BioProtect Area-Based Management - Decision Support Framework (ABM-DSF)

Description of solution

MATIS

Summary

The BioProtect Area-Based Management Decision Support Framework (ABM-DSF) supports Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning (EB-MSP) to reduce multiple interacting pressures from human activities on marine biodiversity and ecosystems. It is a novel, participatory, evidence-based co-creation framework to identify priority areas for conservation and restoration, integrating multiple spatial scales and new data products on biodiversity, human pressures, and socio-economic impacts. The flexibility of the framework ensures replicability and scalability.

Detailed description of what it is

The framework contains the interface, the data sets, the applications, the installation procedures and all documentation and reports needed to educate people on how to install and run the decision support framework (DSF) in different contexts. The BioProtect ABM-DSF includes:
• Recommendations for good governance and management (**BioProtect Good Practice Recommendations on Improved Governance**).
• Procedures and technologies to activate and engage citizens and stakeholders in co-design and decision-making (**BioProtect PPGIS Analyser**).
• Strategies to map, monitor and forecast changes in marine biodiversity (**BioProtect Biodiversity Toolbox**).
• Process to identify risks and adaptive measures to reduce pressures from human activities on marine biodiversity.
• Decision Support Tool (DST) for ecosystem-based conservation and restoration planning (**BioProtect Marine Planner**).
• Impact assessment workflows to understand the ecological and socioeconomic consequences of management options.
• Capacity building to facilitate the use of the framework.
• An app (**BioProtect CO2 Calculator**) to calculate the kg of CO_2 eq. per kg of landed fish and offer simple reporting and graphing features.

What it provides

The BioProtect Area-Based Management Decision Support Framework (ABM-DSF), composed of BioProtect solutions is mainly addressed to advisory councils, governments and working groups. The BioProtect ABM-DSF concept comprises an integrated approach to explore opportunities, constraints and trade-offs, using decision tools appropriate for each situation. This will enable:

Decision makers and ocean managers to plan and prioritise marine areas for protection based on human activities and impacts, and to accelerate the transition towards more effective, sustainable ecosystem management and improved governance.
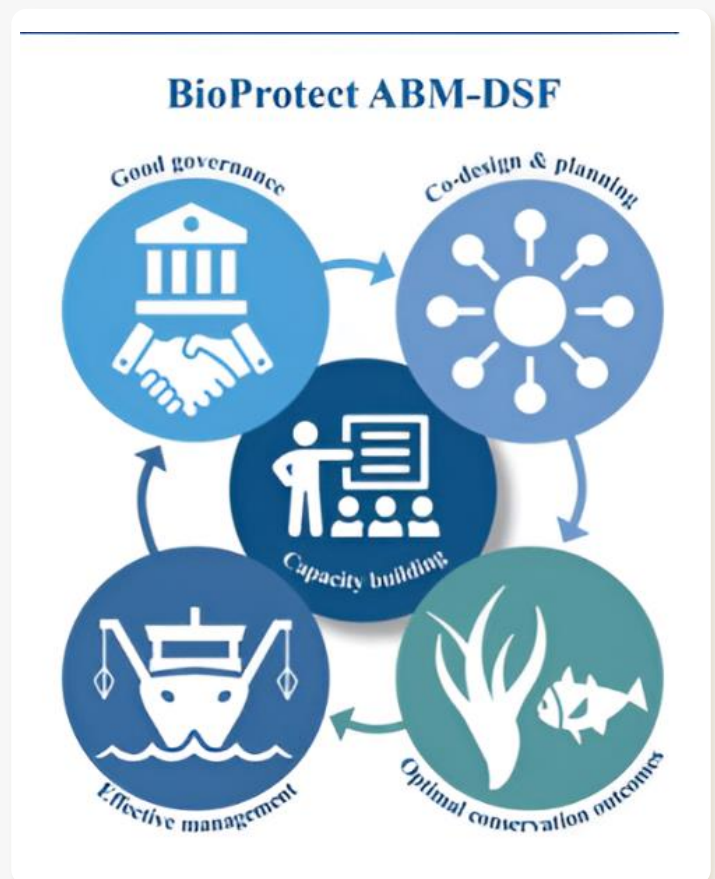
Users of the marine ecosystems to engage in the marine conservation and management processes, integrating their needs and perspectives.

European citizens and coastal communities to take informed actions needed to help preserve their most precious common goods.

How it is applied or should be used

The framework is used to identify priority areas for biodiversity conservation and management, as an essential approach to reduce human pressures on marine ecosystems. It includes a series of steps such as activation and involvement of local stakeholders, monitoring and forecasting marine biodiversity, mapping human pressures and risks, utilising a Decision Support Tool (DST) for the prioritisation of areas for biodiversity management and conservation, and evaluating ecological and socio-economic impacts of establishing these areas.

BioProtect ABM-DSF

Good governance
Co-design & planning
Capacity building
Effective management
Optimal conservation outcomes

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