



> Objectives and Actions

The main objectives of Life Sea.Net are:

- 1) to improve the management of Natura 2000 marine sites supporting the managing bodies with a governance toolkit;
- 2) to raise the awareness of the Natura 2000 network among the different stakeholders, such as fishers, tourist operators and citizens.

To achieve the first objective, a Technical Table has been set up with the participation of the Life Sea.Net partners together with the other managing bodies of the Natura 2000 sites (Protected Marine Areas, National Parks, regional authorities, etc.).

The Technical Table is a space for discussing and agreeing on the useful instruments to improve the management of the Natura 2000 marine sites. The Technical Table allows for the drawing up, the dissemination and the adoption of the governance toolkit, an actual toolkit for the managing bodies that includes:

- protocols for monitoring species and habitats;
- a practical guide to identify the preservation measures and objectives;
- a manual for correctly applying the impact evaluation procedures in the marine sites;
- a white paper on the governance strategy for the open sea sites;
- a road map to strengthen cross-border collaboration.

Of key importance are the awareness-raising and information activities that foresee the creation of local forums and information desks aimed at fishers to orient their activities towards more sustainable practices or to set up alternative business activities such as fishing tourism.

Moreover, Life Sea.Net, fosters a participative approach through citizen science activities aimed at gathering data and increasing citizen awareness and consensus concerning environmental preservation policies.



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NATURA 2000

BENEFICIARY COORDINATOR



LEGAMBIENTE

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES



MINISTERO DELLA TRANSIZIONE ECOLOGICA



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Parco Nazionale del Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni



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Regno di Nettuno Area Marina Protetta



FEDERPESCA FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLE IMPRESE DI PESCA

Through the LIFE programme, set up in 1992, the European Union provides funding for projects to safeguard the environment and nature. Its purpose is to support, at EU level, measures and projects for the protection of endangered species and habitats, environmental policies, and awareness-raising and information activities. Thanks to the LIFE projects, it has been possible to contribute to implementing the Habitats and Birds Directives, and pursue the EU's goal to halt the loss of the biodiversity by 2030.

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PROTECTING THE SEA THROUGH NETWORKING

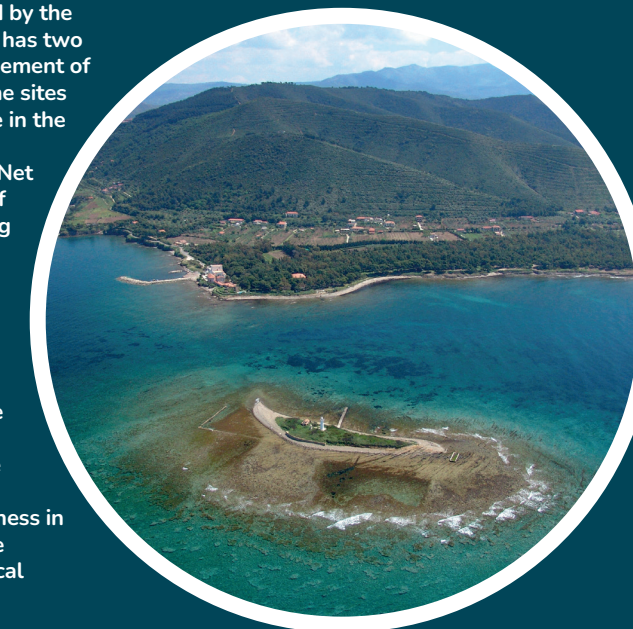
LIFE SEA.NET

> The project

The Life Sea.Net project, cofunded by the European Union LIFE programme, has two objectives - to improve the management of the Natura 2000 network of marine sites and raise the awareness of its role in the preservation of the marine biodiversity. Specifically, Life Sea.Net aims to improve the governance of the Natura 2000 marine sites using a common approach that may be replicated, that guarantees a coherent management of the network and ensures a suitable regulation.

The Natura 2000 network, despite being the network of the most widespread protected areas in the world, is still little known to the general public, as are its effectiveness in protecting the biodiversity and the socio-economic advantages for local communities.

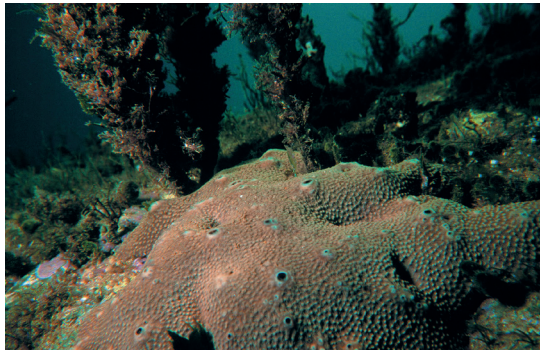
Therefore, the project aims to make the Natura 2000 network known through the involvement of managing bodies, administrations, fishers, tourist operators and citizens... because networking protects the sea!



> Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is the main instrument of the European Union for biodiversity preservation. It involves a European-wide ecological network, set up under Directive 92/43/CEE "Habitat" to guarantee the long-term preservation of natural habitats and endangered or rare flora and fauna species at European level.

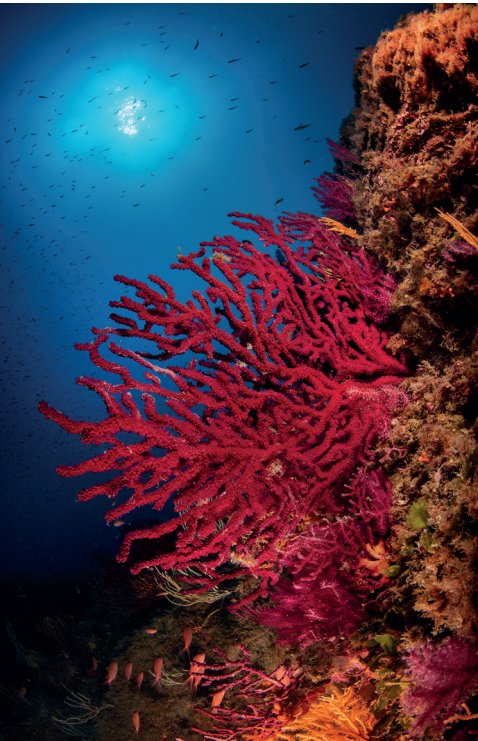
The network is founded on the principles of co-existence and the balance between the conservation of nature and human activities and the sustainable use of resources. The Italian Natura 2000 network is made up of more than 2,500 sites, including 281 marine sites. A unique heritage requiring the shared commitment of all the stakeholders to ensure the right protection.



> Monitoring of species and habitats

The monitoring of some species and sensitive habitats protected by the Habitats Directive in the Mediterranean is essential for the Life Sea.Net team.

The species and habitats subject to monitoring, listed as vulnerable, are the following: limpet limpet (*Patella ferruginea*), fan mussel (*Pinna nobilis*), date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*), slipper lobster (*Scyllarides latus*), hatpin urchin (*Centrostephanus longispinus*), red coral (*Corallium rubrum*), common turtle (*Caretta caretta*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and other cetaceans, the Posidonia meadow, the reefs (in particular the algal species within Cystoseira associations, the Vermeti reef and the Coralligenous habitat). The monitoring activities, carried out in the Natura 2000 sites managed by the project partners, are realized through campaigns at sea, applying the standardized protocols described in the ISPRA manual (La Mesa, 2019). Two annual campaigns are planned, with the aim of acquiring updated information on the species and habitats conservation status, following their trend over time and evaluating the effectiveness of the management measures in place and the need to implement new measures.



> The Life Sea.Net project areas

The areas in the Life Sea.Net project involve 9 Natura 2000 marine sites, with another 3 to be added during the project activities.

- Capraia, Montecristo, Gorgona and Pianosa Islands in the Arcipelago Toscano National Park
- Santa Maria di Castellabate MPA and Costa degli Infreschi e della Masseta MPA in the Cilento, Vallo di Diano and Alburni National Park
- Seabed of the archipelago of the Egadi islands in the Marine Protected Area of the Egadi Islands
- Seabed of Ischia, Procida and Vivara Islands in the Regno di Nettuno MPA
- Seabed of Punta Campanella and Capri in the Punta Campanella MPA

(Ph. Vassallo)

> The marine ecosystem

Beds of seagrass, turtles, coral, cetaceans and birds. Our seas host a multitude of different species of animal and plant life, each playing its part to maintain a balance in the ecosystem and carrying out valuable roles for the life on our planet. In turn, this contributes to regulating the Earth's climate, producing oxygen, mitigating coastal erosion and fostering the development of tourism.

The biodiversity of our seas is based on fragile balances which are now threatened by anthropogenic pressures such as the excessive exploitation of fish resources, pollution, the introduction of invasive non-native species, the physical changes to the environment, and the impact of climate change.

