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- Agenda item 6: Conservation of sites of particular ecological interest**
- 6.3. List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List)**
 - 6.3.1. Ordinary Periodic Review of SPAMIs**

Report of the Special Event to Celebrate the first edition of the SPAMI Day 2022: SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean (Monaco, 20 May 2022)

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SPAMI day

The yearly celebration of the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance



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#SPAMIday2022
#ProtectMedDay



Report of the Special Event to celebrate the SPAMI Day 2022 Monaco, 20 May 2022



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« Grâce à vous tous et toutes, les aires marines spécialement protégées de Méditerranée reçoivent, enfin, l'attention qu'elles méritent. Il était temps, car les solutions demeurent encore insuffisamment développées et insuffisamment considérées malgré leur importance cruciale.¹ »

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco

"As you start to walk on the way, the way appears."

Rumi

¹ *"Thanks to all of you, the Mediterranean specially protected marine areas are eventually receiving the attention they deserve. It was time because the solutions are still underdeveloped and insufficiently considered despite their crucial importance."*

Special Event to Celebrate the SPAMI Day 2022: SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean

Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 20 May 2022

REPORT

I. Context

1. Following the entry into force of the Barcelona Convention's 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) in December 1999, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, gathered at their 12th ordinary meeting (COP 12) in Monaco, in November 2001, have established the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List).
2. The SPAMI List was established by virtue of Article 8 of the SPA/BD Protocol and aims at promoting cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas, as well as in the protection of threatened species and their habitats. 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 date, 39 marine and coastal protected areas, established and managed by eleven Contracting Parties are on the SPAMI List.
3. Since 2009, and in accordance with the provisions of the SPA/BD Protocol, SPAMIs are subject to ordinary periodic reviews, which take place every six years, starting from the date of their inclusion in the List. The different mixed (national and independent) technical advisory commissions responsible for the evaluations have often recommended to the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) to further promote cooperation, networking, and exchange among SPAMIs.
4. The "SPAMI Day" concept was developed to meet this specific need. It also aims to promote the visibility of the SPAMI List. COP 22 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021) adopted the concepts to set up the SPAMI Day and SPAMI Certificate, invited SPA/RAC to organize the first edition of the SPAMI Day in 2022 and encouraged the Contracting Parties to support and contribute to these celebrations ([Decision IG.25/12](#)).
5. The SPAMI Day aims to raise awareness and mobilize decision-makers, donors, national institutions, managers, civil society organizations, influencers and the general public on the challenges of Mediterranean ecosystem conservation and marine and coastal resources management through the creation and management of marine and coastal protected areas.
6. The SPAMI Day is celebrated on 15 April each year and alternates between two formats:
 - In the first year of the biennial cycle of the Barcelona Convention (e.g., 2022, 2024, 2026, etc.), the SPAMI Day is organized as a regional face-to-face event (ideally in a SPAMI); and
 - In the second year of the biennial cycle (e.g., 2023, 2025, 2027, etc.), the SPAMI Day is organized in the form of local public celebrations at SPAMI sites level throughout the Mediterranean, with the support and facilitation of SPA/RAC.

II. The Special event to celebrate the SPAMI Day 2022: SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean

7. Following the kind invitation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement, the first edition of the SPAMI Day took place in Monaco (at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco) on 20 May 2022. The SPAMI Day 2022 was co-organized by the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP - SPA/RAC) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement, in partnership with the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco.

8. The Pelagos Sanctuary for the conservation of marine mammals is the result of a cooperation agreement between three neighbouring Contracting Parties (France, Italy and Monaco). It is an outstanding example of cooperation to conserve the natural heritage of the Mediterranean. The Pelagos Sanctuary remains the largest marine protected area and SPAMI in the Mediterranean since its creation in 1999 and inclusion in the SPAMI List in 2001.

9. Given that “cooperation” is the primary objective behind the establishment of the SPAMI List, that the Pelagos Sanctuary is a good example of cooperation between neighbouring States, and that the environmental crisis we are experiencing cannot be solved without cooperation, the theme of “SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean” has been chosen for this first edition of the SPAMI Day.



1. Opening remarks and introduction

1.1. Welcoming of the participants

10 Mr Robert CALCAGNO, Chief Executive Officer of the Oceanographic Institute, Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco, welcomed the SPAMI Day initiative and thanked the Barcelona Convention, SPA/RAC and the Pelagos Secretariat for having chosen Monaco and the Museum as the venue for the event.

11 He stated that marine protected areas (MPAs) are at the heart of the programme of the Oceanographic Institute and part of its history. Prince Albert I, the founder of the museum, identified the dangers of overfishing and recognized the “confinement” principle - the very principle of MPAs - in his speech on the ocean at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, USA, in April 1921. The museum focuses on explaining the role of MPAs in marine conservation and in delivering sustainable socio-economic benefits. The museum also donates 5 cents per entry ticket to The MedFund, the conservation fund dedicated to Mediterranean MPAs.

12 Mr CALCAGNO finished by informing the participants that Monaco Explorations has a new mission in the Mediterranean starting in 2024, that will be visiting several ports around the Mediterranean in order to showcase local efforts and initiatives. He invited the participants who have ideas for events or wish for any support from Monaco to contact the museum.



1.2. Opening remarks

13 Mr Khalil ATTIA, Director of SPA/RAC, welcomed the participants and thanked them for joining the first SPAMI Day. He thanked the Principality of Monaco for hosting the event, the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement for their invitation and partnership, and the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco for their support.

14 Mr ATTIA explained the role of the SPAMI Day celebration in recognizing the managers' efforts, promoting cooperation and exchange among them, and raising awareness and mobilizing various stakeholders around Mediterranean ecosystem conservation and management.



15 Ms Tatjana HEMA, MAP Coordinator, thanked all the event partners and donors, and specially H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco for having placed the first edition of the SPAMI Day under his high patronage, and for His support to the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

16 She pointed out that the SPAMI Day celebration will be an annual call for action for the conservation of the vulnerable marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean region, through the demonstrative role that SPAMIs could have, to extend solutions and best practices to a larger scale. Ms HEMA added that the SPAMI Day will also provide an opportunity to advocate for the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, as well as its related measures and action plans.

17 She finished by commending the efforts of SPA/RAC in setting up a regional network for experience sharing among SPAMIs and MPAs, notably through the ambitious SPAMI Twinning Programme, set up under the bilateral Cooperation Agreement between MAP and the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition.



18 Ms Costanza FAVILLI, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement, declared being honoured to host this first SPAMI Day in the heart of the Principality of Monaco and the Pelagos Sanctuary, the only transboundary protected area dedicated to marine mammals in the Mediterranean. Referring to Article 16 of the Pelagos Agreement between France, Italy and Monaco, she acknowledged that the SPAMI status was in the DNA of the agreement.

19 Ms FAVILLI reported that the Pelagos SPAMI ordinary review of 2019 allowed a stimulating debate to assess the area, set priorities and objectives and identify areas for improvement. She also added that their involvement in the SPAMI Twinning Programme offered the Permanent Secretariat a concrete opportunity to interact with SPAMIs within and outside the sanctuary.

20 She also informed the meeting about the new management and action plan for the period 2022-2027 that was approved by the Contracting Parties and that brings a stronger and more inspiring vision for the Pelagos Sanctuary.



21 Mr Mehmet Emin BIRPINAR, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and Deputy Minister of the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye, thanked the organizers and conveyed the greetings of the Turkish Government to all the participants.

22 He highlighted the importance of marine and coastal protected areas and SPAMIs in mitigating the major threats that the Mediterranean Sea is facing, i.e., habitat loss, overexploitation of resources, coastal area urbanization and climate change.

23 Mr BIRPINAR talked about the exacerbated impact of climate change for which the Mediterranean region is a global hotspot. Hence, he called for long-term and coordinated efforts to prepare well-informed decision-making processes for climate change mitigation and adaptation scenarios and stressed the willingness of Türkiye to host and support these efforts.

24 He finished his speech by commemorating the late Ms June Haimoff, also known as “Kaptan June”, an English environmentalist and the mother of *Caretta caretta* in Türkiye, who passed away in April 2022 in Dalyan, Türkiye, at the age of ninety-nine. He praised her lifetime endeavour dedicated to sea turtle conservation in Türkiye and informed the participants that a monument will be established in her memory in Dalyan.



25 Ms Zouhour METHAMEM HELALI, Cheffe de Cabinet of the Minister of Environment of Tunisia, greeted the participants on behalf of Ms Leila CHIKHAOUI MAHDAOUI, Minister of Environment of Tunisia and President of The MedFund.

26 She informed the meeting about the efforts of Tunisia in nature conservation and sustainable development, including the establishment of a National Programme for the creation of marine and coastal protected areas, a Programme for sustainable development, a National Strategy for plastic-free coast and a National Strategy for Blue Economy that is under development. She also stressed the efforts that Tunisia is deploying to set up effective management in its established MPAs and SPAMIs, in a joint effort between the governmental authorities and the civil society organizations.



1.3. Introduction to the programme of the day

27 After the opening remarks, the detailed programme of the day was briefly exposed, including the high-level segment anticipated during the afternoon in the presence of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

2. Forum of discussion: Cooperation among SPAMIs: opportunities and perspectives

2.1. Introductory presentation by SPA/RAC

2. Ms Souha EL ASMI, Programme Officer (Specially Protected Areas) at SPA/RAC, presented the SPAMI List history, objectives, criteria, review, and listing/delisting procedures; followed by Ms Saba GUELLOUZ, Project Officer (SPAMI Twinning Programme) at SPA/RAC, that presented the SPAMI Collaborative Platform and SPAMI Twinning Programme completed and ongoing phases, including the activities supported by the ENI-CBC-Med project for “Enhancing socio-ecological resilience in Mediterranean coastal areas” (ENSERES) and by the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition.

2.2. Forum of discussion about the top priority topics of cooperation among SPAMIs

3. This forum of discussion is made of three consecutive mini-roundtables and aims at discussing the top priority areas of cooperation and exchange among SPAMI managers, practitioners and other stakeholders, as relevant. The priority topics of cooperation were selected based on a round of consultation with SPAMI managers, made prior to the event. The top three voted topics were: Effective management, Governance, and Exchange of experience and capacity-building; and constituted the topics of discussion of the forum.

4. The idea of the forum is to hear from SPAMI managers about their burning priorities and how these priorities could be addressed in the framework of bilateral or multilateral cooperation within the SPAMI network and through the SPAMI Twinning Programme dynamic. Views and contributions from regional partners and stakeholders participating in the event were also sought.

5. The forum was co-facilitated by Ms Souha EL ASMI and Ms Saba GUELLOUZ. Ms Lobna BEN NAKHLA, Programme Officer (Species Conservation) and Mr Atef LIMAM, Project Officer (Marine Protected Areas) at SPA/RAC, acted as rapporteurs.

Topic 1 : Effective management

6. Three SPAMI managers were invited to the stage as panelists and were requested to provide their experience and views on the topic of effective management.

7. Mr Jean Michel CULIOLI, Head of the Protected Areas Department at the Office of Environment of Corsica, speaking on behalf of the Bouches de Bonifacio Nature Reserve/SPAMI (France), presented the nature reserve, including its management measures and zoning. He stated that management effectiveness should be monitored both at ecological and socio-economic levels. In the Bouches de Bonifacio, the monitoring of the brown meagre fish population showed an increase in biomass that had a positive impact on fishers' profitability. He stressed that artisanal fisheries are an important cultural pillar to be protected against industrial fisheries that should be banned in several respects.

8. SPAMIs should be able to federate as well as coerce, for example, yachting activities whose anchorage impairs the integrity of Posidonia meadows should be limited through quotas. The emerging challenge of fully or highly protected areas should be envisaged in more MPAs around the Mediterranean. This kind of regulation has a detrimental role in enhancing the SPAMI network connectivity. MPA certifications and labels are important to keep the momentum. SPAMIs for example should play the role of lighthouses for other MPAs. The effectiveness should be monitored, certified then transferred.



9. Ms Marina ARGYROU, Director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) of Cyprus and speaking on behalf of the Lara Toxeftra Turtle Reserve/SPAMI, informed the gathering that Cyprus has declared the Lara-Toxeftra Turtle Reserve as a SPAMI in 2013 for the protection of the most important nesting beaches for *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta* in Cyprus. These beaches are some of the few nesting areas of the Green Turtle, the most endangered marine turtle in the Mediterranean. The area also includes *Posidonia oceanica* meadows as well as the Mediterranean Monk Seal which uses some small caves for resting.

10. The area has been protected by the Fisheries Law and Regulations since 1989. The Fisheries Regulations prohibit from the 1st of June up to the 30th of September: camping, the use of umbrellas and sunbeds, the presence of people in the area at night, the use of vehicles on the beaches, entering and anchoring of boats and fishing (with any means except with rod and line from the shore) in the sea area down to 20 metres. It is noted that the passage or mooring of a boat in the area is prohibited from May 1st until October 31st. Holders of small-scale coastal fishing professional licenses are exempt from the transit ban in May and October of each year. According to the Fisheries Regulations, it is also prohibited to capture, kill, buy, possess, or sell a marine turtle, as well as its eggs, or any attempt to do any of these.

11. A turtle monitoring programme has been ongoing since 1978, covering both Green and Loggerhead turtles. The project aims at (i) protecting and managing the important nesting beaches, (ii) protecting eggs and hatchlings from predation and from human activities, (iii) protecting adult turtles, (iv) monitoring the turtle population and nesting activity in Cyprus, and (v) raising public awareness in turtle conservation. The monitoring programme shows positive results with very significant increases in both turtles' nesting activity. Specifically in 1978, there were 300 turtle nests. In the past few years, this number has increased to around 1500 nests. The nesting of *Chelonia mydas* has increased from 90 nests in 2012 to 300 nests in 2020 within the SPAMI site. Therefore, it can be concluded that the management plan is being successfully and effectively implemented.



12. One of the biggest challenges that Lara Toxeftra reserve faces are finding the balance between conservation and local development as well as an increase in human visitation. There has been a saga of conflict between developers and the government (and conservationists) over the use of the area for tourism development. Although there is no regular habitation in the Lara-Toxeftra Turtle Reserve, visitation is high, especially in the summer season, largely due to the Turtle Project and the opportunity for people to see live turtle hatchlings. Guided ecotourism trips are common during daylight hours in the breeding season. Human presence on the beaches at night is strictly prohibited during the nesting season, although some minor incidents were recorded of people illegally staying overnight to observe the nesting activity.

13. Due to this increase in human visitation in the area there was a great need of ensuring effective surveillance and control enforcement along with public awareness. To achieve this, park rangers dedicated to the area were hired. Furthermore, new signs were installed in 2020 along the protected area referring to the regulations that are implemented in the area and the information centre is currently being upgraded in order to provide better public awareness of the importance of the area and its protected species. It is of great importance for the general public to understand the need of protecting the area. In addition to the presence of park rangers and information signs in the area, having significant penalties for illegal activities can also act as a prevention mechanism. It is noted that the existing legislative framework in relation to illegal activities within the area allows for fines of up to 8,560 euros and/or up to six months imprisonment.

14. The needs and focus of Cyprus are currently on effective surveillance and promoting awareness not only during the nesting season but throughout the year, by having presentations in schools, participating in special events, promoting protection and conservation through media, etc. In order to be efficient, there is a need for capacity building and an increase in human resources. Exchanging good practices, especially in the effective surveillance and public awareness among SPAMIs can be very beneficial since we can identify what works best and implement it for other sites. Cyprus is always happy and willing to participate and share knowledge and experiences with other SPAMI managers around the Mediterranean.

15. Ms Lorela LAZAJ, Director of the Marine National Park of Karaburun Sazan, Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) (Albania), informed the participants that Karaburun-Sazan has few changes in its legal framework and zoning, however, the area remains the same. The area has a management plan and a business plan.

16. The area is internationally recognized for its natural value as it counts 36 marine endangered species at the Mediterranean level, including Posidonia meadows, Cystoseira forests and coralligenous priority habitats.

17. Effective management of the park is quite a difficult task. Managers should find the right balance between the activities that should be allowed and those that should be banned or regulated.

18. In order to monitor management measures' effectiveness, ten monitoring protocols aiming at regularly collecting data on the quality and distribution of key habitats and species, were put in place.

19. The most important pressure is coming from boating. When the MPA started only 2 boats were operating in the area, presently 16 boats with a capacity of 30 to 200 passengers visit the MPA daily. It is a priority to try to regulate this kind of activity.

20. Patrolling allows enforcement. Thanks to the support of The MedFund, extra rangers will join the RAPA staff.

21. Albania is developing a legal framework that will allow protected areas to have their own revenues, by implementing fees for example, and have these revenues invested back in the area.



22. The facilitators thanked the panelists for sharing their experiences and asked for feedback from the room.

23. Ms Sana TAKTAK, President of the NGO “Association of the Continuity of Generations” (ACG) and speaking on behalf of the Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Tunisia), talked about the importance of working in an integrated manner with the stakeholders including governmental, non-governmental bodies and the local population. The vision and management plan should be shared by everyone in order to ensure the protected area’s sustainability. This is the way the Kneiss Islands management is operating.



24. Ms Awatef ABIADH, Programme Manager at the NGO “Association for the Protection of the Ecological and Natural Heritage of Cap Bon” (ASPEN) and speaking on behalf of the Zembra and Zembretta National Park/SPAMI (Tunisia), highlighted the importance of operationalizing the SPAMI network and of sharing experiences at a small scale in order to conserve at a larger scale. She also mentioned the experience of invasive species management in Zembra and Zembretta, involving all stakeholders. According to her, effective management should be integrated involving the contribution of the government, civil society organizations, local populations, and the private sector that rely on SPAMIs as an income source.

Topic 2 : Governance

25. Under the governance topic, two other SPAMI managers were invited to provide their experience and ideas.

26. Mr Robert TURK, Vice-President of the Council of the Public Institute Landscape Park Strunjan/SPAMI (Slovenia) said that he's in several respects happy to be at this special event: (i) He was present and contributed to the preparation and approval of the SPA/BD Protocol in 1995; (ii) Slovenia has included the Landscape Park Strunjan on the SPAMI List in 2019; and (iii) it is great to have a Day and number of activities devoted to SPAMs that are supposed to be the lighthouses for other MPAs in the region.

27. The Slovenian law foresees 4 different possibilities for the management of a protected area: (i) by a national governmental or local authority that put up a public institute to manage the area, (ii) by an NGO, (iii) by an office of the ministry of the local authority, or (iv) by a private company, like the Sečovlje saltworks Landscape Management Park that is managed by a private company that produces salt.

28. In Slovenia, the conservation targets/goals are very well defined in the management plans, which is a very important thing, given that a detailed management plan is the first step into efficient and good governance.

29. It is true however that good governance does not depend only on the management of the area. There is a need to have a good working environment for the MPA, i.e., all the sectors involved in the marine realm must do their job. We could have excellent management of the protected area and if all that is around is not walking in the same direction, it will not really help.

30. Slovenia is trying to solve that in the framework of marine spatial planning (MSP). An MSP plan was adopted, within which marine conservation is well structured, with MPAs, enlargement of MPAs and new MPAs, but at the same time with activities by other sectors.



31. Mr Francesco DE FRANCO, Officer at the Torre Guaceto Management Consortium (Italy), began by acknowledging that this day of celebration is well-deserved but should serve to focus on what is still needed to be done, rather than solely on what has already been accomplished.

32. MPAs are critical for the protection of Mediterranean biodiversity. Protected ecosystems are playing a central role in human well-being, through ecosystem services like coastal protection and providing food. These services contribute millions of euros to gross domestic products.

33. The level of human pressure is increasing creating cumulative impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Overfishing is depleting the stocks. Ocean acidification and microplastics are compromising the food chains. Destructive practices, like trawling, are making disappear key habitats.

34. The past two years have highlighted our ability to react to planetary crises with drastic measures. Therefore, in order to protect Mediterranean biodiversity, new emergency tools are needed. We need to do more than what is currently being done and ensure that sufficient operating funds are guaranteed for the functioning of MPAs with well-trained and permanent staff.

35. The centrality of MPAs in governance should be reaffirmed, particularly in issues such as fishing, tourism, marine spatial planning, human uses, and the blue economy.

36. Law enforcement is crucial, and adequate and effective surveillance, providing MPA rangers with specific legal competencies, is necessary.

37. Fast administrative rules for the approval of management plans and regulations are needed. Financial mechanisms for restoring the use of ecosystem services should be guaranteed.

38. We need to reinforce the bond with local communities by involving them in the new co-management models and to support ecological and management networking among MPAs.

39. Our goal is the protection of the Mediterranean biodiversity, and we need to have the right tools to do it at best.



40. The facilitators thanked the panelists for sharing their vision on the governance topic and opened the floor for interaction from the audience.

41. Mr Jorge ALONSO RODRÍGUEZ, from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain, mentioned that good governance is linked to effective management because once the SPAMIs management plans are approved, national competent authorities need to implement them. This means that all the regulations of uses and activities that have been defined need to be assumed and respected by stakeholders and users of the sites. Considering that many SPAMIs are in remote areas where monitoring is not always easy, stakeholders are needed in order to ensure that the management plan is implemented and respected.

42. Mr ALONSO also stressed the importance of enabling processes to define the management measures together with all stakeholders including citizens, the scientific community, and public managers in order to share the diagnosis of the different threats that are occurring in the different sites and try to find solutions collectively. When the assessment is made together, the proposed management measures are understood, assumed and implemented by all the stakeholders.



43. Mr Romain RENOUX, Executive Director of The MedFund, recalled that to be able to manage an MPA and set up shared governance mechanisms, financial means are needed. This was among the reasons that led to the creation of The MedFund, a financing tool dedicated to Mediterranean MPAs. SPAMIs are privileged partners of The MedFund: five out of the eight MPAs that The MedFund is financing are SPAMIs. The MedFund's Board of Directors has decided to dedicate a specific window to the financing of highly and fully protected MPAs, which is supported by the MAVA Foundation.



44. Ms Sana TAKTAK, President of the ACG NGO, Tunisia, pointed out that the Kneiss SPAMI is financially supported by a tripartite convention between The MedFund, APAL (the governmental body in charge of MPAs) and ACG. This governance mechanism brought further comfort and opportunities for MPA management. She said that we can never do enough communication and knowledge sharing with the general public and local communities, with the support of media and NGOs, because people are still overwhelmed with all the existent terminology, e.g., MPAs, SPAMIs, etc.

Topic 3 : Exchange of experience and capacity-building

45. To speak about the topic related to the exchange of best practices, capacity-building and empowerment of managers, two panelists were requested to provide a few minutes of feedback from their experience on that topic.

46. Ms Marwa DOUMA, Senior Engineer at the Directorate of Coastal Ecosystems Management of the Agency for the Protection and Development of the Coast (APAL) and speaking on behalf of La Galite, Zembra and Zembretta, and Kneiss SPAMIs (Tunisia), declared that she wanted to share the experience of Tunisia in MPA management and networking and exchange of experience. Tunisia has made efforts for the protection of marine areas since the mid-90s through the Ministry of Environment and APAL, which set up the structures and recruited employees of multidisciplinary profiles, as a requirement for management. To date, the National MCPA Strategy involves 12 MCPA sites, including 3 SPAMIs.

47. She stated that to progress towards its goals of effective management, the APAL has developed strong cooperation frameworks with SPA/RAC, MedPAN and The MedFund. There have been many exchange visits and experience-sharing opportunities between APAL managers and other MPA managers from around the Mediterranean. Tunisian managers have benefited from experiences and best practices on various topics like tourism management, artisanal fishing, scientific monitoring protocols for fauna and flora, ecological engineering, seagrass meadows conservation, etc. Recently and through the SPAMI Twinning Programme, the Kneiss Islands managers were able to exchange experiences with the Egadi Islands managers (Italy) about management methods.

48. She finished by informing the audience about the ongoing process aiming to strengthen the legal frameworks of the three SPAMIs, by enacting them as MCPAs. She also acknowledged the role of The MedFund's support in building the capacities of the Tunisian SPAMI managers and supporting the recurrent management activities in these areas, through co-management schemes bringing together governmental and non-governmental bodies.



49. Mr Ali BADREDDINE, Researcher from the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI, Lebanon, after having acknowledged the importance of the SPAMI Day celebration to share ideas and design conservation solutions, has introduced the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, as a small MPA in Southern Lebanon, known as the marine turtles' MPA of the country. Besides the turtle monitoring and rescue activities, the Tyre Coast Reserve is spending a lot of effort in education and awareness-raising activities on marine turtles and other marine species and ecosystems. These activities target various groups like fishers, students, local communities and local authorities (e.g., municipalities). Thanks to this kind of activity, Tyre Coast is now acting as the national operating centre for sea turtles' conservation. The MPA is also contacted from all around Lebanon for all kinds of stranded species along the coast. They are also working on marine litter impacts and how to deal with this emerging issue.

50. Mr BADREDDINE stressed that capacity building is important at this stage, especially because the Tyre Coast SPAMI is updating its management plan with the technical support of SPA/RAC and the financial support of the European Union. He also commended the importance of the SPAMI Twinning Programme in helping managers to share ideas concerning concrete management activities, exchange visits among twinned SPAMIs and take advantage of tools developed by other MPAs. He finally recommended always working on natural resource preservation before thinking about restoration actions or similar.



51. Ms Sana TAKTAK, President of the ACG NGO, Tunisia, reacted that the SPAMI Day itself is a capacity building and exchange opportunity. She requested to further open these international fora for local populations and NGOs, as an exchange opportunity. She pointed out that the SPAMI Twinning Programme is a very interesting experience, that should be sustained in the long term. Sustainability could be improved by twinning SPAMIs that have similar objectives and problems.

52. Ms Awatef ABIADH, representing ASPEN NGO, Tunisia, affirmed that the exchange of experience could be North/South, South/North, South/South, but also at the country level. Tunisia has for example 3 SPAMIs that could exchange experience and expertise. This is maybe done presently but not in a strategic way. According to her, the North/South and South/North exchange have limits because the South does not have the same financial and human resources as the North, so the Northern solutions could not be literally replicated in the South.

53. Concerning the previous topic about management planning, she added that it is important to have management plans, but it is more important to provide the means to implement them. There is an improvement in the governance frameworks with partnerships between governmental bodies and civil society organisations along with stakeholder involvement, but this issue still needs to be improved in the near future, at least in SPAMIs.



54. Mr Robert TURK, representative of Strunjan Park, Slovenia, proposed that the SPAMI Twinning Programme exchange visits should involve stakeholders other than managers, e.g., tourist operators, fishers or other actors involved in the management or in the governance of the whole area.

55. Mr Ali BADREDDINE added that communication is directly linked to capacity-building and is even at the heart of successful capacity-building. People involved in the reserve should know the value of the natural resources and how they can use them for their benefit but in the proper way in view of their conservation and sustainability.

2.3. Roundtable: The Pelagos Agreement and the SPAMIs and MPAs within the Sanctuary: sharing experiences and solutions to improve cooperation

56. The idea of the roundtable is to hear from SPAMI and MPA managers about their experiences, solutions and proposals to improve concrete measures and cooperation for the protection of marine mammals and their habitat within the Pelagos Sanctuary in the framework of the new Pelagos Management Plan 2022-2027. Views and contributions from partners, stakeholders and members of the Pelagos Working Group on SPAMIs and MPAs participating in the event are also sought.

Introductory presentation by the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement

57. Ms Costanza FAVILLI, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement, recalled the objectives of the roundtable and invited the panelists to join her on the stage.

58. She started the roundtable by presenting the Pelagos Agreement signature in 1999 and entry into force in 2002. The Pelagos area was included in the SPAMI List in 2001 as the first international MPA in the Mediterranean.

59. The Pelagos area was primarily identified because it is particularly rich in pelagic charismatic cetacean species: the fin whale, the Cuvier's beaked whale, the Sperm whale and the Pilot whale. The importance of this ecosystem is clearly broader and more complex to be able to sustain such diversity. The Pelagos area includes more than 100 MPAs, marine parks and Natura 2000 sites of various sizes. It encompasses 3 SPAMIs and 2 Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs).

60. The Pelagos Agreement Secretariat was able to establish concrete links with the protected areas and SPAMIs within the Sanctuary area, thanks to various existent tools, including the Pelagos partnership Charter, that targets mainly riparian municipalities (152 adhering municipalities so far) and aims at creating a strong network of local partners to promote the ideas of the Sanctuary and implement practical measures in favour of marine mammals. This tool should be further promoted in the protected areas within the Pelagos area.

61. Another important tool of the Pelagos Agreement is the Pelagos Ambassadors, that is targeting persons working at sea that can become ambassadors and promote the Sanctuary objectives and measures. This ambassador network will be further promoted in the frame of the Pelagos Management and action Plan 2022-2023.

62. The ACCOBAMS-Pelagos Code of Conduct and "High Quality Whale Watching®" is another tool that could be further developed and promoted with the Pelagos MPAs.

63. Awareness-raising is a prerequisite for conservation. The sanctuary management plan includes this important topic. The Parties to the agreement are very committed to raising public environmental awareness, through the charismatic species that are marine mammals. Ms FAVILLI mentioned that the day before, the Pelagos Secretariat and SPA/RAC co-organised a workshop on whales and dolphins targeting school students from 2 pilot classes from Monaco, 1 pilot class from Nice (France) and 1 pilot class from San Remo (Italy). The Pelagos Secretariat wishes to sustain exchanges and activities with these pilot classes in the future.

64. A new working group on the Pelagos MPAs and SPAMIs was recently established and is coordinated by Mr Leonardo TUNESI. This working group will play a role in making the Pelagos agreement federate common activities and vision through the MPAs and SPAMIs network within the Pelagos area.

65. Ms. FAVILLI informed the meeting about ongoing contacts between the Pelagos Sanctuary and other sanctuaries within and outside the Mediterranean like the French Agoa Sanctuary and the Spanish Corridor for cetacean migration of Spain.

Experiences, solutions and proposals by SPAMIs in the Pelagos area

66. Mr André GROSSET, from the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean of France, presented the Port-Cros National Park which is the first French marine park established in 1963 and extended in 2012. Port-Cros is playing the role of facilitator of the French part of Pelagos. The park coordinates a number of activities aiming at protecting marine mammals in the French area of Pelagos, following the Parties resolutions and in cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement.

67. Activities include whale-watching regulation, through for example the “High Quality Whale Watching®” label. In order to go further on this topic, France enacted ministerial or prefectural decrees allowing to ban navigation and swimming around marine mammals in marine protected areas.

68. Another priority action is related to regulating activities which affect marine mammals, like offshore races. This activity is forbidden by Italian law since 2001. This activity has developed in France after the COVID-19 deconfinement, leading to environmental and security problems. For this reason, the Maritime Prefect decided to ban the organisation of offshore races within some MPAs including Pelagos. The decree is presently undergoing a public consultation process.



69. Mr Jean-Michel CULIOLI from the Bouches de Bonifacio Nature Reserve (France) started by mentioning the problem of industrial fishers who come to fish on the edge of the reserve and his wish to see industrial fishing banned from these areas and the Pelagos sanctuary in general. The population of *Tursiops truncatus* and their interactions with fisheries are monitored in the Bouches de Bonifacio reserve.

70. The Bouches de Bonifacio transferred its knowledge to the whole Corsican Island, including in Natura 2000 sites. This involves data collection on fisheries and interactions with cetaceans. This data is transferred at the European Union level.

71. SPAMIs should lead a positive dynamic within the dedicated Pelagos working group, including data sharing among the MPAs within the Pelagos sanctuary, and improving knowledge on connectivity.

72. It is important also to accelerate the process of creating MPAs with effective protection and no-take zones, within the Pelagos sanctuary which is undergoing high human pressure. Ideally, such non-disturbance areas would allow the return of the monk seal to the Western Mediterranean basin.



73. Ms Valentina CAPPANERA, from the Portofino MPA/SPAMI (Italy) presented the Portofino MPA which was established in 1999 and included in the SPAMI List in 2005, as the first Italian SPAMI. The area includes various ecosystems including coralligenous, pre-coralligenous and Posidonia meadows. The MPA implemented a project on the conservation of the bottlenose dolphin through the implementation of an interference-avoiding system (2 buoys) capable to track dolphins, identify threats and prevent collisions by diffusing real-time warning messages to all stakeholders involved.

74. The Portofino MPA was able to transfer its knowledge to the other Italian MPAs in the Pelagos area through a dedicated network established in 2019. This network implemented awareness-raising activities and seabed cleanings throughout the Italian Pelagos area.

75. The future perspectives for such an initiative should include (i) the implementation of cooperation activities with the other MPAs within the Pelagos area, (ii) contributing to the implementation of the Pelagos action plan, and (iii) engaging other key actors in the network (e.g., private companies). Given financial constraints, the Portofino MPA would not be able to play the exact same role of scientific facilitation as the Port-Cros National Park is playing for the French area, however, the network is ready to contribute to the positive dynamics initiated with the Pelagos Sanctuary in cooperation with the Secretariat of the agreement.



76. The Executive Secretary of the Pelagos Agreement thanks the panelists for their contribution and mentioned that these will be used in the works of the working group on MPAs within the sanctuary area.

77. Ms Marina ARGYROU, from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of Cyprus, made an interaction with the panellists. She informed the meeting that Cyprus has established a big offshore area for *Tursiops truncatus* and no-take zones around the monk seal breeding zones. These measures faced a strong reaction from fishers, tourist boats and other sea users. She asked about possible compensation schemes for fishers that have their fishing nets and longlines damaged by cetaceans, and about speed control measures that could be replicated in her country. She mentioned that there is a need for management measures in those areas that could be accepted by the stakeholders.

78. Jean-Michel CULIOLI told her that this is a very complex topic, and that this kind of “crusades” is however highly needed. Compromises should be sought with sea users in view of sustainable use of the sea supplemented by legal measures that should be enforced and monitored, to prove their effectiveness.

79. Mr André GROSSET stated that to avoid collisions, speed should be limited, especially for bigger ships. Many other tools like REPCET could be used. He also pointed out that new technologies would help set up more efficient measures in the future.

80. Ms Marwa DOUMA, from APAL, Tunisia, asked about the existence of a stakeholders committee for the management of Pelagos, and about the existence of a tool for evaluating ecosystem status.

81. The Executive Secretary of the Agreement informed her about the existence of a French Committee and of an Italian Steering Committee for Pelagos. These bodies allow exchange and experience sharing among all the stakeholders at a national level. The outcomes of such national committees are also forwarded at the international level of the Pelagos agreement.

82. Ms CAPPANERA, from Portofino MPA, explained that the MPA at its early stages was fought by all the stakeholders. However, nowadays thanks to involvement, capacity-building, and education efforts, stakeholders are more supportive of the protected area. Concerning ecosystem status, she said that Genova University being part of the MPA management consortium is very important for scientific monitoring activities. These monitoring activities are made with the objective of adaptive management and of measuring management effectiveness.

83. Jean-Michel CULIOLI added that MPA scientific monitoring should be validated, and quality assured by scientific bodies. In this respect, MPAs may also have a scientific committee to play this role.

3. Wrap-up and way forward

84. Ms Lobna BEN NAKHLA and Mr Atef LIMAM, rapporteurs of the roundtable, presented the following conclusions and recommendations of the morning sessions.



3.1. Forum of discussion: Cooperation among SPAMIs, opportunities and perspectives:

85. The main conclusions and recommendations brought out by the forum of discussion among SPAMI managers were as follows:

86. Topic 1: Effective management:

- The need to measure management effectiveness on ecosystems but also on socio-economic activities (federate and constrain).
- The need to integrate new areas of enhanced/strong protection.
- Develop collaboration/cooperation among SPAMIs to ensure connectivity.
- SPAMIs should be hotspot areas to increase, certify and transfer best practices for management effectiveness.
- Combine management with continuous scientific monitoring.
- Ensure a financial support for the management through national and external funds and opportunities.
- Involvement of all the stakeholders in an integrated manner including decision-makers, managers, local communities, civil society organisations and the private sector, etc., to reach effective and sustainable management.

87. Topic 2: Governance:

- A well-designed management plan in a participatory and integrated manner constitutes a first step for good governance.
- Relationships with the local communities should be strengthened by involving them in new co-management models.
- Enforcement and adequate surveillance should be established and strengthened; MPA managers should be provided with legal competencies.
- Permanent human and financial capacities should be guaranteed.
- Common discussion fora for SPAMIs should be created for diagnosis, solution proposals and monitoring.
- Governance is closely linked to effective management which is dependent on sustainable funding (i.e., The MedFund, ...)

88. Topic 3: Exchange of experience and capacity-building:

- SPAMI Twinning Programmes should be continued and strengthened.
- North/South, South/North, South/South and national SPAMI Twinning Programmes and exchange of experiences should be promoted.
- Besides managers, involve other stakeholders in the exchange of experience and capacity-building programmes.
- Capacity building on communication and other emerging topics such as marine litter, climate change, should be promoted.



89. Mr Rocky MALATESTA, President of the Consortium of Management of Torre Guaceto, reacted to the presented conclusions and added that the success of marine protected areas is not only dependent on their internal human and financial resources but also on their virtuous governance processes involving local communities. He told the story of the Torre Guaceto area that fifty years ago was intended to host a nuclear power plant, and how volunteers from WWF Italy at that time were able to generate in the population a desire for transformation.

90. The Torre Guaceto MPA was the first MPA in Italy for sustainable fishing. It includes a multi-use area that is employed for small-scale fishing. Its fishery rules were elaborated with a participation process involving resident fishers. The resulting protocol established that local fishers have exclusive access rights inside the MPA, and that they can only operate there once per week, and only use large mesh nets to avoid capturing juveniles. As a result of this process, the income generated inside the MPA is twice as much as in neighbouring waters, and fishers decided to use large-mesh nets also outside the MPA. The fishers become strong advocates of the MPA and pushed for its expansion.



3.2. Roundtable: The Pelagos Agreement and the SPAMIs and MPAs within the Sanctuary: sharing experiences and solutions to improve cooperation

91. The main conclusions and recommendations brought out by the roundtable on SPAMIs and MPAs within the Pelagos Sanctuary were as follows:

- Importance of the Pelagos partnership Charter, Pelagos ambassadors, I Working Group on MPAs and SPAMIs and transboundary awareness as tools to enforce and strengthen the impact of the Pelagos Agreement.
- Scientific credibility should be guaranteed in the Pelagos management process.
- Further develop the network with experts, Academic Centres and Universities, relevant IGOs inside and outside the Pelagos agreement area, as well as signatory municipalities of the Pelagos Partnership Charter and Pelagos ambassadors;
- The Pelagos Working Group on MPAs and SPAMIs could become a room for exchanges amongst the Pelagos MPA managers on concrete topics and the results of these discussions may be periodically presented at the SPA/RAC's events.
- Network of MPAs can be more effective for an integrated conservation strategy than just one MPA (especially on cetaceans' conservation).



4. High-level segment



92. Mr Khalil ATTIA, SPA/RAC Director, expressed his deepest gratitude to H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco for hosting the first SPAMI Day event in the Principality, for honouring it by His presence and for His continuous support for the environmental cause and marine biodiversity conservation. Mr ATTIA also thanked the Oceanographic Institute for their support to the organisation of the event and the Permanent Secretariat for the Pelagos Agreement for their valuable partnership.

93. He stated that this celebration that comes at the beginning of a new conservation decade in the framework of the UN Convention for Biological Diversity should not hide the weaknesses hindering the progress in the Mediterranean Sea conservation. He mentioned that several declared MPAs do not have management plans and many of those that do have management plans do not implement and enforce them properly, mainly due to the lack of sufficient and sustainable funds, institutional capacities, and adequate and inclusive governance models. That's why the Mediterranean States adopted at the Barcelona Convention COP 22, in December 2021, a Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region, the "Post-2020 SAPBIO", as well as a Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean.

94. Mr ATTIA recognized that the biggest challenge remains the gap between North and South in terms of means and capacities, and how to bridge this gap so that people from the Southern and Northern rims would be able to achieve together the objectives set by the 2030 horizon. In this respect, the Barcelona Convention offers the best regional framework for cooperation to achieve these ambitious and unavoidable goals of restoring marine ecosystems and achieving good environmental status in the Mediterranean.

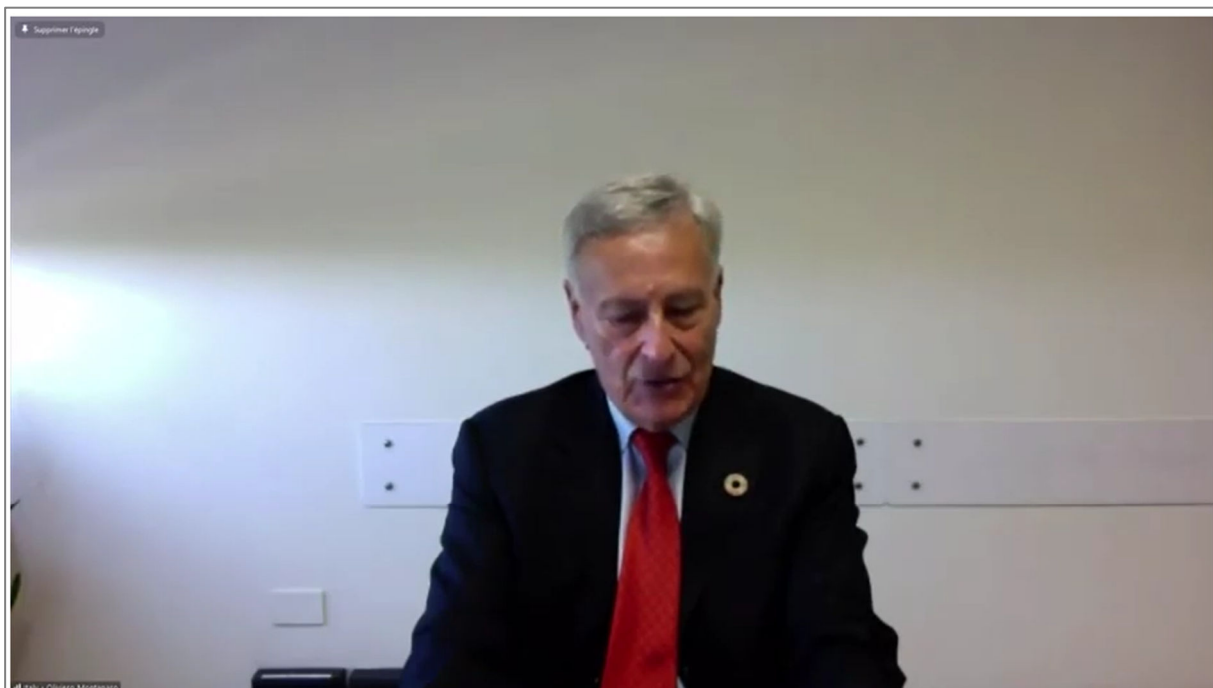
95. In this context, SPAMIs were established as exemplary MPAs serving as frameworks for bilateral and multilateral cooperation to exchange good practices and transfer sustainable solutions among the various realities around the Mediterranean. The SPAMI Twinning Programme initiated in 2018 was cited

as an example. The first phase was supported by the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and allowed the twinning of four Italian MPAs/SPAMIs with four SPAMIs from Albania, Algeria, Slovenia and Tunisia. This programme is being continued with the support of Italian cooperation as well as the ENI CBC Med-funded ENSESRES project, where SPAMIs from France and Spain joined the twinning programme dynamic.

96. Mr Oliviero MONTANARO, General Director of Natural Heritage and Sea, Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties of the Pelagos Agreement, and expressing himself through teleconference, thanked the organizers and hosts of the event and recalled the importance of the Pelagos agreement in the protection of cetaceans and the recent steps taken for its harmonization and good governance.

97. He also recognised the importance of the SPAMI tool established in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and renewed the commitment of Italy to promoting good management practices and experiences, especially in the framework of the SPAMI Twinning Programme.

98. Mr MONTANARO conveyed the aim of the Pelagos Agreement to strengthen the dialogue among the SPAMIs and MPAs within the sanctuary area with the support and facilitation of the Permanent Secretariat, especially regarding the aspects of communication and governance, notably through the setting up of dedicated working groups, gathering various experts and stakeholders. He also claimed his full support to the North-Western Mediterranean PSSA as an additional governance tool in view of sound conservation of vulnerable ecosystems and species.



Special event to celebrate the SPAMI Day 2022

99. Ms Tatjana HEMA, MAP Coordinator reiterated her sincere thanks to the Monegasque hosts of the SPAMI Day, on behalf of UNEP/MAP. She recalled the role that the Barcelona Convention is playing as a regional framework for the conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity and the establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs); and reaffirmed the role of SPAMIs in the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the region in areas within or beyond the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Parties; and cited the example of the Pelagos Sanctuary as pioneer experience in transboundary conservation among France, Italy and Monaco.

100. Ms HEMA indicated that the SPAMI Day celebration should be an opportunity to think about policies and measures that would allow us to move forward even beyond the confines of SPAMIs because behind the fascinating natural picture of the Mediterranean, a shocking reality is barely hidden: the effects of the triple environmental crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change are unfolding with great acuity in the Mediterranean.

101. The MAP Coordinator evoked the historic decision adopted at the Barcelona Convention COP 22 to designate the entire Mediterranean Sea as a Sulphur Oxides Emission Control Area (Med SO_x ECA), and still pending adoption by the IMO bodies. This decision will bring considerable benefits to human health and natural biodiversity.

102. She informed the gathering that UNEP/MAP will serve as a regional coordination platform for the PAMEx initiative launched by France: Action Plan for an Exemplary Mediterranean by 2030.

103. Ms HEMA brought to light the ambitious strategies recently adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention COP 22 in Antalya, namely the post-2020 strategic action programme for biodiversity (Post-2020 SAPBIO) and the Post-2020 Mediterranean Strategy for MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

104. She also recalled the need for accelerating collective efforts and nourishing cooperation and synergy. The key factors for success lie in two fundamental lines of action: the legal and institutional reforms and the human and financial means of implementation.

105. Ms Zouhour METHAMEM HELALI, Cheffe de Cabinet of the Minister of Environment of Tunisia, said how pleased and honoured she was to participate in this regional event, on behalf of Ms Leila CHIKHAOUI MEHDAOUI, Minister of Environment of Tunisia.

106. She confirmed the renewed commitment of Tunisia to support the efforts of the international community towards the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. Tunisia is proud of establishing and hosting the Barcelona Convention's regional activity centre SPA/RAC and will always support it to play its role in favour of Mediterranean biodiversity conservation.

107. Ms METHAMEM HELALI recalled also that Tunisia was with France and the Principality of Monaco among the three founding States of The MedFund and is presently assuring its presidency in the person of the Ms CHIKHAOUI MEHDAOUI, Minister of the Environment.

108. She mentioned the environmental projects and accomplishments achieved by Tunisia, like the ongoing declaration of four marine and coastal protected areas, the acceleration of ecological and energetic transition and the various strategies targeting biodiversity conservation, marine protected areas, integrated coastal zone management, sustainable blue economy, plastic-free coasts, as well as the environmental code and national action plan for combatting pollution from ships. The Cheffe de cabinet concluded her speech by praising the various projects' positive outcomes achieved with the support of SPA/RAC and Tunisia's technical and financial partners.

109. Mr Mehmet Emin BIRPINAR, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye and President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, renewed his honour to be among this assembly and to chair the Barcelona Convention Bureau for the second time in his career. He pointed out the importance of the Barcelona Convention as a forum that makes the Mediterranean countries work together beyond political issues.

110. Mr BIRPINAR stated that the Mediterranean Sea is a heritage that we should safeguard for future generations. He pointed out the unsustainable consumption and production practices our societies are getting into, that not only deplete natural resources but also cause environmental impacts because of the extraction, processing, manufacturing, consumption and waste disposal. He encouraged the importance of shifting from a linear economy to a circular economy and from irresponsible to sustainable development. In this regard, he mentioned the initiative led by UNEP to develop an

international convention to combat plastic pollution and mentioned the importance of such a binding tool for the conservation of the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

111. Mr BIRPINAR concluded his speech by a line of poetry by the 13th century's poet, Rumi, who said "As you start to walk on the way, the way appears"; and that's why the Mediterranean community have to work together to discover their common way all together.

112. H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco thanked the organisers and guests and expressed His happiness that the Principality is welcoming the SPAMI Day, a celebration that punctuates a sequence started on last April 15th, date dedicated to marine protected areas of Mediterranean importance. He said that SPAMIs, a solution insufficiently developed and insufficiently considered despite their crucial importance, have finally received the attention they deserve.



113. While recognising the virtues and benefits of marine protected areas, He wished to point out essential points of convergence that have been underlined during the day:

- The situation of our valuable Mediterranean Sea is fragile and threatened.
- There are numerous benefits that could derive from MPAs and especially MPAs with strong protection: benefits for biodiversity, benefits for the population (e.g., higher incomes from sustainable fisheries and leisure activities), and benefits for mitigating the effects of climate change.

114. All this makes MPA development in the Mediterranean a priority for everyone, particularly protected areas with high protection levels, which are still too few and too small to enable the 30% protection target by 2030.

115. Attention should be focused on several requirements like stakeholders' mobilisation, effective and equitable management and adequate monitoring, including using innovative technologies, especially for vast areas.

116. MPAs should be adapted to the ecosystems they protect, and focus on the most fragile ecosystems, for which they should draw tighter boundaries. These highly protected zones have local effects beyond their boundaries.

117. Most importantly, these areas should be created based on economic criteria to absorb management costs and attract the support of stakeholders. They should also be managed in an inclusive manner with objectives shared by the local authorities, professionals and users, in a way to guarantee their long-term implementation by all concerned actors. It is in this way that the Pelagos agreement management plan and action plan were established at the end of 2021, for example.

118. This day has shown the importance of designing coherent and connected MPA networks to meet species' life cycles and migrations. Setting up a network is a condition of efficiency but not the only one. All the elements are important, and the requirement today is to create areas with strong protection. This was one of the objectives pursued by The MedFund through its Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative launched with the support of the MAVA Foundation.

119. His Serene Highness concluded by saying that we all carry the ambition of curing our sick sea in a sustainable and quick way. This was the objective of the day, I believe it has been achieved, and I trust you to continue it in the weeks, months and years to come. I know I can count on you, and I thank you in advance.

5. SPAMI Certificates award ceremony

120. The SPAMI Certificates are documents signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and SPA/RAC Director attesting that a protected area is included in the SPAMI List. The Certificates' duration will be renewed after each successful review of the concerned SPAMI. SPAMI ordinary reviews are occurring every six years starting from the year of their inclusion in the List.

121. During this first certificate award ceremony, the SPAMIs represented in the event received their certificates. All 39 SPAMIs (represented or not at the event) will receive an original certificate.



122. The certificates were distributed to the SPAMI representatives as follows:

| Contracting Party(ies) | The representative(s) having received the certificate(s) | SPAMI | The official having handed the certificate(s) |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1-France, Italy, Monaco | Ms Costanza FAVILLI | Pelagos Sanctuary | S.A.S. le Prince Albert II de Monaco |
| 2-Albania | Ms Lorela LAZAJ | Karaburun Sazan | Ms Tatjana HEMA |
| 3-Cyprus | Ms Marina ARGYROU | Lara-Toxeftra | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| 4-France | Mr Mathieu THEVENET | Archipel des Embiez - Six Fours | Ms Tatjana HEMA |
| 5-France | Mr Jean Michel CULIOLI | Bouches de Bonifacio | Mr Laurent STEFANINI |
| 6-France | Mr Frédéric CADENE | Cerbère-Banyuls | Mr Laurent STEFANINI |
| 7-France | Mr Jean VERMOT | Port-Cros | Mr Lucien CHABASON |
| | | Côte Bleue | |
| | | Les Calanques | |
| 8-Italy | Ms Valentina CAPPANERA | Portofino | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| 9-Italy | Ms Salvatrice ZAPPALÀ | Plemmirio | Ms Tatjana HEMA |
| 10-Italy | Mr Rocky MALATESTA | Torre Guaceto | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| 11-Italy | Mr Massimo MARRAS | Penisola del Sinis - Isola di Mal di Ventre | Ms Tatjana HEMA |
| 12-Italy | Mr Fabrizio ATZORI | Capo Carbonara | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| 13-Italy | Mr Leonardo TUNESI | Miramare | Ms Tatjana HEMA |
| | | Tavolara- Punta Coda Cavallo | |
| | | Capo Caccia-Isola Piana | |
| | | Punta Campanella | |
| | | Capo Carbonara | |
| | | Porto Cesareo | |
| 14-Lebanon | Mr Amer HADDAD | Palm Islands | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| 15-Lebanon | Mr Ali BADREDDINE | Tyre Coast | Ms Tatjana HEMA |
| 16-Slovenia | Mr Robert TURK | Strunjan | Mr Mehmet Emin BIRPINAR |
| 17-Spain | Ms Eva MESTRE FORÉS | Columbretes Islands | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| 18-Spain | Mr Jorge ALONSO RODRIGUEZ | Alboran Island | Mr Khalil ATTIA |
| | | Cetacean Migration Corridor in the Mediterranean | |
| | | Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria | |
| 19-Tunisia | Ms Marwa DOUMA | La Galite | Ms Zouhour METHEMEM HELALI |
| 20-Tunisia | Ms Marwa DOUMA and Ms Sana TAKTAK | Kneiss | Ms Zouhour METHEMEM HELALI |
| 21-Tunisia | Ms Marwa DOUMA and Ms Awatef ABIADH | Zembra et Zembretta | Ms Zouhour METHEMEM HELALI |

123. The SPAMI Day was closed by a cocktail and impromptu photo shoots of the SPAMI managers and their friends proudly posing with their SPAMI certificates.

Special Event to Celebrate the SPAMI Day 2022: SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean

Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 20 May 2022

PROGRAMME

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00 CEST | Arrival and registration of the participants |
| 9:00 – 9:30 CEST | Opening remarks and introduction Welcoming of the participants by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Robert Calcagno, Chief Executive Officer of the Oceanographic Institute, Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco (5') Opening remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Khalil ATTIA, SPA/RAC Director (5')Ms. Tatjana HEMA, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (5')Ms. Costanza FAVILLI, Executive Secretary, Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement (5')Mr. Mehmet Emin BIRPINAR, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention & Deputy Minister of the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Turkey (5')Ms. Zouhour METHAMEM HELALI, Cheffe de Cabinet of the Minister of Environment of Tunisia (5') Introduction to the programme of the day by SPA/RAC (5') |
| 9:30 – 10:00 CEST | Coffee break |
| 10:00 – 11:30 CEST | Forum of discussion: Cooperation among SPAMIs: opportunities and perspectives Introductory presentation by SPA/RAC: “SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean – the SPAMI List, the SPAMI Day and the SPAMI Twinning Programme” (10') Forum of discussion about the top priority topics of cooperation among SPAMIs The priority topics of cooperation among SPAMIs were selected based on a round of consultation with SPAMI managers. The top 3 voted topics will be discussed during this first forum of discussion among SPAMI managers. The idea of the forum is to hear from SPAMI managers from all around the Mediterranean about their burning priorities and how these priorities could be addressed in the framework of bilateral or multilateral cooperation within the SPAMI network and through the SPAMI Twinning Programme dynamic. Views and contributions from regional partners and stakeholders participating to the event is also sought. |

Topic 1: Effective management

- Finding the balance between conservation of marine/coastal ecosystems and resources and local development considerations (livelihoods, services, access, socio-economic rights, etc.)
- Management of human activities in no-take zones
- Sustainable management of activities within SPAMIs
- Management effectiveness monitoring

Short introduction by a SPAMI manager about topic 1: effective management (5')

Interaction and debate (20')

Topic 2: Governance

- Shared governance and participatory management
- Cooperation with multiple users
- Management of conflicts
- Inter-administrative cooperation and simplification of procedures

Short introduction by a SPAMI manager about topic 2: governance (5')

Interaction and debate (20')

Topic 3: Exchange of experience and capacity-building

- Medium-term exchange visits and on-the-job training for field practitioners (SPAMI Twinning Programmes)
- Exchange of best practices between SPAMIs with concrete solutions for specific management problems (fisheries, aquaculture, coastal development, tourism, etc.)
- Capacity-building and empowerment of managers

Short introduction by a SPAMI manager about topic 3: exchange of experience and capacity-building (5')

Interaction and debate (20')

End of the forum of discussion

11:30 – 12:30 CEST

Roundtable: The Pelagos Agreement and the SPAMIs and MPAs within the Sanctuary: sharing experiences and solutions to improve cooperation

The idea of the roundtable is to hear from SPAMI and MPA managers about their experiences, solutions and proposals to improve concrete measures and cooperation for the protection of marine mammals and their habitat within the Pelagos Sanctuary in the framework of the new Pelagos Management Plan 2022-2027. Views and contributions from partners, stakeholders and members of the Pelagos Working Group on SPAMIs and MPAs participating to the event is also sought.

Introductory presentation by the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement (10')

Short introduction by the Coordinator of the Pelagos Working Group on SPAMIs and MPAs (5')

Short introduction by SPAMI managers about experiences, solutions and proposals (30')

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| | <p>Interaction and debate (15')</p> <p>End of the session</p> |
| 12:30 – 14:30 CEST | <p><i>Lunch at "Bar restaurant Tony"</i></p> |
| 14:30 – 16:00 CEST | <p>Wrap-up and way forward</p> <p>Presentation on the conclusions and recommendations of the morning sessions</p> <p>Feedback from the participants</p> |
| 16:00 – 16:45 CEST | <p>High-level segment</p> <p>Speeches by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Khalil ATTIA, SPA/RAC Director (5') • Mr. Oliviero MONTANARO, General Director of Natural Heritage and Sea, Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties of the Pelagos Agreement (5') • Ms. Tatjana HEMA, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (5') • Ms. Zouhour METHAMEM HELALI, Cheffe de Cabinet, on behalf of Ms. Leila CHIKHAOUI MEHDAOUI, Minister of Environment of Tunisia (5') • Mr. Mehmet Emin BIRPINAR, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Turkey & President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (5') • H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco (15') |
| 16:45 – 17:30 CEST | <p>SPAMI Certificates award ceremony</p> <p>Distribution of the SPAMI Certificates to the SPAMI managers and managing authorities</p> <p>The SPAMI Certificates are documents signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and SPA/RAC Director attesting that a protected area is included in the SPAMI List. All 39 SPAMIs (represented or not at the event) will receive an original certificate. Certificates' duration will be renewed after each successful review of the concerned SPAMI. SPAMI ordinary reviews are occurring every six years starting from the year of their inclusion in the List.</p> |
| 17:30 – 18:30 CEST | <p>Cocktail</p> |

Special Event to Celebrate the SPAMI Day 2022: SPAMIs, a cooperation tool for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean

Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 20 May 2022

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