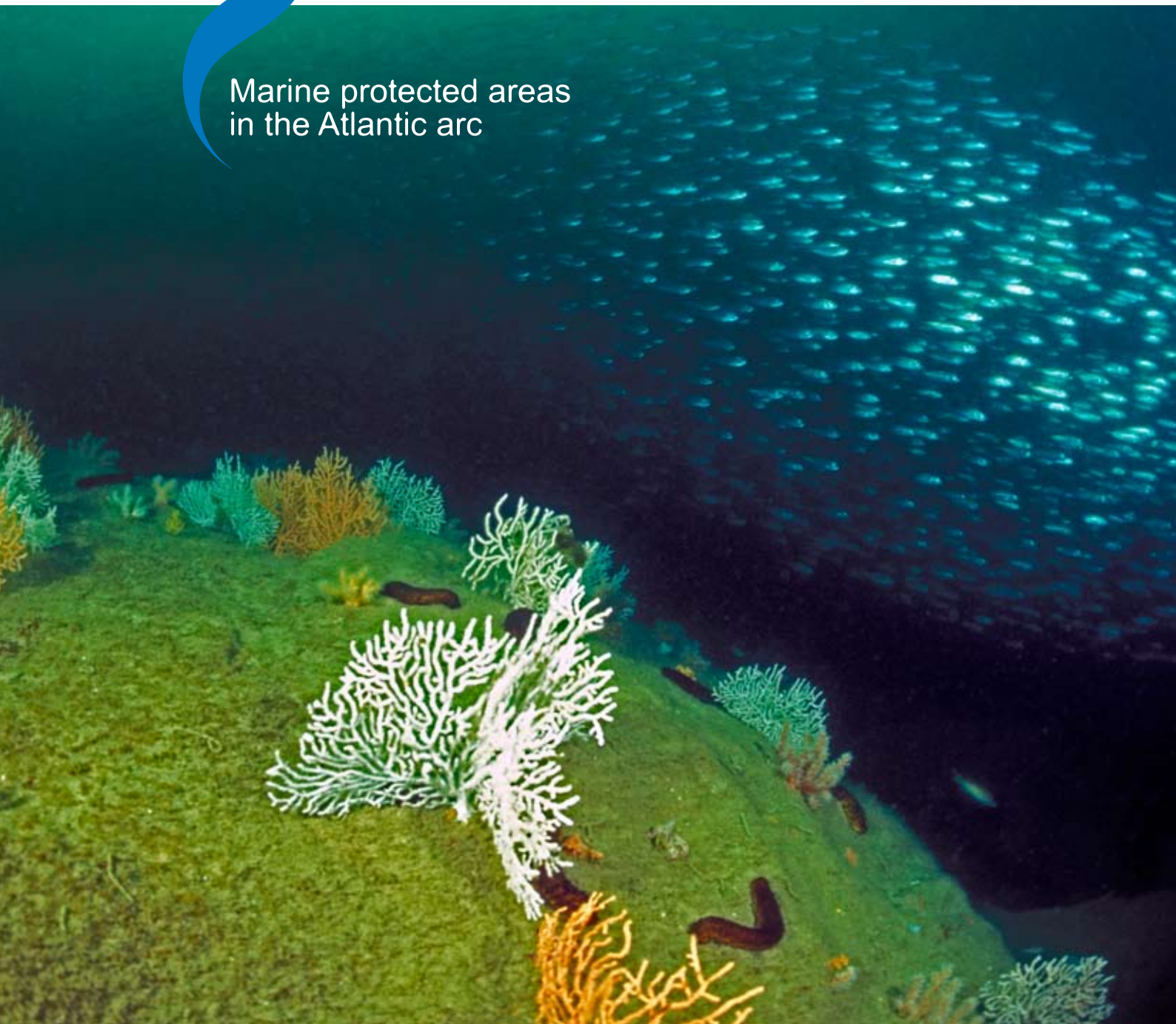


MAIA

Marine protected areas
in the Atlantic arc



MAIA: a European cooperation project
Developing a network of Marine
Protected Areas in the Atlantic Arc

MAIA: marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc

From the Shetland Islands to the Azores, from the United Kingdom to Portugal, conservation of marine biodiversity has become a key national issue, especially through the creation of Marine Protected Areas.

The acronym “MPA” encompasses various tools, approaches and purposes which deserve to be better known.

The aim of MAIA partners is to promote and share this diversity and these differences to ensure better understanding and to therefore enhance the development of a consistent, efficient and accepted network of Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic arc.

Over the last few years, the MPA creation process has accelerated with the development of national strategies which meet the commitments made as part of international conventions.

In line with this process, the MAIA European cooperation project aims at:

- Promoting and structuring the sharing of experience and approaches;
- Elaborating common methodologies;
- Contributing to the emergence of a human network of MPA managers.



“What is a Marine Protected Area?”

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, defines a marine protected area as “a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”.

This objective is sometimes associated with a local socio-economic development goal or developed in conjunction with sustainable resource management. Steering can be entrusted to different kinds of bodies (local, national) each having their own statutes and governance.

A Marine Protected Area also features a number of management measures implemented to promote preservation such as good practice charters, regulations, oversight, scientific monitoring, mediation, informing the public, etc.



Parablennius gattorugine

Developing networks of Marine Protected Areas: an international issue

The concept of the Marine Protected Area first appeared within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982). It was further clarified in the Convention on biological diversity in 2000 and by the World Summit on sustainable development in Johannesburg in 2002. Today the concept of Marine Protected Areas is omnipresent in the debate on preserving the marine environment both internationally and on the European level, with the European Marine Strategy, the Common Fisheries Policy or the “Habitats” and “Birds” Directives.



Laminaria digitata

MAIA: a European project

MAIA is financed by the Interreg IV B Atlantic Area programme under the priority 2 “protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment sustainability”.

MAIA gathers 9 partners from 4 European countries, United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal, which are involved in MPA designation and management.

Objective: sharing our experience

The purpose of MAIA is to create a **network of MPA managers**, which will take **initiatives** on an international level in terms of designation, governance and management and be **involved in the development** of a representative, consistent, efficient and accepted network of **Marine Protected Areas** in the Atlantic arc.

The 2010 – 2012 Action Plan

Technical workshops on management issues common to the Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic arc:

- establishing indicators in the MPAs, monitoring strategies;
- defining and implementing management plans;
- involving the stakeholders in MPA designation processes.

These workshops will bring together many stakeholders involved in MPA designation and management such as managers, scientists and sea users such as fishermen.

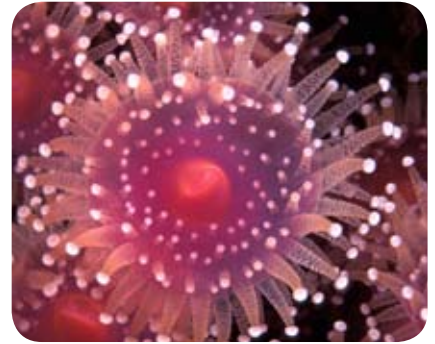
Site visits in each partner country to enhance information, knowledge and know-how transfer between the countries and the MPA managers.

A dedicated website including:

- a private collaborative space;
- a document database;
- a GIS database supplying the geoportal and the dynamic editorial pages.

This database will be used to establish a baseline on the status of Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic arc and to assess it on a regular basis.

Production and dissemination of document resources: field studies, cross-sectional analyses, methodological guides, workshop proceedings and thematic documents on MPAs.



Corynactis viridis



Homarus gammarus



Hippocampus guttulatus

OSPAR: a convention for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic

Fifteen Governments of the western coasts and catchments of Europe, together with the European Community have signed the OSPAR Convention to protect and conserve the marine environment and resources of the North-East Atlantic. In 1998, the need to establish a network of Marine Protected Areas was formalized in the recommendation 2003/3.



MAIA

Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc

The MAIA project's partnership

United Kingdom

JNCC Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Natural England
South West Food and Drink – Finding Sanctuary

France

Agence des aires marines protégées (lead partner)
AGLIA Association du Grand Littoral Atlantique
CNPMEM Comité National des Pêches et des Elevages Marins

Spain

Xunta de Galicia – Consellería do Mar
Universidade de A Coruña – Recursos Marinos y Pesquerías

Portugal

Instituto Nacional do Recursos Biológico I.P. (INRB I.P./IPIMAR)
Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e da Biodiversidade (ICNB)

www.maia-network.org



ATLANTIC AREA Transnational Programme
ESPACIO ATLÁNTICO Programa Transnacional
ESPACE ATLANTIQUE Programme Transnational
ESPAÇO ATLÁNTICO Programa Transnacional



European Union

European Regional
Development Fund

INVESTING IN OUR COMMON FUTURE



Marine protected areas
in the Atlantic arc

