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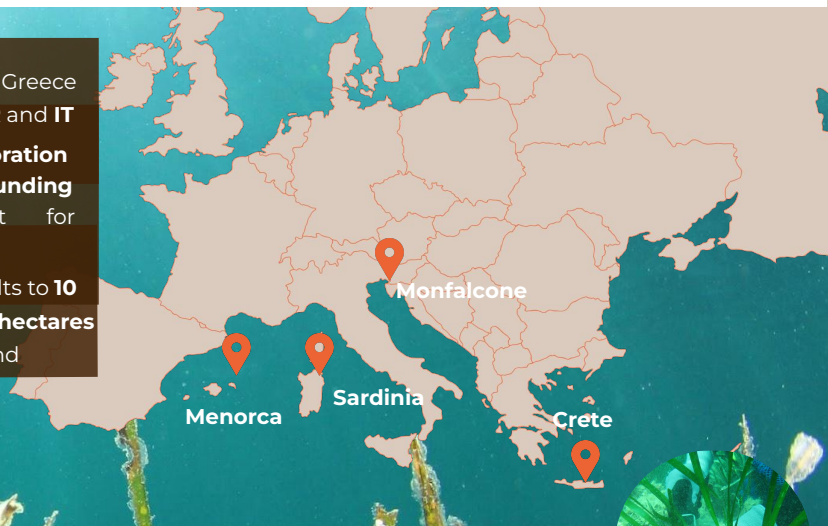
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ARTEMI

Accelerate the restoration of seagrass meadows in the Euro-MED region by integrating the financial and societal benefits of seagrass ecosystem services into relevant public and private policies and investments.

4 Pilots Sites in Spain, Italy and Greece
10 Partners from **BG, ES, FR, GR** and **IT**
Delivery of **4 seagrass restoration pilots** with **€2M additional funding** secured through Payment for Ecosystem Services (**PES**)

Guiding the replication of results to **10 larger** restoration projects of **>5 hectares** worth **€50M** at project end



4

Pilot Sites

€2M

Additional Funding (PES)

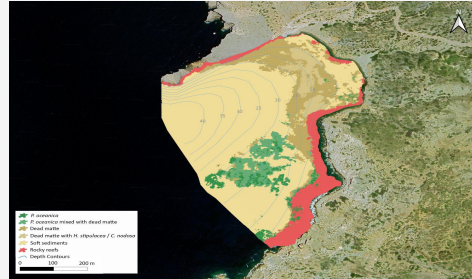
x10

Replication x10 larger restoration projects of >5 Ha

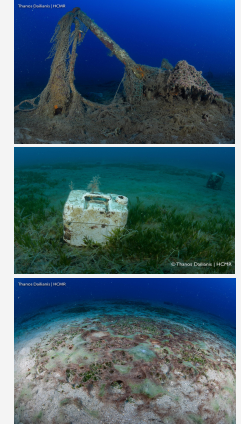
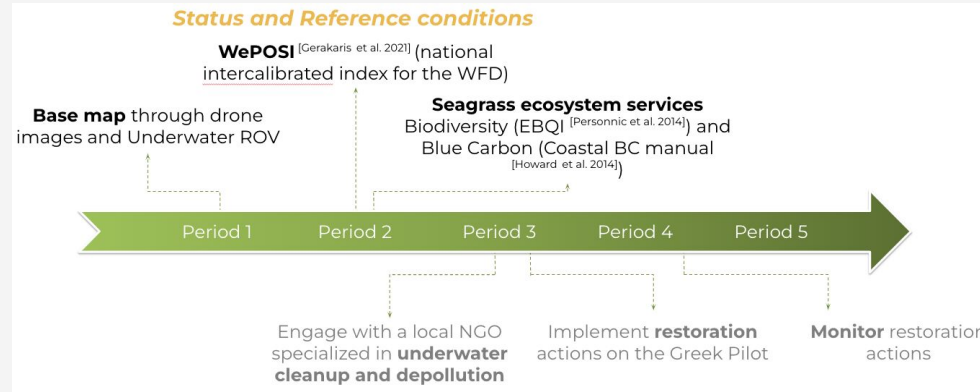
€50M

Worth €50M: at the end





- **Fish Farm** 1996 - 2017 (21 years) □ 1000 tons of gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)
- **Natura 2000** site (GR4320006) 39,300 ha
- National Environment and Climate Change (**NECCA**) management unit of Eastern Crete protected areas and marine zone



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Menorca pilot site

Aim of the proposal: recovery of specific impacted area

Species to recover: *Posidonia oceanica*

Area of action: meadow degraded by the construction of the collector for the Ciutadella desalination plant (depth=20m)

Year of the impact: 2010-2012

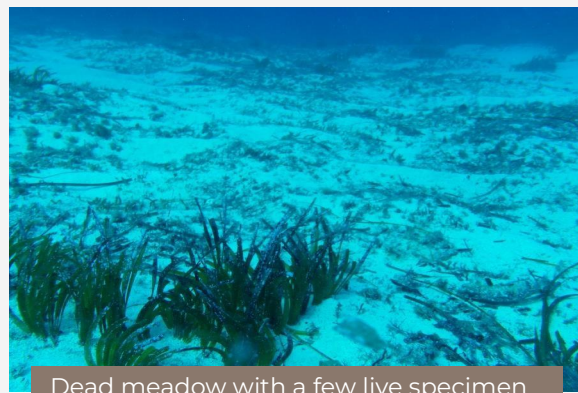
Impact: by accident, a bentonite spill occurred. Bentonite is a type of non-polluting clay with compaction characteristics.

Damaged area: 1,600 m² (40 x 40 m)

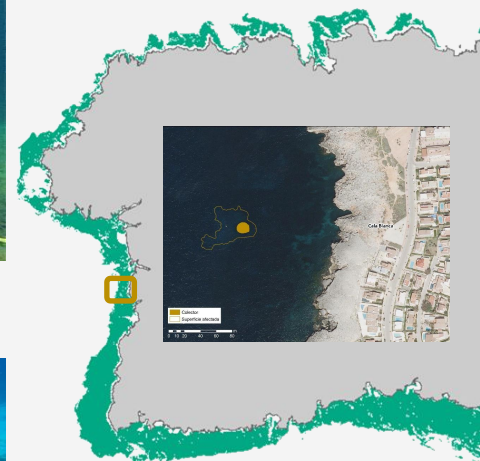
Challenges: restoration work at 20m depth; admin coordination and long term monitoring



Planting to create a node in Mallorca island.



Dead meadow with a few live specimen



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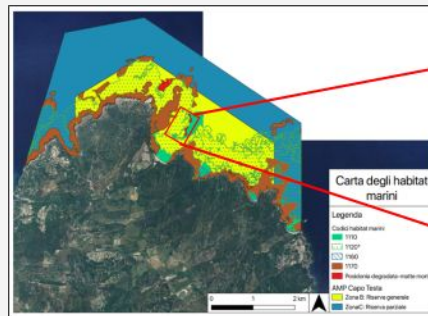
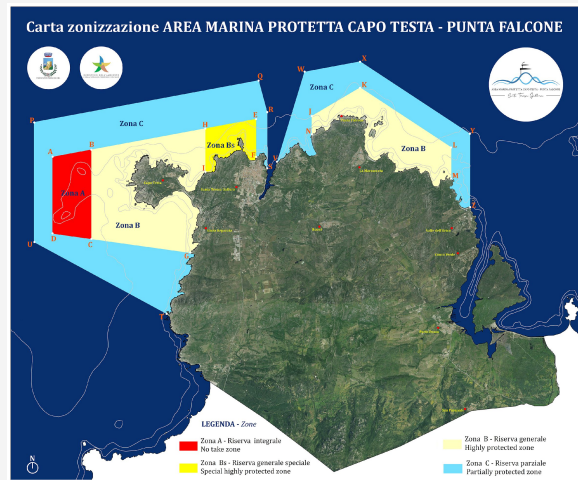
Sardinia pilot site

Ad hoc underwater surveys carried out in March 2023 revealed that the area is characterized by:

1. **Fragmented** *Posidonia oceanica* meadow
2. Area of approximately **2 hectares**
3. **Dead matte patches** of various sizes identified (with an overall area exceeding **200 m²**)
4. Depths of **20-25 m**

Actions:

1. **Restore the meadow integrity** through transplanting in the fragmented area
2. Assessment of habitat **ecosystem services** for the purpose of PES (**payment for ecosystem services**)
3. **Dissemination and communication** actions



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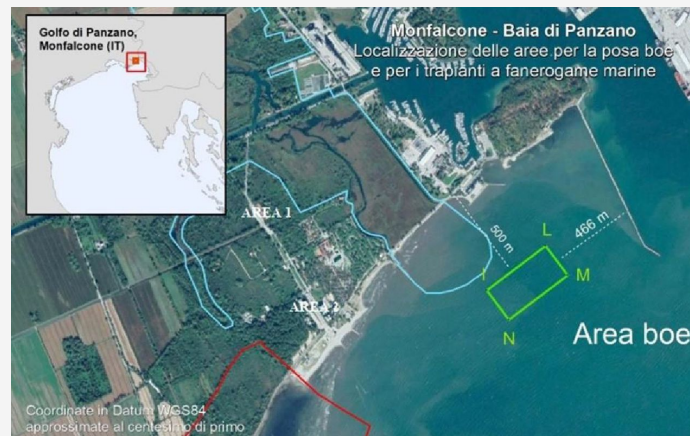
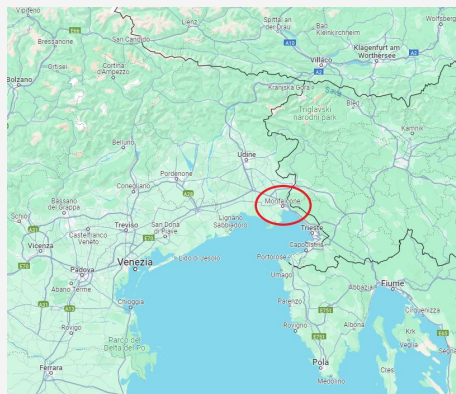
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Monfalcone pilot site



- Analysis of the **benefits of the seagrass presence** in North Adriatic
- Analysis of **the results on the evolution of transplants of seagrass** in lagoons and north Adriatic shores
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- Identification of the **areas where seagrass ecosystem services** take on greater value
- Assessment of the vocation of **specific areas to the implementation of measures of restoration and protection**



VIDEO: [SASPAS INTERREG ITA/CRO Project - YouTube](#)



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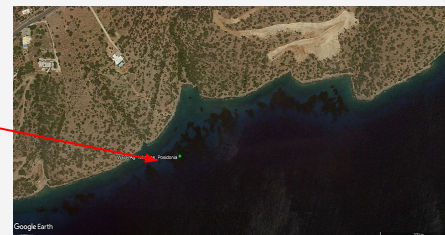


Main challenges to address - Conclusion

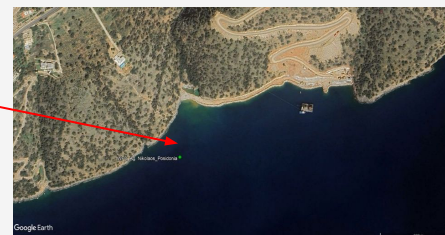
- **Weak enforcement:** Apply protection frameworks alongside restoration (Nature Restoration Law, Post 2020 SAP-BIO)
- **Limited incentives:** EU project funding exists; need for PES and regional funding mechanisms
- **Passive vs Active restoration:** Active supports recovery **but costly**; prioritize non-degradation and protection
- **Harmonization needed:** Standardize ES assessments and restoration methods

Example of ongoing destruction of Posidonia meadows

1st photo: June 2022, WFD monitoring station



2nd photo: Feb 2024, desalination unit and a pond created for a touristic village in Eastern Crete



Turbidity or siltation which will eventually destroy the meadow



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