
EP



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/3
6 May 2007

ORIGINAL: FRENCH
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Eighth Meeting of National Focal Points for SPA

Palermo, Italy, 6-9 June 2007

**Draft Common criteria for amending Annexes II and III of the
Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas
and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean**

*For reasons of economy, this document will be available
in a limited number at the meeting.
You are kindly requested to bring your copy to the meeting.*

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Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)
Boulevard du leader Yasser Arafat
B.P.337 –1080 Tunis CEDEX
E-mail : car-asp@rac-spa.org

The original document (in French) has been prepared for the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), by:

C. RAIS
OKIANOS
1, Boulevard de l'Environnement
8110 Tabarka (Tunisia)

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Introduction

The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean established a list of endangered or threatened species and a list of species whose exploitation is regulated (Article 12). These two lists respectively constitute Annexes II and III to the Protocol, which invites Contracting Parties to adopt concerted measures to ensure the protection and the conservation of animal and plant species appearing in these annexes.

The Protocol provides for the adoption by the Contracting Parties of common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in the annexes.

The draft common criteria for amending the annexes to the Protocol were prepared by RAC/SPA following a series of consultation meetings with experts and specialised organisations. A first draft was submitted to the Seventh Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs (Seville, Spain, 31 May – 3 June 2005). The draft criteria presented below, were developed on the basis of the first draft and taking into account the opinions expressed during the aforementioned Meeting of Focal Points and the recommendations of the 14th Meeting of Contracting Parties (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005).

Draft Common Criteria for amending Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

The Contracting Parties to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

Considering that the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean provides for the adoption of common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in the annexes;

Taking into account the recommendation of their 14th Ordinary Meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005) that approved the principle of amending the lists of species included in Annexes II and III of the “SPA & Biodiversity” Protocol on the basis of criteria to be established;

Aware of the need to ensure that the lists of species appearing in Annexes II and III of the Protocol develop taking into account both the evolution of the conservation status of species and the emergence of new scientific data;

Stressing the importance of ensuring harmonisation between Annexes II and III of the “SPA & Biodiversity” Protocol and the relevant annexes of other international and/or regional conventions and agreements pertaining to the preservation of species;

Stressing further that if the conservation status of a species is deemed unlikely to ensure its survival, the lack of scientific certainty should not be invoked as a reason for postponing its inclusion in one of the two Annexes (II or III) of the Protocol.

Recognizing the important role played by some specialised organisations in monitoring and assessing the conservation status of species;

Have agreed as follows:

General principles

1. The present criteria will apply to the evaluation of proposals for:

- inclusion of new species in Annexes II and III of the Protocol;
- removing species from these annexes;
- transferring species from one of the said lists to the other;
- modifying the names of species, as a result of changes occurred in taxonomy

2. No limit is set either on the total number of species included in Annexes II and III of the Protocol, nor on the number of species that an individual Party can propose for inclusion in these annexes. However, Parties agree that species will be selected on a scientific basis and will be included in the Annexes based on their conservation status; they will therefore have to conform to the conditions laid out in the Protocol and to one or several of the following criteria.

3. The IUCN Red List¹ categories and criteria developed for assessing the conservation status of species are used by most international conventions. It is recommended that they be used for

¹ (a) IUCN 2001. IUCN red list Categories and criteria. Version 3.1. Species Survival Commission, Gland.
(b) IUCN 2003. Guidelines for the Application of IUCN red list Criteria on the regional level. Version 3.0 Species Survival Commission, Gland. The two documents can be downloaded from: http://www.redlist.org/info/categories_criteria.html.

assessing the status of species when examining proposals for amending Annexes II and III of the Protocol.

4. A species that is threatened outside the Mediterranean region and is known to be occasionally or marginally present in the Mediterranean may be considered for inclusion in the Annexes to the Protocol.

5. The criteria listed below do not figure either in order of importance or of priority.

Common Criteria to be applied in evaluating proposals for inclusion of species in Annex II of the Protocol.

1. A species can be included in Annex II to the Protocol if, on the basis of reliable scientific data, it is demonstrated that :
 - the species is in decline with a reduction in its numbers of over or equal to 50% observed, estimated, inferred or suspected over the last 10 years; or that
 - important reductions (including fragmentation) of its habitats have been observed in the Mediterranean or that
 - the species or its Mediterranean population figures on the IUCN red list as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.
2. Habitat building species and those at the basis of important biological formations for the Mediterranean may be included in Annex II of the Protocol if important regressions of the said habitats or of the areas covered by the said formations have been observed, inferred or suspected over the last 10 years.
3. A species endemic to a country, or a group of countries, may be included in Annex II of the Protocol at the proposal of the country, or of the group of countries in question.
4. The inclusion of a species in Annex II of the Protocol may be decided if it proves necessary to the adequate implementation of conservation measures advocated for a species already included in the said annex.

Common Criteria to be applied in evaluating proposals for the inclusion of species in Annex III of the Protocol. .

5. A species may be included in Annex III of the Protocol if:
 - statistical data show a regression of more than 50% of landings over the past 5 years; or
 - unless its exploitation is regulated, it is likely to fall into the category of endangered or threatened species as defined by the Protocol.
6. A species may be included in Annex III of the Protocol if the techniques used to exploit it are destructive to biological formations or habitats listed on the reference list of habitats of conservation interest adopted within the MAP framework.

Common Criteria to be applied in evaluating proposals for removing species from Annexes II and III of the Protocol.

7. A species may be removed from Annexes II or III of the Protocol if reliable data, especially better available scientific data, indicate that the reasons that led to its initial inclusion no longer exist.

8. However, removal can only be considered if the said species runs no risk, in the short or medium term, of finding itself in the condition that originally warranted its inclusion in the said annexes.

Procedures to be followed in amending Annexes II and III of the Protocol.

- (a) The Parties submitting proposals for inclusion of species or their removal from an Annex will submit a proposal to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, in conformity with the attached model, at least 90 days before the Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs. The proposal must be submitted either in English or in French;
- (b) The Centre will immediately forward the proposal, in its original version, to the other Parties and to the MAP Coordinator;
- (c) The proposal will be submitted to the meeting of Focal Points for SPAs, which will proceed to evaluate it in the light of the above common criteria. To this end, RAC/SPA will proceed to the translation of the original version so that the proposal may be sent to the Focal Points for SPAs and to the relevant international organisations in English and in French at least a month before the Focal Points meeting;
- (d) The proposal accompanied by the recommendation from the Focal Points for SPAs meeting will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for decision. The possible amendment to the annexes must be conducted in conformity with the provisions of article 16 of the Protocol.

Form for proposing amendments to Annex II and Annex III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

<p>Proposed by :</p> <p><i>(Indicate here the Party(s) introducing the amendment proposal)</i></p>	<p>Species concerned:</p>
<p>Taxonomy</p> <p>Class :</p> <p>Order :</p> <p>Family:</p> <p>Genus and Species :</p> <p>Known Synonym(s) :</p> <p>Common name (English and French):</p>	<p>Amendment proposed :</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion in Annex II</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion in Annex III</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Removal from Annex II</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Removal from Annex III</p> <p>Inclusion in other Conventions :</p> <p><i>(Specify here if the species is included on the species list of other relevant conventions, in particular: CITES, CMS, ACCOBAMS, Bern Convention .)</i></p> <p>IUCN Red List status of species</p>
<p>Justification for the proposal :</p>	
<p>Biological data</p> <p>Brief description of the species:</p> <p>Distribution (current and historical)</p> <p>Population estimate and trends:</p> <p>Habitat(s) :</p>	

Threats

Existing and potential threats:

Exploitation:

Proposed protection or regulation measures

Bibliographical references