

<b>Action A.4</b>	Map proposed pSCIs and propose to Government of Malta
<i>Description (what, how, where and when):</i> (max. 10.000 characters)	
<p>The Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment (MTCE) is part of the Government of Malta, and the Competent Authority responsible for the designation of Natura 2000 sites. MEPA, as the environment authority, identifies and proposes sites to the MTCE for consideration. Once approved, these sites are put forward for approval by Parliament through the MTCE.</p> <p>As a result of the data collected through Actions A.1, A.2, and A.3, in the final year the project hopes to be in a position to identify sites which could be proposed to the Maltese Government (through the MTCE) for consideration as pSCIs for <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> and <i>Caretta caretta</i>.</p> <p>The results will include maps of the proposed pSCIs and data pertaining to species and habitats of importance relevant to the areas proposed.</p> <p>As an associated beneficiary in this project, the MTCE will be closely involved in the entire process of identification of marine Natura 2000 sites for <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> and <i>Caretta caretta</i>. This is therefore expected to considerably shorten the period of time between proposal of the sites to MTCE to their approval and submission to Parliament. Nonetheless, the project includes a 6-month contingency to allow the Maltese Government enough time to designate the areas identified as pSCIs.</p>	
<i>Reasons why this action is necessary:</i> (max. 2.000 characters)	
<p>The data collected through Action A3, together with the data resulting from Actions A1 and A2, will help the project obtain a better idea of those areas at sea, if any, which are essential for these migratory marine species, as per Article 4(1) of Directive 92/43/EEC. These areas will be mapped and submitted to the Government of Malta through the MTCE, together with the relevant data sheets, for consideration and eventual designation as pSCIs. The maps and data will be required for the Government to propose these sites to the Commission for inclusion in the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>This action is the project's main deliverable.</p>	
<i>Beneficiary responsible for implementation:</i>	
MEPA	
<i>Expected results (quantitative information when possible):</i> (max. 2.000 characters)	
<p>At the end of the project, the expected result is a map or a set of maps of pSCIs for <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> and <i>Caretta caretta</i>. It is expected that at least one site for both species satisfying the criteria of the Habitats directive will be identified and mapped.</p> <p>The maps will clearly indicate these areas providing coordinates, a boundary, and mapped habitats where this information is available. The maps will be provided in hard copy and as GIS layers. A separate map will be produced for each area, and each map will be accompanied by the data required for the Standard Data Form for SCIs.</p> <p>These sites will be proposed for inclusion in the Natura 2000 network, by the end of the project.</p>	
<i>Cost estimation (verify consistency with F forms):</i> (max. 2.000 characters)	
<p>The cost of this action is subsumed under Action A2 and F1.</p> <p>€0</p>	