



THE "ROSE DES VENTS" or "Compass card"

or "Compass card"

A tool for assessing the management effectiveness
of protected areas

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www.oreade-breche.fr

Agence Ouest France

5 rue des Eoliennes 17220 ST MEDARD D'AUNIS
Téléphone 33 (0)5.46.35.91.86
SIRET : 385 117 023 000 72

Agence Est France

70 rue de l'Eglise 67130 SCHIRMECK
Téléphone 33 (0)3.88.49.66.22
SIRET : 385 117 023 000 31

Agence Sud (Siège social) France

2480 l'Occitane – Regent Park1 31670 LABEGE
Téléphone 33 (0)5.61.73.62.62
SIRET : 385 117 023 000 80

The rose des vents or compass card: a tool for representing the performance of each MPA and evaluating its management effectiveness

Whatever their origin, size, location, and composition, all MPAs have many features in common in how they are created and managed. So much so, that this pathway can be represented in a generic format. Excepting a few very rare instances, every MPA must follow this trajectory toward three ultimate objectives (although these often take years, or even decades, to achieve):

- to provide real protection for the spaces and resources concerned, and demonstrate this;
- to enable the sustainable economic and social development of communities living in these spaces, and of these resources, and demonstrate this;
- to achieve technical, financial and institutional autonomy for the entity managing the MPA.

By providing systematic review of the success conditions for an MPA project, the tool has two main uses:

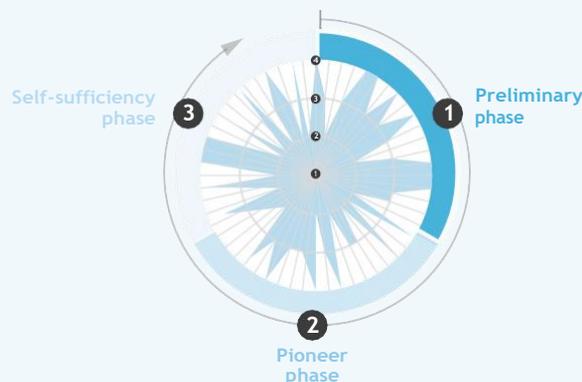
- providing simple visual representation of the MPA's performance right from its creation, up to when the tool was used;
- assessing the effectiveness of its management.

The principle of the tool is that the process of creating and managing an MPA can be divided into three

main sequential phases: 1. preliminary, 2. pioneer, 3. self-sufficiency.

The representation takes the form of a circle (using the radar chart function in Excel), with the start at 12:00 (top of the chart), the phases progressing clockwise. The further an MPA has progressed in its development, the further round the circle the chart is filled in. If only recently created, and/or has made little progress, the chart is less filled-in.

Schematic representation of the sequential phases on the compass card



The three phases of MPA progress

- **Phase 1, the “preliminary” or creation phase**, covers all the work of establishing an MPA (this could be seen as like laying the foundations of a building). The criteria relating to this phase allow the quality of the MPA setting-up to be assessed.
- **Phase 2, the “pioneer” phase**, covers implementation and consolidation of the MPA. This could be seen as the launch phase or “adolescence” of the MPA.
- **Phase 3, the “self-sufficiency” or “sustainability” phase**, follows the pioneer stage. This is considered successful if there are visible benefits (e.g. on the natural and economic environment, quality of governance, changes to practices etc.), if these benefits are maintained or even improved, and if the whole is functioning without external support (without of course ruling out the potential for occasional support).

Each of these phases is broken down into a series of criteria, which receive a standard rating from (0) not done, to (1) started, (2) well advanced, or (3) fully completed or achieved.

Compass card indicators per phase

PRELIMINARY PHASE

- Identify areas of ecological interest
- Identify stakeholders concerned
- Identify pressures and threats, including climate change, oil, etc.
- Identify areas to be protected
- Establish management rules for the MPA
- Identify potential financing for the MPA
- Identify development projects to link to the MPA project
- Identify benefit-sharing rules for the MPA
- Identify and approach regional MPA network
- Provision of information and awareness-raising for stakeholders
- Ownership of the project by stakeholders
- Ownership of the project by the authorities
- Prepare base data for a business plan
- Establish management teams for the MPA
- Procure equipment to operate the MPA
- Establish a management committee
- Establish a surveillance committee
- Officially document creation of the MPA

PIONEER PHASE

- Mark out MPA boundaries (possibly on marine chart, if not physically possible)
- Launch MPA management
- Launch MPA stewardship
- Join a regional MPA network
- Implement projects to finance the MPA



- Implement development actions linked to the MPA conservation project
- Baseline inventory of natural resources
- Baseline socio-economic status
- Identify measures to improve the MPA's resilience to climate change
- Identify measures in relation to risks of exploitation for oil, gas, minerals, etc.
- Capacity building for MPA management teams
- Maintain and enhance MPA equipment
- Capacity building for MPA members
- Support for MPA manager where faced with stakeholder pressure and infringements (attempted corruption)
- Finalise business plan
- Finalise and approve management plan
- Setting-up of bank account and/or accounting system for the MPA
- Inform stakeholders about MPA management rules
- Publicly communicate MPA management rules
- Regular village and/or sectoral committees
- Regular management committees
- Publication of MPA accounts to management committee
- Monitor and evaluate project activities (compass card)
- Start of monitoring of ecological impacts of MPA, in partnership with research community
- Start of monitoring of economic impacts of MPA, in partnership with research community
- Extent of management plan implementation

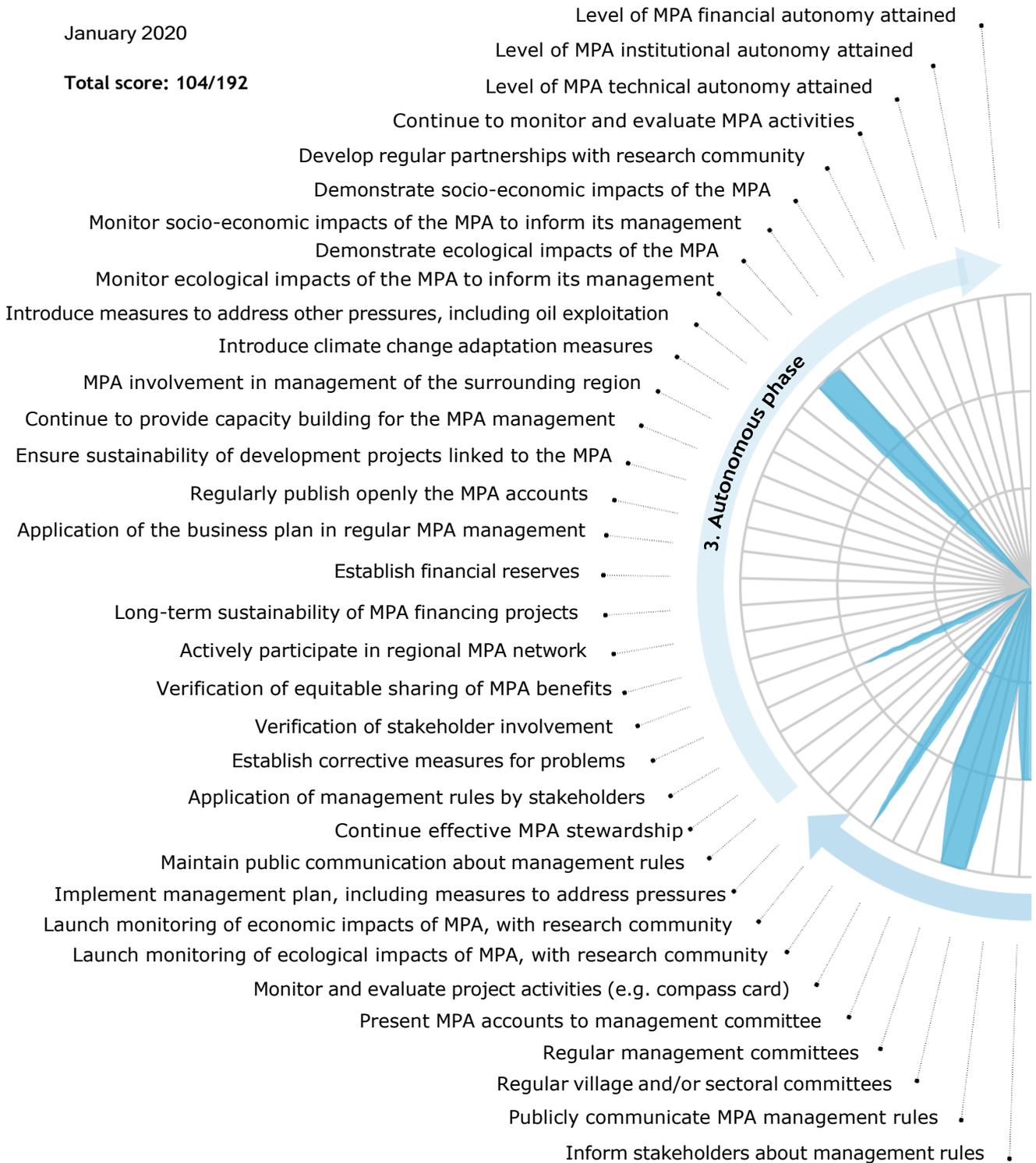
AUTONOMOUS PHASE

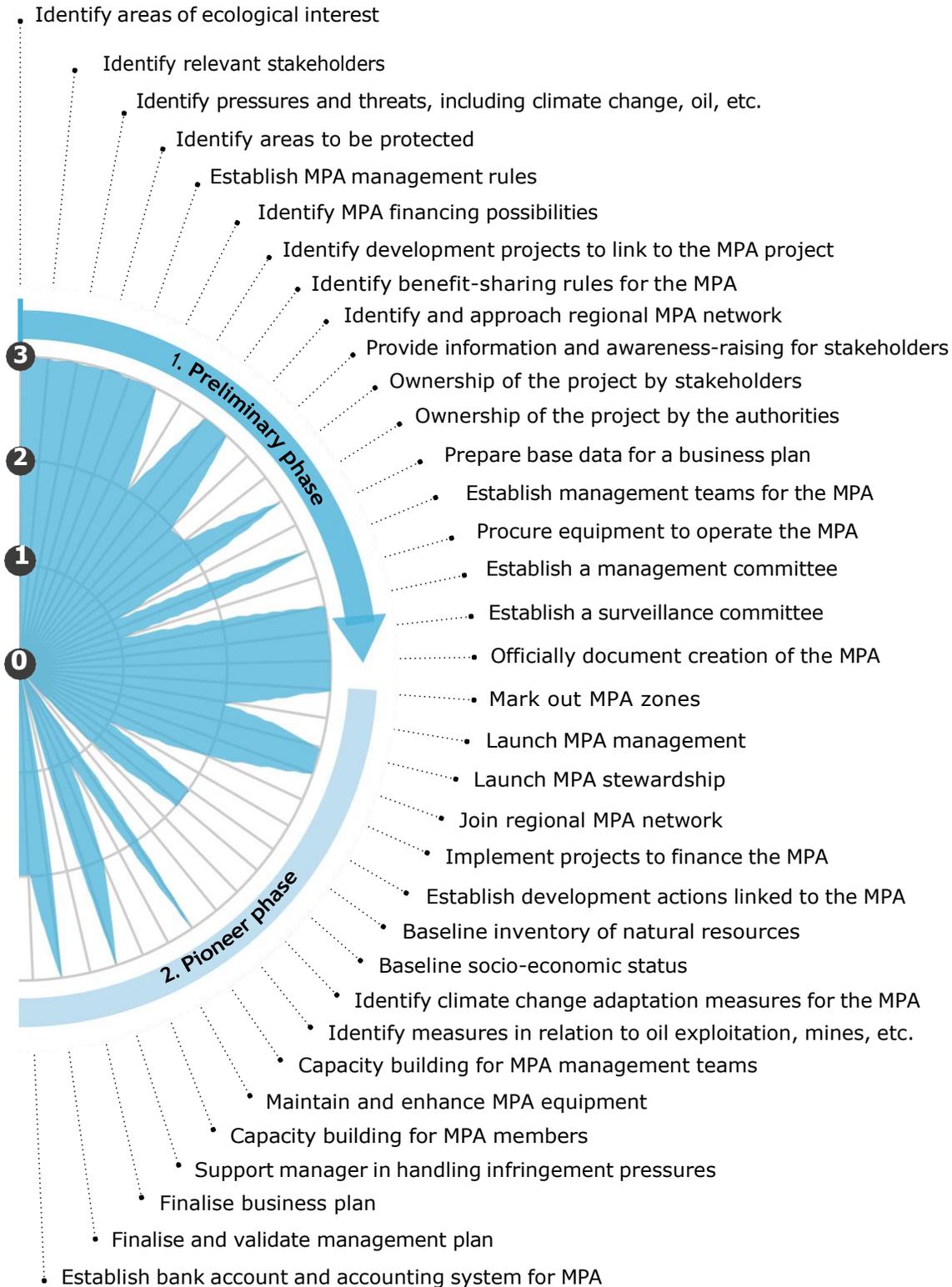
- Maintain public communication about management rules
- Continue effective MPA stewardship
- Ensure stakeholders follow management rules
- Establish corrective measures for any MPA problems (operation, relationship with stakeholders, etc.)
- Verification of stakeholder involvement through meetings, awareness-raising, etc.
- Verification of equitable sharing of MPA benefits
- Active participation in regional MPA network
- Long-term sustainability of MPA financing projects
- Establish financial reserves
- Application of the business plan in regular MPA management
- Regular publication of MPA accounts to ensure full transparency
- Long-term sustainability of MPA-related development projects complementary to conservation
- Continue management capacity building for MPA stakeholders (MPA team, management committee, etc.)
- Continue to support manager to handle stakeholder pressure and infringements (attempted corruption)
- MPA involvement in management of the surrounding region
- Introduction of climate change adaptation and resilience measures to the MPA
- Introduction of measures to address other pressures, including exploitation for oil, gas, minerals, etc.
- Monitor ecological impacts of the MPA, to inform its management
- Demonstrate ecological impacts of the MPA
- Monitor socio-economic impacts of the MPA, to inform its management
- Demonstrate socio-economic impacts of the MPA
- Develop regular partnerships with research community, particularly for ecological and economic monitoring
- Continue to monitor and evaluate MPA activities (compass card)
- Level of MPA technical autonomy attained
- Level of MPA institutional autonomy attained
- Level of MPA financial autonomy attained

Compass card for the BAMBOUNG MPA

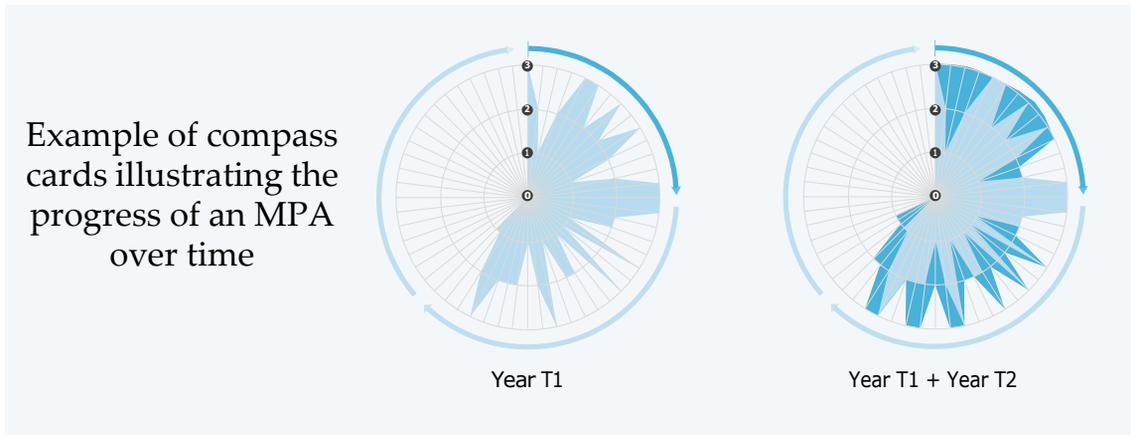
January 2020

Total score: 104/192





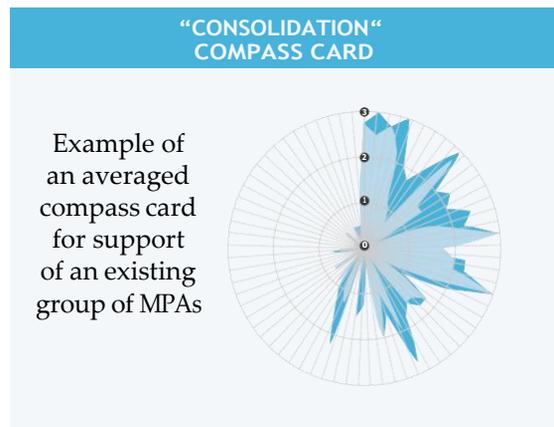
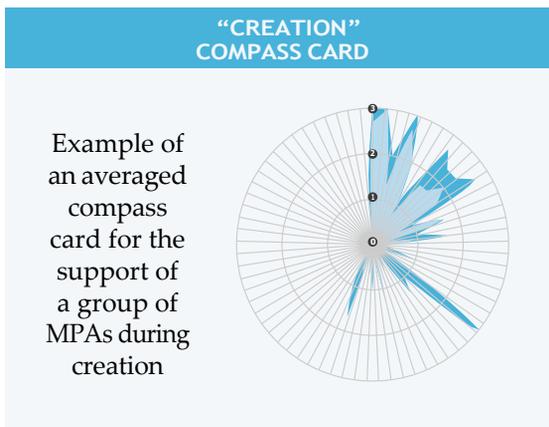
The tool is therefore a way of representing an MPA at a point in time (t), but also of monitoring it over time by superimposing the charts for two time periods and comparing the results.



It is also possible to create averaged compass cards, for example to represent a group of MPAs receiving the same support (e.g. Mangrove MPA project, BIOCOS MPA). These can all be created simply from a pre-programmed Excel spreadsheet.

This approach provides a generic tool for assessing how effectively an MPA is being managed, and how well it is performing. The tool enables us to see at a glance where weaknesses need correcting, visible as “troughs” on the compass card.

This can therefore also be used as a basis for designing a roadmap to improving MPA management and making the process more robust.



- average 2008
- average 2011

Examples of compass card profiles, ranging from poorly-performing MPAs to strongly performing ones

