

Joint Cooperative Audit

Are mechanisms in place to ascertain the designation and effective management of MPAs within the Mediterranean Sea?

Progress Report

Bratislava, September 2018

Main reasons for selecting this topic



Mediterranean SAIs acknowledged the various problems relating to the sustainability of the marine environment



Subject of concern for all Mediterranean SAIs



Importance of the Mediterranean as a habitat for endangered/critically endangered species



Importance for the recreation of civilians



High risks and threats stemming from urbanisation, tourism, shipping traffic, overfishing, pollution, climate change



Relatively limited scope of the audit, therefore easier to manage

Participating SAIs

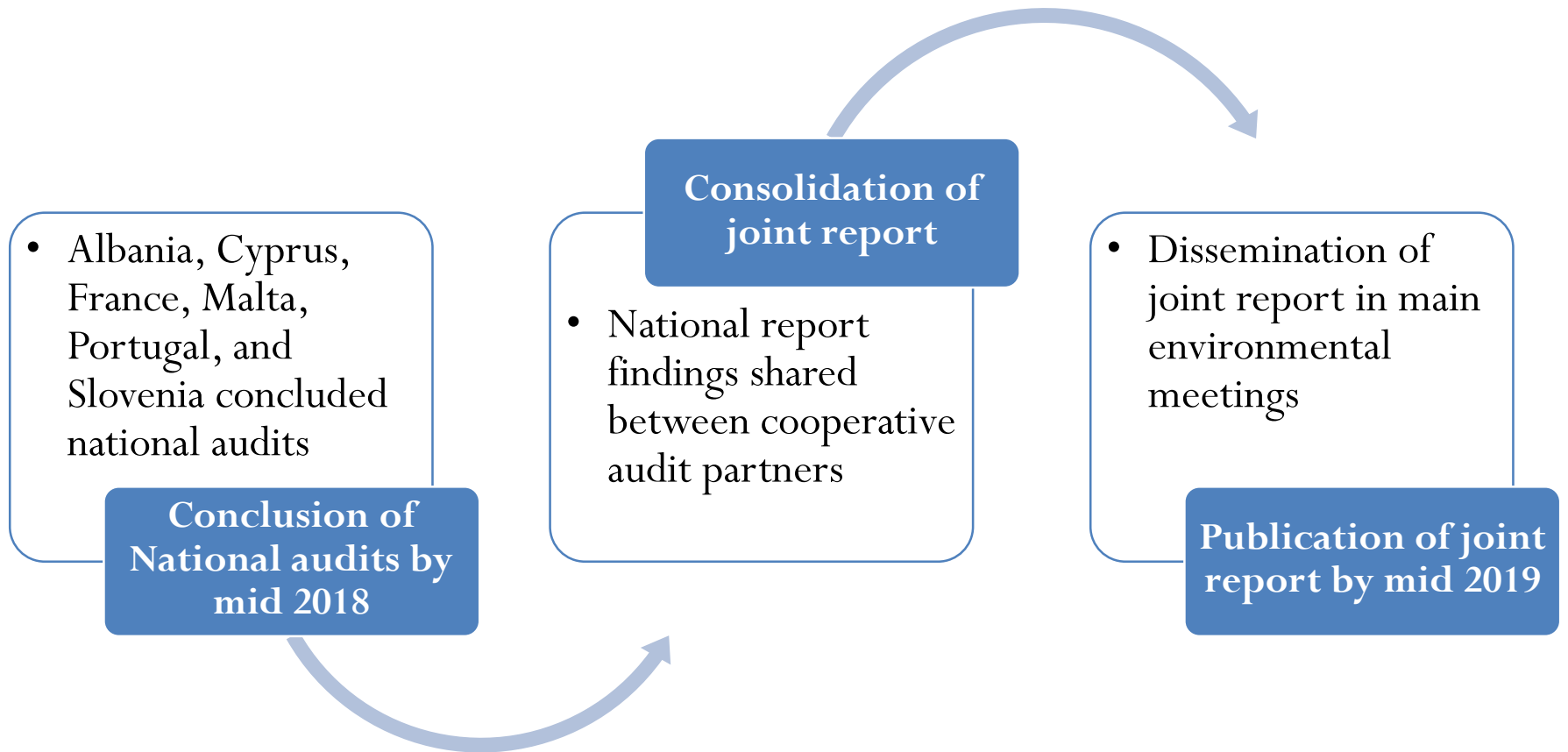


● SAIs participating in the cooperative audit

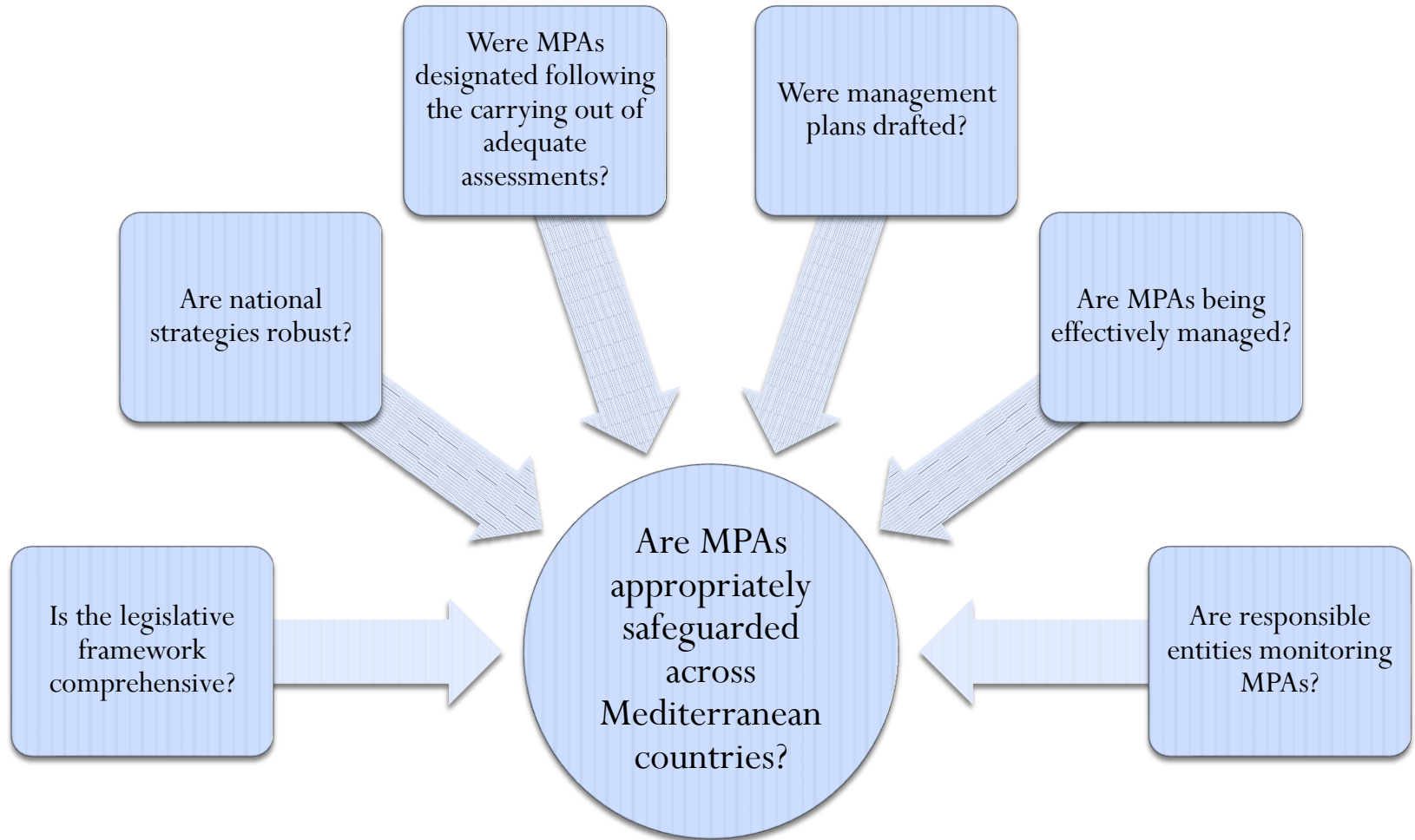
● Other contributory SAIs

● Possible contributors

Milestones



Main audit questions



Methodology



The legislative framework comprises National Legislation, EU Directive and United Nations Conventions

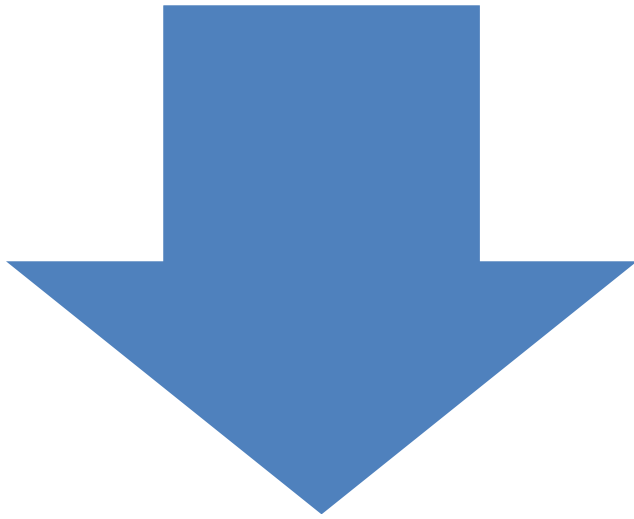
In many instances the legislative framework appropriately mandates countries to establish and manage MPAs

The Legislative Framework

Some MPAs were designated through various legislation resulting in multi-protection status

Limited coordination exists in situations where multiple legislative responsibilities are assigned

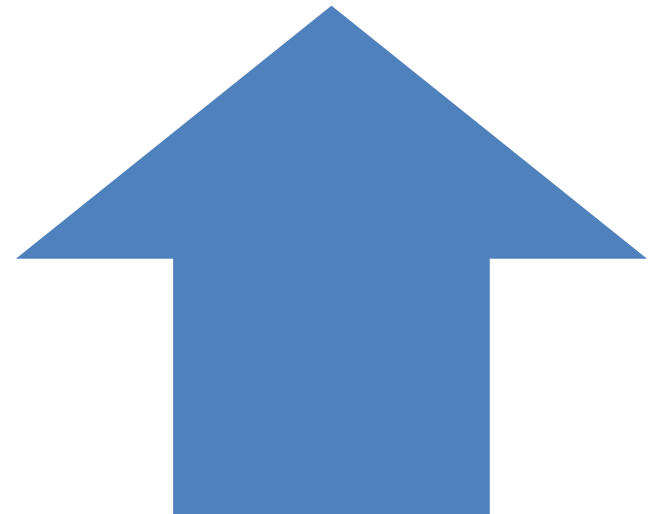
Risk Assessments



Countries have completed various studies to assess the feasibility of designating MPAs

Assessments undertaken were subject to the following issues:

- Assessments did not extend to cover all waters within jurisdiction
- Assessments were of limited technical scope as certain types of threats and pressures were not specifically assessed



Strategies

- Most of the participating SAIs noted that their respective countries have a national strategy
- However, the following issues materialised:
 - In one case, the national strategy covers biodiversity but is not MPA specific
 - Some SAIs reported that national strategies are fragmented
 - National strategies lack specificity, time frames and measurable targets
 - In cases, resources have not been allocated to enable the full and timely implementation of strategies

**The
Management
of MPAs is
hindered
due to
Management
Plans related
weaknesses**

The management of
MPAs is mainly
dependant on PoMs and
Management Plans

MPAs are still not
supported by
Management Plans

In cases, there was an
absence of:

- Measurable targets
- Identified responsibilities
- Plan reviews and updating

The appropriate level of
resources has not been
allocated to enable the
implementation of
management plans

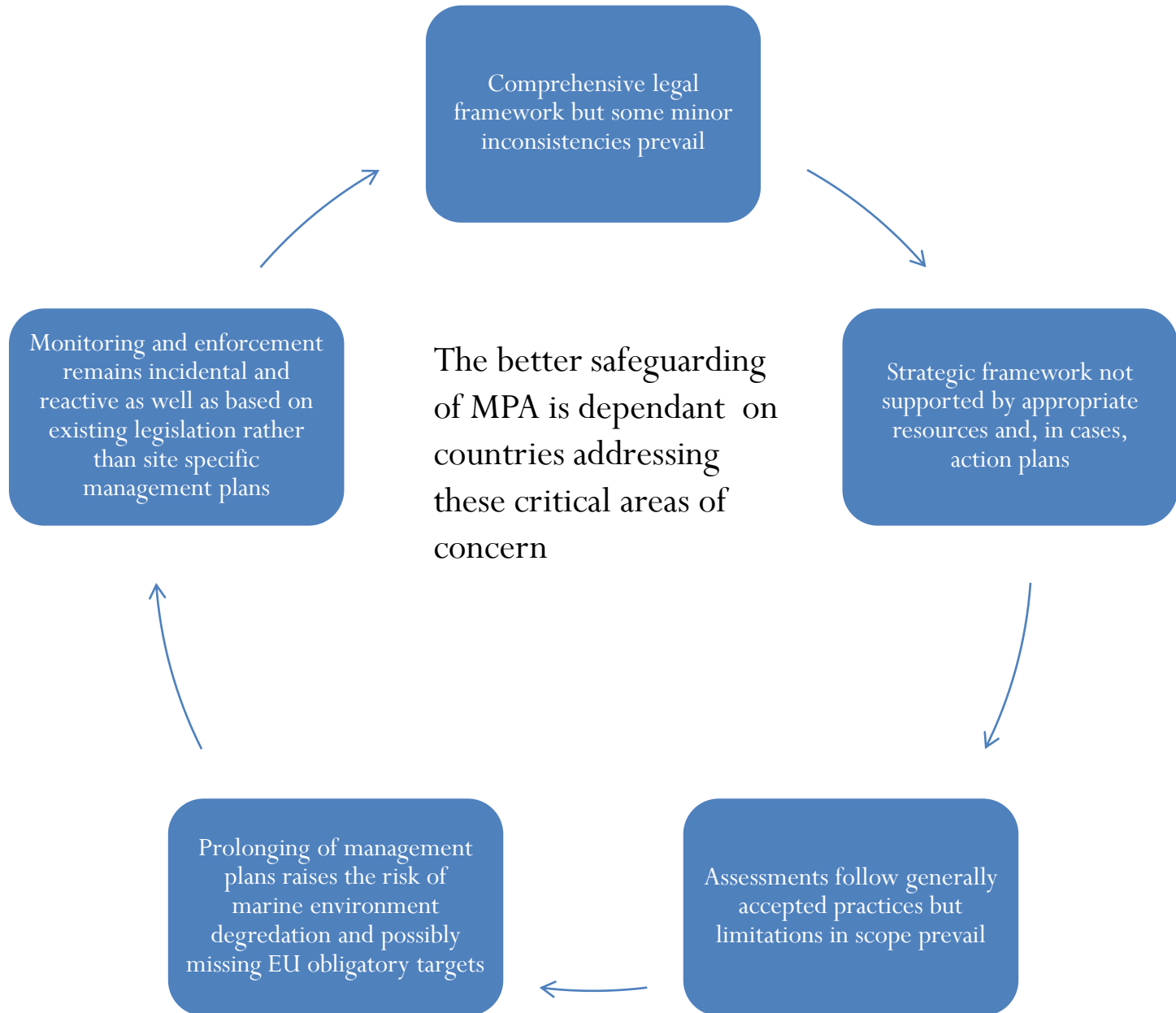
The implementation of
management plans is
subject to coordination
limitations

The implementation of
management plans is
subject to coordination
limitations

Monitoring

- Monitoring of MPAs by national authorities is generally incidental and reactive
 - There is no established programme based on risk assessments to monitor MPAs
 - Coordination between the stakeholders involved in the monitoring of MPAs is weak

Conclusion



Comprehensive legal framework but some minor inconsistencies prevail

Monitoring and enforcement remains incidental and reactive as well as based on existing legislation rather than site specific management plans

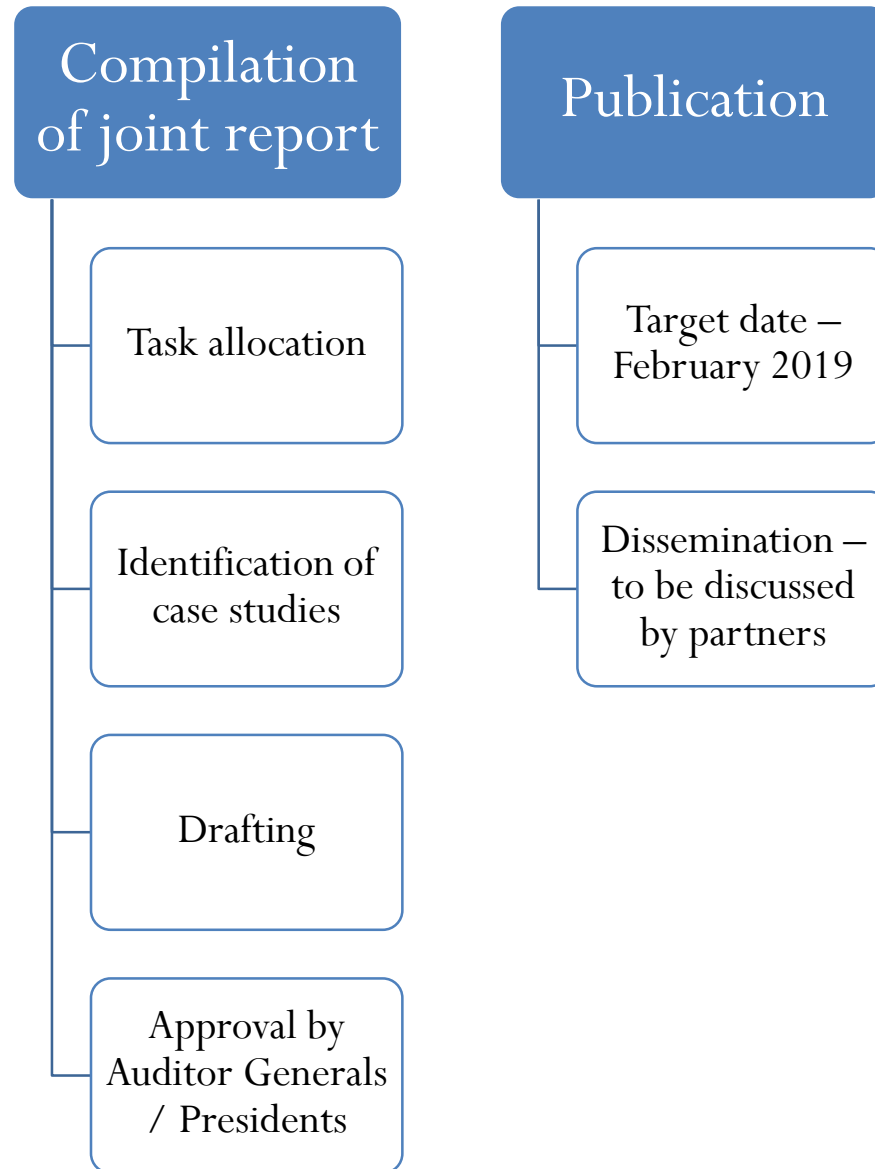
The better safeguarding of MPA is dependant on countries addressing these critical areas of concern

Strategic framework not supported by appropriate resources and, in cases, action plans

Prolonging of management plans raises the risk of marine environment degredation and possibly missing EU obligatory targets

Assessments follow generally accepted practices but limitations in scope prevail

The way forward



Thank you