

Accord Pelagos
relatif à la création en Méditerranée
dun Sanctuaire pour les mammifères marins

15^{ème} Comité scientifique et technique
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Accordo Pelagos
relativo alla creazione nel Mediterraneo
di un Santuario per i mammiferi marini

XV Comitato scientifico e tecnico
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Report of the “Mediterranean Biodiversity Knowledge Platform for the Pelagos Agreement

The Pelagos Sanctuary Knowledge hub

Developed by the European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA) under the Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community Project (2019-2022)

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Background

On December 16, 2021 at a side event during the 8th Meeting (MOP8) of the Parties of the Pelagos Agreement, the Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC), led by ETC-UMA, committed to several concrete actions to support the implementation of the Pelagos Sanctuary's Management and Action Plan (2022-2027).

This cooperation was based on a MBPC-Pelagos Secretariat-Interreg Mediterranean Joint Secretariat [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) previously signed at the “2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean” in Monaco in November 2021.

In this MoU, these three entities committed to strengthening their transboundary cooperation and commitment to work together, by detailing specific actions under the framework of the Pelagos Sanctuary Management and Action Plan.

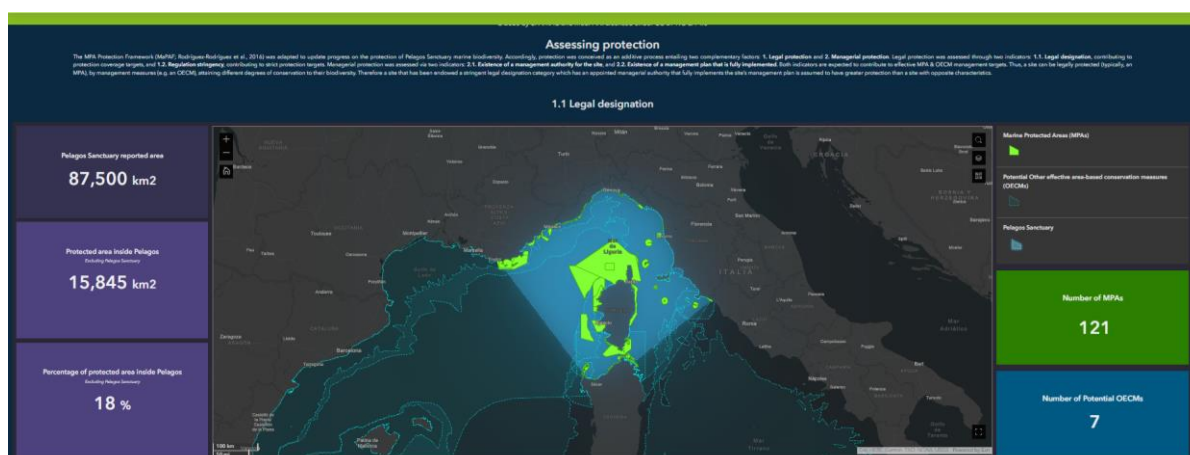
Among several priority actions, the ETC-UMA committed to support the Pelagos Secretariat with a user-friendly management support platform as a tool to host relevant information and data related to biodiversity and pressures in the Pelagos area.

The Pelagos Sanctuary Knowledge hub was co-designed with the Pelagos Secretariat team. The main data sources and functionalities of interest were selected through an iterative process.

The operational dashboard was developed to provide insight information, support technical users, simplify results, and support the reporting and publication of main findings.

The knowledge hub

The [Pelagos Sanctuary knowledge hub](#) is available online, illustrating by thematic sections how the spatial information together with main findings can be visualized interactively through maps and graphs. Within the “**protection**” section, this user-friendly tool proposes an interactive map that can show the area's legal designations, number of MPAs (121) and other relevant area-based conservation and/or management measures within the Pelagos Sanctuary.

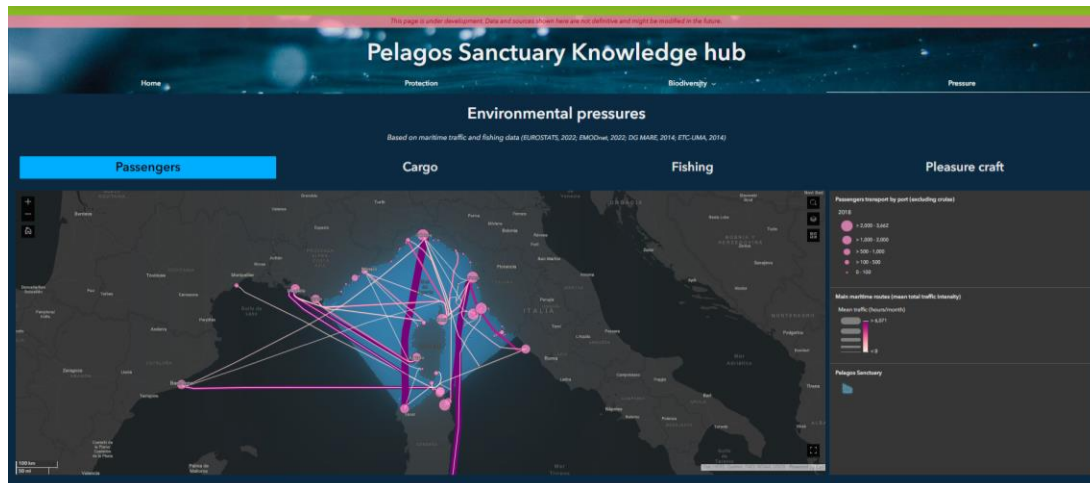


The tool can also highlight the type of conservation measures (e.g., OECMS, MPAs, FRAs, etc.) and more options are available to showcase the designation categories and see how protected areas are overlapping.

For example, the percentage of area covered by fully implemented protected areas compared to the Mediterranean can be displayed.



Other sections provide results on biodiversity (a sample of **habitat and species distribution**) and on **pressures to the marine environment** ("pressure" section), such as the example in the next figure showing the main marine routes that pass through the Pelagos Sanctuary.



As this knowledge hub is still at prototype level, more work is in progress to complete the dashboard and its features. Its on-going developments can be enhanced based on the needs expressed by the Pelagos Sanctuary Agreement Secretariat.

This relevant tool underlines the necessity to access accurate and useful data and information to better set up and manage the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the Pelagos Sanctuary area and can serve as a model to further support other transboundary sensitive areas.