

FACTSHEET



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRITERIA FOR MPAS





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Authors:

Camila Pegorelli, Javier García Sanábria (UCA) et al

Overview

Sustainable maritime spatial planning (MSP) requires more than maps—it needs effective governance structures and social legitimacy. MSP4BIO delivers tools to assess and support both, by providing a structured approach for examining these multifaceted aspects within the context of spatial planning, focusing on MSP and marine protected areas (MPAs). The methodological framework seamlessly integrates the socio-economic dimension with the environmental aspect, primarily through its focus on ecosystem services.

Key Findings

Ecosystem Services Support Human Well-Being

Ecosystems provide vital services such as food, recreation, and biodiversity conservation,

Socio-Economic Criteria for Marine Planning

Including local economic activities, cultural heritage, and community reliance on marine resources.



Promoting Sustainable Marine Management

Creating new protected areas that preserve natural beauty of marine environments and also support sustainable livelihoods.

Stakeholder Involvement

Engaging local communities and stakeholders in marine management ensures that policies reflect their needs,

Link Between Ecosystems and Quality of Life

The health of marine ecosystems is directly linked to the quality of life for coastal communities. Damage to ecosystems can result in the loss of these services.

USE IT FOR

- 1 Inclusive MPA management
- 2 Governance gap assessments
- 3 Cross-sector engagement strategies

WHY IT MATTERS

The socio-economic value of MPAs goes beyond environmental protection; it is essential for improving human well-being. MPAs help ensure food security, preserve cultural heritage, and provide economic opportunities through sustainable industries like eco-tourism. Protecting these marine areas not only safeguards the environment but also contributes to long-term economic and social stability for coastal communities.

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javier.sanabria@uca.es;
pegorelli.camila@gmail.com