

The LIFE MareNatura project joins forces for the sustainable conservation of threatened EU marine priority species in the Mediterranean Sea

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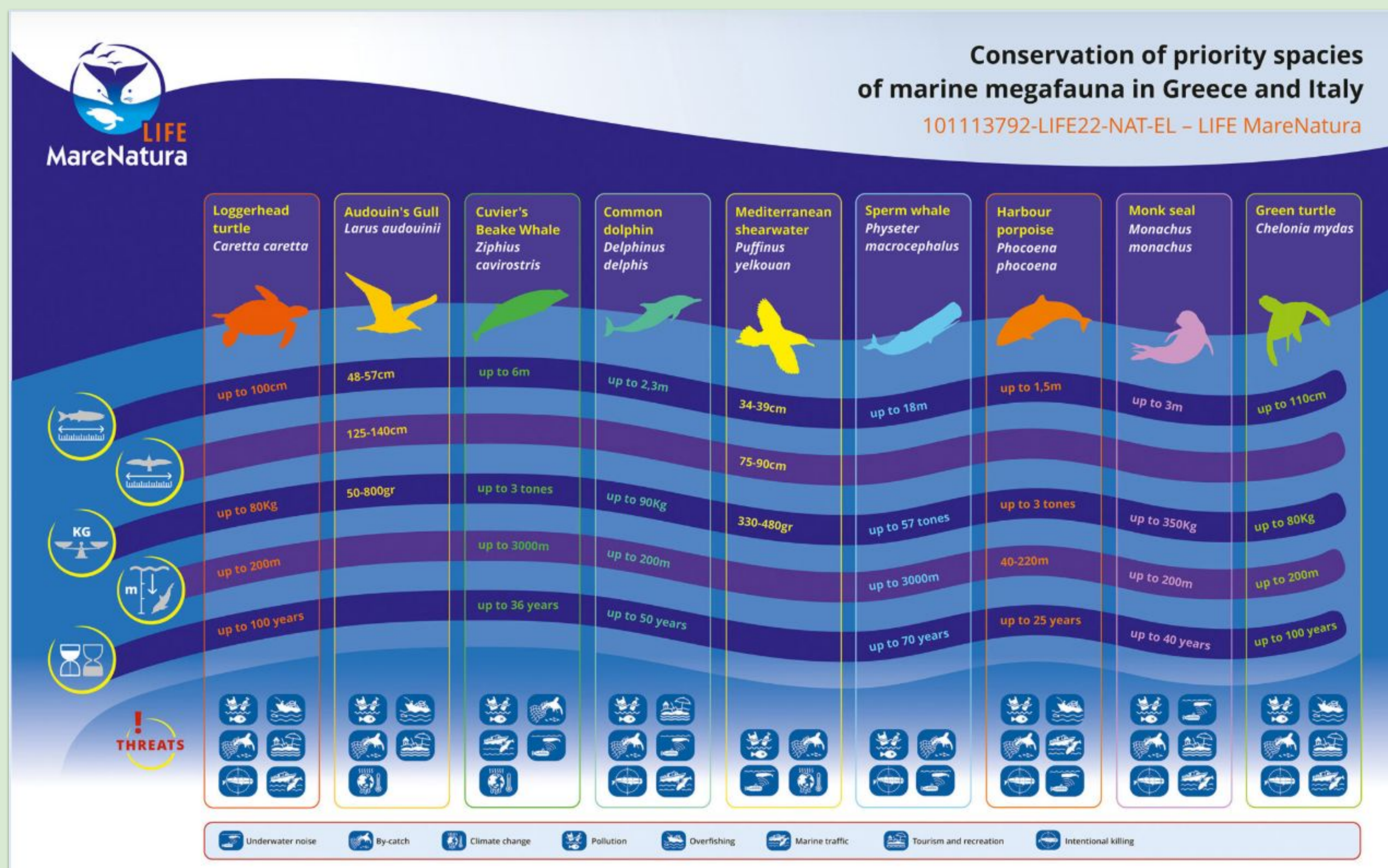
CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY SPECIES OF MARINE MEGAFaUNA IN GREECE AND ITALY

The LIFE MareNatura project (2023 – 2029) aims to mitigate the threats that affect nine of the most threatened EU priority species of seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals. These species are: the **Mediterranean Monk seal**, the **Loggerhead turtle**, the **Green turtle**, the **Sperm whale**, the **Harbour porpoise**, the **Cuvier's beaked whale**, the **Common dolphin**, the **Yelkouan shearwater** and the **Audouin's gull**.

The project covers an extensive marine area from the Aegean to the Ionian Sea and the Southern Adriatic, and with a budget of ~11M€, constitutes **the largest project for the protection of the European marine biodiversity ever implemented in Greece**.

For more information visit <https://www.lifemarenatura.eu/en/>

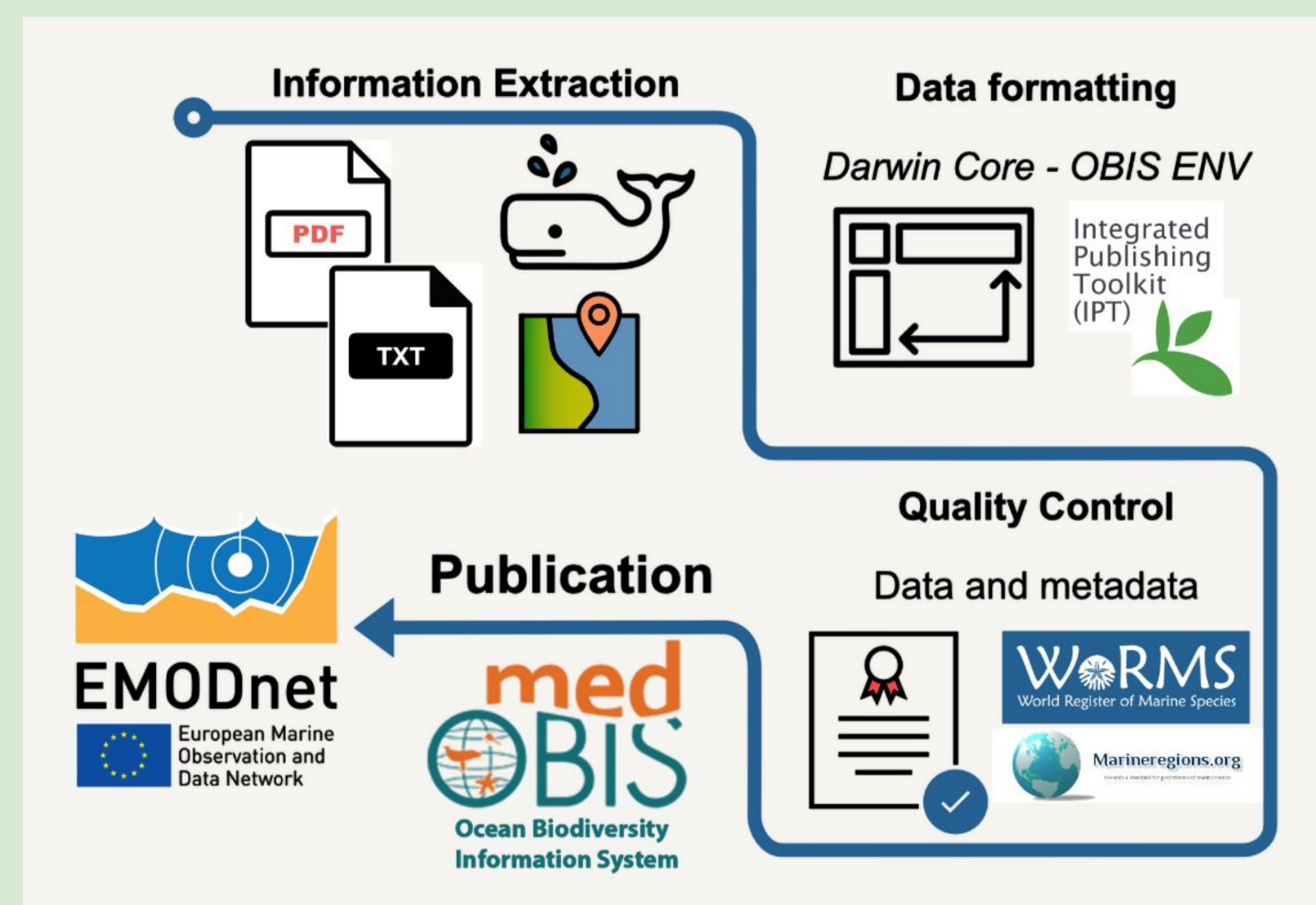
Extensive field surveys will be conducted using advanced biomonitoring techniques such as **telemetry** (satellite transmitters mounted on the animals), **visual recordings** from boats and aircraft, **hydrophone recordings** for sonar tracking of whales and dolphins, and species detection through **environmental DNA** (eDNA). These data will be compiled to create a scientifically validated list of the most critical areas for the conservation of these species. Additionally, economic activities that could adversely impact the target species will be mapped throughout the study area. By integrating all research data and applying advanced spatial planning methods, **new Marine Protected Areas will be identified and proposed for inclusion in the Natura 2000 network**.



The Data Management Plan (DMP) of the project, addresses the relevant aspects of making collected data FAIR, including how it will be accessible, curated and re-used. This DMP follows the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" for its data and in parallel acknowledges that **project's results should live beyond the projects' lifecycle**. In this framework, **MedOBIS**, which is the Mediterranean node of OBIS, is expecting to play a crucial role for publishing in a FAIR and standardized way all the different data types resulting from the great amount of field activities that are expecting to take place through the project.

The main mission of **MedOBIS** is to build and maintain an alliance that collaborates with scientific communities of the Mediterranean Sea to facilitate free and open access to marine biodiversity data.

MedOBIS accepts data files in any format and publishes the data following specific standardisation and quality control procedures, in full compliance with **FAIR principles** (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability of data).



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Project beneficiaries

