



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.91/5
19 January 1995

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts
to examine amendments to the Barcelona
Convention, the Dumping Protocol and the
Specially Protected Areas Protocol

Barcelona, 7-11 February 1995

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING
MEDITERRANEAN SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS**

INTRODUCTION

As a follow up to the decisions of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Antalya in October 1993 as well as the recommendation of the Bureau at their Meeting in Rabat in June 1994, the secretariat initiated the process of revision of the Barcelona Convention, the related Protocols and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

As a result, a meeting, hosted by the government of Spain and the Generalitat of Catalunya, was organised in Barcelona from 14 to 18 November 1994 during which the amendments to the Convention, the Dumping Protocol, the Land-Based Sources Protocol and the Specially Protected Areas Protocol, proposed by the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat were examined and discussed. A brief discussion on the future Mediterranean Action Plan was also held during the meeting (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.82/4).

As a follow up to the decisions of the Meeting, the present meeting, thanks to the financial offer received from the Government of Spain, was convened to examine new draft amendments to the Barcelona Convention, the Dumping Protocol and the Specially Protected Areas Protocol.

The proposed amendments to the Convention, the Dumping Protocol and the Specially Protected Areas Protocol reflect the deliberations of the meeting held in Barcelona from 14 to 18 November 1994. As a result, the amended texts to the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas included in the present document are either identical to those presented to the Barcelona Meeting or are as modified by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussions and the comments of that Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to conclude the discussion on the amendments of the above mentioned legal instruments by agreeing on the texts which would be brought to the attention of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, to be held in Barcelona in June 1995, for adoption.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING MEDITERRANEAN SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

The amendments reproduced herebelow are submitted to the Meeting for discussion. The texts included in the present document are either identical to those presented to the Meeting held in Barcelona from 14 to 18 November 1994 or are as modified by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussions and the comments of that Meeting.

Title

Replace the title by the following:

"DRAFT PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND
[BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY] WILDLIFE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN"

Preamble

Replace the preamble by the following:

The Contracting Parties to this Protocol,

"Being Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted at Barcelona on 16 February 1976, [take into account a new title]

Conscious of the profound impact of human activities on the state of the marine environment and the littoral and more generally on the ecosystems of areas having prevailing Mediterranean features,

Stressing the importance of protecting and, as appropriate, improving the state of the Mediterranean cultural and natural heritage, in particular through the establishment of specially protected areas and also by the protection and conservation of threatened species,

Considering the instruments adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992),

Conscious that when there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be invoked as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat,

Considering that all States should cooperate to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of ecosystems and that they have, in this respect, common but differentiated responsibilities,

Have agreed as follows:

**PART I:
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Protocol:

- a) "Convention" means the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted at Barcelona on 16 February 1976; [take into account a new title]
- b) "Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;
- c) "Endangered species" means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or part of its range;
- d) "Endemic species" means any species whose range is restricted to a limited geographical area;
- e) "Threatened species" means every species whose state of conservation is unfavourable;
- f) "Conservation status of a species" means the sum of the influences acting on the species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance;
- g) "Parties" means the Contracting Parties to this Protocol;
- h) "Organization" means the organization referred to in Article 2 of the Convention;
- i) "National Focal Points" means the representatives of the Parties defined in Article 27 of this Protocol.
- j) "Centre" means the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas;

Article 2

Territorial application

1. The area to which this Protocol applies shall be the area of the Mediterranean Sea as delimited in Article 1 of the Convention. It also includes:

- the ocean floor and its subsoil;
- the waters, the ocean floor and its subsoil on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and extending, in the case of watercourses, up to the freshwater limit;
- the coastal areas designated by each of the Parties, including wetlands.

2. Nothing in this Protocol shall limit the sovereign immunity of certain ships in accordance with international law.

3. Nothing in this Protocol nor any act adopted on the basis of this Protocol shall prejudice the rights, claims or legal views of any State concerning the law of the sea, the nature and the extent of areas subject to its national sovereignty or jurisdiction, the delimitation of marine areas between States with opposite or adjacent coasts, freedom of navigation on the high seas and the right of innocent passage in territorial seas, as well as the nature and the extent of the jurisdiction of the coastal State, the flag State and the port State.

4. No act or activity undertaken on the basis of this Protocol shall constitute grounds for claiming, contending or disputing any claim to national sovereignty or jurisdiction.

Article 3

General obligations

1. Each Party shall take the necessary measures to protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmentally sound way:

- a) areas of particular cultural or natural value;
- b) threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna.

2. The Parties shall cooperate, directly or through the competent international organizations, in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the area to which this Protocol applies.

3. The Parties shall identify and compile inventories of the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use.

4. The Parties shall adopt strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of marine and coastal biological resources and shall integrate them into their relevant sectoral and intersectoral policies.
5. The Parties shall monitor the components referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article and shall identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects.
6. Any action taken by a Party to enforce the measures provided for in this Protocol shall be in accordance with international law.

PART II: SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

Article 4

Establishment of Specially Protected Areas

1. The Parties shall establish Specially Protected Areas (hereinafter referred to as "SPAs") in the area to which this Protocol applies. They shall undertake the action necessary in order to protect, manage or restore those areas as rapidly as possible.
2. SPAs shall be established in order to safeguard in particular:
 - a) representative types of coastal and marine ecosystems of adequate size to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain biological diversity;
 - b) habitats which are in danger of disappearing in their natural area of distribution in the Mediterranean or which have a reduced natural area of distribution as a consequence of their regression or on account of their intrinsically restricted area;
 - c) habitats critical to the survival, reproduction and recovery of endangered, threatened or endemic species of flora or fauna;
 - d) sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational interest.
3. The Parties shall notify the establishment of SPAs to the Centre.

Article 5

Protection Measures

The Parties, taking into account the characteristics of each SPA, shall take the protection measures required, in particular:

- a) the strengthening of the application of the other Protocols to the Convention and of other relevant treaties to which they are Parties;
- b) the prohibition of the dumping or discharge of wastes and other substances likely directly or indirectly to impair the integrity of the SPA;
- c) the regulation, in conformity with international law, of the passage of ships and any stopping or anchoring;

- d) the regulation of the introduction of any species not indigenous to the SPA in question, or of genetically modified species, as well as the introduction or reintroduction of species which are or have been present in the SPA;
- e) the regulation or prohibition of any activity involving the exploration or modification of the soil or the exploitation of the subsoil of the land part, the seabed or its subsoil;
- f) the regulation of any scientific research activity;
- g) the regulation or prohibition of fishing, hunting, taking of animals and harvesting of plants or their destruction, as well as trade in animals, parts of animals, plants, parts of plants, which originate in SPAs;
- h) the regulation and if necessary the prohibition of any other activity or act likely to harm or disturb the species or that might endanger the state of conservation of the ecosystems or might impair the natural or cultural characteristics of the SPA;
- i) any other measure aimed at safeguarding ecological and biological processes and the landscape.

Article 6

Planning and Management

1. The Parties shall, in accordance with the rules of international law, adopt planning, management and enforcement measures for SPAs. In this regard, the Parties shall take into account the common guidelines and criteria adopted in accordance with Article 18 of this Protocol.
2. Such measures should include for each SPA:
 - a) the development and adoption of a management plan that specifies the legal and institutional framework and the management and protection measures applicable;
 - b) the continuous monitoring of ecological processes, habitats, population dynamics, landscapes, as well as the impact of human activities;
 - c) the active involvement of local communities and populations, as appropriate, in the management of SPAs, including assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of protected areas;

d) the adoption of mechanisms for financing the promotion and management of SPAs, as well as the development of activities which ensure that management is compatible with the objectives of SPAs;

e) contingency plans for responding to incidents that could cause damage or constitute a threat;

f) the regulation of activities compatible with the objectives for which the SPA was established and the terms of the related permits;

g) the training of qualified managers and technical personnel, as well as the development of an appropriate infrastructure.

3. When SPAs covering both land and marine areas have been established, for each SPA the Parties shall appoint, as far as possible, a single authority with competence for administering and managing the whole of the SPA concerned.

Article 7

Buffer Zones

The Parties shall, as far as possible, strengthen the protection of a SPA by establishing one or more buffer zones in which activities are less severely restricted, while remaining compatible with the achievement of the purposes of the SPA.

Article 8

Changes in the status of the Specially Protected Areas

Changes in the delimitation or legal status of a SPA or the suppression of all or part of such an area shall not be decided upon unless there are important reasons for doing so, taking into account the need to safeguard the environment and comply with the obligations laid down in this Protocol and a procedure similar to that followed for the creation of the SPA shall be observed. The Parties shall notify the Centre of any changes.

Article 9

Specially Protected Areas Contiguous to International Boundaries

1. If a Party intends to establish, in an area subject to its sovereignty or national jurisdiction, a SPA contiguous to the frontier and to the limits of a zone subject to the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of another Party, the competent authorities of the

two Parties shall consult each other with a view to reaching agreement on the measures to be taken and shall, inter alia, examine the possibility of the other Party establishing a corresponding SPA or adopting any other appropriate measures.

2. If a Party intends to establish, in an area subject to its sovereignty or national jurisdiction, a SPA contiguous to the frontier and to the limits of a zone subject to the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of a State that is not a Party to this Protocol, the Party shall endeavour to cooperate with that State with a view to holding the consultations referred to in the previous paragraph.

3. If a State which is not party to this Protocol intends to establish a SPA contiguous to the frontier or to the limits of a zone subject to the sovereignty or national jurisdiction of a Party to this Protocol, the latter shall endeavour to cooperate with that State with a view to holding the consultations referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 10

List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance [or other title]

1. The Parties shall draw up a "List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance", hereinafter referred to as the "SPAMI List", which constitutes Annex I to this Protocol.

2. The SPAMI List may include protected sites which:

- can play an important role in conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean;
- contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species;
- are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic or cultural levels.

3. The SPAMI List may only include legally constituted SPAs with adequate management methods and capacity to allow them to contribute towards the sustainable development of the natural cultural heritage of the Mediterranean.

4. The criteria for inclusion in the SPAMI List shall be fixed in accordance with Article 18.

5. The Parties agree:

- a) to recognize the particular importance of these areas for the Mediterranean;
- b) to comply with the measures applicable to the SPAMIs and not to authorize or undertake any activities that might be contrary to with the objectives for which the SPAMIs were established.

Article 11

Procedure for inclusion in the SPAMI list

1. Proposals for inclusion in the List may be submitted:
 - a) by the Party concerned if the area is under its sovereignty or national jurisdiction;
 - b) by one or more Parties jointly if the area is situated on the high sea;
 - c) by common agreement among all the Parties concerned;
 - if the area covers several zones all of which are under the jurisdiction of different States;
 - if the area is in a zone where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined.
2. Parties making proposals shall provide the Centre with an introductory report justifying the Mediterranean importance of the area and containing information on its geographical location, its physical and ecological characteristics, the background to its establishment, its legal status, its management plans and the means for their implementation.
3. The procedure for inclusion of the proposed area is described in Article 16 of this Protocol.
4. The meeting of the Parties shall revise the SPAMI List on the basis of a report prepared by the Secretariat. The inclusion of an area shall be tacitly renewed provided that the guidelines and criteria adopted by the Parties pursuant to Article 18 are respected. If this is not the case, the meeting of the Parties, after having heard the Parties concerned, may renew the inclusion of the SPA in the SPAMI List, subject to certain conditions, or suspend or annul it.

PART III: PROTECTED SPECIES

Article 12

National Measures for the Protection and Conservation of Wildlife

1. The Parties shall manage species of flora and fauna with the aim of maintaining them in a favourable state of conservation.
2. The Parties shall, in the zones situated on the landward side of the external limit of their territorial sea, identify and compile lists of the endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna and accord protected status to such species. The Parties shall regulate and, where appropriate, prohibit activities having adverse effects on such species or their habitats, and carry out management, planning and other measures to ensure a favourable state of conservation of such species.
3. With respect to protected species of fauna, the Parties shall control and, where appropriate, prohibit:
 - a) the taking, possession or killing (including, to the extent possible, the incidental taking, possession or killing), the commercial trade, the transport and the exhibition for commercial purposes of these species, their eggs, parts or products;
 - b) to the extent possible, the disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, incubation, estivation or migration, as well as other periods of biological stress.
4. In addition to the measures specified in the previous paragraph, the Parties shall coordinate their efforts, through bilateral or multilateral action, including if necessary, agreements for the protection and recovery of migratory species whose range extends into the area to which this Protocol applies.
5. With respect to protected species of flora and their parts and products, the Parties shall regulate, and where appropriate, prohibit all forms of destruction and disturbance, including the picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting, possession of, commercial trade in, or transport and exhibition for commercial purposes of such species.
6. The Parties shall formulate and adopt policies and plans for the management of captive breeding of protected fauna and propagation of protected flora.
7. The Parties shall endeavour, directly or through the Centre, to consult with range States that are not Parties to this Protocol, with a view to coordinating their efforts to manage and protect endangered or threatened species.

8. The Parties shall make provision, where possible, for the return of protected species exported or held illegally. Efforts should be made by Parties to reintroduce such species to the wild or, if unsuccessful, provision should be made to use them in scientific studies or for public education purposes.

Article 13

Cooperative Measures for the Protection and Conservation of Wildlife

1. The Parties shall adopt cooperative measures to ensure the protection and conservation of the flora and fauna listed in Annex II (List of Endangered and Threatened Species) and Annex III (List of Species whose Exploitation is Regulated) to this Protocol.
2. The Parties shall ensure total protection and recovery of the species of fauna and flora listed in Annex II by adopting at the national level the measures provided for in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Article 12 of this Protocol.
3. The Parties shall prohibit the destruction of and the damage to the habitat of species listed in Annex II and shall formulate and implement action plans for their conservation or recovery. They shall continue to cooperate in implementing the relevant action plans already adopted.
4. The Parties, in cooperation with competent international organizations, shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of the species listed in Annex III while at the same time authorizing and regulating the exploitation of these species so as to ensure and maintain their favourable state of conservation.
5. When the range area of a threatened or endangered species extends to both sides of a national frontier or of the limit that separates the territories or the areas subject to the sovereignty or the national jurisdiction of two Parties to this Protocol, these Parties shall cooperate with a view to ensuring the protection and conservation and, if necessary, the recovery of such species.
6. Provided that no other satisfactory solutions are available and that the exemption does not harm the survival of the population or of any other species, the Parties may grant exemptions to the prohibitions prescribed for the protection of the species listed in Annexes II and III for scientific, educational or management purposes necessary to ensure the survival of the species or to prevent significant damage. Such exemptions shall be notified to the Centre.

Article 14

Introduction of non-indigenous or genetically altered species

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate measures to regulate the intentional or accidental introduction of non-indigenous or genetically altered species to the wild and prohibit those that may cause harmful impacts to the ecosystems, habitats or species in the area to which this Protocol applies.
2. The Parties shall adopt all possible measures to eradicate species that have already been introduced when such species cause or are likely to cause damage to ecosystems, habitats or species in the area to which this Protocol applies.

Article 15

Amendments to Annexes II and III

1. The status of species appearing in Annexes II and III shall be revised and periodically evaluated by the National Focal Points on the basis of available information.
2. Any Party may propose that a species of flora or fauna be included in or deleted from the Annexes. These proposals shall be made taking into account the guidelines and criteria adopted by the Parties pursuant to Article 18 of this Protocol;
3. A Party making a proposal shall provide the Centre with an introductory report which shall include, in particular, the scientific name of the species, its legal status, the estimated populations of the species and their geographic distribution, biological interactions with other species and specific habitat requirements, the threats to the species and its habitat, including those which may come from sources beyond the control of the Parties.
4. Procedures for amending Annexes II and III are set out in Article 16.

**PART IV:
PROVISIONS COMMON TO PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES**

Article 16

Amendments to Annexes

1. Proposals made in accordance with Articles 11 and 15 shall be dealt with as follows:
 - a) the National Focal Points shall evaluate the proposals and transmit their views to the Parties;
 - b) the Parties shall review the proposals and the reports of the National Focal Points;
 - c) the proposal shall be accepted by consensus by the meeting of the Parties, if possible, or if not a decision shall be taken by a two thirds majority of the Parties present and voting;
 - d) at the time the decision is adopted, a Party may enter a reservation on the proposed amendment to an Annex. The reservation shall be confirmed by notifying the Depositary in writing within 90 days of the date of the decision. The Depositary shall, without delay, notify the other Parties of the confirmation of a reservation;
 - e) the amendment shall enter into force 120 days after the date of the decision. It shall be binding on all Parties with the exception of those which have confirmed a reservation in conformity with the previous paragraph;
 - f) a Party may at any time withdraw a reservation. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Depositary. The Depositary shall, without delay, notify the other Parties of the withdrawal.

Article 17

Inventories

Each Party shall compile comprehensive inventories of:

- a) areas over which they exercise sovereignty or jurisdiction that contain rare or fragile ecosystems, that are reservoirs of biological diversity, that are important for threatened or endangered species;
- b) species of fauna or flora that are threatened or endangered.

Article 18

Establishment of Common Guidelines and Criteria

At their first meeting, the Parties shall adopt guidelines for the selection, creation and management of specially protected marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean, as well as common criteria on the inclusion of areas and species in Annexes I, II and III. These guidelines and common criteria may be amended by the meeting of the Parties on the basis of a proposal made by one or more Parties.

[Article 19

Environmental Impact Assessment

1. In the planning process leading to decisions on industrial and other projects and activities that could significantly affect protected areas and species, the Parties shall evaluate and take into consideration the possible direct or indirect, immediate or long-term, impact, including the cumulative impacts of the projects and activities being contemplated.
2. The Centre shall, to the extent possible, provide guidance and assistance, upon request, to the Parties making these impact assessments.]

Article 20

Integration of Traditional Activities

1. In formulating protective measures, the Parties shall take into account the traditional subsistence and cultural activities of their local populations. They shall grant exemptions, as necessary, to meet such needs. No exemption which is allowed for this reason shall:
 - a) endanger either the maintenance of ecosystems protected under this Protocol or the biological processes contributing to the maintenance of those ecosystems;
 - b) cause either the extinction of, or a substantial reduction in the number of, individuals making up the populations or species of flora and fauna, in particular threatened, endangered, migratory or endemic species.
2. Parties which grant exemptions from the protection measures shall inform the Centre accordingly.

Article 21

Publicity, Information, Public Awareness and Education

1. The Parties shall give appropriate publicity to the establishment of SPAs, their boundaries, buffer zones, applicable regulations, and to the designation of protected species, their habitats and applicable regulations.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to inform the public of the interest and value of SPAs and protected species, and of the scientific knowledge which may be gained from the point of view of nature conservation and other points of view. Such information should have an appropriate place in education programmes. The Parties shall also endeavour to promote the participation of their public and their conservation organizations in measures that are necessary for the protection of the areas and species concerned, including environmental impact assessments.

Article 22

Scientific, Technical and Management Research

1. The Parties shall encourage and develop scientific and technical research relating to the aims of this Protocol. They shall also encourage and develop research into the sustainable use of protected areas and species.
2. The Parties shall consult among themselves and with competent regional and global organizations with a view to identifying, planning and undertaking scientific and technical research and monitoring programmes necessary for the identification and monitoring of protected areas and species and assessing the effectiveness of measures taken to implement management and recovery plans.
3. The Parties shall exchange, directly or through the Centre, scientific and technical information concerning current and planned research and monitoring programmes and the results thereof. They shall, to the fullest extent possible, coordinate their research and monitoring programmes, and endeavour jointly to define or standardize their procedures.
4. In technical and scientific research, the Parties shall give priority to SPAMIs and species appearing in Annexes I, II and III.

Article 23

Mutual Cooperation

1. The Parties shall, directly or with the assistance of the Centre or relevant international organizations, establish cooperation programmes to coordinate the establishment, conservation, planning and management of SPAs, as well as the selection, management and conservation of protected species. There shall be regular exchanges of information

concerning the characteristics of protected areas and species, the experience acquired and the problems encountered.

2. The Parties shall, without delay, communicate any situation that might endanger the ecosystems of SPAs or the survival of protected species of flora and fauna to the other Parties, to the States that might be affected and to the Centre.

Article 24

Mutual Assistance

1. The Parties shall cooperate, directly or with the assistance of the Centre or international organizations, in formulating, financing and implementing programmes of mutual assistance and assistance to developing countries that express a need for it with a view to implementing this Protocol.

2. These programmes shall include public environmental education, the training of scientific, technical and management personnel, scientific research, the acquisition, utilization, design and development of appropriate equipment, and transfer of technology on advantageous terms to be agreed among the Parties concerned.

3. The Parties shall, in matters of mutual assistance, give priority to SPAMIs and species appearing in Annexes I, II and III.

Article 25

Reports of the Parties

Each Party shall submit, at each ordinary meeting of the Parties, a report on the implementation of this Protocol, in particular on:

- a) the status of the areas that it has proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List;
- b) any changes in the delimitation or legal status of the SPAMIs, buffer zones and protected species;
- c) possible exemptions allowed pursuant to Articles 13 and 20 of this Protocol.

[Article 26

Liability and Compensation

The Parties shall adopt appropriate measures to implement the provisions of this Protocol. Such measures shall include penal or administrative sanctions as well as measures for the compensation for damages caused to SPAs and species deriving from violations of the provisions of this Protocol.]

PART V: INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 27

National Focal Points

Each Party shall appoint a delegate called the National Focal Point to serve as liaison with the Centre on the technical aspects of the implementation of this Protocol. The National Focal Points shall meet at least once every two years to exercise the competences that are assigned to them by this Protocol, to discuss matters of joint interest and especially to propose recommendations concerning scientific, administrative and legal information as well as the standardization and processing of data.

Article 28

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

1. The Centre shall be responsible, under the supervision of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, for coordinating the implementation of this Protocol and carrying out all the functions entrusted to it by the latter, including:

a) convening and servicing the meetings of the National Focal Points and providing them with secretariat services;

b) assisting the Parties, in cooperation with the competent international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in:

- establishing and managing specially protected areas in the area to which this Protocol applies;
- facilitating programmes of technical and scientific research as provided for in Article 22 of this Protocol;
- facilitating the exchange of scientific and technical information among the Parties as provided for in Article 22 of this Protocol;
- preparing management plans for protected areas and species;
- developing cooperative programmes pursuant to Article 23 of this Protocol;
- preparing educational materials designed for various groups;

c) formulating recommendations on common guidelines and criteria pursuant to Article 18 of this Protocol;

d) creating and updating databases of protected areas, protected species and other matters relevant to this Protocol;

e) preparing reports and technical studies that may be required for the implementation of this Protocol;

f) elaborating and implementing the training programmes mentioned in Article 24, paragraph 2;

g) cooperating with regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection of areas and species, provided that the specificity of each organization and the need to avoid the duplication of activities are respected;

h) coordinating the action plans adopted;

i) carrying out any other function assigned to it by the Parties.

Article 29

Meetings of the Parties

1. The ordinary meetings of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held in conjunction with the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention held pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention. The Parties may also hold extraordinary meetings in conformity with that Article. [Take into account any changes in the Convention]

2. The meetings of the Parties shall carry out all the functions entrusted to by this Protocol and that are particularly aimed at:

a) keeping under review the implementation of this Protocol;

b) overseeing and providing policy guidance to the Organization and the Centre;

c) considering the efficacy of the measures adopted for the management and protection of areas and species, and examining the need for other measures, in particular in the form of Annexes and amendments to this Protocol or to its Annexes;

d) adopting the common guidelines and criteria provided for in Article 18 of this Protocol;

e) considering reports transmitted by the Parties under Article 25 of this Protocol, as well as any other pertinent information which the Parties shall transmit through the Centre;

f) making recommendations to the Parties on the measures to be adopted for the implementation of this Protocol;

- g) examining the recommendations of the meetings of the National Focal Points pursuant to Article 27 of this Protocol;
- h) examining any other matter relevant to this Protocol, as appropriate.

PART VI: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 30

Effect of the Protocol on Domestic Legislation

The provisions of this Protocol shall in no way affect the right of Parties to adopt relevant stricter domestic measures for the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 31

Relationship with Third Parties

1. The Parties shall invite States that are not Parties to the Protocol and international organizations to cooperate in the implementation of this Protocol.
2. The Parties undertake to adopt appropriate measures, consistent with international law, to ensure that no one engages in any activity contrary to the principles or purposes of this Protocol.

Article 32

Signature

This Protocol shall be open for signature at [place] from [date] to [date], by any Contracting Party to the Convention.

Article 33

Ratification, Acceptance or Approval

This Protocol shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Government of Spain, which will assume the functions of Depositary.

Article 34

Accession

As from [date], this Protocol shall be open for accession by any State and regional economic grouping which is Party to the Convention.

Article 35

Entry into Force

1. This Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the deposit of at least six instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to, the Protocol.
2. From the date of its entry into force, this Protocol shall replace the Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, open for signature at Geneva on 3 April 1982, in the relationship among the Parties to both instruments.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Protocol.

Done at [place], on [date], in a single copy in the Arabic, English, French and Spanish languages, the four texts being equally authoritative, for signature by any Party to the Convention.

ANNEX I

List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean
Importance [or other title]

[to be drafted in conformity with Article 11]

ANNEX II

List of Endangered or Threatened Species of Fauna and Flora

[Omissis]

ANNEX III

List of Species whose Exploitation is Regulated

[Omissis]