

The Mediterranean Sea

- Human-impacted for millennia
- Considered a biodiversity hotspot
- Represents 1% of the oceans surface and contains 10% of its total species
- Only 0,4% is protected

Main threats



1. Habitat destruction
2. Pollution and eutrophication
3. Climate change
4. Invasion of exotic species

Methodology

The bibliometric study:

- 1456 publications included
- WOS & Google Scholar electronic databases

Objectives

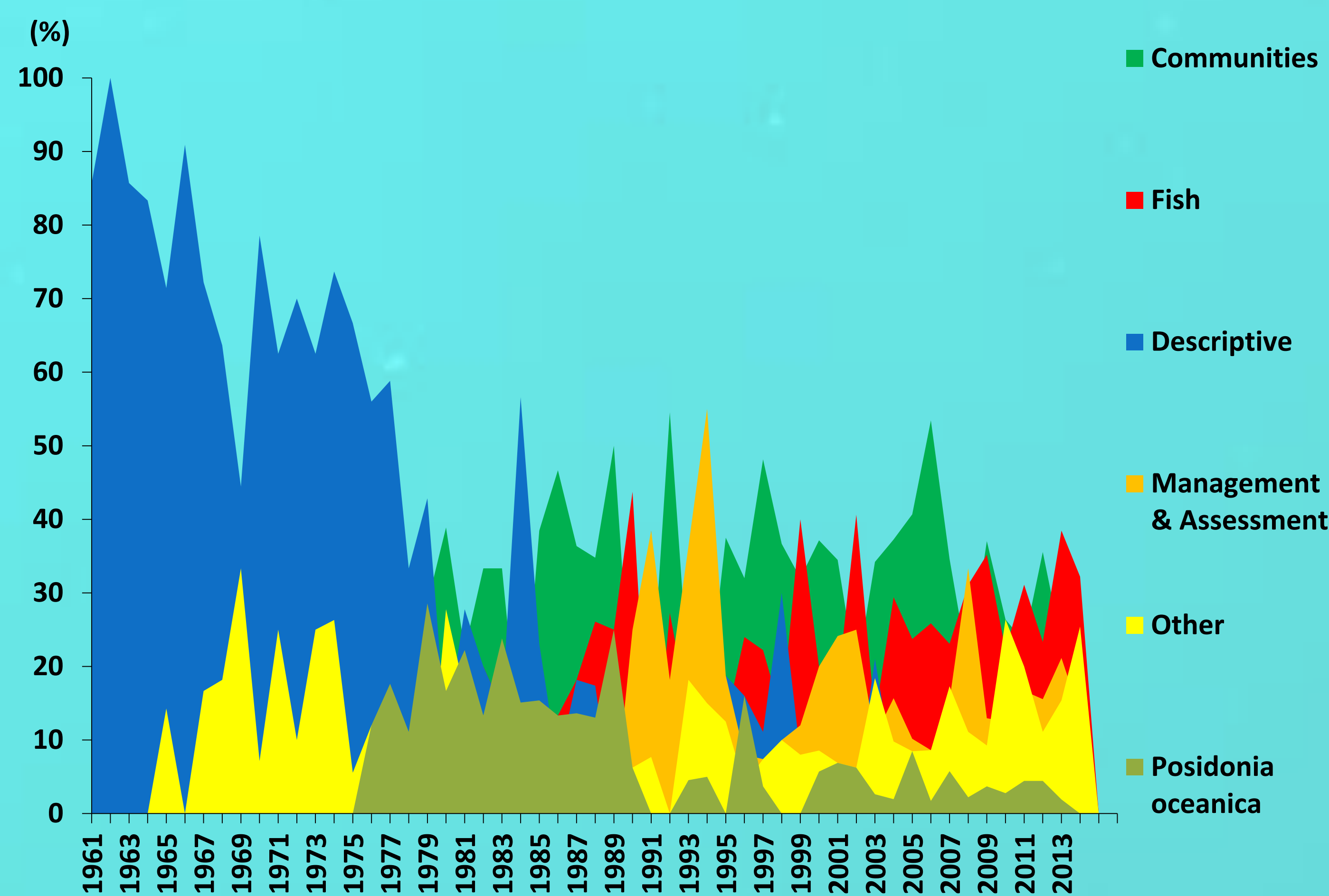
To identify:

- The most studied MPAs and countries in the Mediterranean Sea and work effort distribution evenness
- Topics and trends in Mediterranean MPAs
- Degree of collaboration among countries and institutions and trends

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Results

Temporal evolution of Topics in Mediterranean MPAs studies



Topics	Description
Communities (algae, invertebrates, species interactions)	Effects on various groups of organisms, such as benthos or community-level effects.
Fish	Impacts affecting fish, biology and ecology of fishes and fisheries
Other	Studies relating to mammals, turtles, pollution and other minor topics.
Posidonia oceanica	Biology, ecology and effects on <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>
Management & Assessment	Assessment, design and management of MPAs
Descriptive	Description and basic biology of species.

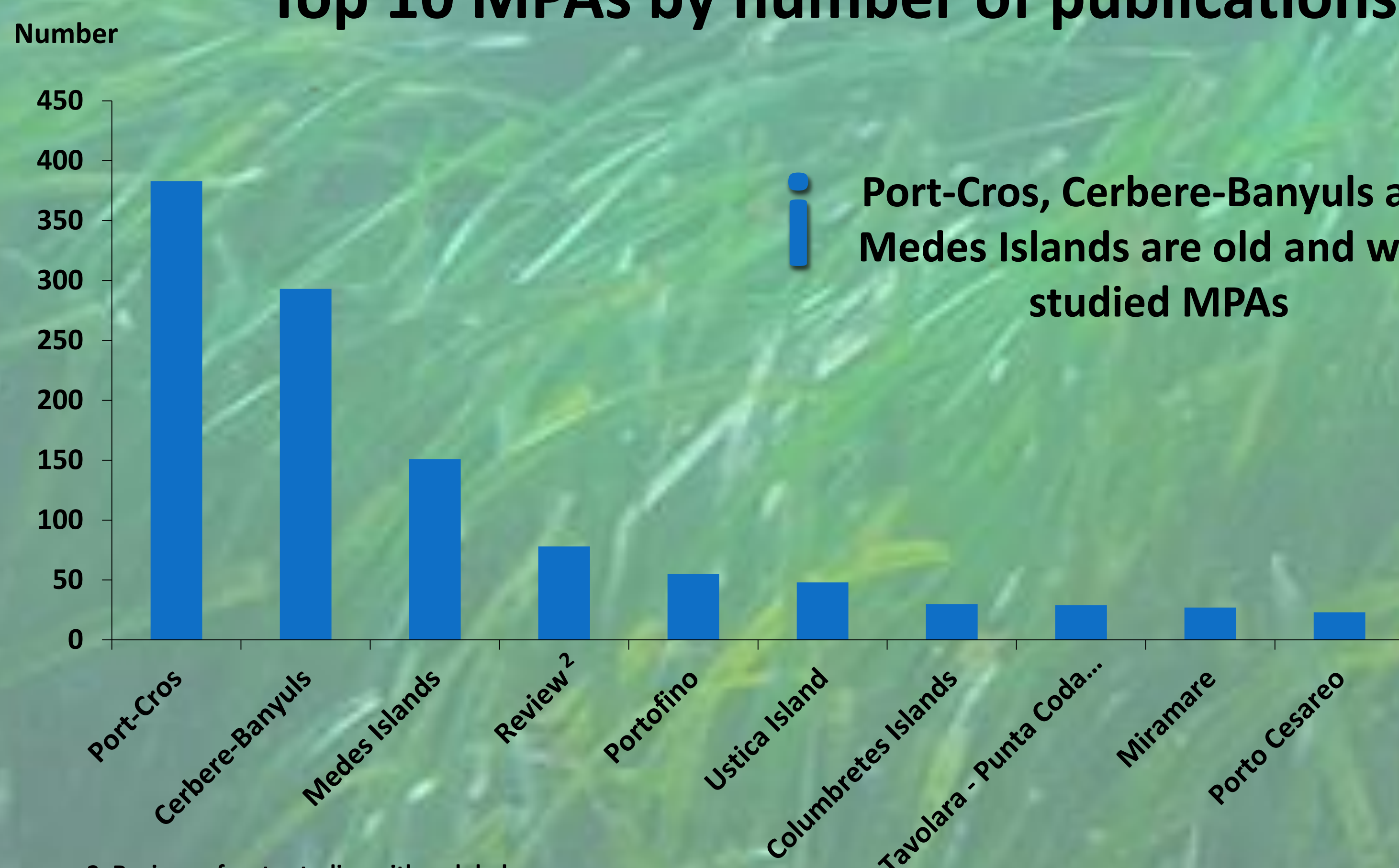
Assessment of Top 10 countries in number of publications

Country	Number of MPAs	Number of publications	Country-MPA relation ¹
France	7	712	101.7
Spain	14	256	18.3
Italy	25	346	13.8
Greece	4	23	5.8
Morocco	1	3	3.0
Croatia	8	11	1.4
Romania	3	4	1.3
Slovenia	3	4	1.3
Turkey	12	8	0.7
Tunisia	2	1	0.5

1: Number of publications / Number of MPAs.

A higher Country-MPA relation indicates a better knowledge of a country's MPAs

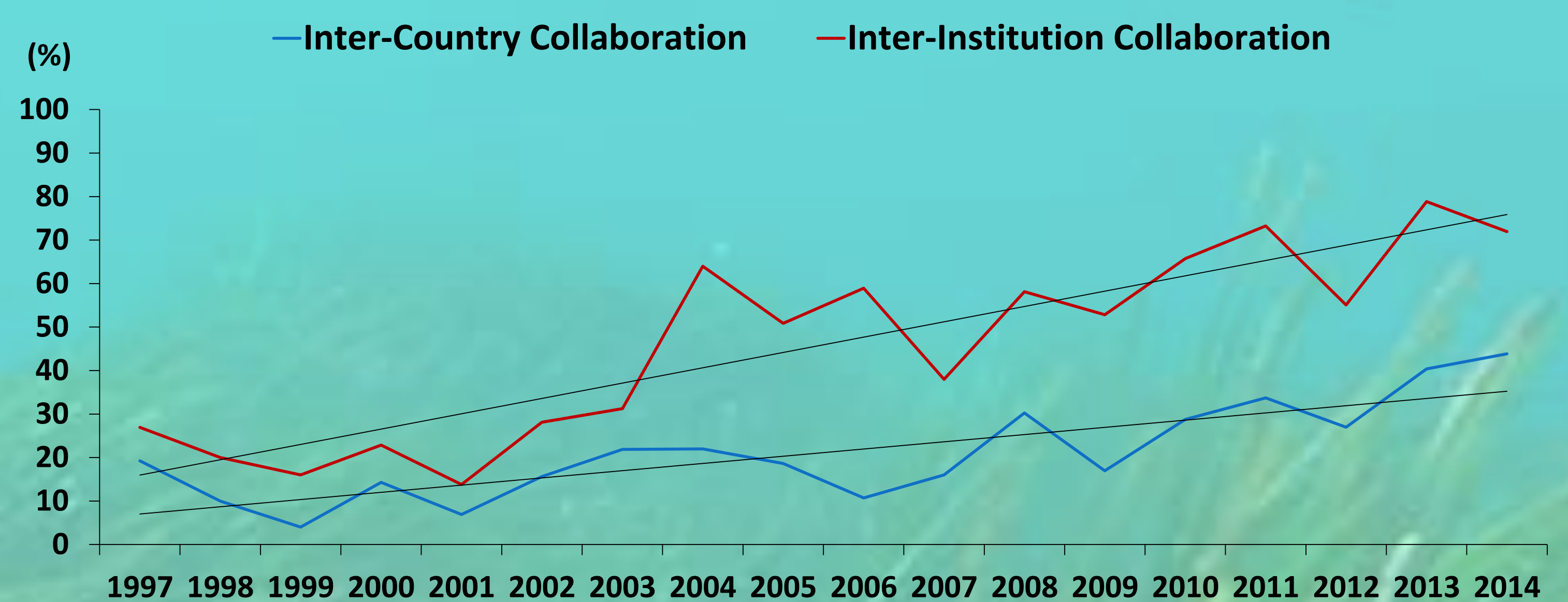
Top 10 MPAs by number of publications



2: Review refers to studies with a global approach, mainly management reviews.

There is an increase in diversity and complexity of topics through time

Collaboration among countries and institutions



Collaboration among countries and institutions has increased through time

Final Conclusions

- There is a very low evenness in the distribution of work effort in Mediterranean MPAs and countries.
- The increase in complexity and variety of topics reflects higher quality studies and a wider and deeper approach to the study of Mediterranean MPAs.
- The increase in collaboration among different countries and institutions is a good result and responds to a more collaborative society and work environment.
- Big improvements in MPAs management are necessary to effectively protect the Mediterranean Sea, especially in the Eastern basin.