

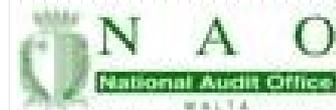
Joint Cooperative Audit

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

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Luxembourg, 2019

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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 and for the economy as a significant tourism product



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



Relatively limited scope of the audit, therefore easier to manage

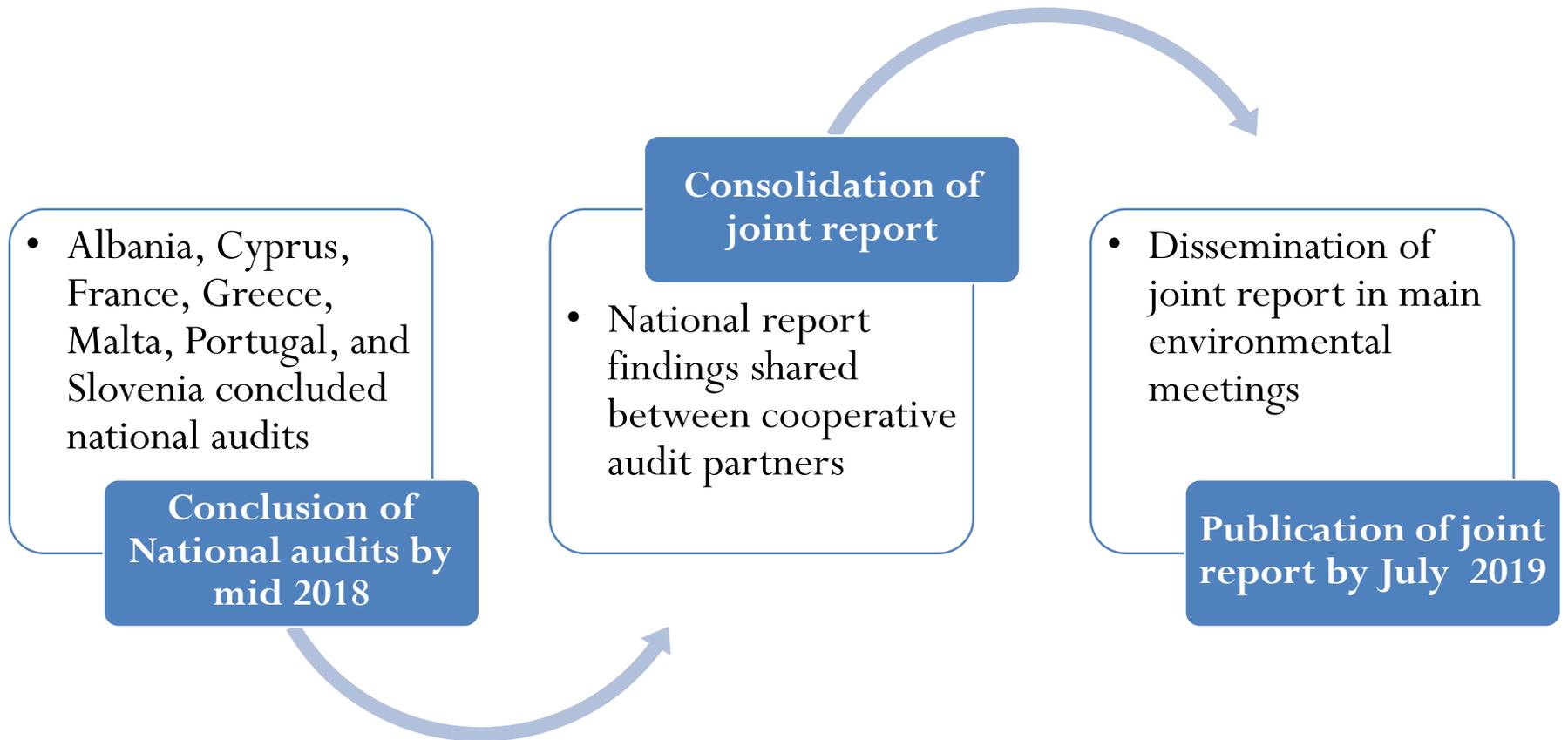
Participating SAIs



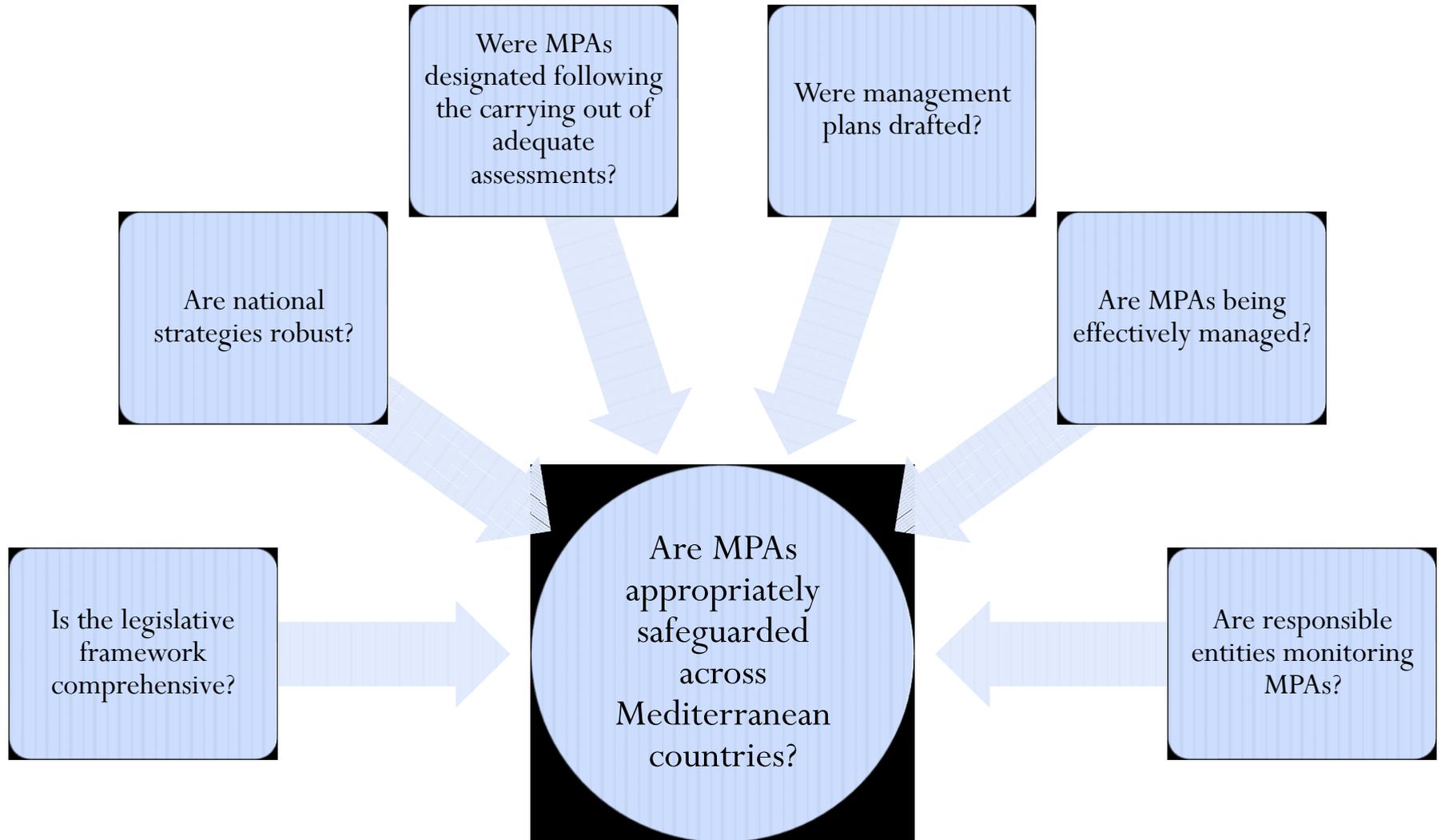
● SAIs participating in the cooperative audit

● Other contributory SAIs

Milestones



Main audit questions



Methodology



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

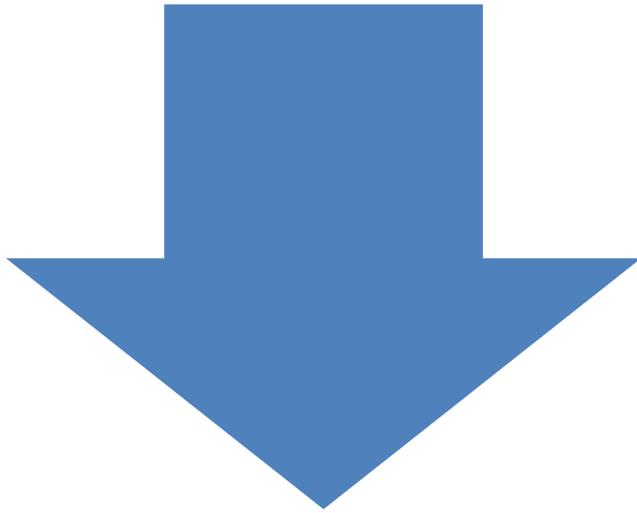
In many instances the legislative framework appropriately mandates countries to establish and manage MPAs

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

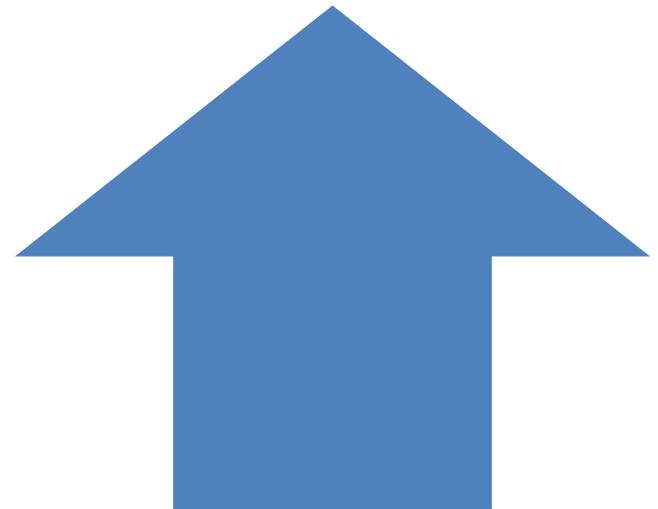
Risk Assessments



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

Limitations of assessments undertaken:

- 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 were noted:
 - 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 Programme of Measures 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

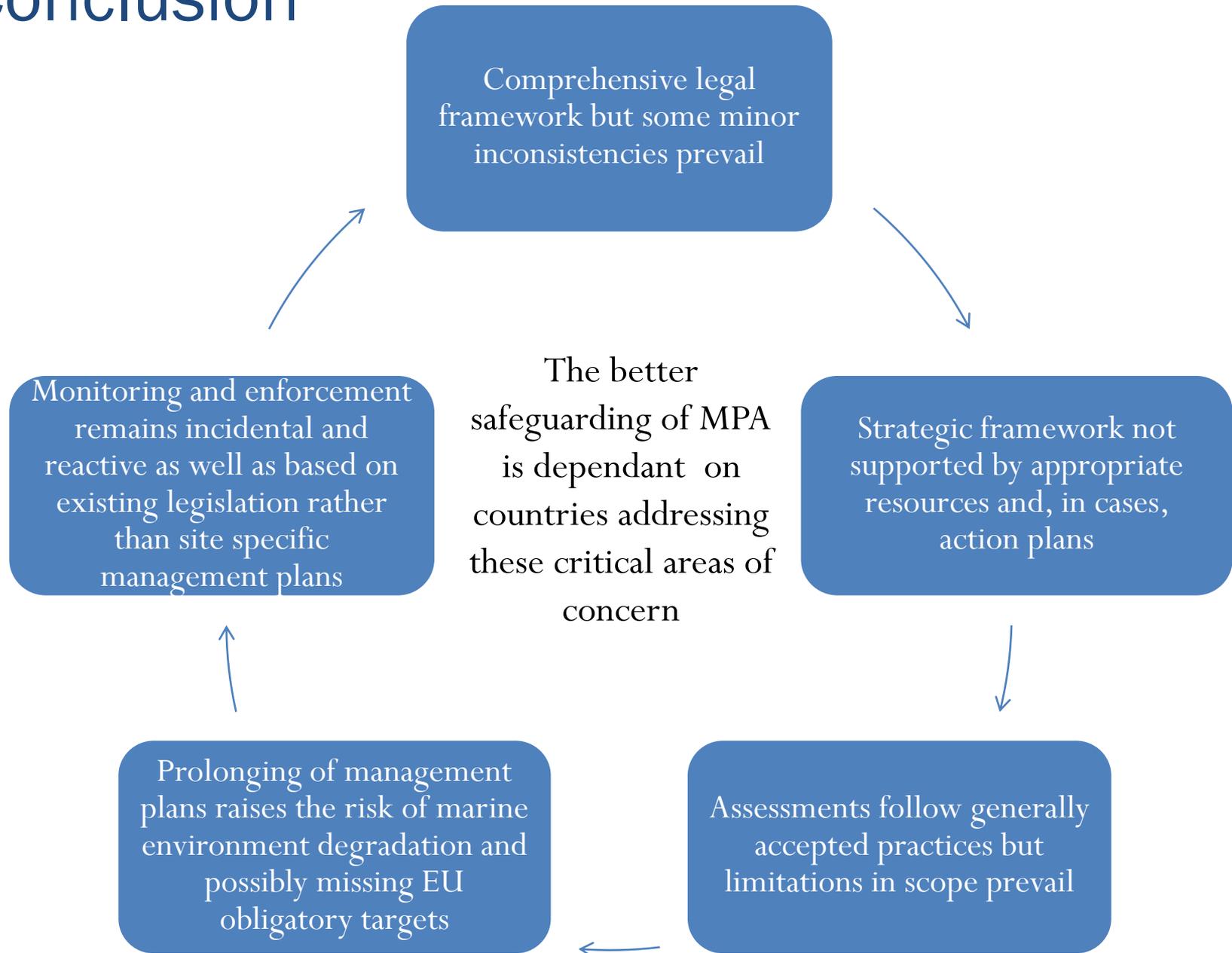
The appropriate level of resources has not been allocated to enable the implementation of management plans

The implementation of management plans is subject to coordination limitations

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



Lessons learned (1 of 2)

- Understanding the complexities of competing interests
 - Diverse national priorities
 - Immediate economic interests vs sustainable blue growth
- Managing the fragmentation of responsibilities
 - Problems of coordination
 - Rationalisation of different organisational goals
- Not always a question of one size fits all
 - Different circumstances prevail for specific MPAs
 - Need to develop site specific audit criteria

Lessons learned (2 of 2)

- Managing expert advice
 - We needed to broaden our knowledge on MPAs
 - We needed to prioritise areas where we sought expert advice
 - Attending conferences and seminars organised by stakeholders
 - Exploiting knowledge sharing opportunities with other SAIs participating in the cooperative audit
- Understanding the tensions brought about by the international political scene
 - Conflicts within the Mediterranean
 - Priorities shift from environmental sustainability
 - Understanding the political sensitivities concerning jurisdiction

Thank you

