

PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Preliminary remarks

This document was the result of the analysis and synthesis of the regional report 'Impact of tourism on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean' (RAC/SPA, 2003) elaborated as part of the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region, the document 'Addis Ababa Principles and Directives for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity' (CBD Guidelines, 2004), and the results of the planning work done by the Secretariat for the biennial period 2006-2007.

It integrates the provisions of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, and those of the document 'Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region'.

This is RAC/SPA's proposal for action on a new subject, in the context of its activity programme for the biennial period 2006-2007. The aim of this action is to collaborate with the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Commission (CMDD) to promote the Addis Ababa principles in the Mediterranean, in the marine and coastal domain.

1. Justification

Applying the principles of sustainable use of biodiversity supports conservation programmes and improves their medium- and long-term efficiency. In this context, the 1995 SPA/BD Protocol's Article 3 invites the Parties to (i) cooperate for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas in which the Protocol applies, and (ii) elaborate strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological resources with a view to integrating these within their sector-based and intersectoral policies.

Moreover, the MAP Secretariat has prepared a draft Mediterranean sustainable development strategy that involves all the Regional Centres and other MAP programmes in its design and later implementation.

The document 'Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region' (SAP BIO), adopted in 2003 in Catania by the Contracting Parties, insists on the importance of sustainable development as an element of protection for marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. It advocates the sustainable use of the constituent elements of marine and coastal biodiversity, particularly in the context of the development of tourism and sport fishing.

2. Sustainable use for sustainable development

'Sustainable use' means using the constituent elements of biological diversity in a way that protects its potential to satisfy the needs and aspirations of present and future generations and that does not cause their being impoverished in the long term. Sustainable use also presents social, cultural and economic advantages that are likely to encourage the conservation and restoration of biological diversity.

Sustainable use is one of the three objectives stated in the Convention on Biological Diversity, which requires that the Contracting Parties adopt measures concerning the sustainable use of biological resources to avoid or mitigate effects that would be harmful for biological diversity.

Moreover, the Earth Summit, meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, defined a comprehensive sustainable development strategy that stresses the critical role of sustainable use in maintaining the variability and variety of living organisms, biological resources which 'feed us, clothe us and provide us with dwellings, medicine and spiritual nourishment'. Ten years later, the Implementation Plan of the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg repeated that sustainable use was an effective way of fighting against poverty and achieving sustainable development, and represents an effective way of attaining the Development Objectives for the Millennium: wiping out extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring the viability of the environment.

3. The Addis Ababa Principles

At the COP 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Contracting Parties adopted the 'Addis Ababa Principles and Directives for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity'; this aimed at promoting the use of the constituent elements of biological diversity in order to guarantee their viability.

The Addis Ababa Principles and Directives for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity consist of fourteen interdependent principles, operational directives and some implementing tools for governing the use of the constituent elements of biological diversity in order to guarantee their viability. The principles should serve to advise governments, resource managers, native and local communities and other interested parties on how to guarantee that the use they make of the constituent elements of biological diversity will not cause their impoverishment in the long term. These principles are general ones, but will not all be applied in the same way to all situations or with the same rigour. The way they are applied will depend on the biological diversity aimed for, the methods of its use and the institutional and cultural contexts in which the use occurs.

4. Sustainable tourism

The idea of extending the 'sustainable development' and 'sustainable use' concepts to tourism was formulated in 1995 at a conference held in Lanzarote (Canaries) by the World Tourist Organisation (WTO). Many hundred tourist partners were there; the

result was the publishing of the Sustainable Tourism Charter'. Sustainable tourism is thus defined as a way of managing 'all the resources enabling economic, aesthetic and social needs to be satisfied and cultural integrity, ecosystems, biodiversity and life-support systems to be protected'.

Sustainable tourism thus concerns every kind of tourism, not only nature tourism (eco-tourism), where the sustainability principles must be applied to every kind of tourist activity, operation, enterprise and project, whether old or new, and insists on respect for people and for their environment in the 'sustainability' of tourist activity.

5. Proposal by the Secretariat (RAC/SPA)

Objectives to be achieved in 2006-2007

Strengthening the Mediterranean countries' ability to implement practices of sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, after a consultation process on methods of applying the Addis Ababa principles in the Mediterranean. Particular attention should be paid to methods of conservation of species listed in Annex III to the Protocol: Species the use of which is regulated.

Actions suggested for RAC/SPA's budget-programme for 2006-2007

- Form a work group to assess how far the Addis Ababa principles can be applied in the Mediterranean and adapt them further to the Mediterranean context
- Propose a work subject to the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Commission (CMDD) on the following uses: pharmaceutical uses, promoting certain biological items as souvenirs, local craft work, traditional usages (*madrague*, *bordigue*, traditional salt-pans, etc.) and practices linked to tourist development (fishing-sea trips, discovering coastal biotopes, etc.).

Possible partners

The CBD Secretariat, the CMDD, the IUCN's Commission on Species Survival (particularly its work group on sustainable use), FAO-CGPM.

Budget forecast (in euros)

Activity	2006	2007
Work group facilitation and meeting	2,000	6,000
Process of consulting with the countries	10,000	
Total	12,000	6,000

This budget does not appear in RAC/SPA's activity budget for the biennial period 2006-2007 presented in the work document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/4. As a result, implementation of this new work line is subject to an increase in the means allocated to RAC/SPA or to a different breakdown of the activity budget.