**Brief information on the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET)**

*In the framework of the****BIOPAMA programme (Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management, Intra-ACP EDF11)****, the JRC has developed a tool for assessing Protected Areas Management Effectiveness,****IMET (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool)****, which is****particularly suited to marine protected areas.***

*IMET is a quantitative on-line tool that relies on a powerful database and is supported by sound statistical basis and automated data visualization to facilitate better understanding of complex issues. It does not only collect data, support digitalization of protected areas and assess management effectiveness. It also provides a link to planning and monitoring, supporting both the formulation (or updating) and implementation of protected areas management plans 🡪 adaptive management.*

*IMET also allows undertaking easy comparison of variation in PA management effectiveness over time, as well as analyses of PA networks at a landscape or country/regional level. Conceived as a bottom-up tool, it provides direct help to PAs managers and national administrations, supporting them in their day-to-day work as it allows in-depth assessments and analysis, which proved to be highly appreciated by stakeholders.*

*The tool is structured into 3 main modules, closely interlinked: 1) Context of intervention, 2) Management Effectiveness, 3) Analysis Report*

*IMET assessments are “internal assessments”. The process involves the participation of key stakeholders in the PA and relies on self-assessment and on scores jointly awarded by the participants, based on open discussions facilitated by an IMET Coach. Initial IMET assessments usually require 3 days, but subsequent assessments only focus on the necessary updates and require up to a maximum of 1.5 days.*

*To date, almost 400 IMET assessments in more than 250 PAs and in about 30 countries have been completed and several countries have adopted the tool as their national PA monitoring system. An "African network of Protected Area Management Effectiveness Coaches" is in the process of being established and was formally presented at the****1st African Protected Area Congress, APAC, recently held in Kigali****(July 2022). The publication of a peer-reviewed article on IMET in a specialized magazine is on-going.*

*IMET is also recommended by the****IUCN Green List****Team as one of the reference tools for protected areas wishing to engage in the ‘IUCN Green List’ labelling process.*

*In view of promoting better decision-making at the national agency and at the site levels and in view of better identifying/defining management targets and modalities at PA level, for some years now INTPA.F.2 has been requesting that all PAs supported financially by the EU undertake an IMET assessment. To this end, a****reference to IMET is now systematically included in project logframes****as a source of information for some indicators.*

*On the occasion of APAC, IMET has been given a very high profile. IMET is also the reference tool for marine protected areas of the African networks****WIOMSA****(West Indian Ocean Marine Scientific Association) and****RAMPAO****(‘Réseau des Aires Marines Protégées d’Afrique Occidentale’). The last version of IMET – further addressing specific MPAs needs and requirements - was issued at the occasion APAC.*

*IMET was formally presented to the partners of the Mediterranean region on the ‘Forum of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean’ (Monaco, 28/11-01/12/2021) and, subsequently, specific meetings and demos were held with the representatives of UNEP – Barcelona Convention and SPA-RAC, who expressed their interest in using/adopting IMET as a tool to support Mediterranean marine protected areas. The testing and use of IMET are expected to be supported from 2023 in the South Mediterranean region through the SEMPA project (Bolstering Mediterranean biodiversity and MCPAs for nature), managed by DG NEAR. A test exercise on the use of IMET might also be envisaged in the coming months in an MPA in Italy.*

*The IMET tool can be visualized and downloaded at the following address:* [*https://rris.biopama.org/pame/tools*](https://rris.biopama.org/pame/tools)