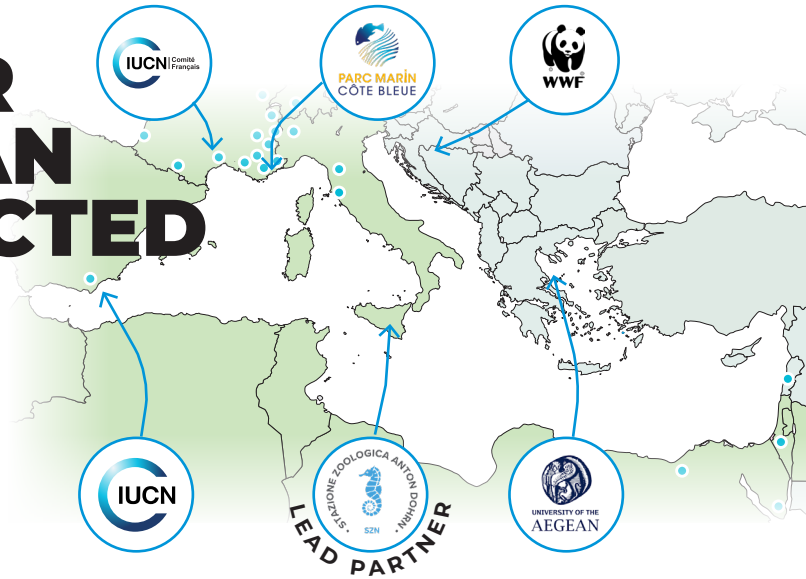
Our solution

GreenList4MMPAs has provided Mediterranean MPAs with a **tool to measure their performance and understand how to improve it**.

GreenList4MMPAs project has:

- **created guidelines and notes** to apply the Green List standard in Mediterranean MPAs;
- **established a Mediterranean MPA Expert Assessment Group** for the Green List (EAGL). EAGLs are independent evaluators of the sites that apply to the Green List, among other functions.

The IUCN Green List is a global Programme recognising successful protected and conserved areas. At its heart is the Green List Standard v1.1, which defines criteria to demonstrate a protected area is achieving successful conservation through good governance, sound planning, and effective management.



TIMELINE AND KEY MILESTONES

JANUARY 2024



Start of the project

Six partners across five Mediterranean countries working together with different skills and experiences

JUNE 2024 - MARCH 2025



Literature review

1,700+ documents surveyed to identify over 300 insights to strengthen the clarity and applicability of the Green List standard in marine areas.

NOVEMBER 2024



Interviews with Green Listed sites

8 Green Listed MPAs interviewed to better understand challenges and enablers for the application of the Green List in marine areas.

MAY 2025



Med marine EAGL established

11 marine experts from across the Mediterranean selected through an open call and trained to be part of the new Mediterranean Marine EAGL.



Impact

50

Over 50 MPAs engaged across 10 countries

11

Marine Experts of different nationalities involved in the Mediterranean Marine EAGL

70

Decision makers, managers and experts engaged across 8 countries

17

GL4MMPAs project's results showcased in 17 events

Project outcomes and legacy

The guidance and notes for applying the Green List to the Mediterranean will...

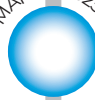
- be publicly available for MPA managers to identify what works, what needs strengthening and where additional support is required;
- help MPA managers apply the Green List standard by providing insights reflecting the diversity of governance systems, ecological conditions and management capacities of Mediterranean MPAs;
- be updated once the new Green List Standard v2.0 is launched. Insights from the development of the guidelines were fed into the process to create the new standard.

The Mediterranean Marine EAGL will...

- continue supporting the application of the IUCN Green List to Mediterranean MPAs;
- work alongside existing national and regional EAGLs to assess Mediterranean MPAs embarking on the Green List journey.

Both tools will contribute to a more effectively protected sea delivering benefits for marine biodiversity and the millions of people who rely on it.

MARCH 2025



Draft guidance and notes for the application of the Green List in Mediterranean MPAs

Draft guidance and explanatory notes produced for each of the **50 Green List indicators**, tailored to Mediterranean MPAs.

APRIL - MAY 2025



Survey to MPAs

Gathered feedback on the draft guidance from **45 MPA practitioners and authorities** across **11 Mediterranean countries**

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2025



National focus group meetings

Over **70 experts from 8 Mediterranean** countries took part in six National Focus Group Meetings to review draft guidance, test its relevance, and proposed improvements.

DECEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026



Finalisation of guidance and notes

Practical guidance and notes to effectively apply the IUCN Green List Standard version 1.1 in Mediterranean MPAs



[Green List 4MMPAs Project website](#)



[Green List website](#)



[IUCN Green List Standard version 1.1](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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