

Evaluation of the cost of marine habitat conservation in France: application to the Natura 2000 network

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INTRODUCTION

The Life Marha project aims to optimize the implementation of the Habitats Directive to enhance **marine habitat conservation** within the Natura 2000 network. Cost evaluation is necessary to support this policy. However, the **integrated nature of marine conservation policies and the diversity of governance within Natura 2000** lead to fragmented data on management actions. Here, we present a dual approach for assessing the cost of marine habitat conservation.



COST OF NATURA 2000 TOOL

Double bookkeeping approach (employment/resources)

$$COST = \sum_i COST_{N2000\ actions_i} = \sum_j FUND_{N2000\ habitat_j}$$

	Type of data	Limits	Estimations	Cost
Employment side	Cost of Natura 2000 management actions	Absence of reporting of incurred expenses	Extrapolation based on managers interviews	9 270 k€ - 11 050 k€
Resources side	Available funds for Natura 2000 habitats	Funds not exclusive to marine habitat	Contribution of funds to Natura 2000 habitats	7 790 k€ - 10 660 k€

COST OF HABITAT CONSERVATION

$$COST = COST_{marine\ conservation} \times Contrib_{habitat\ conservation}$$

Type of data: socio-economic analysis of the integrated marine conservation policy (MSFD).

Limits of data: covering all the issues and ecological compartments of the marine environment.

Estimations: Based on the contribution of expenses to habitat conservation

Fig.1 – Repartition of marine environment preservation cost

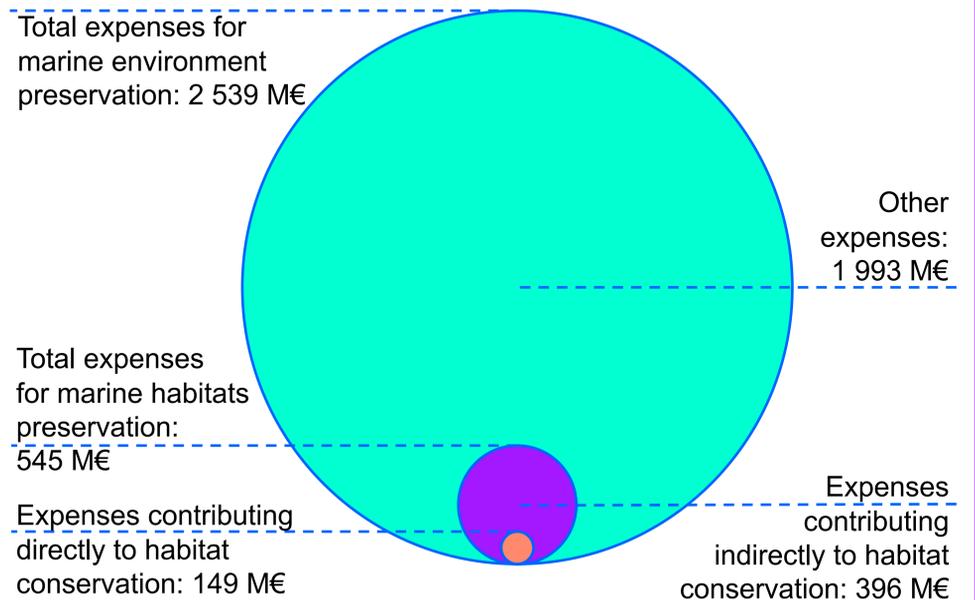
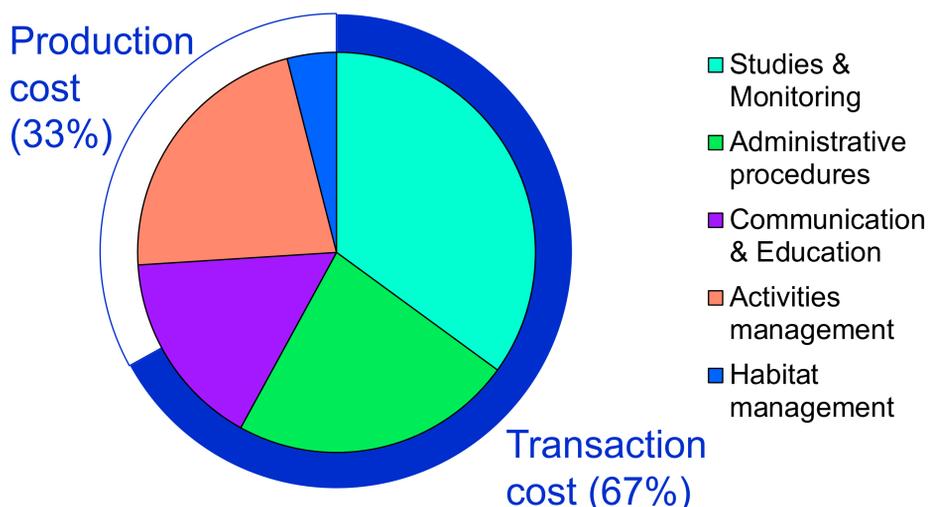


Fig.2 – Transaction cost approach



From 2012-2018, **transaction costs accounted for 67%** of total expenditures, rising to 80% when including state services' activity. This indicates that the **Natura 2000 network has been prioritizing deployment over direct habitat and activity management.**

PERSPECTIVES

Further information

Started in 2016, the Life MarHa project aims to restore and maintain favorable conservation states of marine habitats (www.life-marha.fr).

As part of the project, we developed a comprehensive economic program to support its objectives, including ecosystem services assessment, cost-based approaches, and agent-based modeling.



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