



MPAs in the Adriatic-Ionian region through the EUSAIR strategic objectives

2 June 2022
Zagreb & online

Andrej Sovinc, NaravaNarave d.o.o.
E-mail: andrej@naravanarave.com



Event: Towards and Adriatic-Ionian network of MPA managers



EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) aims at improving the quality of life on the coasts of the common sea through concrete agreements and the implementation of regimes based on the consideration of coastal and marine ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian region.

One of the specific objectives of the the Pillar 3 (**Environmental Quality**) is to contribute to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy:

- to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU, and
- restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

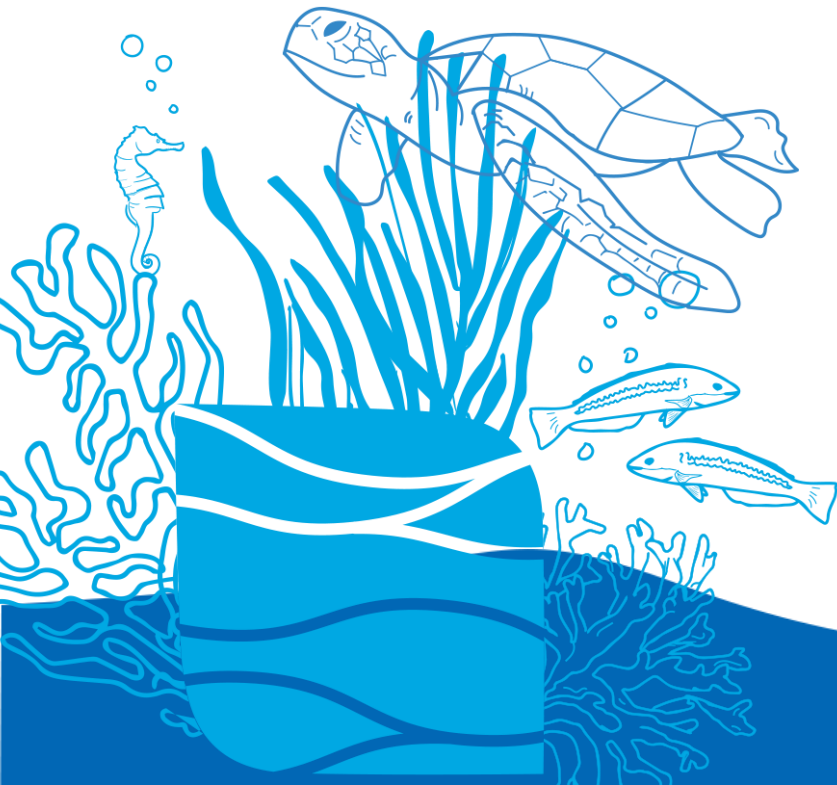


30/30 %

10/10 %

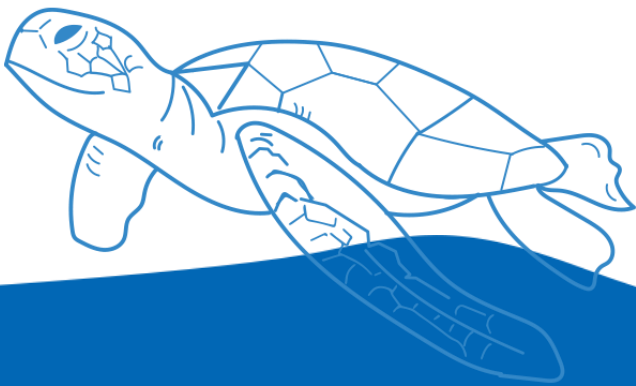


- **at least 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's marine area should be protected;**
- **at least one third of protected areas - that is 10% of the EU's land area and 10% of the EU's marine area - should be strictly protected;**
- **provisions on effective management & restoration**



Protection versus Strict protection

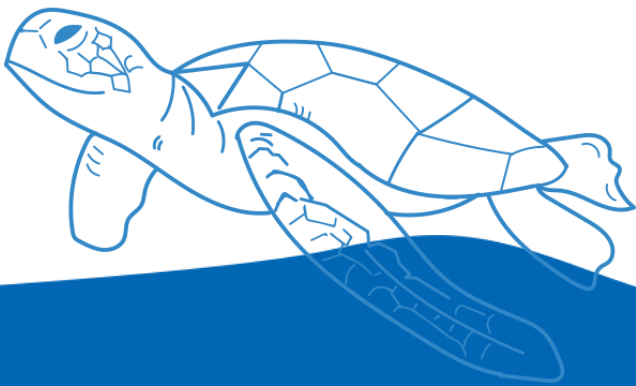
| | PROTECTION (30%) | STRICT PROTECTION (10%) |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Conservation Objectives | Often less ambitious than maximum ecological site potential | Based on maximum ecological site potential |
| Management activities | May reflect a compromise with objectives other than biodiversity-related ones | Limited to those necessary for the restoration/ conservation of habitats & species for which the site is designated |
| Extractive objectives | May occur | Only if needed to achieve conservation objectives |
| Legal status | Not necessary protected status | Legal protection status obligatory |





European Commission will also require Member States to:

- Raise the level of implementation of existing legislation (=enforcement, management effectiveness...) on protected areas, within clear deadlines
- Ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species
- Ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable conservation status reach that status or show a strong positive trend





How to achieve 30% target?

1. Complete Natura 2000 network



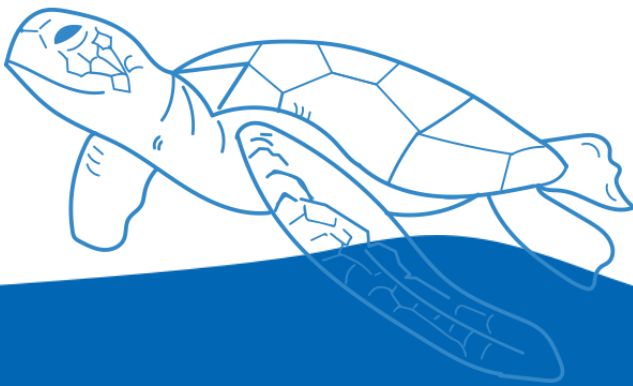
Natura 2000 completed

2.a. Identify species/habitats protected under EU legislation

2.b. Identify other species/habitats from the national Red-lists that need protection



New areas or site extensions designated at the national level

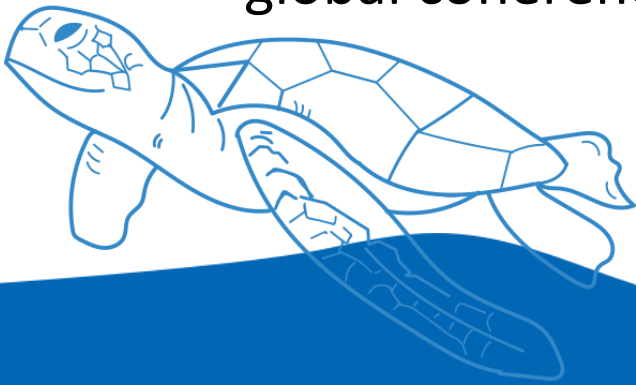


The mechanism

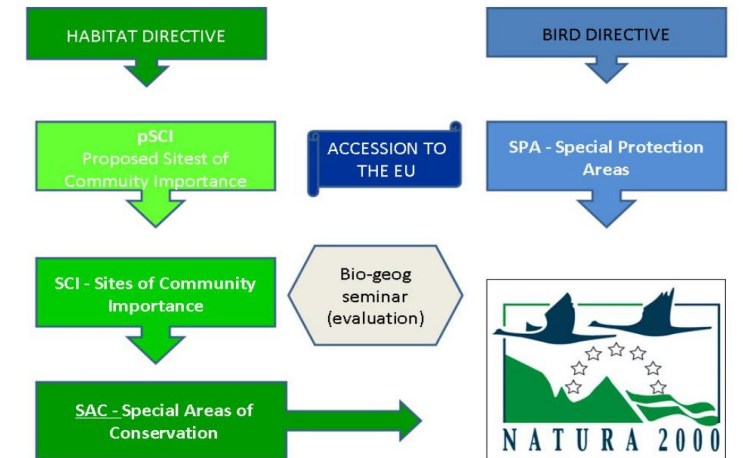
1. Member States (MS) will send initial pledges for new areas to be designated to the European Commission

2. Discussion of the MS's pledges at the BIOGEOGRAPHICAL MEETINGS (=„seminars“), focusing at:

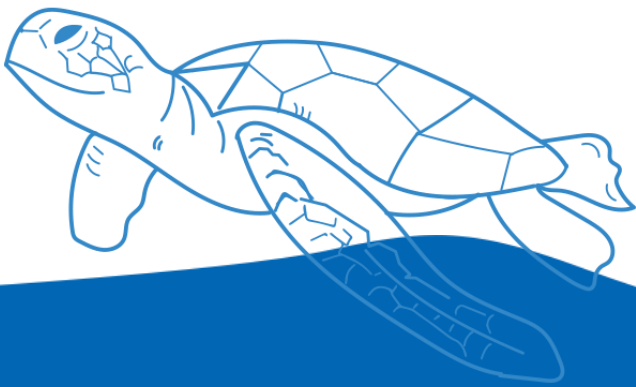
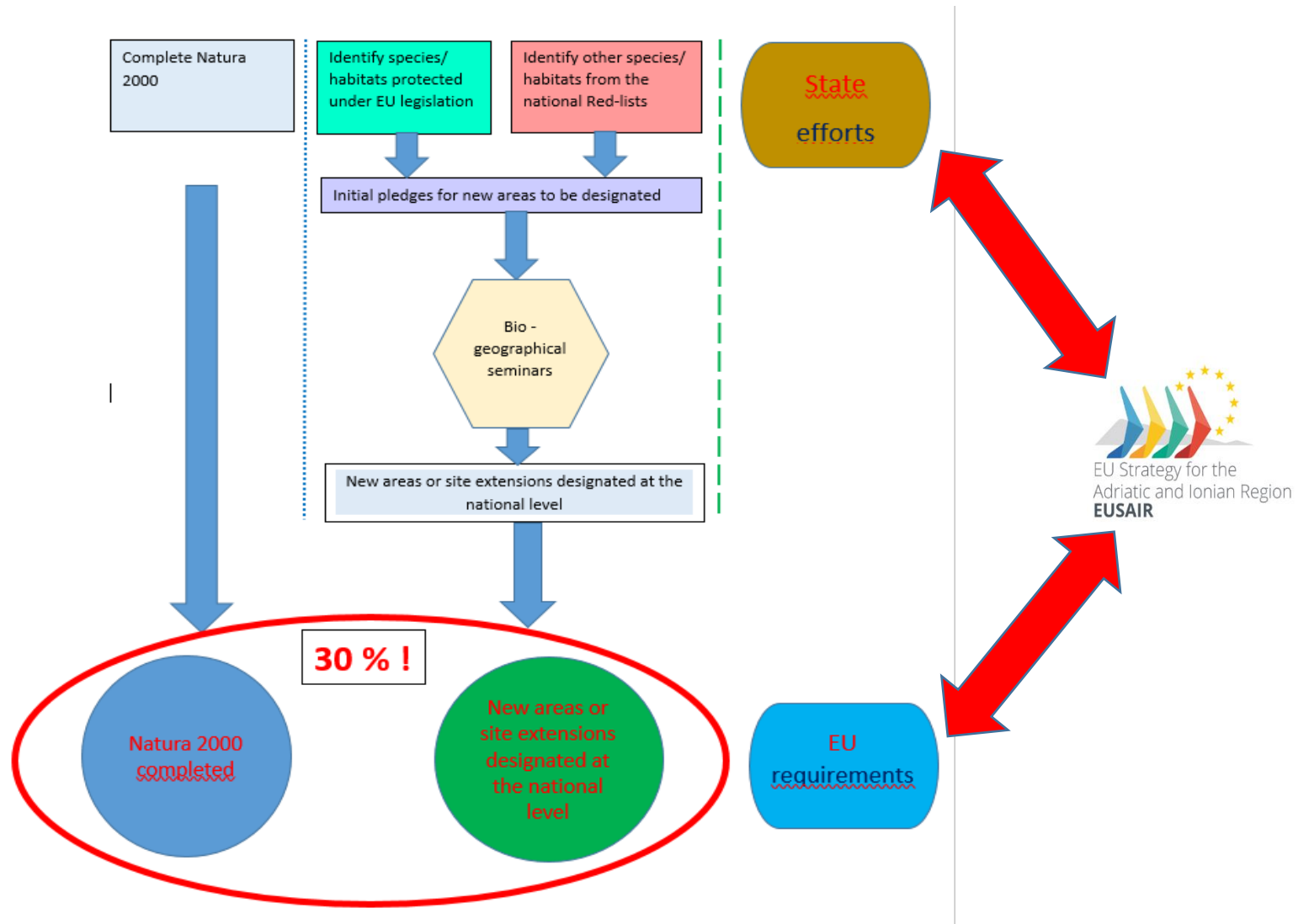
- natural values of proposed individual sites to be designated and
- global coherence & completeness of the network



Do you remember Natura 2000 exercise?



The mechanism...
...and where EUSAIR
could help?



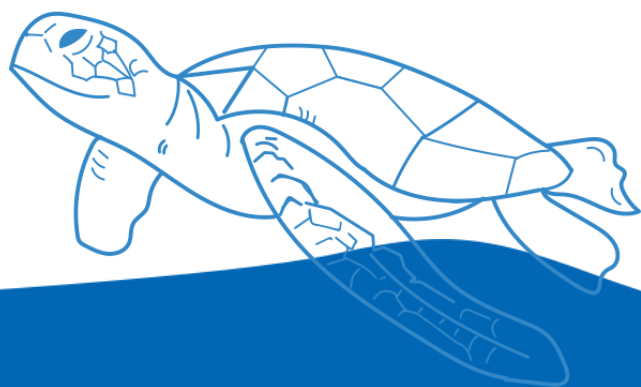
Recommendation to EUSAIR: Establishment of a new entity with full legal personality with the objective:



„Strengthen the national and collective actions of the countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Region for the protection and management of marine and coastal areas, in order to maintain the integrity of habitats and their connectivity, which are essential for the preservation of ecosystem goods and services necessary for national development“

A new body would allow Member State authorities to establish a single common structure for the implementation of projects, investments or policies for the effective protection of marine and coastal resources in the Adriatic-Ionian region to meet EU biodiversity targets by 2030.

Members of this new body should include, in addition to Member States, regional or local authorities, associations, and other public entities that share the common goal of protecting and effectively managing coastal and marine ecosystems in EUSAIR.



Thank you for your attention!

