

APPENDIXGUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION, ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEANIntroduction

The Guidelines proposed below, concerning the Selection, Establishment, Management and Notification of information on Marine and Coastal protected areas, adopted at the first meeting of focal points (Athens, 1-4 June 1987), were offered as a guide and not as a formal obligation for their application.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF PROTECTED AREASEstablish policies and objectives

1. The organization of a protected area programme should be based on clearly-defined policies and objectives approved by the highest levels of government. These could include:
  - the maintenance of the productivity of marine and coastal resources, and the reconstitution of depleted stocks;
  - the conservation of the richness and diversity of the country's natural resources, including examples of all representative ecosystems and habitats, and the genetic diversity of important species;
  - the preservation of important examples of the cultural heritage, such as archaeological and historical sites, architectural and landscape elements, and areas of ethnographic interest;
  - the sustainable development of resource exploitation, tourism and other economic activities; and
  - the protection of the health and safety of coastal communities and resource users.

Create a planning team

2. A planning team should be chosen to begin the process of selecting and establishing protected areas. A survey of the agencies, organizations and experts able to contribute to this planning team should be one of the first steps to be taken.

Survey the marine and coastal environment

3. Each country should survey its entire marine and coastal areas to identify sites worthy of protection. Existing information should be compiled and new surveys made if necessary to provide information on coastal features, natural habitats and species, and points of special interest. The surveys should consider:

- environmental characteristics such as species distributions and abundance, habitat occurrence according to a standard classification (for marine habitats see classification in Appendix 1), and physico-chemical parameters (climatology, geomorphology, hydrology, sedimentation, geochemistry, water quality);
  - socio-economic uses and potential for recreation, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture;
  - existing and potential threats from tourism, urbanization, industry, mining, drilling, dredging, dumping, agriculture, aquaculture, navigation and naval works.
4. Information from country surveys, bibliographic research and other sources should be compiled on a regional basis to determine regional patterns and processes. This can be done by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) with the assistance of a regional advisory group of experts.
5. The resulting national and regional inventories of natural sites and special features should be updated periodically.

Evaluate sites and features

6. All sites and features on which information has been collected should be evaluated according to criteria adopted by each country in accordance with their national goals and international obligations. Examples of criteria are:
- **Ecological criteria:** Diversity, Naturalness, Dependency of species or processes on the area, Representativeness, Uniqueness, Integrity, Productivity, Vulnerability.
  - **Social criteria:** Social acceptance by local people, Public health, Recreation, Culture, History, Archaeology, Aesthetics, Conflicts of interest with local activities, Safety, Accessibility, Benchmark or Reference value, Education, Research.
  - **Economic criteria:** Importance to commercial species, Importance to fisheries, Nature of threats to value of area, Economic benefits, Tourism.
  - **Regional criteria:** Regional significance, national significance, Contribution to regional awareness, Demonstration of compatible uses.
  - **Pragmatic criteria:** Urgency, Size, Degree of threat, Effectiveness, Opportunism, Availability, Restorability.

7. The development of regional definitions for selection criteria and of procedures for their application should be undertaken through the RAC/SPA with the assistance of experts and working groups.

Rank sites

8. Sites should be ranked both for their value according to each criterion, and their ability to meet multiple criteria, leading to listings of the highest priority sites for designation as protected areas.
9. Consultation with the RAC/SPA can help to identify sites of particular regional interest. This could be necessary, for instance, to protect a species of regional importance.

GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Designate a responsible authority

10. There should be a single authority responsible for the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas, whether a newly created body, an existing lead agency, or a joint authority of several agencies or government departments.
11. The authority should be given clearly-defined objectives and responsibilities.
12. The authority should have powers to:
  1. Define institutional responsibilities and relations;
  2. Co-ordinate the activities of the different departments with marine and coastal responsibilities;
  3. Establish priorities and mechanisms for selecting, establishing and developing marine protected areas;
  4. Protect species and their critical habitats adequately;
  5. Conserve threatened, rare, endemic and commercial species, threatened, unique, representative and valuable marine habitats, and cultural, archaeological and historical sites;
  6. Ensure permanent protection;
  7. Communicate directly with the regional authorities and centres responsible for co-ordinating the Mediterranean network of protected areas;
  8. Conduct or arrange for research and surveys relevant to planning and management;
  9. Provide mechanisms for developing and implementing management plans for each protected area, based on scientific data;
  10. Control developments, activities and sources of pollution outside the protected areas that may adversely affect them;
  11. Regulate exploitation in protected areas and their adjacent buffer zones;
  12. Control navigation through and mooring in marine protected areas; and
  13. Make regulations and otherwise provide enforcement mechanisms.

Adopt legislation

13. The establishment and management of marine protected areas should be supported by adequate legislation. Comprehensive legislation for sustainable use of large marine areas including both protected areas and other management measures should be considered.
14. The regional development of model legislation for coastal and marine protected areas may be desirable.

Obtain a consensus

15. To be effective, protected areas must have public acceptance and local co-operation in their operation. The establishment of protected areas should thus be subject to wide discussion and if possible consensus among the public, representatives of interested groups, or at least all the government departments concerned.

Provide financial support

16. Adequate financial support or revenues must be made available to the authority to carry out its mandate effectively.

Survey potential sites

17. The site of each potential protected areas should be surveyed in detail, identifying areas with greatest value for different uses.

Establish boundaries

18. The boundaries of coastal and marine protected areas should be ecologically sensible, easily identifiable by the public, and include the waters, the subsoil below and the airspace above the protected area. Adjacent marine, terrestrial and aerial influences and ecological ramifications important to the protected area should be recognized.
19. Where possible and desirable, both land and water areas should be combined and jointly managed in coastal zone protected areas. Offshore marine protected areas should also be considered.
20. Protected areas should allow as many multiple uses as are consistent with conservation objectives.

Identify resources needed

21. The needs for infrastructure, equipment, finance, field personnel (terrestrial and marine) and management support for each protected area should be identified.

Determine protected area status

22. Each protected area should be given a category and status consistent with its conservation and management objectives, based on the standard categories listed in Appendix 2.

Grant legal protection

23. Protected areas should be made permanent by legislation, unless intended as a temporary measure, in accordance with international agreements and guidelines.

Notify RAC/SPA

24. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas must be notified of the creation or the modification of protected areas.

Compensate displaced activities

25. Equity should be respected in the creation of protected areas. Users or community groups whose rights or activities are displaced or reduced should be given alternate sources of income or otherwise compensated where practicable.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Prepare a management plan

26. A management plan should be prepared for each protected area, and periodically updated in the light of experience. A model outline is given in Appendix 3.

Implement the management plan

27. The management plan should be implemented and the necessary regulations or controls adopted and adequately enforced. Facilities should be built, equipment purchased and personnel hired on a scale consistent with available funds.

Use zoning and buffer zones

28. Zoning should be used whenever appropriate to permit the maximum compatible uses of the protected area. Buffer zones should be created around the protected area to prevent encroachment or degradation (Article 5).

Establish educational programmes

29. Educational opportunities and public interpretation programmes should be developed within protected areas whenever possible.

Monitor the effectiveness of protection

30. Critical species, ecosystems and physical or chemical parameters should be monitored in protected areas to verify the effectiveness of management actions.
31. The RAC/SPA should encourage the development and application of standard regional methods for monitoring protected areas and species.

Conduct research

32. Research under appropriate conditions should be encouraged in protected areas, particularly to define baselines for area and coastal environments, or to develop restoration techniques for natural habitats.

Restore damage

33. Damaged or degraded areas and resources should be restored to their natural or most productive state in accordance with the established objectives of the protected area.

NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON PROTECTED AREAS

Assign responsibility

34. The notification of information on protected areas is the responsibility of the National Focal Point (Article 14.2), which should preferably be the authority responsible for establishing and managing marine protected areas.

Provide information to RAC/SPA

35. Information on each country is to be furnished to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) in accordance with the standard format in Appendix 4.
36. Information on each protected area is to be furnished regularly to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in accordance with the standard format in Appendix 5.
37. Similar information on potential and planned protected areas should also be provided to the RAC/SPA.
38. Information on current and planned research, general surveys, monitoring of the status of species and ecosystems, and other data of regional interest are to be shared with other Parties through the RAC/SPA.
39. Information on the experience acquired, the problems encountered, and the methods developed to resolve them are to be supplied to the RAC/SPA, which can suggest solutions or appropriate studies, and prepare technical and information documents.

Distribute information and regional recommendations

40. In all cases, the RAC/SPA is to make information received widely available to the Parties. It should recommend programmes of co-ordinated research and standard scientific methods for the selection, management and monitoring of protected areas in order to improve the information available on the status of Mediterranean species, ecosystems and cultural resources. In this it should be assisted by an advisory group of experts.

Appendix 1 : Standard classification of Mediterranean marine zones and associated benthic biocenosis (from PERES & PICARD, 1964)

Supralittoral Zone

supralittoral rocks  
rapid drying beaches  
slowly drying beaches

Midlittoral zone

upper midlittoral rocks  
lower midlittoral rocks  
    -with Lithophyllum tortuosum  
    -with Ralfsia verrucosa  
midlittoral caves  
midlittoral detritus  
midlittoral sands  
muddy sands and muds of lagoons and estuaries

Infralittoral zone

photophilic algae  
    -with Cystoseira stricta  
    -with Corallina  
infralittoral shingles  
coarse sands and fine gravels under wave influence  
sands partly protected from wave influence  
calm water muddy sands  
euryhaline and eurythermal lagoons  
terrigenous well-graded fine sands  
fine surface sands  
Posidonia oceanica beds

coarse sands and fine gravels under influence of bottom currents (various depths)

Circalittoral zone

"Coralligenous" (with shade-loving algae)  
semi-dark caves  
completely dark caves and tunnels  
open sea rocky bottoms  
coastal detrital bottoms  
    -with aloliths  
    -with branched coralline algae  
    -with Lithothamnium  
    -with Squamariaceae  
muddy detrital bottoms  
coastal terrigenous muds  
open sea detrital bottoms

Bathyal zone

white corals  
bathyal muds

Abyssal zone



**Appendix 2 : CATEGORIES AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES OF PROTECTED AREAS**

1. **Scientific Reserve/Strict Nature Reserve/Strict Marine Reserve** (IUCN I; EEC 1): To protect nature and maintain natural processes in a undisturbed state in order to have ecologically representative examples of the natural environment available for scientific study, environmental monitoring and education and for the maintenance of genetic resources in a dynamic and evolutionary state.
2. **National Park/Marine National Park** (IUCN II; EEC 3): To protect large natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational and recreational uses.
3. **Natural/Cultural Monument** (IUCN III; EEC 6): To preserve significant natural, cultural or archaeological features because of their special interest or unique characteristics.
4. **Managed Natural Reserve/Wildlife Sanctuary/Marine Sanctuary** (IUCN IV; EEC 2): To assure the natural conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups of species, biotic communities, or physical features of the environment, where these require specific human manipulation for their perpetuation.
5. **Protected Landscape/Seascape** (IUCN V; EEC 4): To maintain significant natural landscapes or coastlines which are characteristic of the harmonious interaction of man, land and sea, while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within the normal life-style and economic activity of these areas .
6. **Resources Reserve** (IUCN IV): To protect the natural resources of the area for future use, and prevent or contain development activities that could affect the resource pending the establishment of objectives which are based upon appropriate knowledge and planning.
7. **Natural Biotic Area/Anthropological Reserve** (IUCN VI; EEC 5): To allow human societies living in harmony with the environment to continue their way of life undisturbed by modern technology.
8. **Multiple Use Management Area/Managed Resource Area/Fisheries Reserve** (IUCN VIII): To provide for the sustained production of fisheries, wildlife, tourism and outdoor recreation, with conservation of nature primarily oriented to the support of the economic activities, or with several zones designated to achieve specific conservation objectives.

There are several titles involving special international recognition of protected areas that may be used in addition to the above:

**Biosphere Reserve:** Unesco category to conserve for present and future use the diversity and integrity of representative biotic communities of plants and animals within natural ecosystems, and to safeguard the genetic diversity on species of which their continuing evolution depends.

**World Heritage Site:** site listed under the World Heritage Convention to protect natural or cultural features of World Heritage quality, and to provide information for worldwide public enlightenment.

**Biogenetic Reserve:** area which is part of Council of Europe network established in order to preserve the biological integrity and ensure the effective conservation of marine or terrestrial habitats, biocenosis or ecosystems.