

PROTECTING OUR SEAS AND SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEMS (LIFE IP INTEMARES)

Experts Workshop - Developing transmission electricity grids, protecting our seas

Palma de Mallorca, 25-27 September 2017



QUICK REVIEW: SEAGRASSES IN SPAIN



Juan Cuetos

- **1.600 km²** of seagrasses
- Our seagrass is made up of marine angiosperm plant species:
 - ***Posidonia oceanica*: 70,9%**
 - *Cymodocea nodosa*: 22,6%
 - Other species (Zostera, etc.): 8,5%
- Where?
 - 90% in the Mediterranean region
 - **10% in the Atlantic region, of which 50% in the Canary island**
- 75% of our seagrass within **protected areas**

- **Values and services:**
 - Nursery grounds for fishing resources
 - Regulation (erosion, climatic change, eutrophication, etc.).
 - Cultural value (creation and maintenance of beaches)
 - Bioindicator of good environmental health
 - Economic value: 1.720.000€ ha/year

QUICK REVIEW: SEAGRASSES IN SPAIN



Jordi Sánchez

- **Threats and direct impacts:**

- Nutrient and organic matter inputs from land and sea: eutrophication
- Toxic effects of inorganic and organic pollutants
- Habitat destruction or fragmentation because of coastal infrastructures
- Mechanical damages (illegal trawling, anchorages, etc.)
- Invasive alien species (red and green seaweed, etc.)
- Climate change

- **Conservation measures and applicable legislation:**

- Regulation of trawling and other fishing practices with high impact on seagrasses (e.g. **Mediterranean fishing regulation**)
- Protection as key ecosystem (Habitats Directive)
- Bioindicator of sea water good health (Water Framework Directive)
- Specific measures resulting from different categories of threat at national and international level:
 - Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Act (Spanish legislation)
 - OSPAR, Barcelona and Berne Conventions
 - UICN Red List (Mediterranean)

LIFE IP INTEMARES PROJECT
HOW ARE WE PROTECTING OUR SEAS?



Spain is one of the countries with the greatest marine biodiversity in Europe



And one of the most advanced in terms of knowledge and protection of the marine environment

Thanks to the previous LIFE+ INDEMARES project we have increased the marine protected surface from 1% to 8%

LIFE IP INTEMARES PROJECT
FROM INDEMARES TO INTEMARES

INTEMARES

Integrated, innovative and
participatory management of the
Natura 2000 network in the
Spanish marine environment

Thanks to the LIFE IP project
Spain will be able to comply
with the international
commitment to protecting
more than **10%** of its marine
surface in an effective and
sustainable way

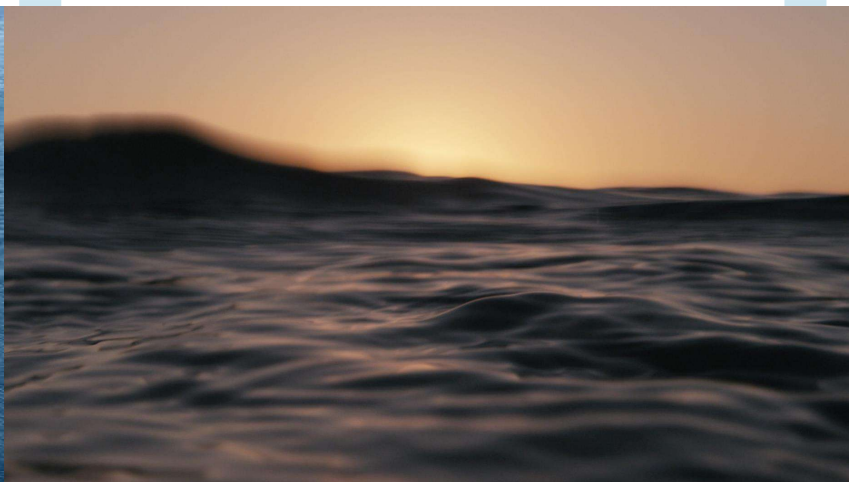


MISSION



Towards a new model
for the management of
the sea

MAIN OBJECTIVE

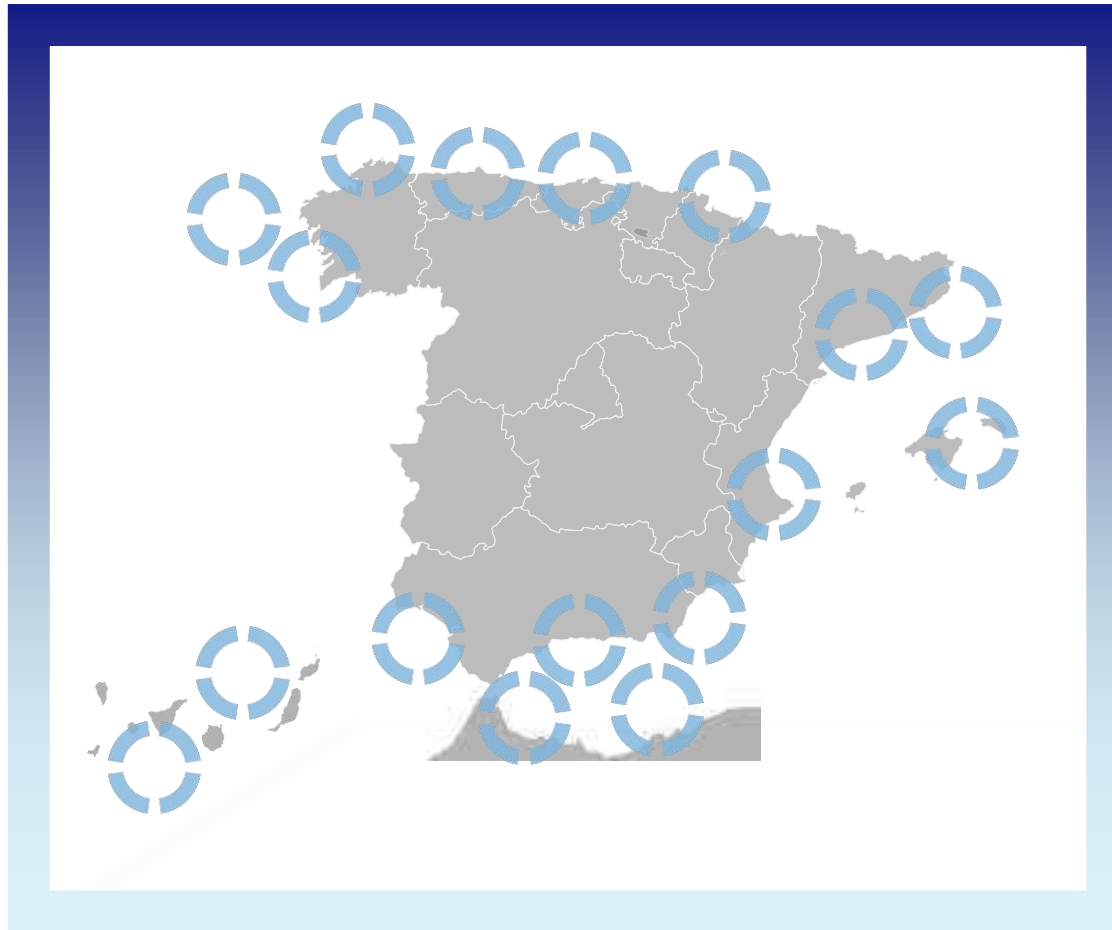


Effective, innovative and integrated
management of the marine Natura
2000 network, with the active
participation of the sectors
involved and research as basic
tools for decision-making

MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS



- Protect and manage more than 10% of Spanish marine surface
- Generation of new opportunities for the future
- Conservation compatible with the use of natural resources



- Duration: 8 years

2017-2024

- Budget:

EURO 49,8 million

- Coordinator: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment (MAPAMA), through the Biodiversity Foundation.
- Partners:
 - Administration: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment
 - Scientific institutions: Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)
 - NGOs: SEO BirdLife and WWF-Spain.
 - Fisheries organization: CEPESCA

Integrated project in terms of funding, policies and stakeholders

FUNDING

- LIFE.
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.
- European Social Fund.
- Calls for proposals from the Biodiversity Foundation.
- Private funds

POLICIES

- EU and global Conservation Policies.
- Integrated Maritime Policy.
- Common Fisheries Policy.
- European 2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment.
- Research Policy

ACTORS

PARTNERS

- Coordination: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment through the Biodiversity Foundation.
- Directorate General for Sustainability of the Coast and the Sea, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment.
- Spanish Institute of Oceanography.
- Spanish Fisheries Confederation.
- SEO/BirdLife.
- WWF-Spain.

SECTORS INVOLVED

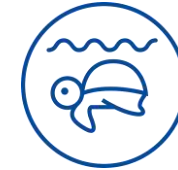
- Public bodies.
- Fisheries.
- Tourism.
- Energy.
- Maritime traffic.
- Naval.
- Scientific community.
- Society in general.
- ...

Programme of actions



RESEARCH

- Oceanographic campaigns in marine areas that have not yet been studied to improve the connectivity and representativeness of the Natura 2000 network.
- Study of areas already designated as protected areas where more information is needed to develop coherent management plans.
- Socio-economic studies.



CONSERVATION

- Declaration of 9 new marine protected areas to achieve at least 10% of the sea surface.
- Management plans for sites and plans and strategies for species (in participatory processes)
- Measures for the maintenance, recovery and restoration of marine habitats and species.
- Citizen science to increase marine knowledge

Programme of actions



MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE

- Use of new technologies to monitor the status of protected areas and their surveillance.



GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- New management mechanisms to improve coordination among public bodies.
- Engaging stakeholders in the in the management of the areas.
- Improvement of the capacity building of managers and users of the marine Natura 2000 network.
- Support for entrepreneurs in new business opportunities
- Transfer of results and methodologies to other areas of the Natura 2000 network.
- Involve all the interested groups in participatory processes (workshops, working groups, committees, etc).



COMMUNICATION, AWARENESS RAISING AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Dissemination of the values and opportunities of the marine Natura 2000 network to involve society in its conservation.
- Communication, awareness raising and environmental education campaigns to reach 15% of the Spanish population.
- Web platform: Information, participation, capacity building and citizen science.
- Exchange of experiences and knowledge at the international level.



SEAGRASS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT



Juan Cuetos

MPA MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Specific measures aimed at seagrass protection in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) management plans.
- 5 new SAC because of their importance for seagrass ecosystems in Mediterranean and Macaronesic regions.

ANCHORING

- Regulating anchoring in seagrass areas in the Canary islands.
- Installing eco-anchorage in the Canary and Balearic islands

COORDINATION

Institutional coordination among central, regional and local governments and authorities .

RAISING AWARENESS AND NETWORKING

- Best Practices Manuals aimed at users of recreational activities including information about the key ecological role of seagrasses
- Share and exchange experiences, strategies and results with other related projects

COMPLEMENTARY FUNDING

- Projects financed by the Biodiversity Foundation
- Collaborative projects with private entities
- Creating innovative financial measures and mechanisms

OUR COLLABORATION IN SPANISH POSIDONIA PROJECTS



Jordi Sánchez

11 PROJECTS IN THE PAST 9 YEARS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: 384.000€
(70% OF TOTAL BUDGET)

EXCELLENT RESULTS

- **POSIMED**, Regional Spanish network for monitoring posidonia areas: same criteria, methodology and improving coordination among public and scientific entities
- **ATLAS OF SPANISH SEAGRASSES**: science-based cartographic information to be used as a management tool
- **ECO-ANCHORAGES**: replacement of highly impacting anchorages with ecological ones in areas of posidonia in Formentera (Balearic islands) and Girona (Catalonia)

LIFE IP INTEMARES PROJECT
EXPECTED RESULTS

INTE**M**ARES

Thank you for your attention

www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es



MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA Y PESCA,
ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE



INTE**M**ARES



LIFE IP PAF INTEMARES

INTEGRATED, INNOVATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK IN THE SPANISH MARINE ENVIRONMENT



WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE LIFE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



INTE^MARES

intemares@fundacion-biodiversidad.es | fundacion-biodiversidad.es