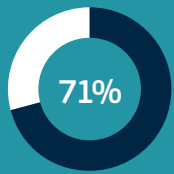




MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

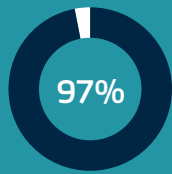
Safeguarding oceans by allowing biodiversity and ecosystems to thrive

Oceans cover



of the Earth's surface¹

and represent



of its liveable space

Oceans are home to more than

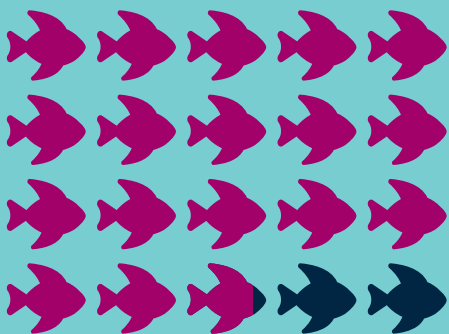


220,000 species²

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are conservation zones that protect the ocean from harmful human impact.

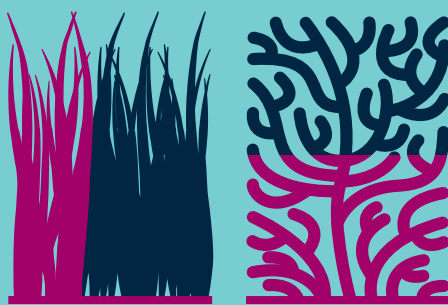
The situation

Marine ecosystems are under threat.



89%

of fish stocks are now 'fully fished' (58%) or overfished (31%).³



30% seagrass beds 50% coral reefs

have been destroyed.⁴

The solution

Marine Protected Areas can help to reverse these trends.



They are oases where marine organisms can reproduce.



They help mitigate and adapt to climate change.



They support heritage, creating new jobs in tourism, research and education.

Progress report⁵

Massive effort is needed to meet marine protection targets.

⚠ International agreements require a minimum of 10% of marine and coastal areas to be effectively protected by 2020.

⚠ Only 5% of oceans are currently MPAs.

⚠ Less than 1/5 of existing reserves are fully enforced.⁶



The benefits

We need to ensure the enforcement of MPAs and promote their benefits.

Biodiversity

MPAs are healthier than other ocean areas. Mediterranean MPAs compared to other areas:



Fishing

Fish stocks in MPAs can help populate adjacent areas.



Due to spread from the protected Columbretes Islands in Spain.⁸

Climate change

Around **1/3 of man-made carbon emissions are absorbed by oceans.**



Carbon sinks - like the Neptune grass meadows in Andalusia - can store thousands of tonnes of carbon every year.⁹

The economy

3.2 MILLION PEOPLE

are employed in coastal and marine tourism in the EU;¹⁰ additional or better serviced MPAs could boost this number.

Marine Protected Areas are good for the ocean and for us. Together, we must ensure that 10% of our ocean is effectively protected by 2020.

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Sources: 1. US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2. World Register of Marine Species. 3. UN Food and Agriculture Organization. 4. World Wide Fund for Nature. 5. IUCN and UNEP-WCMC (2016). 6. European Environment Agency. 7, 8, 9, 10. Institute for European Environmental Policy.

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