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go further
together.
Ambition for
a Blue belt!

European marine
cooperation in the
Mediterranean
region and beyond

**EUROPEAN MARINE COOPERATION IN
THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BEYOND:**

**NETWORKS OF MARINE PROTECTED
AREA MANAGERS, KEY ALLIES!**



Project co-financed by the European
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The French MPA Forum: A technical exchange network for French MPA managers

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The French MPA Forum

A technical exchange network for
french MPA managers

 Forum
des gestionnaires
d'aires marines protégées



- It's an **informal technical exchange network linking MPA Managers** in mainland France and its overseas territories.
- It aims to create a technical platform for **discussing and capitalizing on the real-life experiences of MPA Managers**.



The AMP Forum receives support (human and funds) from :



Background and aims of the network

- The MPA Forum is an initiative launched in **2001** by a small group of 3 MPA Managers in order to :
 - > improve knowledge of MPA stakeholders
 - > discuss and capitalize on their daily management and field experience
 - > on the basis of these discussions, revamp or improve their own project on their site

First meeting 2002
support from the French Ministry in charge
of the Environment

➡ **7 MPA or MPA projects**

➡ Creation of an an informal **Executive Committee + name**

- Focus first on **technical exchanges** and now on **technical and strategical exchanges**
- Organised on the basis of a **membership charter**
- **MPA managers** and those who support all kinds of MPA initiatives (others partners : ministry, agencies, international networks like Medpan, ...)
- Joining the Forum is **voluntary** : those involved make personal contributions to the discussions, and this process helps to mutually enlighten everyone in the network.

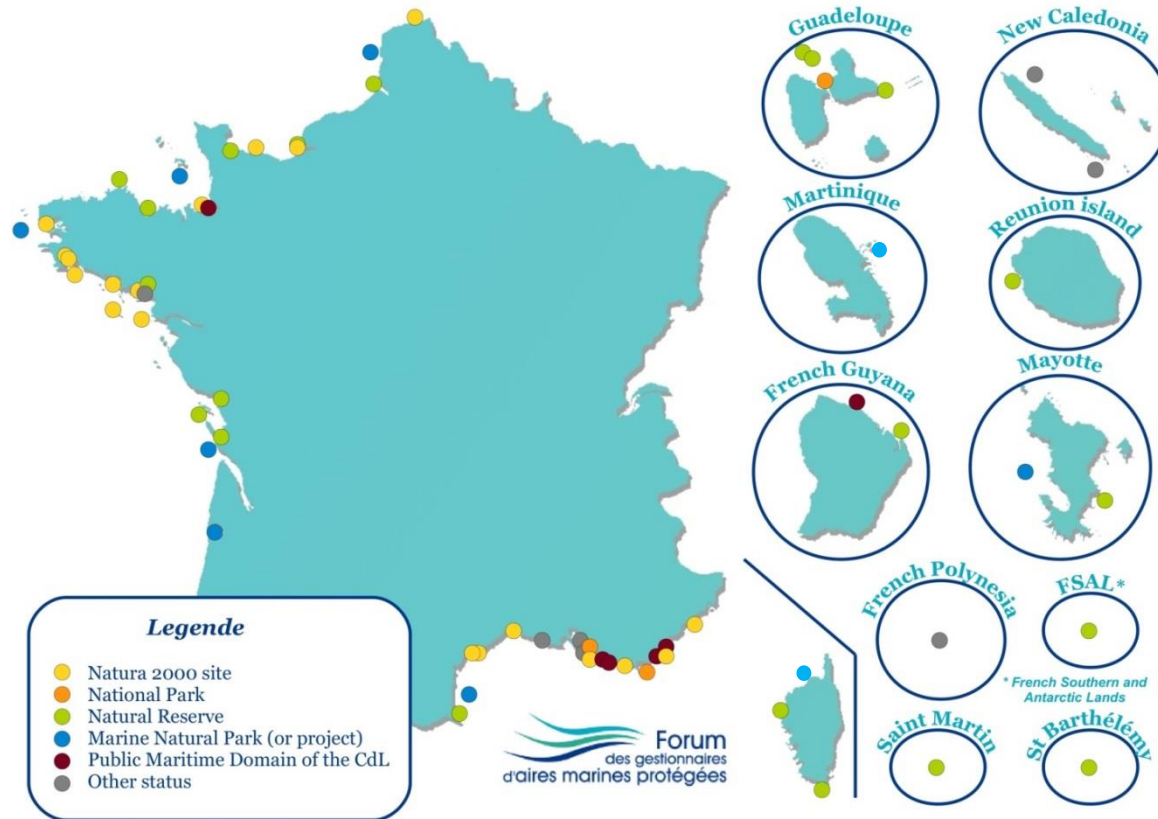


An informal but
well-organised
network

- an **executive committee**
- a **President** designated from among EC members
- an half-job position : **Network Activities Organiser**
(with funds from the French Biodiversity Office)
- interested parties must sign a **charter** to become members
- **internal rules**

Support and number of members

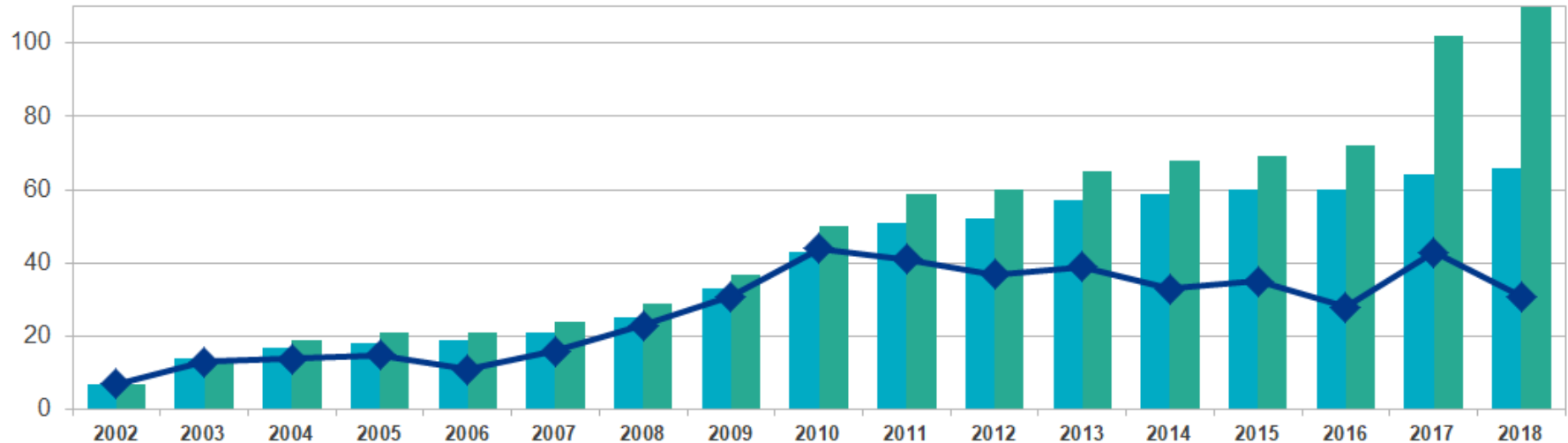
Members of the French Marine protected areas Forum



The Forum receives **human and financial support** from the French Biodiversity Agency for the organization of the annual meetings and facilitates the access of overseas MPA.

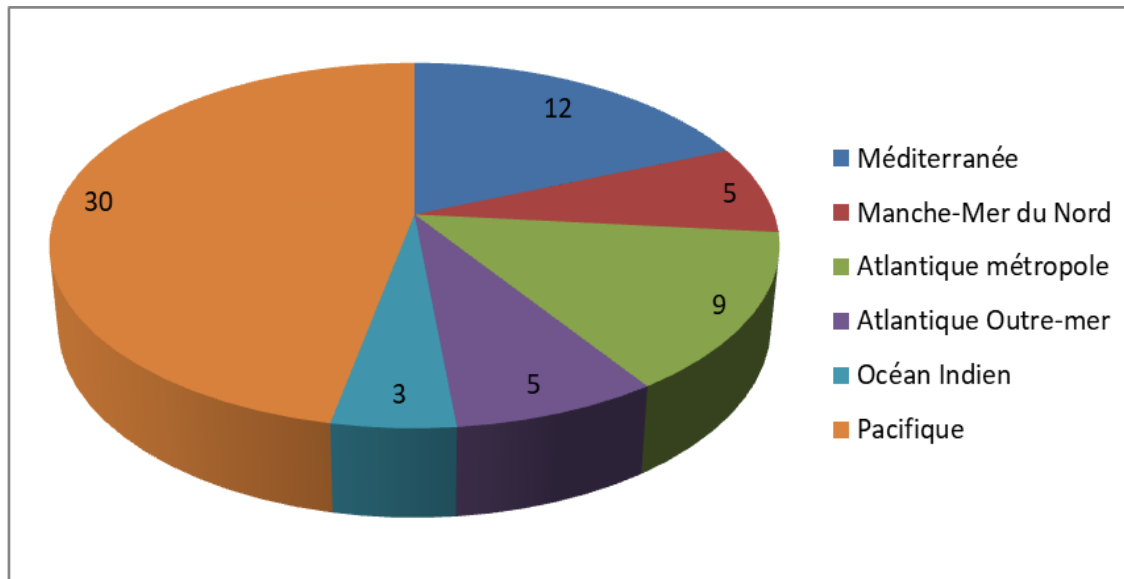
2021 : 70 managers, 110 MPA (in a large Marine Natural Park, there are several Natura 2000 sites – In all, there are around 500 french MPA)

Nombre d'AMPs représentées au sein du Forum des AMP



- Cumulated number of MPA managers
- Cumulated number of MPA
- Number of MPA during annual meetings

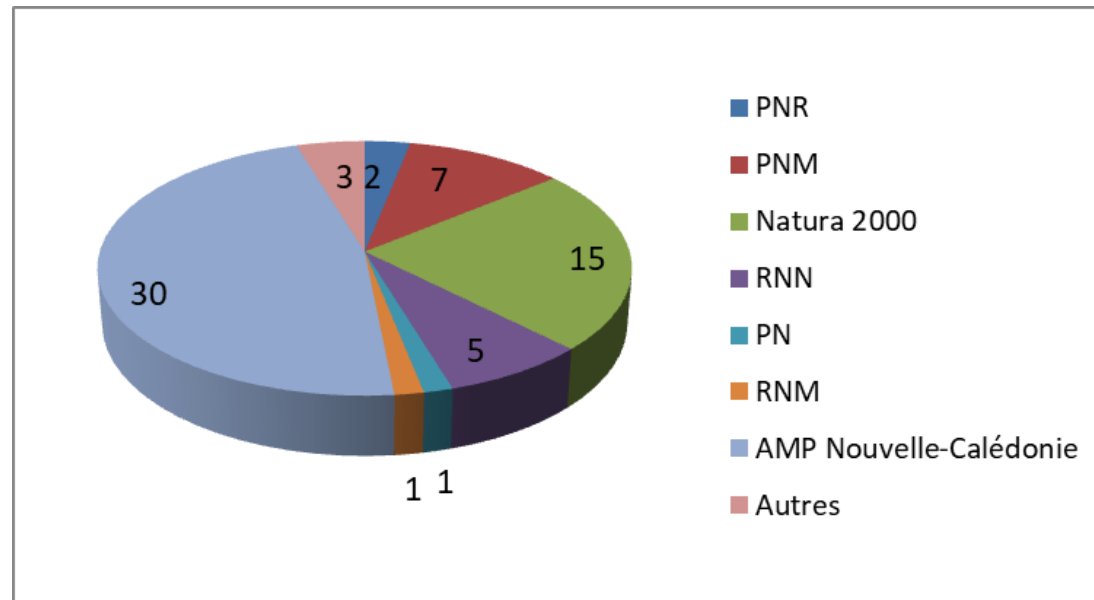
Support and number of members



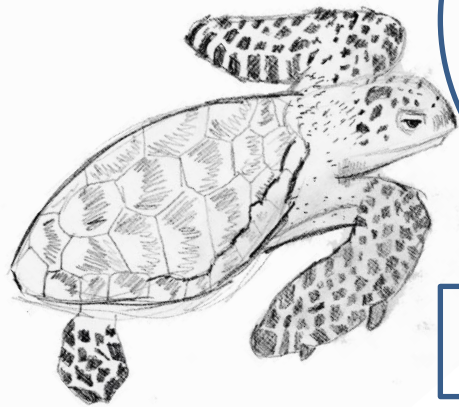
The 9 Marine Natural Park and their Natura 2000 associated sites are managed directly by the French Biodiversity Office.

The others 15 Natura 2000 sites, National or Regional Parks, Natural Reserves, New Caledonia MPA are independent.

- bring together **highly diverse status of MPA and managers** (and MPA projects)
- **mainland and overseas**
- The employees who represent their MPA at the Forum have **different positions**: directors, field officers, rangers, project manager, ...



What is done in the Forum ?



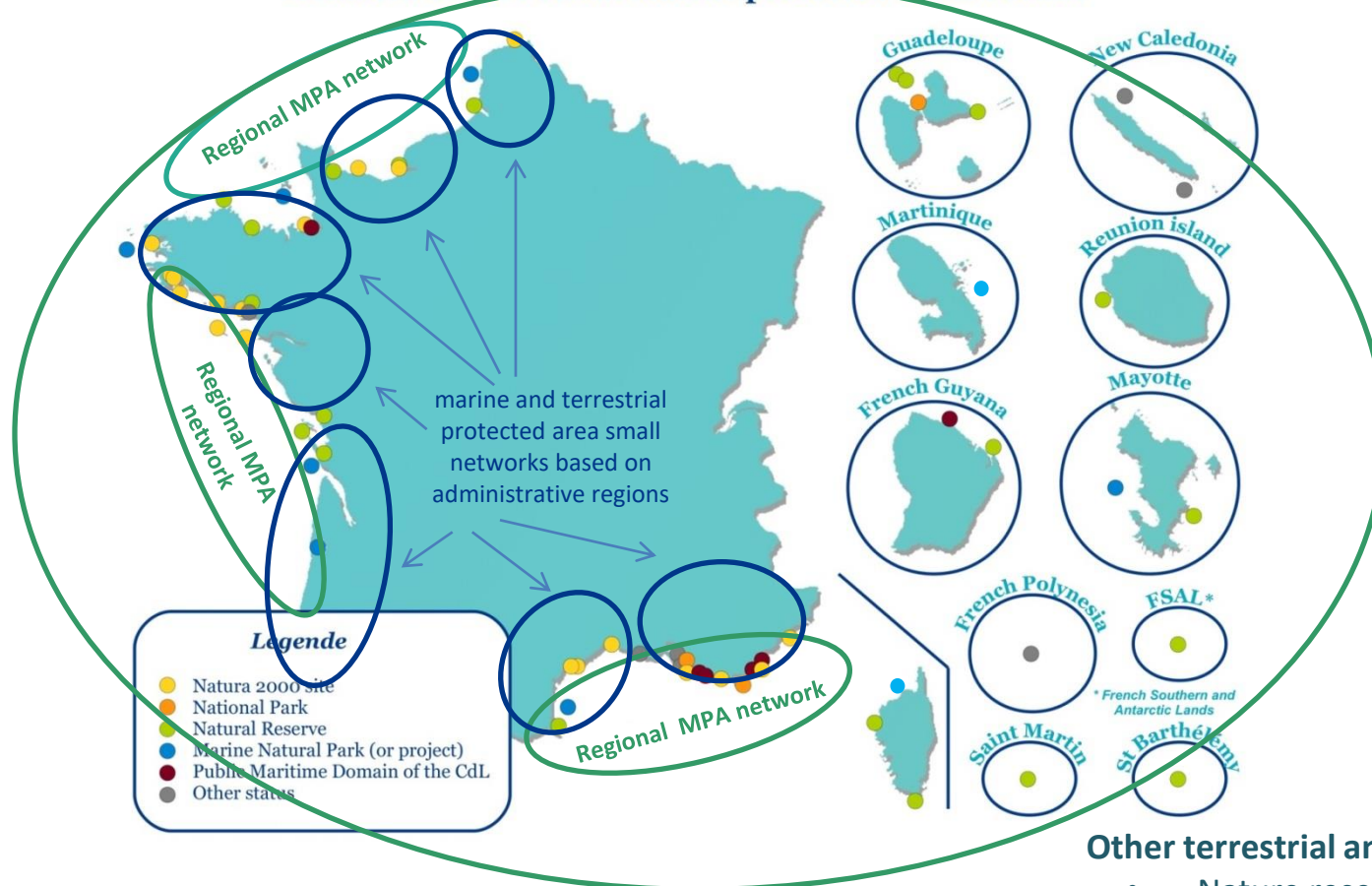
- technical workshops organization :
feedback from the field
- guides and documents
- local, national and international
exchanges (IMPAC...)
- index made of studies and monitoring
conducted in MPA
- Participation at national committees

- 3 annual meetings : 2 regionals
(Atlantic and Mediterranean) +
1 national



Support and number of members

Members of the French Marine protected areas Forum



Forum

The national Forum collaborate with the 3 regional MPA networks.
OFB supports the 4 networks



Other terrestrial and marine networks :

- Nature reserves of France
- Federation of Regional Natural Parks

Other international MPA networks :

- MedPan
- TransAtlantic
- Indian Ocean
- Posidonia

Next step ?

- Finding **new ways to implement and coordinate the network** (70 members, French Biodiversity Office, link other networks...)
- Compare different points of view, organize knowledge, and thereby define **a common vision** for the managers (eg. strictly protected area)
- **Promote Managers' ideas at the strategic level**, particularly with the French Biodiversity Office and international networks



Thank you !

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