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The BLUE4ALL project, a groundbreaking initiative focused on the co-creation of effective, efficient, and resilient networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), is set to revolutionize marine biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts. The project aims to align top-down regulatory demands with bottom-up societal expectations, bridging the gap between policy objectives and stakeholder engagement.

The urgency to strengthen marine conservation and restoration globally has prompted the need for comprehensive strategies and innovative solu0.13prompted

The BLUE4ALL project is driven by the need to reach and surpass global targets for protecting terrestrial and marine areas. The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 sets a clear objective of legally protecting at least 30% of the land and sea in the EU, with one-third under strict protection. However, current assessments indicate that the European MPA network falls short of ecological targets and faces challenges such as small sizes, inadequate management, and enforcement.

By embracing a bottom-up approach and integrating stakeholders throughout the MPA process, BLUE4ALL aims to overcome these challenges and contribute to the restoration of our oceans and waters. The project aligns with the United Nations Decade of the Oceans 2021-2030, UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2031, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.

BLUE4ALL will actively engage with relevant services, initiatives, and infrastructures such as EMODNET, Copernicus Marine Service, Lifewatch, and the Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTO), ensuring the utilization of cutting-edge technologies and knowledge.

With BLUE4ALL, a new era of collaborative marine conservation is on the horizon. By empowering stakeholders and co-creating effective solutions, the project aspires to make a significant contribution to preserving our oceans and their invaluable biodiversity.

For more information about the BLUE4ALL project, visit <https://www.blue4all.eu/> or contact our communications officer at mml@submariner-network.eu.

About IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation: The Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a leading organization in the field of marine conservation. It provides expertise and support to governments and other stakeholders in the region, working to protect and restore marine ecosystems and biodiversity. For more information, visit <https://www.iucn.org/>.

