



## Introduction

1. In accordance with the decision of the Ninth Ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, the third meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas was held in Tunis from 25 to 27 March 1996.

### Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. At the opening of the meeting, Mr. Touhami Hamrouni (Président Directeur Général of the Agence Nationale pour la Protection de l'Environnement), on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of Tunisia, welcomed the participants. He expressed his satisfaction at this Tunis meeting and stressed the interest of Tunisia for the protection and conservation of the Mediterranean heritage and its support for the Mediterranean Action Plan. He recalled that the Ministerial Conference MED.21 organized by Tunisia in 1994 was at the origin of the changes to the Barcelona Convention. He then recalled the main points of Tunisian strategy on biodiversity and efforts made towards its implementation. The representative of the Minister for the Environment and Physical Planning expressed the wish that the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols be the main tools for cooperation between countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

3. Mr Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of MAP thanked the Tunisian authorities for their support for RAC/SPA and indicated that the Tunis Centre played an important role in the implementation of the 1982 SPA Protocol and have made a large contribution to the process leading to the adoption of the new SPA Protocol and the revision of MAP. The Coordinator then stressed the importance of the new directions given to MAP, the Barcelona Convention and the Protocols relating thereto. These directions, adopted last June in Barcelona, draw on the recommendations of the Tunis ministerial conference held in November 1994. Mr Chabason also expressed the wish to see the new SPA Protocol ratified and implemented as soon as possible as it is important not to delay the application of the texts adopted.

4. Mr Chabason stated that the development of protected areas and the conservation of biodiversity is one of the priorities of the MAP Coordinating Unit, and that he will propose to the Contracting Parties that the budget of the Tunis Centre be increased as long as it will be able to start up as of 1997 the implementation of the Protocol and activities relating to the conservation of nature set down in MAP Phase II.

5. Representatives of the following Contracting Parties were present at the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Community, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Council of Europe (Bern Convention Secretariat) and of the following NGOs: World Wide Fund

for Nature (WWF International), MEDMARAVIS, MEDASSET, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Ambientales, APNEK, BirdLife International. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

**Agenda item 2: Rules of procedures**

6. The meeting noted that the Rules of Procedure of the Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (UNEP/IG. 43.6, annex XI) would apply *mutatis mutandis* to its deliberations

**Agenda item 3: Election of officers**

7. The meeting unanimously elected from among the National Focal Points representatives of the Contracting Parties:

- Chairman: Mr Alfred BALDACCHINO (Malta)
- Vice-chairs: Ms Stavroula SPYROPOULOU (Greece)  
Mr Adel HENTATI (Tunisia)
- Rapporteur: Mr Sid Ali RAMDANE (Algeria)

**Agenda item 4: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

8. The meeting adopted the agenda proposed by the Secretariat included in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/1 and annotated in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/2. The Agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

**Agenda item 5: Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.**

9. The Secretariat recalled the stages leading to the adoption of the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. In particular the results of two meetings of experts organized by RAC/SPA were presented. These were:

- Meeting of experts on threatened species in the Mediterranean. (Montpellier, France, 22 - 25 November 1995)
- Meeting of experts on common criteria for the choice of marine and coastal protected areas that could be included in the SPAMI List. (Tunis 22 - 23 March 1996.)

10. These meetings succeeded in drawing up:

- A draft list of endangered or threatened species
- A draft list of species whose exploitation is regulated
- Draft common criteria for the choice of marine and coastal protected areas that could be included in the SPAMI List.

**Agenda item 5.1: List of endangered or threatened species**

11. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/3 relating to the draft list of endangered or threatened species, which was elaborated during the meeting of experts at Montpellier referred to above with a view to being proposed as an annex to the Protocol. The Secretariat recalled that the list was drawn up on the basis of criteria chosen by the experts and that these criteria appear in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/3 for information only and will not be adopted by the Parties. The Secretariat also stated that in the case of the four species of birds appearing in parentheses, their inclusion in the list was not definitively accepted at the Montpellier meeting of experts.

12. Following the discussions on this agenda item the meeting decided to adopt the list proposed by the Montpellier meeting of experts and confirm the inclusion of the four species of birds mentioned above. The list of endangered or threatened species adopted by the meeting appears in Annex III of this report. It will be proposed to the Contracting Parties for adoption as an annex to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

13. It should be noted that several delegations stated that they considered this list as a starting point and that its amendment will be needed in the future mainly in order to include coastal terrestrial species; the process of identification of the terrestrial species which could be included in the list should be started as soon as possible.

14. The Spanish delegation to this meeting expressed the wish to remove from the list of threatened or endangered species the following species: *Ampulla priamus* - *Panopea glycymeris* - *Patella nigra*.

**Agenda item 5.2: List of species whose exploitation is regulated**

15. At the beginning of the work of the meeting on agenda item 5.2 the Secretariat introduced document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/4 relating to the draft list of species whose exploitation is regulated, drawn up by the meeting of experts on threatened species (Montpellier, 22-25 November 1995).

16. After these discussions the meeting adopted the draft list of species whose exploitation is regulated; This list appears in Annex IV of this report.

**Agenda item 5.3: Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List**

17. The secretariat introduced the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/5 relative to the draft common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List. It was recalled that the draft criteria contained in the working document were those elaborated and adopted by the meeting of expert held in Tunis from 22 to 23 March 1996. The secretariat also pointed out the main guiding principles which had been retained by the above-mentioned meeting in elaborating the criteria, in particular the priority to be given to the conservation of the natural heritage in the selection of areas to be included in the SPAMI List, without however neglecting the protection of the cultural heritage.

18. During the work of the meeting on this agenda item, several delegations considered that the cultural aspects to be taken into consideration within the scope of SPAMIs were those integrated to the natural environment, and that this deserved to be clarified in the definition of the relevant criterion.

19. Making reference to the debates of the already-mentioned meeting of experts, the meeting agreed that while the issues of the size and the ecological integrity of an area were not appropriate to be dealt with at the level of the criteria, they deserved to be considered in the guidelines for the establishment and management of specially protected areas, to be adopted in the framework of the Protocol.

20. The meeting approved the draft common criteria as they are reported in the annex V to this report, with a view to presenting them for adoption by the Contracting Parties as annex to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

**Agenda item 6: The Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: Status and Development.**

21. The Director of SPA/RAC presented the main activities carried out by SPA/RAC in this field since the second NFP meeting held in Athens on October 1992. He pointed out that within these activities the SPA/RAC has given assistance to several Mediterranean countries in identifying sites to be protected or in improving the management of marine and coastal protected areas. The director of SPA/RAC briefly presented the different activities undertaken by SPA/RAC and set out in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 109/6 concerning the progress report of SPA/RAC activities.

22. After the presentations by the various delegations, which are annexed to the present report as Annex VI, the chairman of the meeting called on participants to consider the progress of activities on protected areas.

23. In the ensuing debate several delegations made proposals and recommendations.

24. Several delegations stressed the importance of developing activities relating to the management of existing protected sites. On this matter, specific recommendations were made concerning the development of training programmes for managers, the development of exchanges between countries and between managers, the preparation of a manual on drawing up management plans, and the launch of pilot projects for the setting up of management plans in the mid- and long-term.

25. It was also observed that several of the activities proposed require resources going well beyond those normally granted by the Contracting Parties to the Centre through the MTF. In this regard, it was recommended that the Centre seek sources of finance outside the MTF, with the support of the Parties.

26. The Greek representative underlined the importance of examining the financial aspects concerning the creation and operational management of protected areas. She suggested that long-term strategies for the financing of protected zones should be adopted and that the subject could be studied in the future within RAC/SPA.

27. The representative of MEDMARAVIS stressed the importance of knowledge for the setting up of strategies and programmes of protection and management. To this end he recommended that research should be a priority for all protected areas.

28. During the discussions on the Directory of environmental legislation concerning protected areas in the Mediterranean riparian countries, the Turkish representative told that in view of recent developments in the Aegean issues and considering that the document will be distributed, the Turkish delegation wanted to reserve its position vis-a-vis the text with the following statement:

"The maritime boundaries between Greece and Turkey have yet to be delimited. Apart from those islands given to Greece and Turkey by international treaties, and enumerated in them by name, there are numerous islets and rocks in the Aegean whose status is not clearly defined. This situation is also interrelated with other issues concerning the Aegean. Therefore, Greece's legislation as well as the application to international programs for such islets and rocks and their acceptance by such organizations can in no way constitute a basis for claims of sovereignty, nor could they be referred to as such in the future".

29. The Greek delegation submitted the following declaration:

"With reference to the statement by the Turkish delegation to this meeting, the Greek delegation wishes to confirm that the legal status of the Aegean Sea and the international frontiers, including the maritime boundaries between Greece and Turkey, are clearly defined by international law and the existing international treaties. Greece is determined to continue to protect and exercise all her sovereign rights in her territory through all means recognized by international law."

**Agenda item 7: The status of species and their conservation in the Mediterranean**

**Agenda item 7.1: Implementation of the Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal**

30. The director of SPA/RAC presented the main activities of the Centre in this field since the last NFP meeting. He outlined that SPA/RAC activities in this field had been mainly directed towards the acquiring and exchange of scientific and technical information, public awareness and training. He briefly reported on the results of the relevant meeting of experts which had been organized in Rabat in 1994, and underlined the main recommendations for the further implementation of the Action Plan approved by the meeting.

31. In the debate that followed, numerous delegations presented their respective activities in this field.

32. The delegation from Greece informed the meeting that a rescue centre for monk seal was operational in Greece in the Alonissos marine Park, connected with an information network and invited the other Mediterranean countries to take advantage of this facility. Monk seal populations were adequately monitored in the Alonissos marine Park and in the Ionian Islands, where the establishment of sanctuaries for the Monk seal is under study. An information network operating all over Greece had been set and was carried out by NGOs on voluntary basis. Volunteers from other countries were invited to participate.

33. The delegation of Spain informed the meeting that a project for the study and conservation of the Monk Seal at the Cap Blanc peninsula was launched in 1992. Partners of this project were the University of Barcelona, the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the General Directorate for Nature Conservation in Madrid. Funding was provided by the European Union through a grant from the "Life" programme. From the Mauritanian side the National Park of the Banc d'Arguin was involved.

34. The colony consisted of about 270 animals of which 120 were adults which had been individually recognised on the basis of natural markings. The productivity of the colony was about 150 pups per year, of which 25 % died because of natural causes, mainly adverse weather conditions.

35. The project was working towards a Regional Conservation Strategy for the Monk Seal in the Atlantic Waters, which aims at establishing a link between the Cap Blanc colony and the Desertas Islands colony (Madeira, Portugal). To this end, an assessment of the habitat conditions was being carried out at a number of localities, in particular the islands of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote belonging to the Canaries archipelago, Cape Barbas, Cape Tafaya (Morocco) and the Selvajems islands (Portugal). Preliminary contacts had been established with the Institute for Nature Conservation of Portugal, the Natural Park of Madeira and the Institut Scientifique

DZED-Rabat . A protected area in the Cap Blanc peninsula was being envisaged, which would be a satellite reserve of the National Park of the Banc d'Arguin.

36. The Moroccan delegation informed the meeting of the creation of a Park in the region of Dekhla, following the presentation of the project to the meeting of experts at Rabat. A development plan for the park has been set up, and the manager of the park has been named. A proposal for financing has been submitted to the GEF.

37. The Croatian delegation informed the meeting that a prospecting programme had been set up to check for the presence of monk seal along the Croatian coast and to identify suitable habitats for the species; the project received support mainly from RAC/SPA and ELLINIKI ETARIA. Furthermore a project had been defined for the creation of a park around the island of Palagrusa, where the presence of monk seal had been noted until recently.

38. The Tunisian delegation informed the meeting that a marine and coastal national park had just been created in the Galite archipelago, where the last observations of the monk seal in Tunisia had been made. A programme for the safeguard and development of the archipelago had been worked out in association with NGOs and RAC/SPA. He expressed the wish to take advantage of the experience of other Mediterranean countries and also asked that RAC/SPA continue to support the efforts of Tunisia for the protection of this species.

39. The representative of MEDMARAVIS called for more efforts to save the Monk seal and stated that it is necessary to promote surveys and studies concerning this species on the southern coasts of the Mediterranean basin.

40. The representative of the Council of Europe recalled the main meeting his organization had organized or co-organized on the conservation of the monk seal, noting that they had generally been followed up by concrete initiatives. He expressed the interest of the Council of Europe and the Bern Convention in continuing the collaboration undertaken with SPA/RAC for the conservation of the monk seal, especially in seeking finance for survey and study projects in the southern Mediterranean countries and in organizing other possible meetings.

41. The WWF representative informed the meeting of his organization's main initiatives over recent years, in particular field projects in association with national and local authorities and organizations in Greece and Turkey. He also offered the support of his organization for initiatives to be undertaken by SPA/RAC and the Council of Europe.

42. Several delegations stressed the lack of data concerning the status of the species in several areas of the Mediterranean, notably in the southern coasts and in the Adriatic Sea, and recommended that field studies to fill in this gap deserved priority.



43. Several delegations expressed the view that *in situ* protection remained the main priority for the conservation of the species, and that in the light of the positive results obtained in some projects, efforts had to be continued in this direction. In this regard it was pointed out that the monk seal being a highly "dispersing" species, the protection and restoration of previously occupied biotopes had also to be envisaged in view of possible recolonization by the species.

44. The establishment of an effective coordination among the different actors involved in, and projects aimed at the conservation of the species was raised as a major issue in this regards. It was pointed out that the Mediterranean Action Plan had been repeatedly indicated as the most appropriate framework for the establishment of coordinating mechanism.

**Agenda item 7.2: Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles**

45. The Director of RAC/SPA introduced the relevant sections of the working document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/6 relating to the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean. He particularly stressed the various prospecting programmes carried out in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and stated that these programmes were carried out in association with the national authorities concerned and NGOs (MEDASSET and WWF International). Delegations were then called on to speak on this point.

46. The Greek representative informed the meeting of activities in her country for the conservation of marine turtles. She stressed the role of NGOs in this field especially in the monitoring programmes on the main nesting sites. She also mentioned that the total length of nesting beaches monitored in Greece was around 100 km and the total number of nests of *Caretta caretta* noted for the 1995 season was 3844.

47. She also stated that great efforts were made each year on information and public awareness of marine turtle conservation, and these had succeeded in reaching around 50,000 people in 1995.

48. The Greek representative also informed the meeting of various turtle tagging programmes undertaken in her country and of the marine turtle rehabilitation station set up near Athens; this station was also used for public awareness. She also expressed her country's wish to share its experience with the other Mediterranean countries and proposed that a training course be organized in association with RAC/SPA which would be open to Mediterranean countries.

49. The Israeli delegation told the meeting that his country had set up an action plan for marine turtle species. This action plan was started up after training received within the framework of the RAC/SPA's training programmes by biologists from nature reserves in Cyprus and the results had been very positive. This plan includes surveying of three main sites; nests discovered are moved and placed in incubation

in a supervised site. Nesting activity concerns mainly the species *Caretta caretta* (47 nests in 1995), the nesting of the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* being rare in Israel (two nests in 1995).

50. The representative of Libya informed the meeting of the results of a survey of the Eastern Libyan coast which was carried out from 19 June to 5 July 1995, during which about 1000 Km of the coastline were prospected for nesting assessment.

51. The research team included Libyan researchers and experts from France and Tunisia. The organization of the survey was coordinated by RAC/SPA with the participation of WWF International, MEDASSET and the Libyan authorities through the Technical Centre for Environment Protection (Tripoli) and the Marine Research Centre (Tajura).

52. The study succeeded in discovering important nesting sites of the Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, located between Syrte and the Egyptian border: 380 female tracks and 205 nests. A technical report is currently in preparation. RAC/SPA and other organization were requested to continue this work by carrying out the study on the western part of the Libyan coast and to follow up the previous study.

53. The representative of European union recognized the need for further research on the impact of fishing on marine turtle population in the Mediterranean. In this context, he announced the recent publication of a call for tenders for studies dealing with, among other subjects, the impact of fishing on non-commercial species. A copy of the document was distributed to participants.

54. Some delegations (Croatia, Libya and Tunisia) asked RAC/SPA to assist them in carrying out conservation programmes for marine turtles in their respective countries.

55. The representative of MEDASSET gave an account of her organization's survey studies of possible marine turtles nesting sites, carried out in six Mediterranean areas between 1990 and 1996 in cooperation and/or co-funding with the European Union, RAC/SPA, IGOs and NGOs. She briefly presented the results of these surveys as well as the results of a project on incidental catches of turtles on longlines in the Ionian Sea. She also stated that MEDASSET offered its support and continuous collaboration to RAC/SPA.

56. It emerged from the discussion of this agenda item that priority should be given to identification and protection of nesting sites, to scientific studies aimed at improving knowledge on the subject, and to the study of the interaction with fisheries. Concerning the regional coordination in the field of studies and scientific research, the meeting recommended to promote coordinated research programmes using standardized methodologies.

57. At the proposal of the secretariat the meeting approved the organization of a meeting for the assessment of initiatives concerning both research and conservation.

This meeting should be open to all actors and in particular to NGOs and sponsors. The meeting recommended widening the scope of this meeting to include other action plans adopted within the MAP framework.

**Agenda item 7.3: Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea.**

58. The Director of RAC/SPA set out the activities of RAC/SPA relating to the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea.

59. Several delegations informed the meeting that cetaceans were protected by their respective national legislation, survey programmes were envisaged in their countries and they wished to have RAC/SPA's assistance for their implementation.

60. The representative of MEDASSET announced the establishment of a new organization in Greece for the protection of cetaceans. The action programme of the organisation was elaborated, the collaboration with RAC/SPA being desirable.

61. The Secretariat informed the meeting that in the framework of the CMS an agreement on cetaceans is currently in preparation, which provides for the setting up of a subregional Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean and another Subregional Coordinating Unit for the Black Sea. The two Coordinating Units would be entrusted to existing structures within the framework of other conventions. Following the discussions on this agenda item the meeting approved the idea of entrusting the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean subregion to RAC/SPA, in the interest of better coordination between international conventions and organizations. The meeting also recommended to combine efforts in order to have the text of the agreement finalized and signed in the near future.

62. The meeting recommended to give priority to survey campaigns to improve knowledge on Cetacean Mediterranean populations.

63. The representative of Monaco proposed the following recommendation which was approved by the meeting: "It is urgent to recommend the Parties to regulate Whale watching activities in conformity with the Action Plan and in the spirit of other relevant international provisions."

**Agenda item 7.4: Other Mediterranean endangered species**

64. The Director of RAC/SPA introduced the section of the report on SPA/RAC activities relating to threatened species for which there is as yet no action plan.

65. He recalled that RAC/SPA organized a meeting of experts on endangered species in the Mediterranean with the main aims of: (i) assessing the status of species and their conservation in the Mediterranean countries; (ii) compiling a list of threatened or endangered species; (iii) compiling a list of species whose exploitation

should be regulated; (iv) identifying mechanisms and action for the improvement of the national capabilities of the Mediterranean countries in the field of species conservation and for facilitating the exchange of information.

66. He then stressed that with the aim of encouraging Mediterranean countries to monitor marine vegetation and offering scientific assistance to the southern countries in particular, a feasibility study had been carried out for the setting up of a monitoring network of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean. This study was followed by a workshop aimed at examining the results of a questionnaire sent to focal points, proposals for methodology and estimations of the human and material resources required.

67. The Spanish delegation informed the meeting that a monograph on *Pandion haliaetus* had been produced and that a national Action Plan for Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) had been set up. Spain has recently signed the Memorandum of understanding for the Slender-Billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) under CMS.

68. The representative of the Council of Europe announced that a pan-European strategy had been adopted by the Council of Ministers and that a process will be launched for the identification of species requiring the development of an action plan within the framework of the Bern Convention. The meeting made a recommendation on efforts to be made for research on birds in the southern Mediterranean. He also pointed out that during the last meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, the species *Balaenoptera physalus* was included in the Annex II of the Convention concerning fully protected animal species. Furthermore, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee will consider a draft amendment aiming at including some Mediterranean species in the annex II of the Convention.

69. The representative of MEDMARAVIS proposed the setting up of an action plan for marine birds in Southern Mediterranean countries and that particular interest to bird species should be granted within the Mediterranean Action Plan.

70. The representative of BirdLife International pointed out that his organisation elaborated four action plans for the Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*, the pygmy cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, the Slender Billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* and the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. National action plans for these species were established, as it is the case for Tunisia where the BirdLife partner "Association des Amis des oiseaux" ensures the technical monitoring.

**Agenda item 8:    Strengthening of national capabilities in the field of natural sites and species conservation**

71. The Director of RAC/SPA introduced document UNEP/OCA/MED WG. 109/Inf 3 on training activities carried out by the Centre. He recalled that the upgrading of national capabilities especially in the developing Mediterranean countries is a priority as they are one of the main factors in the success of conservation programmes for species and natural areas.

72. Themes tackled during training courses were the management of specially protected areas and the study and the conservation of threatened species. The choice of themes for training was made on the basis of recommendations by the Contracting Parties and the priorities of the Action Plans as well as the opportunities observed.

73. After reviewing all the activities carried out in this field in association with the Mediterranean countries and NGOs, he underlined the difficulties encountered in their implementation.

74. He then called on the national focal points to assess activities undertaken and to make proposals and recommendations on the priority themes.

75. During the discussion on this Agenda item several delegations expressed their satisfaction at the activities undertaken and made proposals in this field.

76. The Turkish representative indicated that her country was going to organize a workshop in the autumn of 1996 on the preparation of management plans. This activity is to be followed up by a training seminar and she wished to receive suggestions from the focal points on subjects to be dealt with.

77. The Greek representative expressed a wish to see the issue of monitoring of biological communities developed in training courses.

78. The Israeli delegate announced that his country's Ministry of the Environment will organize a training course on SPA management in the autumn of 1996 to which Mediterranean countries are invited. He indicated that the programme would be drawn up with RAC/SPA.

79. The Albanian representative expressed the wish that the highest priority be given to training cycles on the management of SPAs and that the courses be extended over a longer period.

**Agenda item 9: Data collection and improvement of exchange of information**

80. The Secretariat noted that the collection, compilation and distribution of data is handled by RAC/SPA through the preparation of databases and the development of the system. It then presented document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.109/Inf.6 relating to databases and directories prepared by RAC/SPA.

81. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction at the work done by the Centre in this field and made proposals for future programmes. These proposals particularly concerned the introduction of the GIS component in RAC/SPA's databases.

82. the representative of MEDASSET announced that her organization recently established an "Educational and research Database for the Conservation of Mediterranean Sea Turtles": Euroturtle. The Database is on INTERNET.

83. The meeting approved the following action:

- the production of directories of experts in the fields of the management of Specially Protected Areas, marine vegetation, and legislation.
- the introduction of a cartographic component in the "Specially Protected Areas" and "Species" databases.
- the distribution of the computerized databases initially to the NFP and relevant NGOs and subsequently on a wider basis.
- the production of a directory of legislation relating to the protection of species in the various Mediterranean countries.

#### Agenda item 10: Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMP)

84. Mr. I. DHARAT made an introductory statement in which he gave a background information concerning the philosophy, history and the status of the twelve CAMP projects implemented in the framework of MAP.

85. He pointed out that an assessment of the first generation of CAMPs is being prepared with the objective of evaluating and assessing past experience, the success and the failures of the first group of CAMPs and recommending a modified methodology to be applied to the new generation of CAMPs.

86. Moreover, he informed the meeting that Guidelines for the development of Integrated Coastal and Marine Areas Management had been prepared by UNEP (OCA/PAC) and MAP Centre for Priority Action Programme (PAP/RAC).

87. The representative of RAC/SPA briefly reviewed the Centre's activities since 1993 in the framework of CAMPs and the methodology used for the implementation of these activities. He particularly stressed the importance given to collaboration with national and local experts, institutions and authorities and the efforts to coordinate the activity with the other components of each programme.

88. Several delegations stressed that the integration of activities and plans for conservation in a wider context of integrated coastal zone management must be considered as essential aspect in view of their long-term effectiveness and that the CAMPs must serve as a model in this respect.

**Agenda Item 11: RAC/SPA Structures and budget.**

89. The Director of the Centre introduced information document UNEP(OCA)/MED. WG 109/Inf 6 relating to the structure and budget of RAC/SPA. He set out the main elements relating to the organization of the Centre and the human and material resources available to the Tunis Centre.

90. He recalled the initiatives taken to alleviate the lack of financial resources over recent years. He underlined the need to strengthen the resources of the Centre to allow it to achieve its task, both in terms of budget and of staff, all the more important as it will have new attributions following the adoption of the new Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean.

91. Mr I. DHARAT, UNEP/MAP, stressed that given the enlargement of the Tunis Centre's responsibilities through the new Protocol, the Coordinating Unit will do its utmost to increase its financial resources. He also stressed that the Contracting Parties and NGOs could help the Centre by hosting meetings of experts and training courses.

92. He thanked the RAC/SPA's host country (Tunisia) for fulfilling its obligations arising out of the headquarters agreement between UNEP and Tunisia of 1991.

93. The WWF representative recalled the proposal made by his organization at the Ninth meeting of the Contracting Parties in Barcelona concerning the setting up of a fund for the implementation of nature conservation programmes in the Mediterranean and notably action arising out of the new Protocol.

94. The meeting expressed satisfaction at the work done by the Centre and recommended the strengthening of RAC/SPA's human and financial resources.

**Agenda item 12: Adoption of the report**

95. The report of the meeting submitted to participants by the Rapporteur was adopted after discussion.

**Agenda item 13: Closure of the meeting**

96. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the chairman closed the meeting on Wednesday 27 March 1996, at 21.00 hours.

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## AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedures
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work
5. Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
  - 5.1 List of endangered or threatened species.
  - 5.2 List of species whose exploitation is regulated.
  - 5.3 Common Criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI list.
6. The Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: Status and Development
7. The status of species and their conservation in the Mediterranean
  - 7.1 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal.
  - 7.2 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles.
  - 7.3 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean sea
  - 7.4 Other Mediterranean endangered species
8. Strengthening of national capabilities in the field of natural sites and species conservation
9. Data collection and Improvement of exchange of information.
10. Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP)
11. RAC/SPA structures and budget
12. Adoption of the report
13. Closure of the meeting



## List of endangered or threatened species

**Magnoliophyta**

1. *Cymodocea nodosa*
2. *Posidonia oceanica*
3. *Zostera marina*
4. *Zostera noltii*

**Chlorophyta**

5. *Caulerpa ollivieri*

**Phaeophyta**

6. *Cystoseira amentacea* (inclus var. *stricta* et var. *spicata*)
7. *Cystoseira mediterranea*
8. *Cystoseira sedoides*
9. *Cystoseira spinosa*  
(inclu *C. adriatica*)
10. *Cystoseira zosteroides*
11. *Laminaria rodriguezii*

**Rhodophyta**

12. *Goniolithon byssoides*
13. *Lithophyllum lichenoides*
14. *Ptilophora mediterranea*
15. *Schimmelmannia schousboei*

**Porifera**

16. *Abestopluma hypogea*
17. *Aplysina* sp. plur.
18. *Axinella cannabina*
19. *Axinella polypoides*
20. *Geodia cydonium*
21. *Ircinia foetida*
22. *Ircinia pipetta*
23. *Petrobiona massiliana*
24. *Tethya* sp. plur.

**Cnidaria**

25. *Astroides calycularis*
26. *Errina aspera*
27. *Gerardia savaglia*

**Echinodermata**

28. *Asterina pancerii*
29. *Centrostephanus longispinus*
30. *Ophidiaster ophidianus*

**Bryozoa**

31. *Hornera lichenoides*

**Mollusca**

- (32. *Ampulla priamus*)\*
33. *Argobuccinum olearium*  
(= *A. giganteum*)
34. *Charonia rubicunda*  
(= *Ch. lampas*, = *Ch. nodiferum*)
35. *Charonia tritonis*  
(= *Ch. seguenziae*)
36. *Dendropoma petraeum*
37. *Erosaria spurca*
38. *Gibbula nivosa*
39. *Lithophaga lithophaga*
40. *Luria lurida* (= *Cypraea lurida*)
41. *Mitra zonata*
- (42. *Panopea glycymeris*)\*
43. *Patella ferruginea*
- (44. *Patella nigra*)\*
45. *Pholas dactylus*
46. *Pinna nobilis*
47. *Pinna pernula*
48. *Schilderia achatidea*
49. *Solemya togata*
50. *Tonna galea*
51. *Zonaria pyrum*

\* The Spanish delegation expressed a reservation concerning the inclusion of this species on the List.

**Crustacea**

- 52. *Ocypode cursor*
- 53. *Pachylasma giganteum*

**Pisces**

- 54. *Acipenser naccarii*
- 55. *Acipenser sturio*
- 56. *Aphanius fasciatus*
- 57. *Aphanius iberus*
- 58. *Cetorhinus maximus*
- 59. *Carcharodon carcharias*
- 60. *Hippocampus ramulosus*
- 61. *Hippocampus hippocampus*
- 62. *Huso huso*
- 63. *Lethenteron zanandrai*
- 64. *Pomatoschistus canestrinii*
- 65. *Pomatoschistus tortonesei*
- 66. *Valencia hispanica*

**Reptiles**

- 67. *Caretta caretta*
- 68. *Chelonia mydas*
- 69. *Dermochelys coriacea*
- 70. *Lepidochelys kempii*
- 71. *Trionyx triunguis*

**Aves**

- 72. *Pandion haliaetus*
- 73. *Calonectris diomedea*
- 74. *Falco eleonora*
- 75. *Hydrobates pelagicus*
- 76. *Larus audouinii*
- 77. *Numenius tenuirostris*

- 78. *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
- 79. *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*
- 80. *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
- 81. *Pelecanus crispus*
- 82. *Phoenicopterus ruber*
- 83. *Puffinus yelkouan*
- 84. *Sterna albifrons*
- 85. *Sterna bengalensis*
- 86. *Sterna sandvicensis*

**Mammalia**

- 87. *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
- 88. *Balaenoptera borealis*
- 89. *Balaenoptera physalus*
- 90. *Delphinus delphis*
- 91. *Eubalaena glacialis*
- 92. *Globicephala melas*
- 93. *Grampus griseus*
- 94. *Kogia simus*
- 95. *Megaptera novaeangliae*
- 96. *Mesoplodon densirostris*
- 97. *Monachus monachus*
- 98. *Orcinus orca*
- 99. *Phocoena phocoena*
- 100. *Physeter macrocephalus*
- 101. *Pseudorca crassidens*
- 102. *Stenella coeruleoalba*
- 103. *Steno bredanensis*
- 104. *Tursiops truncatus*
- 105. *Ziphius cavirostris*

**List of species whose exploitation is regulated**

**Porifera**

1. *Hippospongia communis*
2. *Spongia agaricina*
3. *Spongia officinalis*
4. *Spongia zimocca*

**Cnidaria**

5. *Antipathes* sp. plur.
6. *Corallium rubrum*

**Echinodermata**

7. *Paracentrotus lividus*

**Crustacea**

8. *Homarus gammarus*
9. *Maja squinado*
10. *Palinurus elephas*
11. *Scyllarides latus*
12. *Scyllarus pigmaeus*
13. *Scyllarus arctus*

**Pisces**

14. *Alosa alosa*
15. *Alosa fallax*
16. *Anguilla anguilla*
17. *Epinephelus marginatus*
18. *Isurus oxyrinchus*
19. *Lamna nasus*
20. *Lampetra fluviatilis*
21. *Mobula mobula*
22. *Petromyzon marinus*
23. *Prionace glauca*
24. *Raja alba*
25. *Sciaena umbra*
26. *Squatina squatina*
27. *Thunnus thynnus*
28. *Umbrina cirrosa*
29. *Xiphias gladius*

**DRAFT COMMON CRITERIA FOR THE CHOICE  
OF PROTECTED MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS  
THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SPAMI LIST**

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

The Contracting Parties agree that the following general principles will guide their work in establishing the SPAMI List:

- (i) The conservation of the natural heritage is the basic aim that must characterize a SPAMI. The pursuit of other aims such as the conservation of the cultural heritage, the promotion of scientific research, education, participation, collaboration, etc., is highly desirable in SPAMIs and constitutes a factor in favour of a site being included on the List, to the extent in which it remains compatible with the aims of conservation.
- (ii) No limit is imposed on the total number of areas included in the List or on the number of areas any individual Party can propose for inscription. Nevertheless, the Parties agree that sites will be selected, on scientific bases and listed according to their qualities; they will have therefore to fulfil the requirements set out by the Protocol and the present criteria.
- (iii) The listed SPAMI and their geographical distribution will have to be representative of the Mediterranean region and its biodiversity. To this end the list will have to represent the highest number possible of types of habitats and ecosystems.
- (iv) The SPAMIs will have to constitute the core of a network aiming at the effective conservation of the Mediterranean heritage. To attain this objective, the Parties will develop their cooperation on bilateral and multilateral bases in the field of conservation and management of natural sites and notably through the establishment of transboundary SPAMIs.
- (v) The sites included in the SPAMI list are intended to have a value of example and model for the protection of the natural heritage of the region. To this end, the Parties ensure that sites included in the list are provided with adequate legal status, protection measures and management methods and means.

## GENERAL FEATURES OF THE AREAS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SPAMI LIST

1. To be eligible for inclusion in the SPAMI List, an area must fulfil at least one of the general criteria set in Article 8 paragraph 2 of the Protocol. Several of these general criteria can in certain cases be fulfilled by the same area, and such a circumstance can only strengthen the case for the inclusion of the area in the List.

2. The regional value is a basic requirement of an area for being included in the SPAMI list. The following criteria should be used in evaluating the Mediterranean interest of an area:

a) Uniqueness.

The area contains unique or rare ecosystems, or rare or endemic species.

b) Natural representativeness.

The area has highly representative ecological processes, or community or habitat types or other natural characteristics. Representativeness is the degree to which an area represents a habitat types, ecological process, biological community, physiographic feature or other natural characteristic.

c) Diversity.

The area has a high variety of species, ecosystems, habitats, or communities.

d) Naturalness.

The area has a high degree of Naturalness as a result of the lack or low level of human-induced disturbance and degradation.

e) Presence of habitats that are critical to endangered species<sup>1</sup>.

f) Cultural representativeness.

The area has a high representative value with respect to the cultural heritage, due to the existence of environmentally sound traditional activities integrated with nature which support the well-being of local populations.

3. To be included in the SPAMI List, an area having scientific, educational or aesthetic interest must, respectively, present a particular value for research in the field of natural sciences or for activities of environmental education or awareness or contain outstanding natural features, landscapes or seascapes.

4. Besides the fundamental criteria specified in article 8, paragraph 2, of the Protocol, a certain number of other characteristics and factors should be considered as favourable for the inclusion of the site in the List. These include:

a) the existence of threats likely to impair the ecological, biological, aesthetic or cultural value of the area;

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<sup>1</sup> The idea of endangered species includes also endemic species

b) the involvement and active participation of the public in general, and particularly of local communities, in the process of planning and management of the area;

c) the existence of a body representing the public, professional, non-governmental sectors and the scientific community involved in the area;

d) the existence in the area of opportunities for sustainable development;

e) the existence of an integrated coastal management plan within the meaning of Article 4 para. 3 (e) of the Convention.

## LEGAL STATUS

1. All areas eligible for inclusion in the SPAMI List must be awarded a legal status guaranteeing their effective long-term protection.

2. In order to be included in the SPAMI List, if a site is situated in a zone already delimited over which a Party exercises sovereignty or jurisdiction, it must have a protected status recognized by the Party concerned.

3. In the case of sites situated, partly or wholly, on the high seas or in an area where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined, the legal status, the management plan, the applicable measures and the other elements provided for in Article 9, paragraph 3, of the Protocol will be provided by the neighbouring Parties concerned in the proposal for inclusion in the SPAMI List.

## PROTECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

1. Conservation and management objectives must be clearly defined in the texts relating to each site, and will constitute the basis for assessment of the adequacy of the adopted measures and the effectiveness of their implementation at the periodic revisions of the SPAMI list.

2. Protection, planning and management measures applicable to each area must be adequate for the achievement of the conservation and management objectives set for the site in the short and long term, and take in particular into account the threats upon it.

3. Protection, planning and management measures must be based on an adequate knowledge of the elements of the natural environment and of socio-economic and cultural factors that characterize each area. In case of shortcomings in basic knowledge, an area proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List must have a programme for the collection of the unavailable data and information.

4. The competence and responsibility with regard to administration and implementation of conservation measures for areas proposed for inclusion on the SPAMI List must be clearly defined in the texts governing each area.

5. In the respect of the specificity characterizing each protected site, the protection measures for a SPAMI must take account of the following basic aspects:

- a) the strengthening of the regulation of the release or dumping of wastes and other substances likely directly or indirectly to impair the integrity of the area;
- b) the strengthening of the regulation of the introduction or reintroduction of any species into the area;
- c) the regulation of any activity or act likely to harm or disturb the species, or that might endanger the conservation status of the ecosystems or species or might impair the natural, cultural or aesthetic characteristics of the area.
- d) the regulation applicable to the zones surrounding the area in question.

6. To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area.

7. To be included in the SPAMI List an area will have to be endowed with a management plan. The main rules of this management plan are to be laid down as from the time of inclusion and implemented immediately. A detailed management plan must be presented within three years of the time of inclusion. Failure to respect this obligation entails the removal of the site from the List.

8. To be included in the SPAMI List, an area will have to be endowed with a monitoring programme. This programme should include the identification and monitoring of a certain number of significant parameters for the area in question, in order to allow the assessment of the state and evolution of the area, as well as the effectiveness of protection and management measures implemented, so that they may be adapted if need be. To this end further necessary studies are to be commissioned.

**SUMMARY OF THE ORAL COMMUNICATIONS  
GIVEN BY THE NFPs CONCERNING THE STATUS  
OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

**RÉSUMÉ DES EXPOSÉS ORAUX FAITS PAR  
LES POINT FOCALUX NATIONAUX CONCERNANT LA SITUATION  
DES AIRES PROTÉGÉES DANS LEURS PAYS RESPECTIFS**

**ALBANIA  
ALBANIE**

Apart from what is summarised in the "Progress report on the implementation of SPA/RAC activities carried out since the second meeting of the national focal points for specially protected areas in the Mediterranean (November 1992-December 1995)", there are, in the time between the 2nd and 3rd meeting of National Focal Points, the following activities to be mentioned :

1. The most important SPA in the country, Divjaka-Karavasta complex has been designated as Ramsar site. Meantime, a EU (Phare) project aiming in the management of the Karavasta lagoon, is running out since last year.
2. there are already identified 19 sites along the coastal zone of Albania : some of them have not had any protection status in the past, while some others is given another status of protection. For the first time, there are proposed Marine National Parks or Reserves for designation.
3. Pilot project proposals are or being prepared aiming in setting up management plans for the pilot sites, building up institutional capacity for the implementation of the management plans to the selected sites, developing environmentally sound activities (ecotourism) as an important income for the conservation of the sites, and public awareness raising activities.
4. A new law on the Protected of Nature and biodiversity in Albania is in the process of approval as annex to this act, a list of the existing and proposed SPA, including their sizes and protection status (existing and / or proposed), will be attached.

**ALGERIA  
ALGERIE**

A l'heure actuel, l'Algérie est dotée de 10 parcs Nationaux, créés par Décret Exécutif, dont 03 sont des Parcs Nationaux terrestres et marins. Il s'agit des Parcs Nationaux de TAZA, de GOURAYA et d'EL-KALA. Ce dernier est un complexe de



zones humides ( 03 lacs dont 02 classés sites de RAMZAR ). Si pour ce dernier, un projet d'étude de gestion est actuellement en cours, il n'en n'est pas de même pour les 02 premiers, qui ne bénéficient pas de la même expérience, en raison notamment de l'absence de compétences techniques pour mener à bien ce type d'actions, et de contraintes budgétaires. Il reste entendu que le Parc National d'EL-KALA-projet pilote- sera l'exemple pour l'ensemble des Parcs Nationaux en matière de gestion.

Dans la perspective d'augmenter la superficie des aires protégées en ALGERIE, des conventions sont signées avec les Universités afin que soient entamées les études préliminaires ( étude des potentialités biologiques ) qui permettront d'ériger les zones suivantes en aires protégées:

- Parc National de l'EDOUGH ( Massif forestier imposant, Lac Fetzara, Forêt marécageuse de Métoussa, Marais de Guerbes et de Souhadjas, littoral exceptionnel... ).
- Parc National de CHENOUA ( Massif forestier, présence du phoque moine près des côtes ).
- Réserve Naturelle de RACHGOUN ( Zone côtière: présence du phoque moine.)
- Réserve Naturelle des Iles Habibas ( Zone de modification et de passage d'une avifaune très diversifiée...).
- Marais de REGHAIA: ( Aire marine et côtière ) 130 ha, lieu de passage, de reproduction et de nidification de la sauvagine...
- Réserve de ZEMMOURI: Cordon dunaire d'une haute valeur biologique, Zonation très nette, structuration des phytocénoses: écosystème unique dans le bassin Méditerranéen.

En plus de ces actions à court terme, il s'agira de créer à l'horizon 2000, une douzaine d'aires protégées sur l'ensemble du territoire national. Des actions devront toucher le volet "réglementation", afin de le rendre conforme à la réalité du terrain, puisqu'inadapté à l'heure actuelle en matière de création de réserves naturelles.

En parallèle, un programme de formation des gestionnaires des aires protégées devrait être établi afin de permettre la mise en oeuvre et le suivi des mesures adoptées dans le cadre des conventions y relatives. Le CAR/ASP peut s'avérer être le cadre approprié pour réaliser cette action, en plus des opportunités que pourrait offrir la coopération bilatérale.

## **CROATIA CROATIE**

La côte croate de l'Adriatique compte plusieurs sites déclarés protégés, qui couvrent toutes les catégories prévues par la Loi de la protection de la nature (neuf catégories). La superficie des aires protégées marines ayant une gestion organisée

reste cependant très faible sur la côte croate (3 parcs nationaux: Brijuni, Kornati, Miljet) et 1 parc de la nature: Telascica).

Pour pallier à cette insuffisance, il a été proposé d'insérer dans la loi sur la protection de la nature une nouvelle catégorie d'aires spécialement protégées: le parc marin.

Les fonction multiples que peut assurer le parc marin doivent rester compatibles avec le but fondamental de la conservation. Comme dans certaines réserves naturelles de la Méditerranée il est prévu que les parcs marins croates soient dotés de zones protégées intégralement, de zones dédiées aux recherches et aux activités scientifiques sous-marines, ainsi que d'autres zones pour les activités touristiques et des zones périphériques où la pêche est réglementée. Outre la protection intégrale des sites d'intérêt le parc marin moderne doit aussi jouer un rôle important dans la sensibilisation et l'éducation environnementales. Il est également important d'installer un laboratoire spécialisé pour l'étude et le contrôle permanents de la qualité des eaux, des biocénoses et des ressources biologiques.

Ce sujet est très important pour la Croatie et ce à cause des problèmes démographiques notamment sur les îles où des projets pour la revitalisation de la zone côtière sont en cours. Un réseau d'aires spécialement protégées marines dotées d'une gestion adéquate pourrait aider à la réglementation de toutes les activités d'exploitation des ressources naturelles, développer le tourisme en tenant compte de la protection de la nature d'une façon active et efficace a long terme selon les principes du développement durable.

Pour ce qui est de la protection juridique des espèces marines en Croatie, certaines espèces de cétacés et de tortues marines ainsi que quelques espèces d'invertébrés sont protégées par la loi.

La législation régissant la pêche permet aussi la protection de certains espèces (par ex. Lithophaga lithophaga).

## CYPRUS CHYPRE

In Cyprus all dolphins, seals and marine turtles have been protected by law since 1971 (Fisheries Regulations made under the Fisheries Law Cap 135).

Since 1981 the freshwater terrapin Mauremys caspica has been added to this list. In 1989 Ocypode cursor was also added as this disappeared from the tourist beaches of the east coast of Cyprus. In 1989 the main Green turtle nesting beaches in the Lara / Toxeftra area were also strictly protected, as was the adjacent sea area to a depth of 20m: (No boats, no fishing, no driving on beaches,

no one allowed on the beaches at night, no umbrellas. Swimming is allowed during the day).

The regulations are strictly enforced. The Cyprus Turtle Conservation Project is centred on Lara / Toxeftra Reserve (10 km of coastline) but turtles are protected on all beaches in Cyprus. Protection against predators is given on Lara / Toxeftra beaches (Green and loggerhead turtles) and on Polis beaches (loggerhead turtles).

All species in inland waters (including salt lakes) are protected under the same fisheries regulations.

There are plans for turning the Akamas area into a National Park to protect interalia the hinterland and of the nesting beaches of Lara / Toxeftra.

The Fisheries legislation foresees for the regulation of fishing by scuba (days, quotas, species, sizes) by conditions on the licences needed.

Posidonia is indirectly protected by a ban on trawling in waters shallower than 55 metres.

## EGYPT

### EGYPTE

The government of Egypt declared 16 protected areas through the Environmental Action Plan of Egypt. These protected areas are covered different habitat and ecosystems.

Two of these protected areas are a coastal and marine protected areas notably :

a) Ashtoon El Gamil : The site located on the North eastern part of Lake Manzala (Brackish water) adjacent to Port Said City. The areas extended north to the Mediterranean and south into the Lake the area covering about 38 km<sup>2</sup> the area supports a significant number of wintering waterfowl, large population of breeding birds and economic value of fish

b) Zaranik protected area : The total area are covered about 170 km<sup>2</sup> located on the Mediterranean coast of sinai peninsula and the eastern part of the Bardaweel Lagoon.

The area is considered a bottleneck for migrant waterbirds passing through the eastern Mediterranean each autumn crossing from their ground breeding in Europe to Africa over 244 species of birds have been recorded from the area some of these species are in very large number and some other are endangered species such as : Marbled teal *Marmaronetta augustirostris*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, lesser falco *Falco nomanni*, slender-billed curlew *Numerous tenuirostris*, Audouins gull

*Larus audauini*, Elenoras falcon *Falco eleonora*, red kite *Milvus milvus*, Imperial eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*.

The largest number of some species:

greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* (13100),  
gargany *Anas querquedula* (221616),  
little tern *Sterna albitrons* (12433),  
white winged black tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (18436)

Both the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* and loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta* are known and protected species by the new Egyptian law n°4 of 1994.

Problems : lack of management, monitoring and research programme

Legislation related with protected areas and Environment

- 1- Law concerning protected areas n°102 of 1983.
- 2- Environmental law n°4 of 1994.

**FRANCE**

**FRANCE**

La cote méditerranéenne française comporte:

- Parc National de PORT-CROS - Porquerolles
- Réserve Naturelle de Scandola
- Réserve Naturelle de Camargue
- Réserve Naturelle de Cerbère Banyuls

Deux Parcs Nationaux sont en cours de création:

- Parc National de Corse
- Parc National des Lauëgz.

Deux Projets de Réserves Naturelles sont également à l'étude:

- Iles de Frioul
- Réserve Naturelle de la Crau.

-De nombreux sites sont en cours d'acquisition par le conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres.

Marais de Hyères (Vieux Salins, Salins des Pesquiers).

Marais de Villejey (Fréjus).

Petite Camargue Gardoise (Gard).

-D'autres déjà achetés, sont gérés et protégés:

Domaine de Palisiade (Camargue).

Cap Lardier (Var. - Port Cros).

Cap taillat (Var)

Etangs de Bages et Sijean (Aude).

**GREECE**

**GRECE**

In the period concerned (1992-1995), progress was made on the issues of protected site declaration and management, capacity building, inventorying and on the availability of legal instruments for protected area management.

A two more coastal sites were given protection status, the Messolonghi-Actolicon wetlands and the Strofylia Forest-Kotychi lagoon, which include wetlands of international importance, sand dunes, coastal forests, small islets and marine habitats as well.

Capacity building included the operation of the Greek Biotope Wetland Centre and the strengthening of cooperation between conservation authorities, local authorities and NGO's through specific Programme Agreement.

- Inventorying and site evaluation concentrated on wetlands with the preparation of the "Inventory of Greek. Wetlands" and the selection of sites eligible for inclusion in the European Union Network "NATURA 2000".

- An important improvement in legal means is the passing of legislation which enables the acquisition of private land with building restrictions by the state.

**ISRAEL**

**ISRAEL**

There are 14 marine reserves, 2 island reserves and 17 coastal reserves, well spread from north to south, along the Mediterranean coastline of Israel (see enclosed list). The marine reserves cover about 20 kms of the 190 km coastline. They represent various habitats, including mainly sandy beaches, beach rocks, kock caves and the Unique calcareous sandstone (Kurkra) plat Sorons, all with their typical Flora and Fauna.

Legal status: The two island reserves and two of the coastal reserves are declared reserves with full legal protection, two of the marine reserves are protected under special regulations. All the \*\*\*\*\*marine and coastal reserves are in various stages of legislation.

All the marine mammals birds and turtles are fully protected by law in Israel, as well as 29 families of bore-fish and all the mollusca, Coelenterate and Echinodermata.

Fishing methods are highly restricted under ordinance of fishing (last Update: 1988).

Studies: Studies of the Flora and Fauna inventory are being undertaken in two of the marine reserves. Most of the reserves are regularly surveyed. A survey of sea weeds along the Mediterranean coast of Israel was just published.

The action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles is implemented in Israel, following relevant training of nature reserve authority's biologists and workers in Cyprus, with evident success (see enclosed report). Sporadic observations of cetaceans and data on head cetaceans and cause of death are being collected by researchers at the university of Haira.

We hope to conduct a survey of cetaceans along our Mediterranean coast, and may be in collaboration with boring countries and with the assistance of countries that can offer training with the survey itself.

## ITALY ITALIE

In the last 4 years small progress was achieved in establishment of new marine protected areas in Italy. In the law (979/82 and 399/91) for protected areas more than 50 sites are proposed for marine parks. Only seven have institutive decree but two have managing plan and are running quite well.

Important contributions to the knowledge of marine biodiversity are the publication of the checklist of animals living in Italy (seas enclosed) and the mapping of posidonia meadows along the Italian coast. An inventory of wetlands was made, most of them are along the coast. The inventory of habitats to be protected in the relation to Habitat Directive in this Directive the list of marine habitats is very poor and it is urgent to eliminate this gap.

Also in relation with protected areas there is in Italy some concern with the invasion of two algae Caulerpa taxifolia and C.racemosa in particular C.Taxifolia could cause some changes in the natural communities, complete with Posidonia, decrease biodiversity, interfere with fishing activity; but the problem is not yet sufficiently investigated.

## LIBYA LIBYE

The length of Libyan Coast is 1,900 km we have a national legislation concerning the regulation of Natural Protected areas and National Parks this was established in 1992 by the Council of ministers.

Conserved areas and National Parks which we consider as a National sites:

- 1- Ber Arid natural conserved area.
- 2- New Alhisha natural conserved area
- 3- Surman natural conserved area
- 4- Abu Gellan Natural conserved area

and the last coming 2 are national parks

- 1- El Kouf National Park
- 2- El Garahboli National Park

and there will be more sites in the near future. -

I will give an idea on El Kouf National Park.

This park is a coastal and covers the northern slopes and plateau of the Jabel Al Akhder with about 20 km of Coastline bordering the Mediterranean range of the entire North Africa coast between the Gulf of Gabès in Tunisia and HyFa Gulf.

El Kouf is about 32,000 ha the park is part of a larger conservation area of 100,000 ha. climate Mild Mediterranean. Rainfall ranges from 300 to 600 mm per year.

In the park area there are more than 2500 inhabitants who live on agriculture and grazing. The area has been used for Picnics and recreation by people from neighbouring cities.

We have some problems in this park which are :

- 1- Severe human pressure
- 2- The main road connecting Libya and Egypt crosses the park
- 3- Overgrazing by animals mainly goats and Sheeps.
- 4- Severe hunting pressure but now no more prohibited by the law.

Finally we request to the RAC/SPA.

1- To carry out a mission to Libya to select sites to be proposed for designation as specially protected areas.

2- To identify projects for cooperation and set up a work plan for the country in this field.

**MALTA  
MALTE**

There are four coastal protected areas : three of them are islands and one a wetland. The protected fauna and flora are all terrestrial. However, all cetaceans recorded in the Maltese territorial waters are protected . Even the marine turtles recorded are protected.

The structure Plan for the matters islands contains the policies for setting up marine conservation areas. Presently there are fourteen candidate sites for marine conservation areas. Work is being done to declare one of these areas as a marine conservation area.

Since the last meeting of the National Focal Points, agreement was reached with RAC/SAP to provide an expert to draw up draft legislation for the setting up of marine conservation areas. This report has been compiled and is presently being studied to be used in the declaration of such area.

Two officials from the Environment Protected Department attended a marine turtle working camp; one in Cyprus and one in Turkey. A marine vegetation working camp was also organised by RAC/SPA in Malta. Malta also participated in other working camp on marine vegetation organised by RAC/SPA in Tunis.

**MONACO  
MONACO**

Il existe 2 aires protégées à Monaco:

-La réserve sous-marine du Larvotto crée en Avril 1976 principalement pour la protection de l'herbier de Posidonie;

-La réserve à corail rouge créée en 1986.

Toute activité de pêche et de pêche sous-marine est interdite dans ces zones. Y sont également prohibés tout fait de nature à porter atteinte à la faune, à la flore et aux fonds marins. La protection s'est accrue au fil des amendements avec extension des zones de pêche et de navigation interdite.

L'algue *Caulerpa taxifolia* est présente sur le littoral monégasque. Au niveau des 2 aires protégées:

-La *Caulerpa* est présente en petites tâches au sein de l'herbier mais semble se développer plus facilement en dehors de l'herbier dense que dans celui-ci;



-Dans la réserve à corail rouge les *Caulerpa* sont présentes sur le plateau qui domine le tombant mais n'atteignent pas les colonies.

Actuellement le suivi de l'évolution du peuplement est régulièrement réalisé avec notamment la collaboration de l'IFREMER. Actuellement une loi cadre de l'Environnement est en cours de réalisation. Elle permettra d'actualiser et de compléter les textes existants et d'intégrer les concepts issus de la CNUED.

Des négociations sont en cours avec la France et l'Italie pour la création d'un Sanctuaire Corso-Liguro-Provençal visant à protéger les mammifères marins.

Depuis les premières phases de restructuration de l'ancien protocole sur les Aires Spécialement Protégées, la principauté de Monaco a-toujours estimé au côté de ses partenaires Français et Italiens que ce Sanctuaire ne pourrait être protégé que par l'intermédiaire de son inscription sur la liste des ASPIM. Cette idée d'inscription a d'ailleurs servi d'étude de cas pour la rédaction du nouveau protocole.

Les espèces marines totalement protégées sont : le Mérou, le Corb et les Mammifères marins.

Des dispositions particulières ont été prises pour ces Mammifères marins par ordonnance souveraine du 15 Février 1993, amendant l'ordonnance souveraine de 1908. Il est spécifié "qu'en cas de capture accidentelle, ces animaux devront être immédiatement relâchés dans des conditions propos à assurer leur survie." Cet amendement ajoute des dispositions novatrices sur les filets maillants - dérivants en chaluts pélagiques dont "l'usage, la tentative et la complicité d'usage sont prohibés". Sont aussi réglementés l'abandon ou la perte des engins de pêche avec obligation de les signaler ou d'en signaler la présence au Service de la Marine et de les récupérer rapidement.

Les engins et pratiques de pêche prohibés sont, outre ceux visés ci-dessus, l'électrocution, les explosifs, les armes à feu, les drogues et les dragues.

La taille des mailles ou ouvertures est délimitée pour certains engins, et des dispositions particulières sont prises pour la pêche au "lamparo" et pour les pêcheurs non professionnels à bord des navires ou d'embarcations dont le port d'attache n'est pas à Monaco.

Toutes ces dispositions et interdictions sont accompagnées de sanctions dont certaines visent à la saisie ou à la destruction du matériel.

En ce qui concerne les Tortues Marines des fiches d'identifications, établies sur un modèle fourni par le Centre ASP de Tunis, ont été distribuées aux plaisanciers.

En 1993 une cartographie des biocénoses marines a été réalisée et un inventaire de la biodiversité marine sera établie en 1996.

Sur le plan terrestre, la protection de la flore à Monaco est une préoccupation ancienne et diverses Ordonnances Souveraines visent à assurer cette protection.

La principauté de Monaco soucieuse des problèmes de conservation de la Biodiversité dans des zones frontalières a particulièrement travaillé, dans le cadre de l'Arrivée Européenne pour la Conservation de la Nature 1995 et en collaboration avec l'Université de Nice, à l'étude de la Biodiversité du Bassin Versant.

## MOROCCO MAROC

Depuis 1992 le Maroc a entrepris plusieurs actions en matières de protection de la nature en général. En effet, il a procédé à une Etude Nationale sur les Aires protégées qui a abouti en 1994 à l'élaboration d'un plan directeur des Aires protégées et à l'établissement des plans de développement et de gestion des Parcs Nationaux. Parmi les Parcs Nationaux identifiées ou créés, ceux d'El Hoceina, de souss-Mana et de Dakhla ont vu leurs plans d'aménagement et de gestion établis aussi bien pour leur partie terrestre que marine. Cette étude qui vient d'être finalisée reste la base de la politique à mener pour les prochaines années; elle fera l'objet d'une journée d'information au mois de Mai prochain, à l'attention des bailleurs du fondes du personnel concerné par la Convention des Aires protégées et des départements Ministériels intéressés.

A cette occasion, la stratégie de mise en oeuvre qui a été établie sera discutée. En plus de 150 sites d'intérêt écologique et biologique, une quinzaine de sites représentent des zones littorales de première priorité de protection C.A.D. dans les cinq années à venir.

En matière de législation, sa refonte a eu lieu et elle se trouve dans son stade final de présentation au parlement, celle-ci comporte une section bien détaillée et élaborée pour répondre aux principes de protection de la nature.

A ce sujet, le dernier Congrès National sur la Forêt tenu du 21 au 23 Mars 1996 a recommande notamment d'action la promulgation de la législation de gestion. En attendant la loi précitée, la protection de certaines espèces telles que le phoque moine, ou le courlis à bec grêle a été entreprise dans le cadre de la législation actuelle. Par ailleurs, une réserve de protection du Phoque Moine dans la zone de Dakhla (autour de la côte des phoques) a été instituée et cette espèce se comporte bien au large des côtes saharienne du Maroc puisque son effectif augmente se qui permet une certaine stabilité de la plus importante colonie de cette espèce.

Enfin, de nombreux cadres ont pour bénéficier des sessions de formation organisées par le CAR/ASP dans les domaines de l'étude du milieu marin et littoral et des espèces telles que les tortues et les cétacés. Il est souhaitable pour nous de poursuivre l'échange d'expériences avec les pays Méditerranées ainsi que la formation du personnel des Aires Protégées. Il est également prévu de proposer des sites à partir de l'étude sur les aires protégées sur la liste des ASPIM dans un proche avenir.

Dans tous les cas, l'approche qui est poursuivie à l'échelle du pays aussi bien en milieu terrestre que marin, tend à associer toujours les populations vivant autour ou dans les aires protégées (éleveurs, paysans, pêcheurs ...). Les ONGs sont également et de plus en plus associées dans un premier temps à la sensibilisation du public et plus récemment dans les domaines de la recherche, avec les institutions nationales et étrangères concernées.

Tel est, pour le président, le rapport que j'ai voulu porter à l'attention de l'assistance, et je reste confiant que nouveau protocole et les annexes le concernant permettront de bien dynamiser le processus entrepris en faveur de la conservation dans mon pays et notamment dans le domaine littoral et marin.

## **SLOVENIA** **SLOVENIE**

Slovenia became the Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and four concerning Protocols in 1993 by the act of succession/former Yugoslavia ratified the convention in 1976/. Focal points for the MAP components were appointed in January 1994.

First of all, report about state of the Sloven natural resources and sites on the coastline was elaborated in July 1994.

Reading the report we can see that Slovenia occupies 46,6 km of the coastline and 180 SQ. km of the Adriatic sea of the Gulf of Trieste. The inventory made in 1983 regarding the natural heritage showed that Slovenia had only 18 % of its natural coast at its disposal.

There are seven marine and coastal protected areas (or bound to be protected) on the Slovenia coast, two of them are wetlands-important bird areas. Among the five left, there is the only *Posidonia oceanica* meadow in the Gulf of Trieste, and a marine and coastal nature reserve that covers almost 10 % of the Slovenia coast with all the typical Geomorphological and Biological features.

An insight into endangered animal and plant species in Slovenia has been gained over recent years through publications of red lists and the systematic inventorying of individual coastal regions. The red list of endangered ferns and flowering plants

in Slovenia (issued in 1989) shows that most of the extinct species in Slovenia had their habitat in the small coastal region.

About international status of the protected areas:

1. on October 1992 a declaration was passed by the parliament of Slovenia-together with succession of the UNESCO conventions act-by which the Secoviye salt-pans were included on the list of internationally important wetlands (officially entered at the RAMSAR convention on January 6th, 1993).
2. Strunjan nature reserve has been included in MEDPAN since 1993.

All above mentioned activities and resulting conservation situation has been done under the law on the protection of natural and cultural heritage (from 1981). Natural and cultural heritage in Slovenia is also protected through regional planning legislation (from 1984). The new law on the environment (from 1993) is not useful completely, it goes also about licence on natural resources, till now not in practice, it goes about procedure of impact assessment etc. In 1993 the state government adopted a decree on the protected animal species, both terrestrial and marine. There are more than 50 species on the list.

At present, Slovenia is considered as a country with economy in transition. The law of privatisation and law of denationalization, which regulates former public property came into force on the year 1991/1992. At the same time on 1992, the annex to the law on natural and cultural heritage was adopted. The provisions of that annex determine to assure public interest, that the ownership of protected areas and objects of natural heritage are not allowed to be transformed into private property.

We have to say also something about some recent activities and projects they are concerned with the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas extra:

- There is a new law on the nature protection in preparation;
- We are preparing a general system for managing protected areas in Slovenia;
- We coordinate all the work on the first general management plan for Slovenia coastline, which should serve to the Government as a base for making concessions;
- Mapping of *Posidonia oceanica* Meadow was made already and we started monitoring project in cooperation with marine biological station in Piran;
- New wetland site-Skocyan Bay- is in the procedure for recognizing as a protected area along the Sloven Coastline;
- We are engaged with projects on managing protected coastal wetlands, partly with Secoviye salt-Pans, with cooperation of Sloven NGO-s, partly with Sloven Birdwatching Association.

**SPAIN**  
**ESPAGNE**

In 1992, the National Park of Cabrera was created after a long lasting campaign for the conservation of this site. It includes the archipelago of Cabrera and adjacent waters. In addition, four (4) Marine Reserves have been created in the Mediterranean coast of Spain :

- 1993 + Marine Reserve of Ses Negres (Cataluna)
- 1993 + Marine Reserve of Cabo San Antonio (Valencia)
- 1995 + Marine Reserve of cabo de Palos e Islas Mormigas (Murcia)
- 1995 + Marine Reserve of Cabo de Gata - Nijar (Andalucia).

In the framework of the EU Habitats Directive an inventory of Posidonia prairie has been undertaken, as well as other coastal habitats included in this Directive. These inventories will be the basis for the Natura 2000 network.

Up to now, there are fifty one (51) protected areas along the Spanish Mediterranean coast. These areas are managed by the autonomous regions where they are located.

**Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in Mediterranean Sea**

- The Ministry of Environment has undertaken in 1993 a study with the University of Barcelona in order to find out what was the cause which provoked the epidemic of dolphins in the Spanish Mediterranean Waters.
- In 1994 the Directorate for the Conservation of Nature again through the University of Barcelona undertook the elaboration of the inventory of the Spanish sea waters cetaceans populations. The aim of the study was to make the survey of each specie and the size of the different populations.
- In addition, nowadays the same Directorate is carrying out the inventory in the Atlantic waters.

**TUNISIA**  
**TUNISIE**

La conservation de la biodiversité, espèces et aires naturelles constituent une priorité dictée par les objectifs du développement durable en Tunisie. En effet les ressources biologiques et leur habitat étant fragile, subissent des menaces de plus en plus grandes provenant des activités du développement économique et social.

Afin d'assurer les conditions favorables ou développement durable, le gouvernement a élaboré une stratégie nationale de conservation et de gestion durable des composantes de la biodiversité.

Cette stratégie repose sur les axes suivants:

- L'affinement des reconnaissances \*\* patrimoine biologique de sa dynamique de reproduction et des conditions écologiques favorisant son épanouissement et son développement naturel, c'est à dire les caractéristiques des habitats de chaque élément de la biodiversité.
- Une augmentation des superficies bénéficiant de protection et de mesures de conservation.
- Une amélioration de la gestion et de l'entretien, de la conservation des parcs nationaux et réserves de la nature.
- La création des conditions pour favoriser la protection des espèces de faune et de flore menacées ou en danger.
- La gestion durable des ressources génétiques pour la conservation des gènes et semences, l'amélioration de leur caractéristiques de production/ou la biotechnologie.

Ce programme qui est mis en oeuvre dans le cadre d'un partenariat actif entre les ONG, les sociétés publiques sponsor et les services du Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Agriculture, gestionnaire des Parcs, a permis de doter ces parcs d'écomusées et de centre d'accueil. Il a permis d'élaborer des guides publics pour chaque parc et d'assurer la promotion de ces parcs auprès des enfants et du publique. L'effectif unités écologiques de ces parcs ont augmenté ces dernière années.

Ces parcs sont également équipés d'équipements pour les chercheurs qui participent dans les travaux de suivi et de surveillance contre des écosystèmes de chaque parc par les moyens de l'Agence Nationale de la Protection de l'Environnement.

## **TURKEY TURQUIE**

Presently there are 9 Coastal Protected Areas and 3 National Parks submitted by Turkey to UNEP for inclusion in the SPAMI list. The Protected Areas (SPA) are under the jurisdiction of the Authority for the Protection of Special Areas (APSA; an affiliated institution of the Turkish Ministry of Environment) and the National Parks (NP) are under jurisdiction of the Turkish Ministry of Forestry (MF). The two institutions work in close collaboration.

APSA has been established 1989 by decree having the force of the law (decision number: 383) first as an affiliated institution of the Turkish Prime Ministry and later, in 1991, and the Turkish Ministry of Environment when the Ministry was first

established. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of Turkish Environment Law (number 2872) The Turkish Cabinet of Ministers has been authorised to determine and declare areas as ASP. With the establishment of the ASP: Sustainable development is aimed through conservation of areas with national and international ecological importance. The addendum protocol Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean) to the Barcelona Convention provides international protection status to the Turkish spas.

The Authority (has the status of legal entity) is given the responsibility and duties of: "protecting environmental values in the SPA; and take measures to overcome environmental problems; determine principals of protection, conservation and usage of the SPAs; to prepare their land-use plans". Close coordination with governmental, academic and non-governmental organizations and collaboration with international bodies are sought during planning, education and implementation. Unlike other protection status in Turkey, APSA is authorised to make land-use and implementation plans at all scales and to approve them ex officio.

Presently APSA carried out research, planning, conservation measures, infrastructural works, land-use decisions and environmental education activities in the 9 coastal SPA (to be included in the SPAMI List) below:

The SPAs and conservation status date; Gökova (1988), Köycegiz-Dalyan (1988), Fethiye-Göcek (1988), Göksu Delta (1990), Kekova (1990), Patara (1990), Belek (1990), Datça-Bozburun (1990), Foàa (1990).

Work continues on the elaboration of the development of present physical environmental plans of the 9 SPA into management plans. Works has been initiated with the German Technical Cooperation Agency GTZ in Köycegiz-Dalyan SPA and with the World Bank METAP program for Patara SPA. Research continues in all, and zoning according to IUCN Management Categories is being undertaken. Implementation of certain projects (such as regulation of yacht and boat traffic, bilge and wastewater reception facilities, development of education and public awareness materials, establishment of botanical gardens and arboretum, integrated mosquito control, infrastructure, habitat restoration etc), control of conservation measures (hunting, water resources, sand and gravel extraction, illegal construction works) and environmental education projects (target-group oriented) are being carried out with national and local authorities, universities and other research institutions, NGOs and other international microbiological, chemical and physical parameters in 4 SPAs. The program is now developed to include biological monitoring.