

INFORMATION NOTE ON THE ELABORATION OF DRAFT COMMON CRITERIA FOR THE CHOICE OF SPECIES THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN, OR EXCLUDED FROM, ANNEXES II AND III TO THE SPA PROTOCOL

1. Background

The SPA Protocol aims to protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmentally sound way, areas of particular natural and cultural value, as well as threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna. This is to be achieved through the establishment of specially protected areas and the adoption of measures to protect and manage species with a view to maintaining or restoring them to a favourable state of conservation.

The annex II and III to the SPA Protocol concern respectively the List of Endangered or Threatened Species and the List of Species whose Exploitation is Regulated. These two annexes were elaborated during a meeting of experts, held in Montpellier (France) from 22 to 25 November 1995. The draft annexes elaborated by the above-mentioned meeting were reviewed by the Third Meeting of the National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (Tunis, 25-27 March 1996). Finally, these two annexes were adopted by the Contracting Parties in a Plenipotentiary Meeting, held in Monaco on 24 November 1996.

Under Article 16 b, the Protocol invites the Parties to adopt common criteria for the amendment of the Protocol Annexes, as provided for in Article 14 of the Protocol itself. The RAC/SPA has prepared in the recent past a series of documents and working papers to provide baseline information for such task.

Article 12 of the Protocol ("Cooperative measures for the protection and conservation of species") specifies that Annexes II and III to the Protocol, relating to the List of Endangered or Threatened Species and the List of Species whose Exploitation is Regulated, are provided to assist Parties in the protection and conservation species of flora and fauna, and of maintaining them in a favourable state of conservation, also through cooperative measures.

Subsequently, a programme of work was implemented by the RAC/SPA to make further progress on the issue, with the intent of submitting draft criteria for revision by the National Focal Points and, ultimately, for adoption at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

2. Actions undertaken by RAC/SPA

The above mentioned programme of work involved initially the preparation of an information note on "Guidelines for the amendment of the annex II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" (presented to the 6th SPA NFP meeting) and the further preparation

of a discussion document by a consultant, entitled: "Criteria for the amendment of Annexes II and III to the Mediterranean SPA Protocol: a discussion paper", which was submitted to the RAC/SPA on July 2004, and which provided the background for the discussion and the drafting work.

A meeting was envisaged by the RAC/SPA to address the drafting of the criteria for the amendment of the Annexes and jointly organised with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, Spain.

2.1. Experts meeting

The meeting took place from 13-15 December 2004 at the premises of the Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía in Campanillas, Malaga. Representatives from both institutions, experts in the subject to be discussed, as well as three SPA Focal points were invited to participate in the documents elaboration

a. Participants to the meeting:

- Mr. Ameer Abdulla, IUCN Med
- Mr. Juan Antonio Camiñas, Fisheries Expert, IEO
- Mr. Daniel Cebrian Menchero, RAC/SPA International Expert
- Mr. Eliezer Frankenberg, Israel Focal Point
- Ms. Paloma Garzon, on behalf of Spain Focal Point
- Ms. Maria Giménez Casalduero, Legal Counsellor to the RAC/SPA
- Ms. Myroula Hadjichristoforou, Cyprus Focal Point
- Mr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, RAC/SPA Consultant
- Ms. Alison Rosser, IUCN Species Survival Commission
- Mr. Jean-Christophe Vié, IUCN Expert
- Mr. François Simard, IUCN Med
- Mr. Jamie Skinner, IUCN Med

b. Elaboration of documents

A document to be proposed for adoption, containing proposed criteria and the procedure for the amendment of the Annexes, was drafted. The present document, containing information on the elaboration process was drafted as well.

2.2. Final process

Both draft documents were made available to all the attendants to the meeting for a final round of comments and further revision until 31 March 2005. After that date, RAC/SPA elaborated the final version of both drafts to be presented to the 7th SPA National Focal Points Meeting as working document and information document respectively.