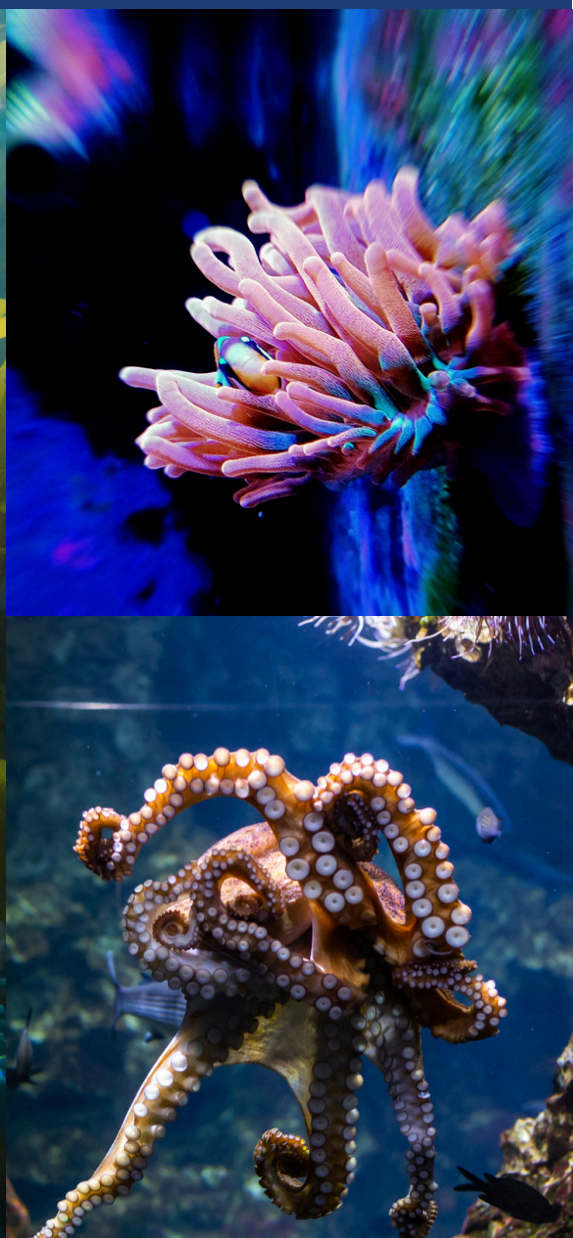
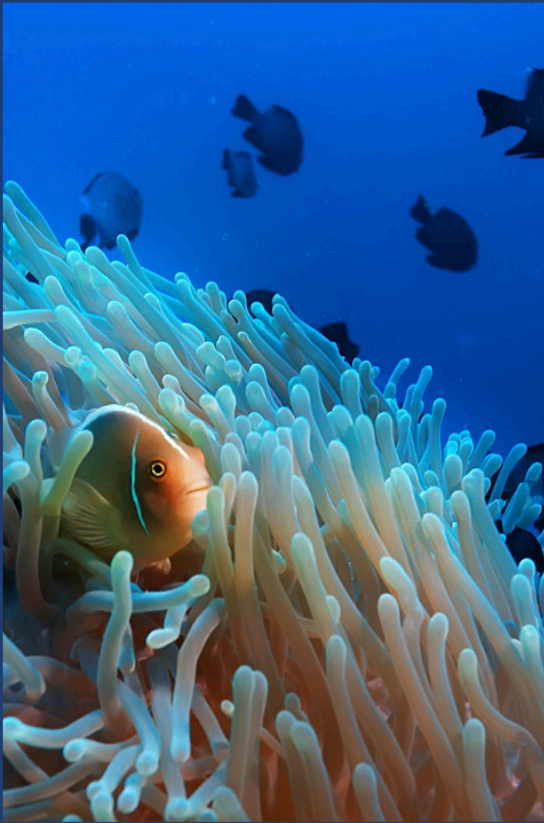


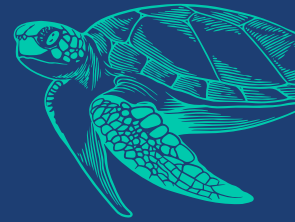
IMPROVED ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR SYSTEMATIC BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



2025



IMPROVED ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA



BACKGROUND

When managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), it is crucial to consider not just the species present but the roles they play in maintaining the healthy functioning of ecosystems. Including species functions and ecosystem processes in decision-making is critical for effective management and ecologically coherent networks.

KEY FINDINGS

Ecological functions are often overlooked in policy due to data gaps. The new ecological criteria within the ESE framework offer a structured approach to address this, helping MPA and MSP planners enhance biodiversity protection and marine ecosystem conservation.

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MSP4BIO WORK

A review of scientific literature informed the development of methods to better integrate ecological functions into conservation planning. This led to a set of enhanced ecological and climate-related criteria, supporting a more holistic, ecosystem-based approach to marine conservation.



SCAN HERE



Portfolio of improved ecological criteria



for systemic biodiversity protection and restoration



Vulnerability

How adaptive, sensitive and resilient is a species?

How vulnerable is a species to climatic and anthropogenic stressors?



Stability

How adaptive is the ecosystem itself?

What does the ecosystem integrity look like?



Functional Hotspots

How is the food web structured?

Are key functional species present?

What are the key functional areas?



Life Cycle Critical Areas

Are there refuge areas, developmental, feeding or foraging grounds?

Are there steppingstone areas, ecological corridors or migration routes?



Climate-smart Potential

Does this area have mitigation or adaptation potential?

How climate stable is the area and is there connectivity potential?



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