

M

**MARINE
PROTECTED
AREAS
EUROPE**



PA

MPA Europe's goal

To map

- optimal locations for **Marine Protected Areas** in **European seas** for a network that includes as high **biodiversity of species, habitats, and ecosystems** as possible
- **blue carbon** stores

to consider both in **Marine Spatial Planning** in a changing climate.



Background

Most planning is *ad hoc*

- Countries select a few special and/or residual areas
- Convention on Biological Diversity promotes regional Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA)

But biodiversity cannot be optimally protected without

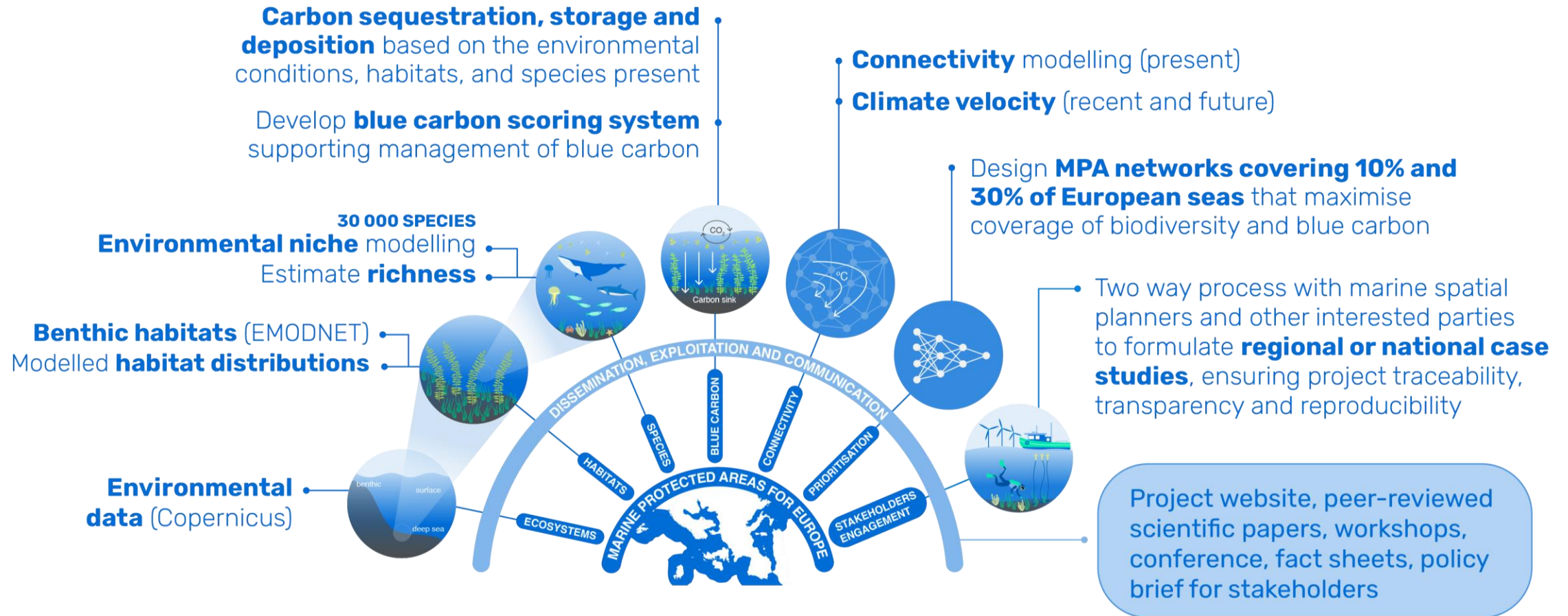
- Knowing where it is
- Placing it in wider geographic context

Systematic conservation planning

A holistic approach to ocean management

- Bottom line prevention of species extinctions
- Protect biodiversity, including well-known and associated species from data on
 - Species richness and composition (endemicity, rare, threatened, habitat-forming)
 - Habitats and biomes
 - Ecosystems
- Optimal network protects more representative biodiversity than random

MPA Europe process

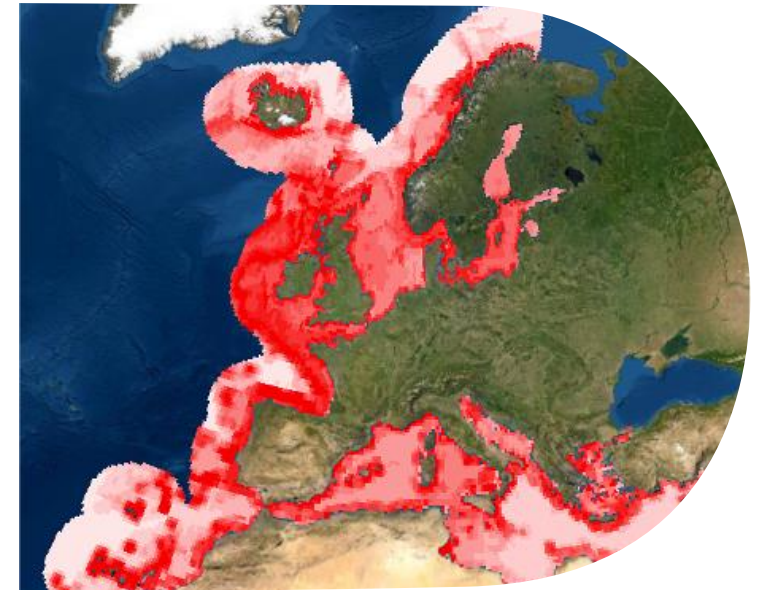


Study area



Project outcomes

- Map with optimal locations for protecting **biodiversity** for all European seas to support transboundary **Marine Spatial Planning**.
- Improve the basis for **national authorities** to include marine areas in **climate change mitigation plans** and **design optimal MPAs** including expanding Special Areas of Conservation and increasing levels of protection in existing areas.
- Maximisation of **species, habitats, and ecosystems inclusion** within 30% of the area.



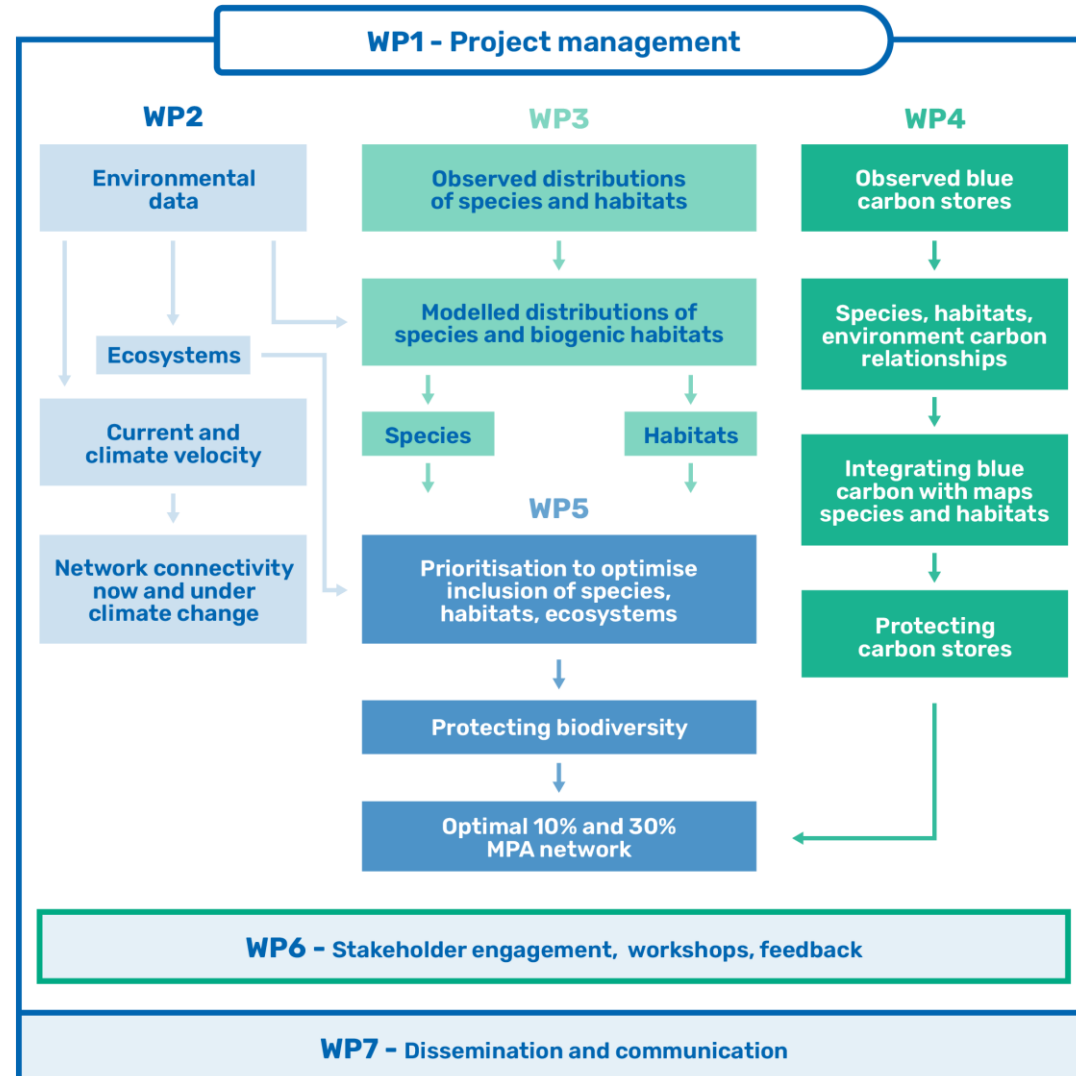
Possible cells of biodiversity by priority level



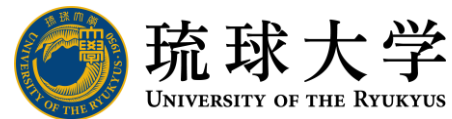
MPA Europe will enable stakeholders, including national and regional authorities, to optimise the inclusion of biodiversity, blue carbon, and ecosystem services through Marine Spatial Planning.

Project organisation

MPA Europe is organised in 7 work packages (WP) with progressing tasks as the project advances.



COORDINATOR



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