

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

*Editorial – “Stick, “Carrot” and the future of MPAs\_\_\_\_\_1*

*Marine Spatial Planning\_\_\_\_\_1*

*Best practices of Water Tourism activities\_\_\_\_\_2*

*Aquarium at Radhima Visitors Center\_\_\_\_\_2*

*Information about visitors centers through <http://akzm.net/>\_\_\_\_\_3*

*Installation of monitor. & surveill. system at NP Divjakë-Karavasta\_\_\_\_\_3*

*Application of monitor. protocols at NMP K-S and Vlora Bay\_\_\_\_\_4-5*

*Did you know\_\_\_\_\_6*

***This edition is prepared by***

***UNDP Project on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas***

**“STICK”, “CARROT”, AND THE FUTURE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**



The 2020 will lay much of the groundwork for the MPA field for years to come. As nations gear up to meet the UN’s Sustainable

Development Goal 14 as well as Aichi Target 11 under the Convention on Biological Diversity - both of which call for 10% of coastal and marine areas to be protected by 2020 - they will face some decisions. Namely:

- Should each nation just designate enough area to meet the 10% target and be done with it? Or should they take more time to try to apply good practices for planning and management?
- If the latter, what are the good practices for planning and management?

To some extent the 2020 targets present a “stick” or a “carrot”, depending on the country. For coastal states without the capacity to plan and manage effective MPAs, SDG 14 and Aichi Target 11 might feel like a “stick”. If these countries don’t reach 10%, they run the risk of being criticized or embarrassed for that failure. So simply designating enough MPAs to reach the targets, without solid planning and management, may seem preferable to falling short whether the resulting MPAs are effective or not.

But for countries with the capacity to plan and manage effective MPAs, the targets can function as more of a “carrot”. By applying good science and strategies to help sites meet their conservation and socio-economic goals,

those MPAs can benefit communities, stakeholders, policymakers, and the environment. Nations that plan and manage their MPAs with such practices may find that once they reach the 10% MPA target, it is in their interest to continue designating more.

Moving through 2020, the ideal is that as many countries as possible will apply the good practices in MPA planning and management (viewing MPAs as a “carrot”) and not simply go through the motions (viewing the targets as a “stick”).

Fortunately, in 2018 the European Union has met the target of setting aside 10% of all its waters as marine protected areas by 2020, with 625,000 sq. kilometers - 10.8% - of EU marine and coastal waters protected; that is two years before the deadline.

But, is this enough? Can this regional achievement overpass the global challenges in this regard?

Right now, the challenge before the international MPA community is to gather and deliver those good practices - including for robust MPA financing - to the people and institutions that need them this year and beyond.

It is a big task. But in the interest of MPA effectiveness, it is a critical one.

© *Open Communication for The Ocean & UNDP Project Team*



**MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING**



Following the concretization of the Marine Spatial Plans (MSP) preparation initiative, on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) in Albania organized a meeting with several key stakeholders for

the management of marine areas in our country. The meeting

was held in order to present the results of the report on “Marine Spatial Planning preliminary initial assessment report of Vlora area in Albania”. Guidelines on designing PHDs in Albania under IMAP and the ICZM protocol were also presented at the meeting.



© *RAPA Vlorë*

## DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES OF WATER TOURISM ACTIVITIES



(NMP K-S). The growth of these activities also increases the need for more effective management in order to reduce the negative impacts they have on the area, as well as their development following the best European and international practices.

In order to support and assist RAPA Vlorë in this process, under the UNDP MCPA2 project, a one-week mission in the area was organized by Ms. Eva Turicchia, project's consultant, with the objective of conducting a study on water tourism activities and international best practices that can serve as models to be adopted in Vlorë Bay area.

During her mission the consultant held several meetings with stakeholders discussing and obtaining their opinions.

Referring to data administered by the Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) Vlorë and other local authorities, the tourism sector is growing year by year and the number of tourists throughout 2019 is their best indicator. The part that has grown the most in this sector is that related to tourism activities taking place in the water, mainly in the area of National Marine Park Karaburun-Sazan

Furthermore, at the request of Vlorë Region Prefect, Mr. Flamur Mamaj, in the capacity of the Head of Task Force for



Tourism and Chairman of the Protected Areas Management Committee of Vlorë Region, in cooperation with RAPA Vlorë and with the support of the UNDP project, following the efforts for the preparation and improvement of the tourism sector needs, particularly the sustainable development of water (sea) activities in Vlorë Bay with specific focus on MPA Karaburun-Sazan, a joint roundtable on "Sustainable water (sea) tourism activities" was held in this regard. All stakeholders, decision-making authorities and sea users present in the meeting expressed their views on the importance of developing water tourism activities according to standards and best practices while



reducing the negative impacts on the marine environment.

After reflecting the opinions and comments of all interested parties, the final report of this

study will be shared with all stakeholders and decision-making authorities at local level.

© UNDP Project Team

### AQUARIUM AT RADHIMA VISITOR CENTER



The UNDP MCPA2 and CCCD projects have procured the supply and installation of a small aquarium at Radhima Visitor Center. Through this activity, once again, UNDP emphasized the

development and implementation of a conservation practice. Funding was enabled for the accomplishment and operation of an aquarium facility in the vicinity of the Marine Protected Area Karaburun-Sazan (MPA K-S).

This action contributes to ensuring for long-term in-situ survival and conservation of main marine species hosted in the area. It particularly encourages synergies, awareness on visitor center from people coming to buy fish, and interested tourists in this place, while it assists with demonstration of marine animals for education activities both onsite and via outreach/touring aquaria. The aquarium

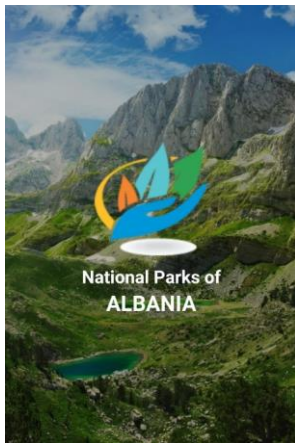
can also be transported in places which require training and nature interpretation programs.

In addition, it is established a strong liaison with local fishermen about collecting representative small animals from MPA K-S, which can be displayed in aquarium (fish species, sea urchins, mussels, etc.), demonstrating Vlorë Bay marine species conservation activities are performing well.

All these actions enable such facility to basically provide minimum support for improvement of information and awareness on marine endangered species and their habitats and meantime host most pertinent marine species for education and touristic purposes.



© UNDP Project Team



With the support of the UNDP project focusing on the financial sustainability of Protected Areas (PAs) in Albania and on the enhancement of effective financial mechanisms for income generation, which is funded by GEF with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, it is made possible the development of a webpage dedicated to

National Parks and Protected Areas at national level, initially starting with the Regional Administrations of Protected Areas (RAPAs) of Vlora, Fieri and Tirana, respectively.

This webpage will be integrated into the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) website.



The purpose of this initiative is to structure environmental and tourist information on PAs and facilitate tourist access through electronic equipment. This page also serves as a tool for the economic evaluation of PAs and the preparation of business and financial plans for these areas,

through the completion of the financial *Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)* which is a tool that helps RAPAs to assess technical and financial performance.

Financial METT is a tool that performs an assessment of PAs needs, incomes and financial shortcomings.

In parallel to METT, this page is



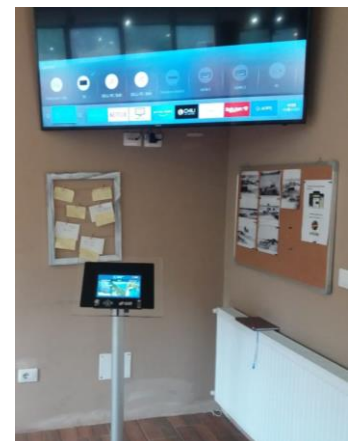
also a support for the mobile application *National Parks of Albania*, which is accessed by Android and iOS devices in order to consult the environmental and tourist information on protected areas at national level. The page is under construction and constantly updating the information for each of the



**Karaburun-Sazan**  
Parku Kombëtar Detar "Karaburun-Sazan" i shpallur në vitin 2010 është parku detar kombëtar i vetëm i Shqipërisë. Parku mbulon një sipërfaqe detare që shtrihet 1.9 km përgjatë bregdetit të gadishullit të Karaburunit dhe Sazanit afër Gjirit të Vlorës. Parku detarë është 16 kilometra (9.9 mi) i gjatë, dhe mbulon një sipërfaqe prej gjithsej 12,428 ha. Gadishulli i Karaburunit në vetvete është një Rezervë Natyrore, ndërsa ishulli i Sazanit është një zonë ushtarake në Shqipëri.

Shiko >

also a support for the mobile application *National Parks of Albania*, which is accessed by Android and iOS devices in order to consult the environmental and tourist information on protected areas at national level. The page is under construction and constantly updating the information for each of the



© UNDP Project Team

**INSTALLATION OF 24/7 MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM ON THE PELICANS' ISLAND AT DIVJAKA-KARAVASTA NATIONAL PARK**



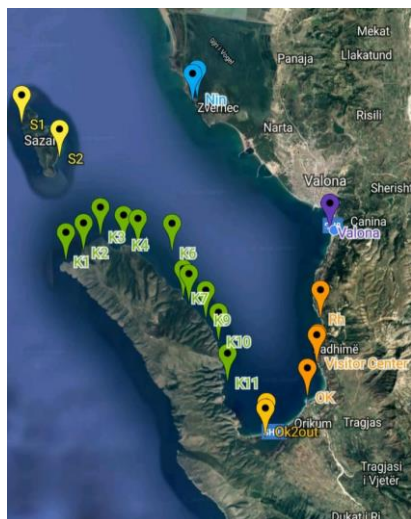
On the Pelicans' Island at Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, the pelicans' activity has been increased during this period. On the eve of breeding season, the pelicans are establishing their own pairs. For several days now, what is happening on the Pelicans' Island can be observed live in real time at the Park's Visitor Center. A camera system installed under the UNDP project "Enhancing the Financial Sustainability of the Protected Areas System in Albania", funded by GEF, offers this opportunity. The installed system is a novelty for the park, because through this system the Pelicans' Island can be monitored directly at the Visitor Center in

real time, through many devices and in several sites, further assisting the park administration, but also facilitating tourist access and their engagement in park's conservation and management, through information and education about the park's treasures. The system is self-sufficient and does not bear maintenance costs for the administration, it is environmentally friendly, having a photovoltaic panel, as such creating autonomy for the surveillance system. Very soon this will be integrated into the application dedicated to the national parks, as part of the project's outputs, under the Divjaka-Karavasta NP.



© UNDP Project Team

# APPLICATION OF MONITORING PROTOCOLS AT NATIONAL MARINE PARK KARABURUN-SAZAN AND VLORA BAY



During the beginning of February, the Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) Vlorë with the support of UNDP MCPA2 project carried out the monitoring of physical and chemical parameters inside the NMP K-S and the surrounding areas. Together with the consultant Dr. Simone

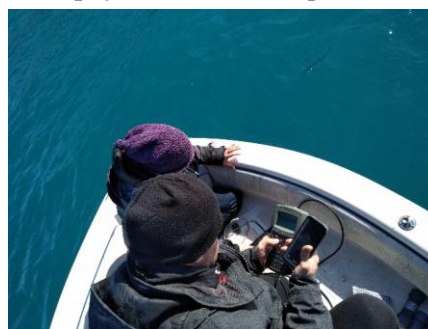
of the indicators in some cases give optimal and satisfactory parameters, while in some other cases these parameters are deteriorating. In particular:



Modugno, contracted by the project, RAPA has conducted a 5-day monitoring by selecting the areas to be monitored, identifying and mapping them and prioritizing the key indicators. Indicators monitoring has been developed, following various methodologies, some of which for the first time. In particular:



- The western part of the marine park has optimal parameters and healthy biodiversity, while the eastern and northern parts of the park have truncated parameters and degradation of some habitats, especially Posidonia meadows.
- The physical-chemical parameters of the water are within the norms except salinity, which is higher than the normal parameters for the waters of the Adriatic and Mediterranean area. Perhaps this is a dominant factor of the Ionian Sea presence in the area.



- First chemical-physical campaign
- First CARLIT index approach;
- First Posidonia survey and mapping (in some sample stations as decided before);
- Underwater exploration of Karaburun Peninsula for algae and pre-coraligenous facies from 0 to 10 mt;
- An example of 3D photogrammetric reconstruction of underwater wreck or a

slice of archeological site

During the mission of the consultant in the area, preliminary results were organized and presented to stakeholders, students of the biology department at Vlorë Public University and were also discussed with RAPA Vlorë staff. Preliminary results



- The water quality parameters at the aquaculture and Marina Orikum areas are within the norms, but at their lower acceptable limit.
- Posidonia at Shën Jani and Sazani areas has severe damages.

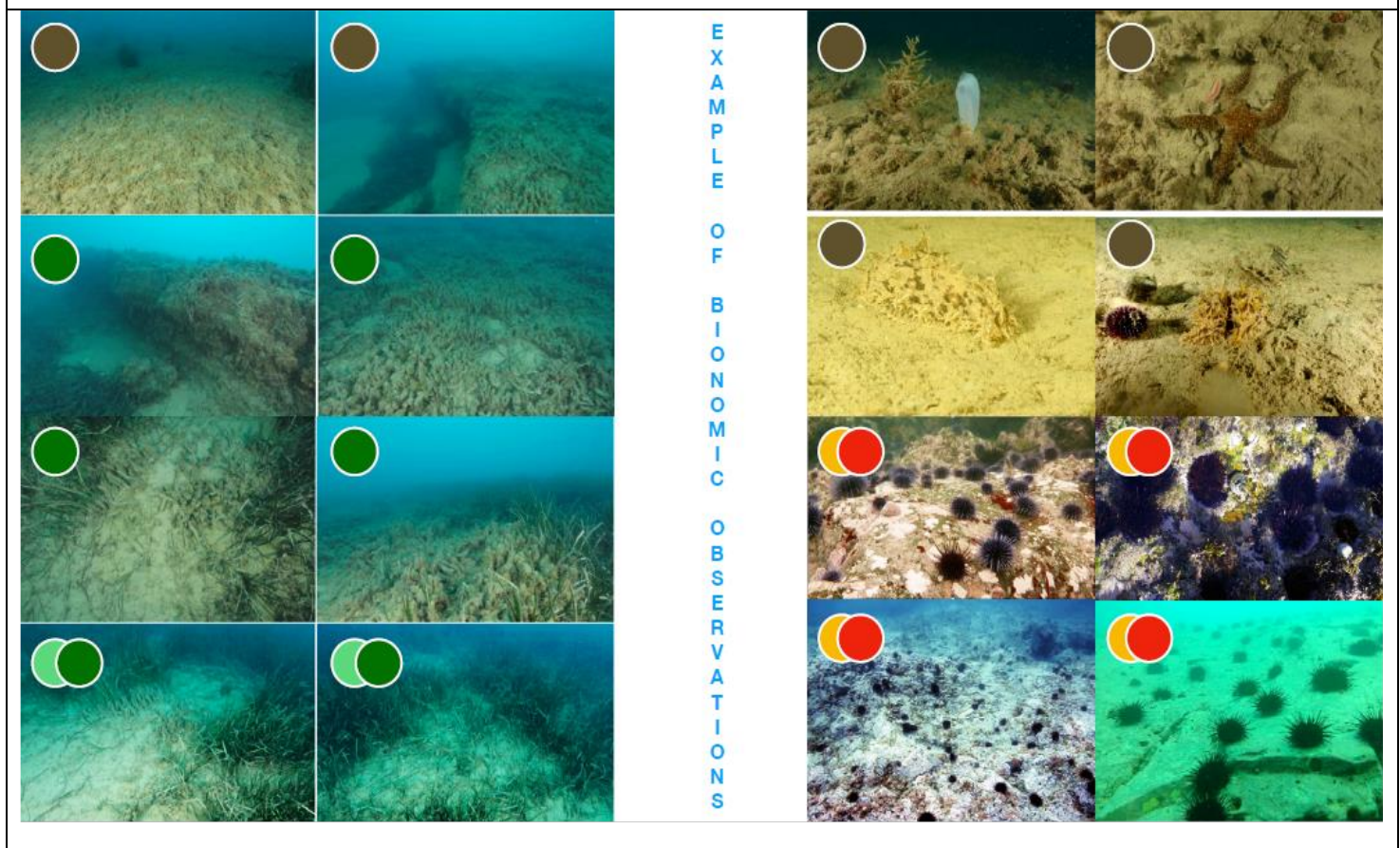
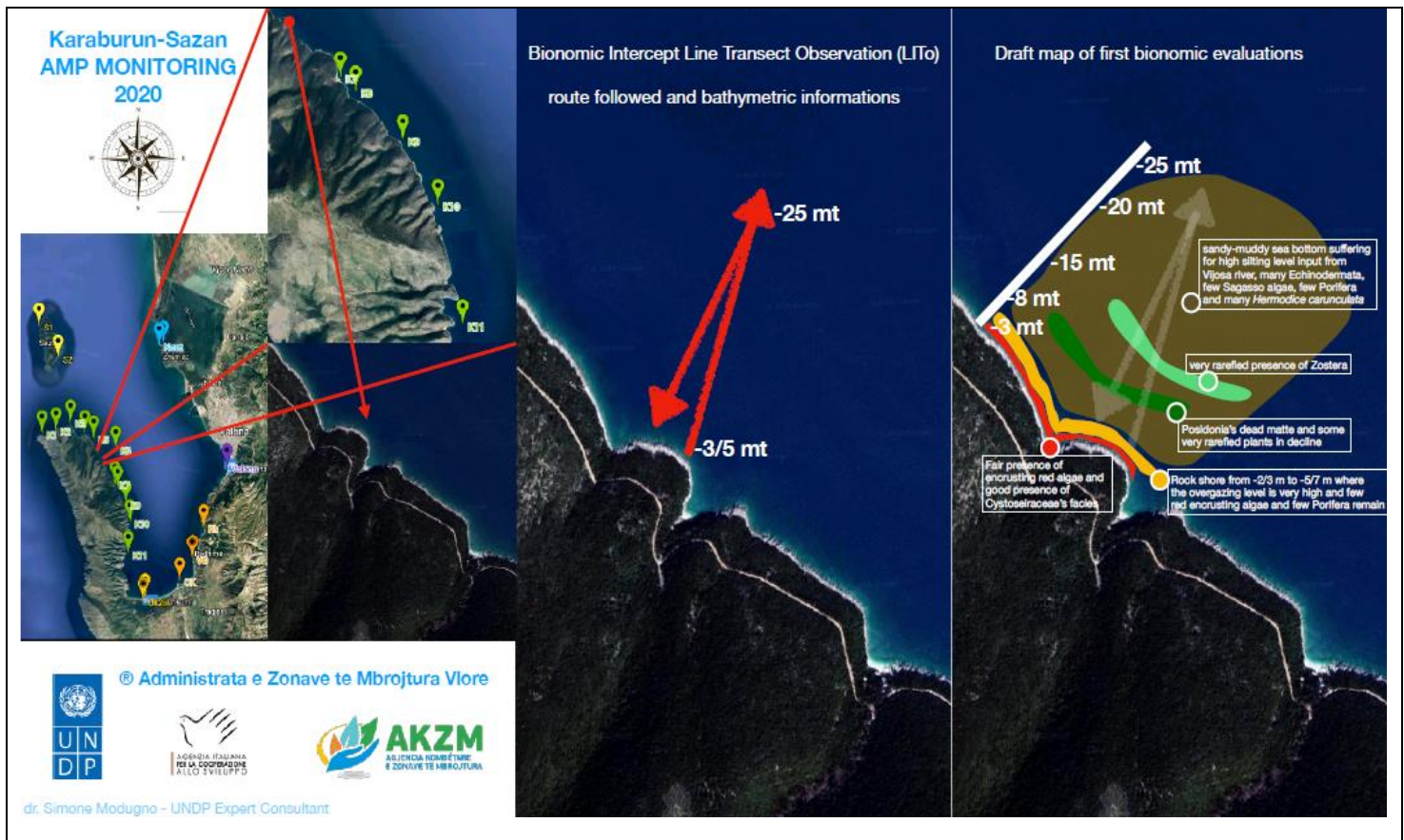
In order to enable tourists to get acquainted with the park's assets and values, the consultant has also developed a 360-degree photography and video program of touristic and natural attractions of National Marine Park Karaburun-Sazan, which will be displayed at the visitors' center of this park in Radhima through VR technology.



(continues at next page) →

This mission has been used by the Italian Federation of Underwater Activities, a member of CMAS, to look into

the possibility of establishing, in cooperation with the Albanian authorities, a maritime museum in Vlora city.

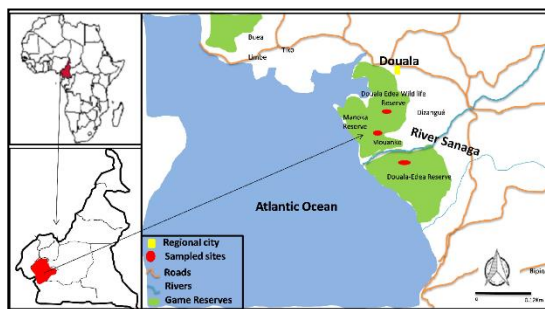


This was the first monitoring mission, which will soon be followed by another one in the coming months for another monitoring of parameters in Vlora Bay area, this time with

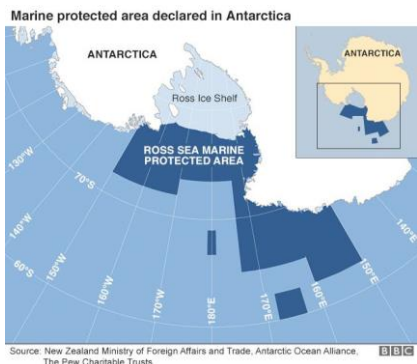
the involvement of biology students from the universities of Bologna, Ravenna and Vlora. The final results report will be presented in the relevant issue of the newsletter.

© UNDP Project Team

## DID YOU KNOW



The **Douala-Edéa National Park**, formerly known as the **Douala-Edéa Wildlife Reserve**, is a national park in the Littoral Region of Cameroon. **Established in 1932**, it can be considered as the **first proclaimed Marine Protected Area in the world**. Covering an area of 1,600 km<sup>2</sup> it is located on either side of the mouth of the Sanaga River along the shores of the Bight of Biafra opposite the island of Bioko.



The **World's largest Marine Protected Area is declared in Antarctica**. On 28 October 2016 in Hobart, Australia, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources agreed to establish the **first Antarctic and largest Marine Protected Area** in the world encompassing **2,060,058 km<sup>2</sup>** in the **Ross Sea**. The region is important to the rest of the planet as the upwelling of nutrients from the deep waters are carried on currents around the world.

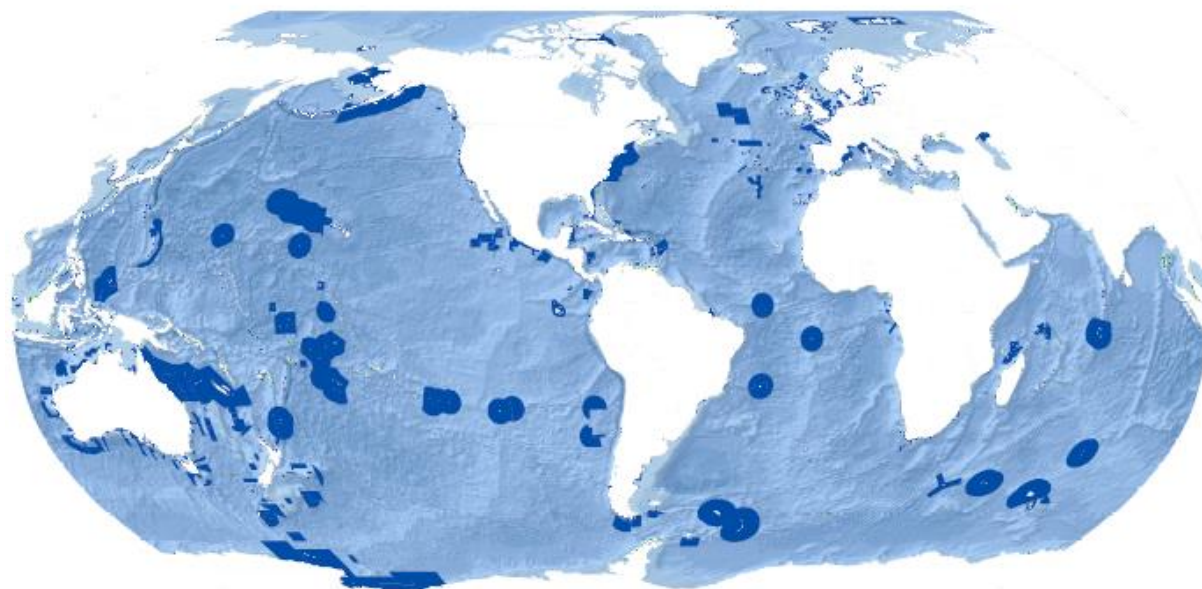


The **global coverage** of Marine Protected Areas is **7.91%** or **28,665,325 km<sup>2</sup>**.

With reference to the MPA as % of territorial waters, **Slovenia ranks first in the world**, having declared 100% of its waters as MPA followed by Monaco with 99.83%.

**Albania is ranked 66<sup>th</sup>** in a list of 170 countries, having declared as MPA only 2.72% of its territorial waters

## Official MPA Map



Source: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2020). Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line]. January 2020, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC. Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)



**7.91% of the global ocean covered by protected areas**  
**2.46% of the global ocean covered by no-take protected areas**



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*