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10.2.3 Evaluation of the Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea

Evaluation of the Regional working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea

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Evaluation of the Regional working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea

In 2009, RAC/SPA prepared in consultation with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, WWF-MedPo, MedPAN and ACCOBAMS the "Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea" (PoW). After its review by the Focal Points for SPA (Malta, June 2009), the Regional Working Programme was adopted by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

The PoW included principles and approaches for “Designing Ecological Networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea” and a series of activities proposed under the following four Elements:

Element 1: To assess the representativity and effectiveness of the existing Mediterranean network of marine and coastal protected areas

Element 2: To make the Mediterranean network of marine and coastal protected areas more comprehensive and more representative of the ecological features of the region.

Element 3: To improve the management of the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas

Element 4: To strengthen the protected area governance systems and further adapt them to national and regional contexts

Most of the proposed activities were to be implemented at national level by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. However the PoW included also activities to be implemented at regional level by the relevant International/Regional organisations.

The aim of this document is to provide the Focal Points for SPA at their 12th meeting (Athens, Greece 25-29 May 2015) with an assessment of the progress made so far in implementing the PoW. The first section of the document includes information about the relevant initiatives at International regional or sub-regional levels, while the second section is devoted to activities at national level.

Section 1: Relevant initiatives at International regional or sub-regional levels

Initiatives at the international level

- Initiatives by the **Convention on Biological Diversity** are relevant to Mediterranean marine conservation in two main ways: the adoption of EBSAs and the attainment of the Aichi Targets.
 - *Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas* (EBSAs). In 2006, in response to the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* call to establish protected areas globally, the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** started to develop and apply criteria to describe and designate *Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas* (EBSAs) in the world’s oceans, which will, *inter alia*, support the nations’ 2010 commitment to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 (see 1.b, below). EBSAs are special marine areas that serve important purposes, to support the healthy functioning of oceans and the many services that they provide. EBSAs are determined on the basis of seven criteria (uniqueness or rarity; special importance for life history of species; importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats; vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, slow recovery; biological productivity; Biological diversity; and naturalness). At its latest Conference of Parties (CoP12, Korea, October 2014), the CBD formally adopted 15 EBSAs in the Mediterranean region, based on the recommendations by a workshop organised by CBD in Malaga, Spain, in March 2014 (in which 17 EBSAs were recommended). *Important Marine Mammal Areas* (IMMAs), “discrete portions of habitat,

important for one or more marine mammal species, which have the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation”, are a recent initiative under the aegis of the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, intended to support the CBD EBSA process by facilitating the inclusion of the marine mammal element in conservation considerations.

- Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed in 2010 on a number of biodiversity targets, the most relevant of which in the field of protected areas is Aichi Target 11: “*By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.*” At the moment – exactly in mid way between 2010 and 2020 - areas subjected to formal protection cover a mere 4.56% of the Mediterranean (this figure would be reduced to 1.08% without the Pelagos Sanctuary). However, it cannot be argued that such 4.56% surface is entirely “effectively and equitably managed”.
- **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).** At the global level, IUCN is involved in multiple activities related to Protected Areas (and in particular Marine Protected Areas - MPAs), based on the work of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA and its sub-commission on MPAs) which is a network of experts, gathering data in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), supporting the development of international instruments on environmental conservation, revising at the national level the legislation and institutional mechanisms related to environment and to protected areas. The main role of IUCN is, based on existing reliable scientific information, to influence decisions makers at all levels for supporting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. For the definition of management categories of PAs and MPAs, IUCN has recently (2012) updated the existing guidelines.
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are currently developed by IUCN¹. Key biodiversity areas are places of international importance for the conservation of biodiversity through protected areas and other governance mechanisms. They are identified nationally using quantitative (threshold) criteria, based on their importance in maintaining species and populations. As the building blocks for designing the ecosystem approach and maintaining effective ecological networks, KBAs can be considered a starting point for conservation planning at landscape level. Governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, the private sector, and other stakeholders can use key biodiversity areas as a tool for identifying national networks of internationally important sites for conservation.
 - As far as the Mediterranean region is concerned, IUCN operates a centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, Spain (see below, under “Initiatives at the regional or sub-regional level”).
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is involved in Mediterranean marine conservation through its World Heritage Programme and its Man and the Biosphere programme.
- **World Heritage Sites.** In the Mediterranean Sea there are three World Heritage sites that include marine areas. The Ichkeul National Park in Tunisia was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1980 and consists of a lake-salt marsh system, which (especially the ense

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http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_biodiversity/gpap_wcpabiodiv/gpap_pabiodiv/key_biodiversity_areas/

Initiatives at the regional or sub-regional level

- European Union's **Habitats & Bird Directives**. These Directives contemplate the establishment of Specially Protected Areas and Special Areas of Conservation incorporated into the **Natura 2000 Network**, many of which have Mediterranean marine relevance. The Natura 2000 Network is implemented by the relevant individual EU Member States.
- European Union's **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (2008/56/EC), the central component of the Union's maritime policy. The principal goal of the MSFD is to achieve a Good Environmental Status at a regional level by 2020. The MSFD requires Member States to develop strategies for their marine water, as well as to cooperate with other Member States and non-EU countries within a marine region, specifically calling, amongst other things, for the establishment of a network of MPAs in European waters (de Juan et al 2012).
- European Union's **Council Regulation EC1967/2006**, concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea, provides for the establishment of *Community Fishing Protected Areas*.
- **Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance** (SPAMIs), established within the framework of the Barcelona Convention *Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean* (the SPA/BD Protocol). SPAMIs are established in order to promote cooperation amongst Parties in the management and conservation of natural areas, as well as in the protection of threatened species and their habitats. Based on the provisions of the SPA/BD Protocol, SPAMIs may be established in the marine and coastal zones subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Parties and in areas situated partly or wholly on the High Sea. The SPAMI's List may include sites which are of importance for conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean, which contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species, and which are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels. Since the 18th ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, the SPAMI List includes 33 sites, among which one encompasses an area established also on the high sea: the Pelagos Sanctuary for marine mammals. In 2009-2010 the Mediterranean Action Plan initiated a process for the identification of "Priority areas in the Open Seas and Deep Seas", with the subdivision of the Mediterranean into 8 sub-regions, where SPAMIs could be established (Notarbartolo di Sciara & Agardy 2010). Such priority areas, recognised by the Barcelona Convention CoP17 (Paris, February 2012), provided the main basis of the selection of Mediterranean EBSAs (see 1.a., above).
- **The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area** (ACCOBAMS), a special Agreement of the CMS Family, directs Parties in its Article II, Paragraph 1 to "*cooperate to create and maintain a network of specially protected areas to conserve cetaceans*". Furthermore, the Conservation Plan (Annex 2 to the Agreement) requires that the Parties will endeavour to establish and manage specially protected areas corresponding to the areas, which serve as habitats of cetaceans. However, it should be noted that ACCOBAMS is not a treaty that is specifically directed at the legal requirements for MPAs. It states clearly that developing protected areas for cetaceans should be done within the framework of the Regional Seas Conventions (OSPAR, Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions), or within the framework of other appropriate instruments. Accordingly, and on the basis of several recommendations from its Scientific Committee, 22 areas of special interest for cetaceans are identified in the ACCOBAMS area. Parties are encouraged to formally promote the national implementation of these areas and to ensure their effective management. A Meeting on Marine Areas of Protection will be organized in Tunisia (9 – 12 June 2015) in collaboration with RAC/SPA, GFCM and MedPAN. In December 2015, ACCOBAMS will also support, in collaboration with the French Agency of Marine Protected Area and GIS3M, a workshop for scientists and managers of MPAs about "Study and

conservation of the bottlenose dolphin in the north-western Mediterranean Sea” which will be also addressing MPAs network and effectiveness.

- The **Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Mammals**, a SPAMI and the largest Mediterranean MPA, was established by an agreement amongst France, Italy and Monaco signed in Rome in November 1999 and entered into force in 2002. Pelagos extends over >87,000 km² encompassing the waters of the three nations which established it. When it came into force, the Pelagos Agreement concerned to a large extent (53%) areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), and this was possible in virtue of a special provision of the SPA/BD Protocol. Today, however, with the declaration by France of its Mediterranean EEZ, and by Italy of its Ecological Protection Zone, ABNJ have disappeared from the Pelagos Sanctuary.
- The **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)** is the Mediterranean Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), operating in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, established under the umbrella of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1949. GFCM is the competent regional body for recommending, adopting, and implementing, as necessary, measures to achieve sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture activities while taking into account negative impacts on marine ecosystems. Particularly notable are the GFCM efforts on setting up spatial based measures that ban the activity of certain fishing gears in delimited areas. These measures are called *Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs)*, as recommended by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Maiorano et al. 2008). In 2006, three FRAs were created with the main objective to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats. Recommendation 30/2006/3 prohibits fishing with towed dredges and bottom trawl nets within “*Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca*”, “*The Nile delta area cold hydrocarbon seeps*” and “*The Eratosthenes Seamount*”, ”(FAO-GFCM 2006). Recommendation 33/2009/1 aimed at freezing the fishing effort at the level of 2008 in order to avoid further expansion of a fishery that was starting to operate in an important nursery area for fishes and other species off in the *Gulf of Lions* ”(FAO-GFCM 2009). In addition and prior to the creation of FRAs, in 2005, GFCM had prohibited all type of towed gears beyond 1000 m depth in the Mediterranean and black seas by Recommendation GFCM/2005/1 (FAO-GFCM 2005). Under Recommendation 31/2007/2, the GFCM Secretariat is requested to cooperate with the Pelagos Sanctuary Secretariat on the exchange of data (UNEP-MPA-RAC/SPA 2011). In 2013, Resolution GFCM/37/2013/1 established that FRAs would be designated by GFCM, including where they overlap with the UNEP-MAP SPAMI designation and prompts to both organizations to cooperate and coordinate and, as necessary, with other competent regional organizations. To this end, and at the request of its members, the GFCM created a specific technical working group on MPAs that meets annually since 2014³ (GFCM 2014) in collaboration with other partner organizations.
- Other relevant initiatives by Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations include:
 - **International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (CIESM)** held a workshop in Syracuse in November 2010 to define for conservation marine “peace parks”, straddling both open sea and coastal waters, in order to effectively preserve Mediterranean biodiversity and the essential services it provides, through the creation of cross-border marine parks. Based on the criteria set, eight large marine areas characterized by key hydrodynamic, biological and geological features were selected.
 - **MedPAN is the Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean.** The network exists since the 90s and since 2010 it is run by the MedPAN organization, a permanent structure with dedicated funds established in late 2008. Today it gathers more than 80 institutions and NGOs that either have direct responsibility for managing Marine

³ <http://www.gfcmonline.org/reports/technical/2014/wg-mpas/>

Protected Areas (MPA) or are involved in the development of MPAs in the Mediterranean. These players manage over 90 MPAS in 18 Mediterranean countries.

- The MedPAN network's mission is to promote, through a partnership approach, the sustainability and operation of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, which are ecologically representative, connected and effectively managed to help reduce the current rate of marine biodiversity loss.
 - MedPAN works with its members and partners as well as with governmental and non-governmental organizations on a local, national, regional and international level to develop its activities. The activities carried out by the network are the result of a strong coordination between its components so as to ensure effectiveness and reach.
 - Key players in the Mediterranean such as UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA, WWF, the Conservatoire du Littoral, IUCN Mediterranean, the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas, ACCOBAMS and GFCM are partners of the network and are working together to synchronize their activities. The MedPAN organization, which coordinates the MedPAN network has a unifying and dissemination role and also has its own activities on certain themes. Some actions in which MedPAN has a key role are:
 - MAPAMED, the Mediterranean MPA database
 - Mediterranean MPA Status Report, published every four years
 - Exchanges of experiences between managers
 - Call for Small Projects
 - Newsletter and website
 - MPA Forum held in Antalya (Turkey, 2012) and new ones organized every four years
 - Mediterranean Roadmap for MPAs towards 2020 approved in Antalya (2012)
 - Network representation in European, Mediterranean and international conferences.
- **WWF Mediterranean Marine Programme.** WWF has been active in the Mediterranean region for over 20 years, operating in over 18 countries, engaging more than 20000 people. WWF has brought together, through the Mediterranean Initiative, all 6 WWF Offices present in the region to work towards common conservation targets, with a strong focus on fisheries policy, MPA management effectiveness and capacity building. WWF was also a key player in the establishment and launching of the MedPAN network and the MedArtNet Network.
- One of the goals of WWF is to achieve, by 2020, a network of coastal and marine protected areas, where their communities, and economic actors will develop innovative methods of protecting biodiversity to secure benefits through blue/green economies. This is in line with the CBD Aichi Target 11. For this reason, WWF has followed closely and contributed to the implementation of the SPA Protocol, in collaboration with UNEP-MAP and its Regional Activity Center. Over the last 5 years, WWF made significant investment in advancing several MPAs from the status of “paper-parks” to effectively managed MPAs, specifically in Croatia, Turkey, Albania, Algeria and Italy. WWF promotes a multi-stakeholder approach to MPA management and has catalyzed the development of new management plans, which stakeholders and community contributed to elaborate. The success of WWF has been the integrated regional-scale approach, bringing together practitioners from several areas of the Mediterranean to exchange, discuss and dialogue to find common solutions to MPA problems. WWF coupled his work on MPA management effectiveness with a strong capacity building program, probably the widest in the region. Through this program, managers begun to understand the need of a participatory approach and the opportunity for MPAs to deliver social, economic and ecological benefits. WWF supported MPA managers in Spain, Greece, Turkey, France, Libya and several other countries to identify and establish new MPAs and to engage fishermen and tourism operators towards sustainable management.

WWF works in close collaboration with UNEP-MAP and its activity centers, the GFCM, IUCN and it is member of the MedPAN board and currently holds the Vice-Presidency of the EU - Mediterranean Advisory Council for Fisheries. WWF conducted the first regional analysis of key maritime activities, highlighting the most likely integrated scenarios of marine economic growth at a transnational level in Med-EU countries for the next 20 years. The potential cumulative impacts of human activities at sea was assessed and put into the perspective of the 10% marine protected areas target set for the Mediterranean.

- **Oceana MedNet:** *MPA Network Proposal for the Mediterranean Sea.* Biological and geomorphological data were compiled through GIS generating a complex of 385 priority sites. Out of this information 159 sites were initially selected and after an analysis of each site, the different locations were put into groups based on proximity. The final result was 100 priority areas, constituting Oceana's proposal for a network of Mediterranean MPAs. Recently, out of these 100 sites, Oceana proposed 30 sites as priority areas which were selected according to the above mentioned criteria (Micheli et al. 2013).
- **Greenpeace.** The Greenpeace proposal for a regional network of marine reserves in the Mediterranean was based on the determination of areas of high ecological importance based on spatial data relating to the region's biological diversity and physical oceanography. Data layers used in mapping the network included distribution of species, important areas for marine species, important habitats, sites previously identified as priorities for protection, such as SPAMI and Natura 2000 sites (Micheli et al. 2013).
- **The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation** has a similar mandate for the Mediterranean region and countries in term of MPAs identification, selection, declaration and management. In collaboration with all Mediterranean partners involved in MPAs, activities in the past 10 years have been orientated to the definition of coherent and representative networks, to the analysis and assessment of the MPAs legal and institutional network, on the proper definition of MPAs criteria and on new governance models for the official recognition of existing areas and the development of the existing network. More precisely, hereafter are listed activities developed with different partners.
 - With RAC/SPA, two main activities have been developed, within the framework of MedOpen Seas, the participation to the Alboran Sea, Siculo-Tunisian channel and Adriatic seas processes, and within the MedMPAnet project, the legal and institutional assessment for MPAs in Adriatic countries (Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
 - With ACCOBAMS, the permanent involvement in the scientific committee and the assistance in the preparation of a Mediterranean survey definition and feasibility.
 - With GFCM, the participation to the scientific Advisory Committee and to the Working Group on MPAs
 - With MedPAN, the review of the conservation efforts of the non-European Mediterranean countries based on the declaration of all kind of marine conservation areas (using categories and labels) and the enrichment of the existing database of existing and potential sites
 - With Oceana, the identification of funding for a deep sea cruise in Lebanon for scientific justification of deep sea areas that could be declared as MPAs.
 - On different projects developed in the recent years, legal and institutional reviews concerning MPAs have been conducted in North Africa countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt) or eastern Mediterranean (Turkey). North Africa countries monitoring systems for the marine environment have also been analyzed in order to identify potential sources of data for management of the marine environment. At the regional level, an application has been developed for divers and sea users for the signalization of exotic or invasive species in and around MPAs. For Libya, the

identification of potential sites for being declared as MPAs has been realised. For Lebanon, a national strategy for MPAs has been prepared with the government with the supporting GIS system allowing integration of data, development of information campaigns and training of national staffs.

Section 2: Implementation of the activities at national level

Section 2 of this document was elaborated mainly by compiling the information provided by the Contracting Parties through the online reporting system set for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Also, where available information about activities implemented at national level within the framework of relevant projects coordinated by international/regional organizations was used, as well as information in relation to protected areas provided by Mediterranean countries in their reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Although the information is not available for all Mediterranean countries and for all the topics addressed by the PoW, the following general conclusions could be drawn about the implementation of the four Elements of the PoW. Further details on the action undertaken by Mediterranean countries as reported in the online reporting system set for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols are presented in Annex 2 to this report.

Element 1: To assess the representativity and effectiveness of the existing Mediterranean network of marine and coastal protected areas

The assessment at national level of representativity of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas was made only in a limited number of countries with the help of regional organizations. The First report about the status of Mediterranean MPAs elaborated in 2012 by MedPAN in collaboration with RAC/SPA assessed the representativity of MPAs in relation mainly to the presence of key species and habitat. The issue of representativity is also being considered for the elaboration of the second report about the status of Mediterranean MPAs.

Element 2: To make the Mediterranean network of marine and coastal protected areas more comprehensive and more representative of the ecological features of the region.

The identification of priority conservation areas in the Mediterranean marine and coastal zone was carried out in many Mediterranean countries. The Natura 2000 framework was the main driver for this activity in the European Union member countries. In other Mediterranean countries the assistance provided by international organizations allowed to carry out inventories of marine and coastal sites as candidate areas for the establishment of MPAs.

Regarding the creation of new protected areas, or the extension of existing ones, the available information indicates that during the last five years most of the Mediterranean countries deployed an effort to extend their national network of marine and coastal protected areas, especially by declaring new MPAs. However, in terms of surface areas covered by MPAs in the Mediterranean, the available evaluations show that an important effort is still needed to make the Mediterranean network of MPAs more comprehensive and more representative of the ecological features of the region.

In the South Mediterranean countries, the regional organizations played a central role in the development of the network of marine and coastal protected areas. Indeed, most of the initiatives undertaken in this field were with the support of the regional organizations through technical and financial assistance.

Concerning the development of MPAs in zones of conservation interest located in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, initiatives are underway for the establishment of SPAMIs in the areas of Alboran Sea, the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau and Adriatic Sea. In this context, meetings were organized for consultation among the concerned countries, within the framework of the MedOpenSea project coordinated by RAC/SPA and financed by the European Commission. The identification of the sites to be covered by the SPAMIs in

the three areas takes into account the EBSAs identified in the Mediterranean and adopted by the CBD in 2014 (CoP12).

Element 3: To improve the management of the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas

The Mediterranean countries deployed a very low effort to undertake the evaluation of the management of the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas recommended under Element 3 of the PoW. The main achievements, in relation to Element 3 are (i) the strengthening of the networking among managers of MPAs, thanks to the activities carried out by MedPAN with financial support from donor organizations, (ii) the elaboration of management plans for several MPAs based on recent scientific data collected by field surveys and (iii) the organization of training initiatives, mainly at regional level.

Element 4: To strengthen the protected area governance systems and further adapt them to national and regional contexts

According to the information provided through the online reporting system to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, many countries enacted new regulations regarding protected areas providing a clear improvement in the governance systems of protected areas. However, the involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas remains very low or inexistent in many countries. The activities recommended under Element 4 of the PoW regarding the evaluation of existing governance types of protected areas was not implemented.

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Annex 2: Extracts from the online reporting system to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Remarks:

- Only elements of direct relevance to protected areas were considered in this extract.
- The text presented hereinafter represents the inputs of the Parties as appearing in the reporting system, without translation and with only minor editing changes

Albania:Setting up of protected areas:

Protected areas are created on the basis of Government Decree on SPA establishment

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

The amended Law no. 8906, 6.6.2002 'On protected areas' provides for the elaboration of management plans

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

Provided for by the Government Decree "On management committees", no. 86, dated 11.2.2005

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

The amendment of the Law On biodiversity planned for 2014 is expected to address this issue

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

The amendment of the Law On biodiversity planned for 2014 is expected to address this issue

Training opportunities:

Trainings provided in the frame of projects supported by donors

Croatia:Setting up of protected areas:

According to the Nature Protection Act, there are 9 categories of protected areas: strict reserve, national park, special reserve, nature park, significant landscape, forest park, regional park, nature monument, horticulture monument. The designation procedure concerning PAs is fully described in the NPA (Articles 123 to 128). National parks are proclaimed by the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia, Nature reserves are proclaimed by the Government of Croatia and other categories are proclaimed by the County Assemblies. A national park and nature park are designated by law by the Croatian Parliament. Strict and special reserves are designated by the Government of the Republic of Croatia by the regulation and other categories are proclaimed by the County Assemblies. A regional park and significant landscape are designated by the assembly of a responsible county subject to the prior approval of the Ministry and of the central state administration body competent for agriculture, fishery, forestry, water management, maritime affairs and economy. According to the Nature Protection Act protected areas are managed by public institutions as a Protected Area Management Authorities. The public institutions in charge of managing a national park and nature park are established by the Republic of Croatia through a regulation adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia. Public institution for management other protected areas and/or other protected natural assets are established by the regional self-government units through a decision of the county assembly. Public institutions carry out the activity of protection, maintenance and promotion of protected areas with the purpose of protection and conservation of the authenticity of nature, safeguarding the undisturbed running of natural processes and the sustainable use of natural resources, as well as control the enforcement of nature protection requisites and measures in the area they administer. Public institutions administering nature parks also control the method of carrying out authorized business activities with the aims of safeguarding the rational and sustainable use of natural resources.

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

According to Nature protection Act the administering of national parks, nature parks, special nature reserves and protected landscapes is carried out pursuant to the management plan. Management plan, adopted for a period of ten years, sets development guidelines, the method of implementing protection, use and administering the protected area, as well as more detailed guidelines for the protection and conservation of natural assets of a protected area, taking into consideration the needs of the local population. After five years, implementation of the management plan is analysed along with results achieved, and revised document is prepared and adopted. MP is implemented with Annual work programme of protected area. Strengthening of the Marine Protected Areas Network in Croatia, MedPAN South Pilot Project (Sub-component 3.1 of the MedPartnership), 2009-2012 (executed by WWF-MedPO; funded by: EC, FFEM and MAVFA Foundation; locally coordinated by: Sunce, Ministry of environmental and nature protection, and State Institute for Nature Protection): it aimed at improving the management effectiveness of Croatian Marine Protected Areas by assisting the management bodies, and relevant institutions, in developing concerted management plans and by promoting their networking and full integration in the existing Network of MPAs Managers in the Mediterranean - MedPAN.

Management plan contains guidelines for monitoring of the state of protected area and its assets. Management plans for two nature parks (Telašćica and Vransko jezero) have been adopted. Draft management plans for three national parks (Kornati, Brijuni and Mljet), and nature park (Lastovsko otočje) are in final phase. PAs Brijuni, Kornati, Mljet, and Lastovo Archipelago, each year prepare and implement annual programme for protection, conservation, use and promotion of the protected area. Biodiversity inventories and monitoring of species and habitats are regularly financed activities in PAs.

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

In the long run, the raising of environmental awareness has proved a very positive step in nature and marine conservation in Croatia, involving fishermen, local communities and the broad public, sharing and communicating existing experience and knowledge in management issues among them. In management planning process of protected area stakeholder/local community participation is ensured throughout organized workshops. The Nature Protection Act envisages the system of financial incentives for environmental friendly management, which takes in consideration measures for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

Act of designation of PA is based on an expert evaluation drawn up by the State Institute for Nature Protection. The expert base includes, among others, consequences ensuing from the adoption of an act of designation, especially with regard to property rights and business activities presently obtaining. The public is informed of the proposal for the designation of a protected area through public review. NPA proscribes a compensation if due to proclamation of PAs and new restrictions opportunities for earning income are significantly impaired.

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

The national and nature parks are regularly financed by the state budget and income from the use of protected natural assets. Almost all public institutions managing national parks and nature parks have their own sources of income through ticket sales, tourism activities, concession authorisations, sale of souvenirs, promotional materials and other services. A considerable proportion of this income is generated by those national parks and nature parks with well-developed tourism activities, and a large number of visitors. Special reserves are financed by the county budget. MP specifies ways and sources of financing.

Training opportunities:

Education programs for staff of protected areas were developed and implemented by State institute for nature protection. Additional there is a regular programmes for education and specialisation of supervisory (ranger) service.

Incorporating into the national contingency plans measures for responding to incidents that could cause damage or constitute a threat to the specially protected areas:

The Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution (OG 92/08, Article 36) establishes the procedures and measures for predicting, preventing, restricting and preparedness for as well as response to accidental marine pollution and unusual natural marine phenomenon for the purpose of protecting the marine environment. National Contingency Plan (NCP) prescribes conducting assessment of risk and sensitivity mapping of the area covered by the NCP. Among other things, assessment of risk and sensitivity mapping should include also a list and description of protected natural resources, with a view to determine priorities regarding protection and/or restoration of the marine environment as well as to select the most appropriate measures for preventing and responding to marine pollution. Also, according to the NCP (Article 81), the use of dispersants is not allowed in nature protected areas whose list is presented in Annex V item 1 of the NCP. Beside nature protected areas, use of dispersants is forbidden also in mariculture zones, fish spawning areas, and areas where the return of sea water is possible under the influence of tides, winds or decreased water-levels in rivers.

Institutional arrangements for the management as a whole of each SPA, covering both land and marine areas:

Protected area is managed by public institution (PI). PI for management of national park and nature park are established by the Republic of Croatia. On regional level PI for management of other PA is established by county public institutions for management of other protected areas and values, as well as county administration offices PIs carry out the activity of protection, maintenance and promotion of protected area with the purpose of protection and conservation of the nature, safeguarding natural processes and sustainable use of natural resources, and control the enforcement of nature protection measures in the area they manage.

Cyprus:

Setting up of protected areas:

Six coastal/marine sites have been included in the Natura

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

- Existing in the Lara/Toxeftra turtle reserve – implemented since 1989.
- Draft Management plans have being elaborated for four Natura 2000 coastal/marine sites and the public consultation with stakeholders is pending.
- It should be noted that for the three sites, preliminary management plans were drafted through the EU-MedMPA project. By the end of the year 2014, the management plans should be finalized

Training opportunities:

Given in situ and through RAC/SPA training course. Training opportunities in turtle conservation offered to trainees from other countries

France

Setting up of protected areas:

La France a principalement désigné en tant qu'ASP des réserves naturelles, le Parc national de Port-Cros, les sites du Conservatoire du Littoral et des rivages lacustres, les sites classés, les arrêtés de protection de biotopes et des sites du réseau européen Natura 2000. le Parc naturel marin du Golfe du Lion (création octobre 2011) et le parc des Calanques (création avril 2012) sont proposés en tant

qu'ASP 2a : le Parc naturel marin du Golfe du Lion et le parc national des Calanques (création avril 2012) sont proposés en tant qu'ASP 2b : Pour mémoire : avis conforme requis pour les activités susceptibles d'altérer de façon notable le milieu marin d'un parc naturel marin (L.334-3 du code environnement), et pour les Parcs Nationaux (L.331-4 code environnement)

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

La capacité à élaborer et mettre en œuvre un plan de gestion est l'une des caractéristiques qui permettent la qualification d'aire marine protégée en droit français. Le parc national de Port Cros, les parcs naturels marins et les réserves naturelles marines sont tous dotés de plans ou d'orientations de gestion, dont l'élaboration et le suivi sont assurés par l'autorité en charge de l'aire marine concernée. Le plan de gestion des parcs naturels régionaux peut également comporter un volet maritime : tel est le cas des parcs naturels régionaux de Camargue ou de la Narbonnaise. Dans le cadre des sites du réseau Natura 2000, ceux-ci existent également sous le vocable de « document d'objectifs ». (DOCOB) Les réserves naturelles marines peuvent disposer de leur réglementation propre, tant en matière de circulation que de pêche ou d'autres activités. Tel est le cas de la réserve naturelle marine de Cerbère-Banyuls, dont deux arrêtés préfectoraux règlent la fréquentation . A cette capacité de gestion peuvent s'attacher, sous des formes plus ou moins directes, des pouvoirs de police: En mer, le directeur d'un parc national, comme celui de Port-Cros, dispose des pouvoirs que lui accorde la loi "parcs" n° 2006-436 du 14 avril 2006 : - autorisation de pose de câbles et de travaux nécessités par la défense-proposition aux autorités administratives compétentes de soumettre à un régime particulier la pêche, la circulation en mer et la gestion du domaine public maritime dans le cœur du parc national, dans le respect du droit communautaire et du droit international ; - exercice éventuel (si transfert) des compétences attribuées au maire pour la police des baignades et des activités nautiques pratiquées à partir du rivage avec des engins de plage et des engins non immatriculés, jusqu'à une limite fixée à 300 mètres ; - avis conforme pour les autorisations d'activités susceptibles d'altérer de façon notable l'espace maritime compris dans le cœur du parc. Quant aux parcs naturels marins nouvellement créés par la loi précitée, dont le premier pour la Méditerranée a été créé en octobre 2011 (parc naturel marin du Golfe du Lion), leur conseil de gestion dispose de capacités de proposition et du pouvoir d'avis conforme semblables à ceux dont disposent les parcs nationaux. Pour mémoire : avis conforme requis pour les activités susceptibles d'altérer de façon notable le milieu marin d'un parc naturel marin (L.334-3 du code environnement), et pour les Parcs Nationaux (L.331-4 code environnement)

Programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in the Protocol Areas' ecosystems and of the impact of human activities:

Les plans de gestion des Parcs Nationaux et des Parcs naturels marins, des réserves naturelles et des sites N2000 comprennent généralement des actions de suivi scientifique. L'Agence des aires marines protégées a par ailleurs initié le programme « tableau de bord des aires marines protégées » qui a pour objet d'évaluer l'efficacité de gestion des aires marines protégées au regard de leurs finalités de création. Mise en œuvre de la directive cadre stratégie pour le milieu marin, (2008/56/CE) du 17 juin 2008 : la DCSMM fixe pour objectif d'atteindre le bon état écologique de l'ensemble des eaux marines dont les états membres sont responsables d'ici 2020. A cet effet, chaque Etat doit élaborer une stratégie marine. La France réalise ainsi des plans d'actions pour le milieu marin (L.219-9 du code de l'environnement - décret n° 2011-492 du 5 mai 2011 relatif au PAMM). Le plan d'action est un instrument d'application de la directive mais aussi un volet consacré au développement durable du document stratégique de façade, outil de mise en œuvre de la politique maritime intégrée nationale. Le PAMM comprend 5 volets évaluation initiale, définition du bon état écologique, fixation des objectifs environnementaux, programme de surveillance, programme de mesures

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

Les plans sont élaborés au sein de comités associant élus, administrations, usagers, scientifiques, etc. Pour les sites Natura 2000, le comité de pilotage du site comprend notamment des représentants de collectivités territoriales (articles L4.14-1 à 7 et R. 414-1 à R. 414-24) , des propriétaires, des exploitants et utilisateurs des terrains et espaces inclus dans les sites. L'AAMP joue le rôle de référent technique pour l'Etat. Pour les réserves naturelles, le comité consultatif (voir ci dessous) comprend notamment des représentants des collectivités locales, des usagers, des propriétaires. Pour les parcs

nationaux : La loi du 14 avril 2006 réforme profondément la gouvernance des parcs nationaux. Elle propose l'élaboration d'un partenariat volontaire entre les parcs et les collectivités et acteurs de leurs zones périphériques, dans une démarche de développement durable. L'adhésion à ce partenariat se traduira pour les communes qui le souhaiteront par la signature d'une charte, préalablement co-élaborée avec les collectivités concernées. Les communes qui choisiront d'adhérer feront alors partie de l'« aire d'adhésion » et, nouveauté essentielle de la loi, bien que n'étant pas des aires protégées et n'étant pas soumises à une réglementation particulière, elles deviendront, pour la durée de la charte, communes du parc national et pourront s'en prévaloir. Le conseil de gestion des parcs naturels marins comprend notamment des représentants de l'Etat, des collectivités (articles L334.3, L334-8 et R334-8 et R.334-27 à R334-38) et des usagers (dont socio-professionnels). Article L.2334-7 5ème alinéa du code des collectivités territoriales : versement d'une dotation aux communes dont le territoire est inclus dans un Parc National ou un Parc naturel marin.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

En cas de "préjudice direct, matériel et certain", l'article L.332-5 du code de l'environnement (réserves naturelles) prévoit l'indemnisation des propriétaires et titulaires de droits réels cette procédure n'est qu'exceptionnellement mise en œuvre, et est sans doute difficilement applicable sur le domaine marin.

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

La gestion écologique des Parcs Nationaux, des parcs naturels marins et des réserves naturelles bénéficie de financements des pouvoirs publics (Etat pour les Parcs et Réserves nationaux, Etat via l'agence des aires marines protégées pour les parcs naturels marins, Régions pour les RN régionales, collectivité de Corse pour les RN de Corse). Les activités industrielles et commerciales sont interdites dans les RN, sauf, dans certains cas, des activités liées aux actions de découverte des milieux. Art. L.334-4 : la gestion des PNM est assurée par l'Agence des aires marines protégées. Celle-ci contribue ainsi au financement des PNM. La gestion des sites Natura 2000 en mer (élaboration et mise en œuvre du DOCOB) bénéficie actuellement de financements de l'État essentiellement. Des possibilités de financement supplémentaires pourraient être offertes par le FEAMP sur la prochaine période de programmation des fonds européens (2014-2020). Pour la RN des bouches de Bonifacio : le décret n°2000-1035 du 20 oct. 2000 modifiant le décret n° 96-555 du 21 juin 1996 prévoit que la réserve naturelle est destinataire d'une taxe prélevée sur le passage des personnes embaquées à destination des îles Lavezzi. Taxe dite Barnier 1995 sur les espaces naturels sensibles prélevée sur les entreprises de transports publics maritimes (codifiée L.321-12; R.321-11 à 14 du Code environnement) : décrets d'application 2006-765 du 4 juillet 2006, liste des sites concernés dont le site classé des Calanques de Marseille, le Parc National de Port-Cros, le site classé de Porquerolles, des Îles de Lerins, le site du Conservatoire du Littoral : désert des agriates et Baie du Lotu, la Réserve naturelle de Scandola pour la Méditerranée. L'inscription du parc national des Calanques sur cette liste a été demandée. Les fonds européens sont également mobilisés (Life notamment).

Training opportunities:

Outre les formations initiales en sciences de la nature, océanologie, halieutique, etc., l'ATEN (Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels) assure des formations techniques spécifiques pour les gestionnaires d'aires naturelles protégées. Il contribue à la sauvegarde des espaces et du patrimoine naturels, par la mise en réseau et la professionnalisation des acteurs. Son objectif est de développer et diffuser ensemble les méthodes de gestion patrimoniale des espaces naturels. Le Forum des Aires Marines Protégées permet plus spécifiquement des échanges d'expériences entre gestionnaires d'aires marines françaises, notamment celles de la méditerranée. De plus, l'association MedPAN a été créée en novembre 2008 sous le droit français (loi 1901) afin de pérenniser les activités du Réseau des Gestionnaires d'Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée. Le réseau MedPAN a été créé en 1990 et a depuis permis aux gestionnaires d'aires marines protégées d'échanger sur leurs problématiques respectives au travers de rencontres thématiques, de développer des outils méthodologiques portant sur la gestion des AMP, de financer des études terrain et de publier en ligne le 1er répertoire des aires marines protégées en Méditerranée.

Institutional arrangements for the management as a whole of each SPA, covering both land and marine areas:

Pour chaque réserve naturelle, un comité consultatif est constitué et un organisme gestionnaire est désigné. Pour les parcs nationaux : conseil d'administration de l'établissement public du parc Un conseil de gestion est constitué pour chaque parc naturel marin. La gestion est assurée par une équipe mise à disposition par l'Agence des aires marines protégées.

Greece

Setting up of protected areas:

In Greece there are 11 protected areas, which are purely or partly marine. These areas may be divided in protection zones, some of which are purely marine. These areas are managed by Management Bodies. Further on, there are areas designated under the forest legislation which also contain important coastal areas and which are managed mainly through the forest legislation. One of them is Samaria Forest Park, which is under the procedure of being designated as National Park. These 12 areas cover appr. 278.800 ha of marine area. Additionally to the protected areas mentioned, the Natura 2000 network includes 225 sites of Natura 2000 network with coastal / marine or purely marine. Legal texts of already protected areas are still valid. In Greece there are 11 protected areas, which are purely or partly marine. These areas may be divided in protection zones, some of which are purely marine. These areas are managed by Management Bodies. Further on, there are areas designated under the forest legislation which also contain important coastal areas and which are managed mainly through the forest legislation. One of them is Samaria Forest Park, which is under the procedure of being designated as National Park. These 12 areas cover appr. 278.800 ha of marine area. Additionally to the protected areas mentioned, the Natura 2000 network includes 225 sites of Natura 2000 network with coastal / marine or purely marine character. The marine area of Natura 2000 sites cover appr. 691.600 ha. Some parts of Natura 2000 are included in the protected areas. A legal text with a list of small island wetlands and determination of restrictions for their protection has been issued. Financial resources, Administrative management

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

In Greece there are 29 Management Bodies of protected areas. Of these, 12 include areas with coastal and marine parts. 11 Management Plans for these areas with coastal - marine parts and Management Bodies are under development and one is in force. Financial resources, Administrative management
The marine area of Greece is very extended and it cannot be easily studied, protected and guarded. A project for surveillance and evaluation of conservation status of habitat types and species of community interest at national level is running since the beginning of 2014. Specific monitoring projects are also running in a number of protected areas by the Management Bodies. Monitoring projects for protected species are also running by NGOs

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

In the Administrative Councils of the Management Bodies of protected areas representatives of local communities are participating. Further on, before the designation of these areas and before the environmental approval of works and activities, public consultation is taking place.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

No economic incentives have been developed so far. However, local inhabitants can benefit from other provisions.

Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting the protected areas or income:

Management Bodies are financially supported by the Community Support Framework and national funds. These Bodies are taking care of further income.

Training opportunities:

Training on monitoring techniques was organized for the personnel of all Management Bodies in 2013

Incorporating into the national contingency plans measures for responding to incidents that could cause damage or constitute a threat to the specially protected areas:

According to the National Contingency Plan [PD 11/2002], a satisfactory degree of operational preparedness of the mechanism foreseen for responding to pollution incidents of the sea and coastlines from oil and other harmful substances is achieved through the regular performance of exercises and the frequent training of equipment operators in the operation, maintenance and long-term storage of such equipment.

Institutional arrangements for the management as a whole of each SPA, covering both land and marine areas:

Legislative texts for the designation of protected areas include restrictions that concern both the terrestrial and marine part of these areas.

Italy

Setting up of protected areas:

SPA "Secche della Meloria", instituted by Ministerial Decree of 21/10/2009. The Ministerial Decree n. 217 of 28/07/2009 establishes the Regulation on the allowed activities SPA "Torre del Cerrano", instituted by Ministerial Decree of 21/10/2009. The Ministerial Decree n. 218 of 28/07/2009 establishes the Regulation on the allowed activities SPA "Costa degli Infreschi e della Masseta", instituted by Ministerial Decree of 21/10/2009. The Ministerial Decree n. 219 of 28/07/2009 establishes the Regulation on the allowed activities SPA "Santa Maria di Castellabate", instituted by Ministerial Decree of 21/10/2009. The Ministerial Decree n. 220 of 28/07/2009 establishes the Regulation on the allowed activities. In 2011 the following SPAs became ASPIM: - "Penisola Sinis - Isola Mal di Ventre" - "Capo Carbonara" - "Porto Cesareo"

The establishing decrees of these SPAs were published on the Official Journal in 2010.

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

Elaboration and implementation of a management plan are required by the national law and actually many SPAs have a specific management plans.

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

Local communities are involved in the managing body.

Israel

Setting up of protected areas:

A significant progression of the process of the approval of a new significant marine reserve in "Rosh Hanikra"

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

Four out of seven SPA's have management plans and are fully enforced, One SPA has a management plan but yet to receive local community agreements.

Financial resources, Administrative management

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

SPAs are managed on a national level. Local communities are involved through educational programs. Local communities are also involved in commercial activity.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

INPA has intensive negotiation with local stakeholders that might be affected.

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

INPA financing is provided mainly by the government and in part from of the payment of admissions to natural parks and reserves, including coastal reserves (managed by INPA). manages the parks and

reserves). Admissions of a certain park or reserve are not earmarked to its activity and do not necessarily influence the funds designated for financing its activities.

Training opportunities:

We increased the participation of NPA officials in international conferences, official meetings of the Barcelona Convention and workshops led by a semi-official or non official organization specifically Mediterranean organizations that work together with MAP such as MedPAN and ACCOBAMS

Lebanon

Setting up of protected areas:

With IUCN through the project "Supporting the Management of Important Habitats and Species in Lebanon" has conducted Biodiversity field surveys in three coastal and marine sites: - Batroun in 2010 - Jbeil in 2011 - Madfoun in 2012 and has elaborated technical documents for their declaration as MPAs. In addition, MoE and RAC/SPA conducted through the MEDMPANet project, in cooperation with CNRS and University of Alicante' and in collaboration with IUCN, an extensive biodiversity field surveys in 6 coastal & marine sites in Lebanon as follows: - In 2012: Ras el Chakaa and Enfe'in North Lebanon, and Raouche' in Beirut - in 2013: Nakoura and Sidon Rocks and Tyre in the South Lebanon And they elaborated technical documents for the declaration of these new sites as Marine Protected Areas. The MoE is now preparing legal documents for the declaration of Ras el Chakaa and Nakoura as MPAs and is preparing a management plan for each site within an activity undertaken by IUCN/ROWA with the project "Marine and Coastal Biodiversity" executed by MoE Lebanon, funded by GEF and implemented by UNEP.

Elaboration and implementation of management plan:

A five years Management Plan of Palm Islands Nature Reserve (SPA) was prepared and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment for the period 2000-2005. An updated five years Management Plan of the reserve was developed by the managing committee in 2008 but it remained a draft and needs finalization. Guidelines for the management of the marine part of the same reserve was developed in 2009 and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment. The management team of PINR is implementing this management plan under the supervision of the reserve's committee and MoE. MoE is now preparing legal documents for the declaration of Ras el Chakaa and Nakoura as MPAs and is preparing a management plans for each site within an activity undertaken by IUCN/ROWA with the project "Marine and Coastal Biodiversity" executed by MoE Lebanon, funded by GEF and implemented by UNEP, the two site could be nominated afterwards to become SPAs

Financial resources

The updated five years Management Plan of the reserve which was developed by the managing committee in 2008, was not finalized and released in its final form due to shortage of financial resources and some difficulties at technical level.

Montenegro

Setting up of protected areas:

Regarding establishment of Marine protected areas in Montenegro following activities has been recently done: - RAC/SPA initiated a survey for the rapid assessment of Montenegrin coastal habitats. This activity was carried out during an assignment for investigating the main important areas on the Montenegrin coast (19-28 July 2009), focused on aspects related to species protection and management. - With financial support and cooperation between Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea, and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, within the framework of bilateral cooperation of two countries, The project "Realization of a Management Plan for a Pilot Marine Protected Area in Montenegro" set up the basis for the establishment of the first Marine Protected Area in Montenegro. The first phase of the project was completed in 2010. As a preparatory work for the initiation of the Study for protection of MPA Katić in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Nature Protection (OGM n. 51/2008). Based on the successful experience and results of the "Katić" Pilot MPA Project MPA 2 project was conducted as a second faze, during

2011-2012 and following results were achieved: • Analysis of Legislative and Institutional Framework for MPA Management • Pilot Projects Six Pilot Projects were developed within the MPA2 project: 1. Monitoring of marine habitats in the pilot “Katič” MPA area 2. Information and communication material 3. Seasonal Information Point in the pilot “Katič” MPA 4. Material for Environmental Education in primary schools (II cycle) 5. 3 Video clip(s) on marine and coastal environment 6. MPA2 Project website • Capacity Building and Education • Assessment of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems for the Design of a National System of Marine Protected Areas in Montenegro - In 2011, realization of MEDMPAnet Project was initiated by RAC SPA . The main aim of the project was investigation of potential marine protected areas in Montenegro as well as recommendation for the improvement of existing legislative and institutional organization and framework. In that regard, a 1st Rapid Assessment of natural habitats along the coast of Montenegro has been undertaken (25 October - 3 November 2011) with the involvement of national experts (IMB of Kotor, Nautilus local NGO, and RAC/SPA international experts) also a 2nd Rapid Assessment of natural habitats along the coast of Montenegro has been undertaken (June 2012) with the involvement of national experts (IMB of Kotor, Nautilus local NGO, and RAC/SPA international experts). As a result a list of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs will be proposed Ulcinj, Katici, Platomuni, Bar, Buljarica, Jaz, Tivat and Kotor. Based on the preliminary results of the rapid assessments (October 2011; June 2012), and in consultation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and tourism of Montenegro, it has been agreed that RAC/SPA joined efforts to PAP/RAC and CP/RAC in the "Pilot Project on Testing the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) application in Boka Kotorska Bay" under the framework of CAMP realization in Montenegro. As a result of the project Start up of “Katič” Mpa in Montenegro and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems along the coast following areas have been identified as suitable potential marine protected areas: 1) Mamula bay down to Rt Mačka 2) Rt Traste to Platomuni (with a pure conservation area going from Rt Žukovac to Rt Kostovica) 3) MPA Katič (shown in blue in the map) 4) Rt Vulujica to Dobra Voda town 5) Rt Komina to Rt Stari Ulcinj 6) Valdanos bay to U. Velika 7) Seka djeran and southern Velika Plaža to the Bojana delta Data that are obtained with the framework of above mentioned projects are good basis for the further researches and development of documentation that are precondition of proclamation of the protected areas in Montenegro according to the Law on Nature Protection.

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

The Law on nature protection prescribes the obligation to prepare the management plans for protected areas. At the time being, only the Public Enterprise for National Parks prepares the Program for protection and development of existing 4 national parks in Montenegro. Management plan for potential first MPA, Katič“ was done with financial support and cooperation between Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea and Ministry of sustainable development and tourism of Montenegro, within the framework of bilateral cooperation of two countries. According to the Amendment of The Law on Nature Protection (Official Gazette no. 62/2013) Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management is in charge for management of protected areas within the zone of Public Maritime Domain and also in charge for development of management plans for this areas.

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

According to the Law on nature protection, the budgets of the local communities shall provide the funding of the protection of natural areas proclaimed as such by local governments, provide the collection of the incentives envisaged by this Law, as well as provide the funding of the exercise of the preferential right of the State to purchase and provide the compensation to owners and users of the property right for restrictions they are subjected to in these protected areas with international and national designation. Since process of establishment of marine protected areas is ongoing and management plans haven't been developed detailed plan of Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas haven't been established yet.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

In activities regarding possibilities of Funding mechanisms for protected areas have been started through Project “Catalyzing financial sustainability of protected areas in Montenegro” funded by GEF and implemented by UNDP are assisting capacity development of institutions and individuals

mandated with protection, conservation and management of protected areas. This project has aim to improve the financial sustainability of Protected Area (PA) system in Montenegro through enabling legal and policy environment for improvement of financial sustainability, securing revenue streams for PA, and development of institutional and individual capacities of PA institutions to raise PA management cost-effectiveness. Within the framework of MEDPAN South Project following capacity building activities, on which Montenegrin experts participated, had been conducted: Workshop on Communications for MPA managers held in 2011 in Split, Croatia; Regional Training Workshop on planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs held in October 2010, in Kaş, Turkey; First Regional Training Workshop on MPA management planning held in November 2009, in Tabarka, Tunisia, Study visit to MIRAMARE MPA, held in May 2012. Also, capacity building activities were carried out, as a part of project Start up of Katič Marine Protected Area in Montenegro and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems along the coast. As a part of project activities international workshop on MPA management, visit to selected MPA in Italy and identification of priority capacity requirements for MPA Management were conducted

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

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Training opportunities:

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Incorporating into the national contingency plans measures for responding to incidents that could cause damage or constitute a threat to the specially protected areas?

In accordance with the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as IMO treaties and regulations to which Montenegro is a Signatory Party, development of the National Contingency Plan has been developed initiated through the programme of support provided by REMPEC. The Plan is in the phase of finalization. It prescribes the measures for prevention and response in the cases of Emergency caused by the Pollution Incidents. The special set of measures is related to provision of the adequate response to the incidents that could cause damage or present a threat to the specially protected areas. The legal basis for enacting the National Contingency Plan is set will be set in the Law on the Protection of the Sea against Pollution from Sea-going Objects.

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

Loi n° 22-07 relative aux aires protégées prévoit la participation des parties concernées L’approche participative est appliquée.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:
Programme de microprojets d’écodéveloppement

L'ASP est une nouvelle culture appelée à se développer

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

Budget de l'État - bailleurs de fonds (coopération bilatérale)

Des difficultés dans le montage de projets

Training opportunities:

Formation insuffisante

Renforcement de la formation en ce qui concerne la partie marine du parc

Spain

Setting up of protected areas:

- Lagunas de las Moreras (Ramsar Site number: 2036) in the Autonomous Community of Murcia.

- Coastal wetlands in the Autonomous Community of Valencia: Salinas de Calp Saladar de Aigua Amarga Parque Natural de las Salinas de Santa Pola Parque Natural de las Lagunas de la Mata y Torrevieja Desembocadura y frente litoral del Riu Racons Desembocadura del Riu del Algar Desembocadura y frente litoral del Segura Parque Natural de la Marjal de Pego-Oliva Marjal de Peñíscola Parque Natural del Prat de Cabanes

-Torreblanca Marjal y Estanys de Almenara Marjal de Nules-Burriana Desembocadura del Riu de la Sénia Desembocadura de Millars Clot de la Mare de Deu Desembocadura del Riu de les Coves Marjal dels Moros Parque Natural de la Albufera de Valencia Desembocadura del Riu de Xeraco Marjal de Rafalell y Vistabella Marjal y Estany de la Ribera Sur del Xúquer Marjal de la Safor Desembocadura y frente litoral del Xúquer Desembocadura del Riu Bullents

-Natural Park Montgrí, Illes Medes and the Baix Ter, in the Autonomous Community of Cataluña. They are also declared, within the Natural Park boundaries, the partial marine nature reserve of Les Medes, the partial nature reserve of wetlands of Baix Ter and the integral nature reserve of Medes Islands.

- The following microreserves of flora were declared in the province of Alicante (Autonomous Community of Valencia). Banys de la Reina (Calp) La Loma (Torrevieja)

- The following wildlife reserves were declared in the Autonomous Community of Valencia. Finca de Penya (Sagunto)

Elaboration and implementation of management plans:

Central Government legislation - Order ARM/1744/2011 of 15 June, regulating the marine reserve of Cabo de Gata, and setting its boundaries and uses permitted. Autonomous legislation: - Decree 313/2010 of 22 June, approving the II Doñana Sustainable Development Plan and the Operational Programme "Horizon 2011". In 2010 were approved: - Natural Resources Management Plan for three RAMSAR sites on the South of Alicante, in the Autonomous Community of Valencia ("El Hondo", "Santa Pola" and "La Mata-Torrevieja") - Master Plans for Use and Management of "Salinas de Santa Pola" and "Lagunas de La Mata-Torrevieja" -Law 15/2010 of 28 May declaring Natural Park Montgrí, Illes Medes and the Baix Ter, in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia, and establishing a legal framework for the creation of mechanisms for planning, management and legal protection to preserve and restore special protection areas and to promote the geological, botanical, faunistic, ecological, landscape, cultural, educational, scientific, and social values.

Programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in the Protocol Areas' ecosystems and of the impact of human activities:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in collaboration with the Centre for Studies and Experimentation of Public Works (CEDEX), conducted several studies in the framework of the National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in order to understand the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change of the potentially most affected sectors (water management, agriculture, biodiversity, coastal zones, health and tourism) with the aim of establishing a diagnosis and definition of the most effective management and adaptation planning. In June 2011 the conclusions of these studies were presented. Different effects of climate change on water resources, water demand and adaptation strategies were analyzed. The Ministry also carried out a preliminary evaluation on the

actual environmental situation and on the impact of human activities on the marine environment of each marine demarcation. This preliminary evaluation is based on the best available scientific information and was carried out after consulting the ministerial departments and the Autonomous Communities with competences on marine environment, according to what it is established into the article 22 of this law. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, during the period under review (2010-2011), has performed the following projects: The Project “Impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation of Spanish Biodiversity to Climate Change” ended in 2010. This project, illustrates the present and future potential distribution – within three different climatic scenarios along the 21st century – of a wide sample of vascular flora and of the majority of the Spanish terrestrial vertebrates (excluding the insular species, fishes and bats) Regarding the invertebrates, the conservation status of about 210 species of arthropods and shellfish declared vulnerable and its geographic distribution, is evaluated – according to criteria of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) . Other programmes implemented or under implementation: -Monitoring of common birds programme (SACRE): The objective of this programme is the follow-up of the evolution of reproductive common birds. SEO/BirdLife coordinates this bird monitoring programme at national level since 1996. - Monitoring programme of breeding nocturnal birds (NOCTUA), coordinated by SEO/BirdLife. It analyses and shows trends in nocturnal bird species. In 2011 there were presented the results for the period 2006-2011. -Bird ringing programme in the breeding Season (PASER): This coordinated bird ringing programme in the breeding season (end of March to beginning of August) first got underway in 1995. In 2011, around 60 ringing stations, involving more than 250 ringers and volunteers, took part in the 10-day ringing campaign, crucial for the undertaking of standardized and coordinated monitoring of common breeding birds. In 2011, all the Paser stations spread throughout the Iberian Peninsula and Ceuta captured 17,744 birds belonging to 126 species. Other monitoring programmes: - Monitoring of Spanish continental ichthyofauna. -Monitoring system of Spanish amphibians and reptiles (SARE): it is running the in field monitoring with more than 320 UTM grids of 10x10 km covered; - Programme 467 E developed by the National Institute of Oceanography (IEO) since 2006: The main goal of its activity is the knowledge of the oceanographic processes from an interdisciplinary analysis (physical, chemical, biological and geological) as well as the study of influence and variability of the previous on biodiversity, ecosystems, biological production and marine resources. Some of the tasks performed by this programme: -Maintenance of a network of biological sampling and data and information collection; -Realization of research programmes on the sea, on oceanographic or commercial ships in order to obtain abundance and recruiting indexes, gear selectivity, improvement on the knowledge of biology, ecology of marine species, evaluation effects of fishing activities on the marine environment, etc. Between 2010 and 2011 the Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO), together with the Fishing Secretary and other Bodies, continued the development of the Pan-European infrastructure for the following Projects: -Integrated study on demersal ecosystem exploited in the Balearic Islands (Western Mediterranean) and scientific-technical background for an ecosystemic approach in the fishery management (BADEMECO) -The RADMED Project (Time series of Oceanographic data in the Mediterranean Sea) aims to implement a very important part of a wider environmental monitoring programme of the Mediterranean Sea, allowing the IEO to provide answers, advising and the possibility to perform an excellent investigation activity in the most present and social awareness field such as the Climate Change, the health status of our seas and the impact of human activities of various kind on the marine environment. Finally, monitoring programmes are established in all marine reserves (official protection figure of MAP established for fisheries purposes) with the aim of studying the “reserve effect” on commercial fish stocks. Furthermore, campaigns to monitor invasive species, climate change effects on biodiversity are developed.

Involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas:

According to the Strategic Plan of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity 2011-2017, approved by Royal Decree 1274/2011, of 16 September, activities to promote the knowledge and the understanding of the importance of biodiversity, including its effects over human wellness, have been developed in order to promote a change of attitude respect thereto. The development of economies and sectors less developed is also fostered: the rural environment and sectors such as agriculture have huge opportunities in this market. In this sense, it is taken into account the potentials of these sectors,

through the economic valorization of biodiversity and ecosystem's services, which have to be fully implemented in the process of decision making, including the integration of the values of biodiversity in the national accountability. On the other hand, one of the specific objectives of the LIFE+INDEMARES project "Inventory and designation of the Natura 2000 Network in marine areas of the Spanish State" is to promote the participation of all the involved parties in marine research, conservation and sea management and its resources including the sea local communities

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs:

According to the Strategic Plan of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity 2011-2017, approved by Royal Decree 1274/2011, the development of economies and sectors less developed is promoted and enhanced. The economic valorization of biodiversity and ecosystem's services, which have to be fully implemented during the decision making process, including the integration of the values of biodiversity in the national accountability. Participatory processes directly involving all the actors and sectors interested will be also encouraged

Funding mechanisms for protected areas:

The Strategic Plan of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity 2011-2017, approved by Royal Decree 1724/2011, of 16 September, deals with the development and the application of innovative mechanisms of funding, as well as other initiatives to involve the private sector and other actors, to call up new financial resources intended for the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity. - The Budgetary Programme 415A of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (52,10 million of euros in 2010 y 28,67 million of euros in 2011)) aims to the creation, maintenance, conservation and coordination of fishing in protected areas. Regarding LIFE projects, between 2010 and 2011, the following ones were approved and developed: - Project "Elaboration of the Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Spain". Budget: 551,750.00 €. Duration of project: 24 months (01.06.2012 - 31.05.2014). Beneficiary: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. The 'PAF NATURA 2000 SPAIN' project aims to improve the capacity for financing and managing the Natura 2000 network in Spain through the preparation and implementation of a Prioritized Action Framework (PAF). This framework will provide a coherent view of the integrated actions required for the management of designated areas and enable the use of different financial instruments for specific actions. - Project "Natura 2000: Connecting People with Biodiversity". Budget: 2,151,603.00 €. Duration of project: 54 months (03.09.2012 - 02.03.2017). Beneficiary: Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO / BirdLife). The main aim of the project is to improve awareness of the Natura 2000 network in Spain and contribute to the appreciation of its maintenance. The project also aims to provide training for key actors on the legal obligations that derive from the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive. - Project "Natura 2000: an opportunity for Everyone". Budget: 1,822,996.00 €. Duration of project: 48 months (01.01.2013 - 31.12.2016). Beneficiary: General Directorate of Environment. The project aims to further the implementation of the Natura 2000 network. Resolution of March 1, 2011, National Parks, which publishes the award of grants for scientific research projects in the National Parks Network for 2010. "Contribution of remote nutrients and pollutants by atmospheric and biotic deposition in the archipelago of Cabrera" 113.188,75 euros. Resolution of November 29, 2011, National Parks, which publishes the award of grants for scientific research projects in the National Parks Network for 2011. "Contribution of remote nutrients and pollutants by atmospheric and biotic deposition in the archipelago of Cabrera" 113.188,75 euros. Resolution of August 31, 2010, of the Directorate-General of Natural Environment and Forestry Policy, which publishes the award of grants, pursuant to order ARM/1935/2009, of July 8. "Reduction of by-catch on sea turtles and sharks in trawl and longline fisheries, through the use of turtle excluder devices (TED) and electromagnetic hooks ". 16.919,19 euros. "Training and promotion for the conservation of the common dolphin in the Alboran Sea and the management of marine protected areas Campaign" 15.000,00 euros. "Plans for the conservation of migratory species of cetaceans in the peninsular Mediterranean" 31.730,10 euros. Resolution of October 10, 2011, of the Directorate-General of Natural Environment and Forestry Policy, which publishes the award of grants, pursuant to order ARM/1935/2009, of July 8. "Contribution to the elaboration of the list of marine habitats in Spanish waters, in the framework of the Spanish Inventory of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity" 60 447, 41 euros. "Reduction of by-catch on sea turtles and sharks in trawl and longline fisheries, through the

use of turtle excluder devices (TED) and electromagnetic hooks" 23 041, 83 euros." "Strategies for the conservation of cetaceans as a first step for the latest development of conservation plans for protected cetaceans in the North-Atlantic marine demarcation" 30 128, 06 euros. " "Marine seismic prospecting: agreement on mitigation measures on the effect on cetaceans and identification of sensitive areas in Spanish waters "14 788, 36 euros. "Cetaceans conservation in the peninsular Mediterranean" 62 097, 26 euros.

Training opportunities:

Several training courses were promoted by the Ministry of Education and the Autonomous Communities, specifically on issues related to the conservation of natural areas, and the environment in general: - Royal Decree 720/2011, of 20 May, establishing the Professional Qualifications on the field of Safety and Environment on "Interpretation and environmental education" and "Control and protection of the natural environment".

Royal Decree 384/2011, of 18 March, which establishes the Diploma of Superior Technician in Education and Environmental Control and sets the minimum educational contents. This Degree has official validity all around the national territory.

The Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish of the Spanish Marine Strategy has among its main objectives the sensibilization and training of managers and staff involved

Incorporating into the national contingency plans measures for responding to incidents that could cause damage or constitute a threat to the specially protected areas:

Commission Directive 2011/15/EU of 23 February 2011 amending Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system: - In 2010 Directive 2009/17/ EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2002 establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system no later entered into force. This directive aims to establish a European Union (EU) vessel traffic monitoring and information system with a view to enhancing safety and minimizing the environmental impact of shipping accidents. - The Directorate General of Merchant Marine approved in 2010 the National Plan for Special Lifesaving Services at Sea and the Fight against Pollution of the Marine Environment for the period 2010/2018, which will be reviewed in 2013. - In addition, most of the coastal Autonomous Governments with environmental competences have developed their own Territorial Contingency Plans. Also, the Andalusian Emergency Plan against the risk of pollution of the coast has been approved within the period under review. - All installations handling hydrocarbons in port (shipyards, port authorities, bunker providers, etc.) have their own internal contingency plans. - Satellite images of possible pollutions are provided under the EMSA CleanSeaNet programme. The General Directorate of Merchant Marine, the Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Agency and State Ports participate in the following initiatives: - The Spanish Technological Platform for the Protection of Coastal and Marine Environments (PROTECMA), committed to developing and implementing a strategy focused on the protection of coastal and marine environments, including prevention and mitigation of marine pollution caused by anthropogenic activity. - DRIFTER: Spain, France and Portugal are involved in this European project for creating new technological tools to combat and mitigate substance spills at sea, led by the inter-institutional coordination centre Centro Tecnológico del Mar (CETMAR).

Institutional arrangements for the management as a whole of each SPA, covering both land and marine areas:

Cooperation and coordination between different public competent administration bodies (state and regional) in the field of biodiversity, territory and other sectorial policies, which could affect biodiversity and environment, are sufficiently regulated. The mechanisms of information exchange on management of SPAs are a current tool of work in order to effectively address the challenge of biodiversity conservation.

Slovenia

Setting up of protected areas:

No new areas during the reporting period

Elaboration and implementation of a management plan:

Up to now no management is foreseen for smaller areas (natural monuments)

Programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in the Protocol Areas' ecosystems and of the impact of human activities:

Programme developed in two areas

Turkey

Setting up of protected areas:

20 new coastal protected sites (nature parks) were established during the reporting period. (Kumluk; Pullu 1 & 2; Talat Goktepe; İncekum-Mersin; Gümüşkum; İncekum-Antalya; Katrancı Koyu; Omer Esen; Kucuk Kargı; Cubucak; Inbuku; Kovanlık; Guvercinlik; Usulluk; Gumuldur; Gumussuyu; Ekemksiz; Gokcetepe and Danısmen Nature Parks) Saros Gulf was declared as Saros SEPA by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2010. Total area of SEPA is 73.020,90 ha of which 53.900 ha is covered by marine part. Marine biological diversity research projects of Saros SEPA was initiated in 2012 and still on going. Borders of the marine area of Gokova SEPA was enlarged in 2010.

Elaboration and implementation of a management plan for each SPA:

Management plan project for a Mediterranean wetland (Akyatan Tuzla) was prepared. And Management plan for "Saros Bay SPA" will be prepared for the next reporting period.