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Twelfth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas

Athens, Greece, 25-29 May 2015

Agenda item 10: Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, including in the open seas and deep seas

10.1.1. Ordinary Periodic Revision of the SPAMI List

Report on the Ordinary Periodic Review of the areas included in the SPAMI List

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REPORT ON THE ORDINARY PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE AREAS INCLUDED IN THE SPAMI LIST

1. Reminder of the Procedure

During their Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols adopted the *Procedure for the revision of the areas included in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (the SPAMI List)* and requested the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to implement the adopted Procedure (Decision IG.17/12).

Annex I to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) lists *Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List*. The adopted Procedure aims to evaluate the SPAMI sites in order to examine whether they meet the Protocol's criteria.

The Ordinary Periodic Review as provided for by the Procedure is as follows:

A regular in depth review of the SPAMIs shall take place every six years, counting from the date of the inclusion of the site in the SPAMI List. Following the Format proposed ahead, this Periodic Review will assess the degree of conformity with the criteria defined in the Protocol. The Format concerns the existing threats, regulations, management, protection measures, resources, means, knowledge, cooperation and networking. Stakeholders should agree to the proposed sub-questions in the format before they are used in the evaluation. The Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) / evaluation team should receive the completed Format for Periodic Review and supporting documentation prior to the site visit.

The Periodic Review would be entrusted to a mixed TAC integrated by:

- The NFP/SPA concerned and/or the person responsible for the SPAMI management;
- A national expert on the particular biology and ecology of the area;
- Two independent experts, who would have all the necessary qualifications among scientific rigor, regional experience in protected area management, independence and impartiality, and should not be national of the country in which the review is carried out.

At least one member of the evaluation team involved in the country visit must have a working knowledge of the language of that country (should not assume the PA staff can speak English, although this would be desirable).

The evaluation team should receive key SPAMI documents and prescriptive list of threats prior to the field site visit.

The evaluation team should make a preliminary assessment of SPAMI compliance based on the documents prior to the site visit.

To cover the costs of such Technical Advisory Commission a SPAMI Fund could be established, possibly allocating resources from the ordinary MAP budget, plus voluntary contributions from the States or other donor agencies. Expenses incurred by the experts during this visit shall be met by this Fund, as to ensure the appraisal is completely objective.

The Periodic Review will be based in an official format, for which a proposal is presented at the end of this document. The PA manager completes the Format for Periodic Review prior to the site visit by the evaluation team and that his/her responses to the subquestions are crossed reference to supporting documentation. The completed format should be endorsed by signature from all the members of the

Technical Advisory Commission. However, the format includes a final field in which each member can add his/her own comments, if deemed necessary.

The results of the review shall be forwarded to the Centre, to be surveyed and presented in the next NFP/SPA biennial Meeting for endorsement. In the case of a negative recommendation (see Format) the NFP/SPA will recommend the Meeting of the Parties to include the SPAMI in a period of provisional nature.

With regard to the TAC Conclusions, the Procedure specifies that:

- At the end of the format, the Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) will draw a Conclusion of consensus, signed by all of its members, including, if necessary, recommendations for improvement.
- This Conclusion shall be forwarded through the SPA/RAC to the NFPs ordinary Meetings. The Meeting will decide whether the SPAMI remains in the ordinary review process or is considered for incorporation into the extraordinary review procedure.

2. Ordinary Periodic Reviews undertaken during the biennial period 2014-2015

During their Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), the Contracting Parties requested RAC/SPA (Decision IG.21/5) to work with the relevant authorities in France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, to carry out during the 2014-2015 biennium the Ordinary Periodic Review for the following twenty-two SPAMIs, according to the procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties:

- Bouches de Bonifacio Natural Reserve (France);
- Port-Cros National Park (France);
- Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (France, Italy, Monaco);
- Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto (Italy);
- Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (Italy);
- Marine Protected Area of Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo (Italy);
- Miramare Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Plemmirio Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Punta Campanella Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco);
- Alboran Island (Spain);
- Archipelago of Cabrera National Park (Spain);
- Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park (Spain);
- Cap de Creus Natural Park (Spain);
- Columbretes Islands (Spain);
- Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast (Spain);
- Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (Spain);
- Medes Islands (Spain);
- Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (Spain);
- Kneiss Islands (Tunisia);
- La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia); and
- Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia).

In accordance with the Procedure, Technical Advisory Commissions (TACs) have been set up by the relevant French, Italian, Moroccan, Spanish and Tunisian authorities for each of the national SPAMIs, and jointly by the French, Italian and Monegasque authorities for the Pelagos Sanctuary SPAMI.

Each of these TACs was formed by the concerned National Focal Point(s) for Specially Protected Areas, national expert(s), the protected area manager(s) and two independent non-national experts. TACs composition for each of the reviewed SPAMIs is shown in the following table:

SPAMI (Country/ies)	National Focal Point(s) for SPAs	SPAMI Manager(s)	National Expert(s)	Independent Experts
Bouches de Bonifacio Natural Reserve (France)	Ms. Maud CASIER	Ms. Madeleine CANCEMI	Mr. Gérard PERGENT	Mr. Sami BEN HAJ Ms. Maria Purificació CANALS I VENTÍN
Port-Cros National Park (France)	Ms. Maud CASIER	Mr. Guillaume SELLIER	Mr. Charles-François BOUDOURESQUE	Mr. Sami BEN HAJ Ms. Maria Purificació CANALS I VENTÍN
Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (France, Italy, Monaco)	Ms. Maud CASIER (France) Mr. Leonardo TUNESI (Italy) Mr. Raphaël SIMONET (Monaco)	Ms. Maria-Carmela GIARRATANO (<i>Chair of the Conference of the Parties to the Pelagos Agreement</i>) Mr. Florian EXPERT (<i>French Focal Point of the Pelagos Agreement</i>) Mr. Oliviero MONTANARO (<i>Italian Focal Point of the Pelagos Agreement</i>) Ms. Céline VAN KLAVEREN (<i>Monegasque Focal Point of the Pelagos Agreement</i>) Ms. Fannie DUBOIS (<i>Executive Secretary of the Pelagos Agreement</i>)	–	Mr. Chedly RAIS Ms. Marina SEQUEIRA
Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto (Italy)	Mr. Leonardo TUNESI	Mr. Alessandro CICOLELLA	Ms. Simona FRASCETTI	Mr. Philippe ROBERT Mr. Robert TURK
Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (Italy)	Mr. Leonardo TUNESI	Mr. Vittorio GAZALE	Mr. Riccardo CATTANEO-VIETTI	Mr. Philippe ROBERT Mr. Robert TURK
Marine Protected Area of Tavolara- Punta Coda Cavallo (Italy)	Mr. Leonardo TUNESI	Mr. Augusto NAVONE	Mr. Riccardo CATTANEO-VIETTI	Mr. Philippe ROBERT Mr. Robert TURK
Miramare Marine Protected Area (Italy)	Mr. Leonardo TUNESI	Mr. Maurizio SPOTO	Ms. Paola DEL NEGRO	Mr. Philippe ROBERT Mr. Robert TURK
Plemmirio Marine Protected Area (Italy)	Mr. Leonardo TUNESI	Ms. Rosalba RIZZO	Ms. Simona FRASCETTI	Mr. Philippe ROBERT Mr. Robert TURK
Punta Campanella Marine Protected Area (Italy)	Mr. Leonardo TUNESI	Mr. Tonino MICCIO	Mr. Gianni Fulvio RUSSO	Mr. Philippe ROBERT Mr. Robert TURK
Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco)	Mr. Zouhair AMHAOUCH	Mr. Mohamed JABRAN	Mr. Hocein BAZAIRI	Mr. Sami BEN HAJ Mr. Carlo FRANZOSINI
Alboran Island (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. Emilio RETAMOSA	Ms. Silvia REVENGA Mr. Hermelindo CASTRO	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS

Archipelago of Cabrera National Park (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. Jorge E. MORENO	Mr. Pep AMENGUAL RAMIS	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. Emilio RETAMOSA	Ms. Silvia REVENGA Mr. Hermelindo CASTRO	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Cap de Creus Natural Park (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Ms. Victoria RIERA	Mr. Bernat HEREU	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Columbretes Islands (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. José Luis PÉREZ SÓPENA	Ms. Silvia REVENGA Mr. Constantino SIMÓ Mr. Antonio BALLESTER	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. GONZALEZ RINCON	Ms. Silvia REVENGA Mr. Juan Faustino MARTINEZ FERNANDEZ	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. Ricardo SALAS	Mr. Julio DE LA ROZA	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Medes Islands (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. Marc MARÍ	Mr. Bernat HEREU	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (Spain)	Mr. Juan José ARECES MAQUEDA / Ms. Elena CONSUEGRA ALCALDE	Mr. Emilio RETAMOSA	Mr. Hermelindo CASTRO	Ms. Tundi AGARDY Mr. Chedly RAIS
Kneiss Islands (Tunisia)	Ms. Saba GUELLOUZ	Ms. Héla GUIDARA	Mr. Mohamed CHAIEB	Mr. Hocein BAZAIRI Mr. Guy-François FRISONI
La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia)	Ms. Saba GUELLOUZ	Mr. Anis ZARROUK	Mr. Sami BEN HAJ	Mr. Hocein BAZAIRI Mr. Guy-François FRISONI
Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia)	Ms. Saba GUELLOUZ	Ms. Héla GUIDARA	Mr. Sami BEN HAJ	Mr. Hocein BAZAIRI Mr. Guy-François FRISONI

According to the SPAMI review Procedure, RAC/SPA allocated resources from the ordinary budget of UNEP/MAP (Mediterranean Trust Fund: MTF) for the hiring of the independent experts and covering their visits expenses to the evaluated SPAMIs.

The Periodic Review Formats initially filled in by each SPAMI manager, were finalized during the site visit and endorsed by signature from all the members of the correspondent Technical Advisory Commission, and lastly forwarded to RAC/SPA by the concerned Focal Point for SPAs for each of the national SPAMIs, and by the Italian Focal Point for SPAs for the Pelagos SPAMI.

The full Periodic Review Formats for each of the twenty-two evaluated SPAMIs, in their original language: English or French, appear as Annex 1 to the present document (*Annex 1 - Formats of the Ordinary Periodic Review of the 22 SPAMIs filled in and signed by the respective Technical Advisory Commissions (in their original language: English or French)*¹).

According to the Procedure, the Conclusions, and Recommendations, of the 22 Technical Advisory Commissions are forwarded to the Twelfth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs. The Meeting will decide whether each of the SPAMIs remains in the ordinary review process or is considered for incorporation into the extraordinary review procedure.

The most recurrent recommendations were related to (i) the need of revising the Review Format based on the experience gained from the evaluations of SPAMIs undertaken so far and (ii) to further promote networking among SPAMIs.

The Conclusions and Recommendations, as well as the Comments provided by the Technical Advisory Commissions are presented as Annex 2 to the present document (*Annex 2 - Comments, Conclusions and Recommendations by the Technical Advisory Commissions entrusted with the Ordinary Periodic Review of the 22 SPAMIs*²).

¹ Annex 1 is available for downloading as a ZIP file at: <http://www.rac-spa.org/nfp12/>.

² Annex 2 is available for downloading as a PDF file at: <http://www.rac-spa.org/nfp12/>.