



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2012 FORUM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

25 – 28 NOVEMBER 2012
ANTALYA, TURKEY



THE 2012 FORUM
of Marine Protected Areas
in the Mediterranean

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:
Everyone's Business.

*Boosting the Marine Protected Areas network
for the benefit of the Mediterranean society.*

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MedPAN organisation

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David de Monbrison, BRL ; Chedly Rais, Okianos ; Marie Romani, MedPAN

Translation :

Kate Anderson

Review:

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Magali Mabari and Pierre Vignes, MedPAN

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2012 FORUM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: A ROADMAP TOWARDS 2020!

The 2012 Forum for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean was held on 25th-28th November in Antalya (Turkey). It was organised by the MedPAN Association and its partners¹, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), the General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assets (Turkey) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Turkey. **The event closed with the adoption of a roadmap whose aim is to achieve by 2020 a comprehensive, ecological representative, effectively managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.**

The Forum's ambition was to get all the participants to adhere to a common vision and draw up a roadmap. This roadmap, which is the subject of the «Antalya Declaration», set in motion **an unprecedented desire for coordination in the Mediterranean and identifies actions to be undertaken by all stakeholders involved at a technical and political level** on a local, national and Mediterranean scale, to ensure the long term conservation of marine biodiversity's key elements and support sustainable development in the region.

Marine Protected Areas are everyone's business

Over 300 key stakeholders from 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean and beyond (33 nationalities represented) and from different sectors all implicated in the marine environment came together and shared their experiences over 4 days in Antalya: marine protected area managers, representatives from national agencies for the environment, fisheries, tourism and the economy, scientists, regional and international partners, local economic stakeholders, NGOs, donors.

The roadmap was finalised, after a long deliberation process which started before the Forum, based on the conclusions and recommendations made by this panel of stakeholders.

All those who were involved in this deliberation process can be proud of this roadmap's great achievement, even if everyone agrees that the hardest part is yet to come: **Antalya's roadmap paves the way for actions to be undertaken and synergies to be built in order to address the issues of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.**

The following pages give an account of the main thread of the discussions held during the Forum.

¹ WWF, IUCN, Marine Protected Areas Agency, Conservatoire du Littoral, ACCOBAMS, MedPartnership, GFCM, SAD, TUDAV

LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ABNJ:** Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- ACCOBAMS:** Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and neighbouring Atlantic Area
- CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity
- CFP:** Common Fisheries Policy
- CIESM:** Mediterranean Science Commission
- COP:** Conference of Parties
- EBM:** Ecosystem Based Management
- EAF:** Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
- EBSA:** Marine Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas
- EC:** European Commission
- EEA:** European Environment Agency
- EEZ:** Exclusive Economic Zone
- FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- FRA:** Fisheries Restricted Areas designated by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
- GFCM:** General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
- IAS:** Invasive Alien Species
- ICZM:** Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- IUCN:** International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- IMO:** International Maritime Organisation
- MAP:** Mediterranean Action Plan
- MCPA:** Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
- MEDPAN:** Mediterranean MPA managers network
- MSFD:** Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- MSP:** Marine Spatial Planning
- NGO:** Non Governmental Organisation
- RFMO:** Regional Fisheries Management Organization
- PES:** Payments for ecosystem services
- PSSA:** Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
- RAC/SPA:** Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
- SAP/BIO:** Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- SPAMI:** Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
- ICT:** Information and Communication Technologies
- TEEB:** The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme
- UNEP:** United Nations Environment Programme
- WWF:** World Wide Fund For Nature

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PLENARY SESSIONS





OPENING PLENARY SESSION

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

PARTICIPANTS

OSMAN IYIMAYA, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE TURKISH GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR PROTECTION OF NATURAL ASSETS, **PURIFICACIÓ CANALS**, CHAIRMAN OF MEDPAN, **HABIB EL-HABR**, DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP), **ABDERRAHMEN GANNOUN**, DIRECTOR OF RAC/SPA, **SHAHID NAJAM**, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY AND UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN TURKEY, **TURAN EREN**, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF ANTALYA, **IRFAN UZUN**, DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY TO THE TURKISH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION, **CHARLES BESANCON**, COORDINATOR OF THE « LIFEWEB » INITIATIVE AND MEMBER OF THE CBD SECRETARIAT, **SOUHA EL ASMI**, MPA PROGRAMME OFFICER AT RAC/SPA, **ALAIN JEUDY DE GRISSAC**, MANAGER OF THE MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME AT IUCN-MED, **ABDELLAH SROUR**, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM), **GIUSEPPE DI CARLO**, MANAGER OF THE MPA PROGRAMME AT WWF-MEDITERRANEAN, **CÉLINE DAMERY**, EUROPE & INTERNATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR AT THE CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL, **MARIE-CHRISTINE GRILLO-COMPULSIONE**, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AT THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREAS (ACCOBAMS).



This session was an opportunity to remind the three hundred participants to the Forum of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) issues and to discuss the measures that need to be taken to halt the loss of biodiversity, called for in the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, agreed in 2010 in Aichi, Japan under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Aichi Target 11 sets a minimum requirement to protect 10% of the Mediterranean Sea.

MPAs are a key strategic tool to fight against the decline of biodiversity, a significant global challenge that is at the heart of the mission entrusted to the parties of the CBD. MPAs are a particularly effective way of reducing the negative environmental impact of the most harmful human activities (overfishing, tourism and urban development excesses) as well as climate change.

To ensure that future generations have access to the same resources that Mediterranean societies are currently blessed with, it is necessary to take measures to reinforce the management and governance capacity of the network of MPAs, to secure their financial sustainability, to consolidate the enforcement of regulations and surveillance of these protected sites and to increase the exchanges of experience, good practises and expertise between riparian countries. These countries must renew their protection commitment and contribute to the development of a common vision, alongside European and regional institutions, MPA managers, researchers, NGOs, financial partners and the private sector.

This collective effort is important to achieve the 10% target – if not surpassing it - and the preservation of the Mediterranean basin’s natural heritage as well as its cultural and social heritage. Local stakeholders and the general public must play their part.

There are a number of legal instruments¹, agencies in charge of facilitating their implementation, action programmes and different types of zones - MPAs, Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), restricted fishing areas, no take zones, etc. - which contribute to the region’s sustainable development.

¹ CBD, the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol)

To accelerate the implementation of international agreements and empower biodiversity protection measures, stakeholders must now join forces to turn words into action. In fact, right now and despite the adoption in 2008 of the legislation to improve marine and coastal conservation, only 4.56% the Mediterranean are under protection (globally, only 13% of marine ecoregions have reached the 10% target) and there are still continuing disparities (84% of Mediterranean MPAs are located in the northern basin compared to 16% in the south).

Over the next decade, it is essential to consolidate the network of MPAs in the Mediterranean by reinforcing the protected areas’ connectivity in order to help achieve the Aichi target. The existing



network should also be ecologically representative. During this period, we must as well encourage an integrated management of the marine environment by identifying the roles and skills of each on a given site by consulting fishermen, tourism professionals and those in shipping. Indeed, it is vital to involve local stakeholders in the planning and management of MPAs decision-making process to enable their social integration on the ground.

Moreover, the issues linked to expanding the network by creating new Mediterranean MPAs on the high seas (transcending transnational issues, developing a protocol) must be discussed further.

On all these above points, the competent bodies (scientific, technical and financial support) and all the stakeholders involved in the protection of marine areas have reiterated their willingness to actively collaborate and enhance synergies through dialogue driven by MedPAN. This dialogue and the ensuing documents are intended to assist stakeholders in implementing international conventions and thus ensuring the sustainability of communities evolving in the most fragile and vulnerable regional ecosystems.

By 2020, everyone's efforts are needed to achieve the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention's SPA/BD Protocol, which plans for the creation of SPAMIs through the RAC/SPA's Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP-BIO). One must also re-balance the geographical distribution of MPAs in the Mediterranean, as 84% of them are today located in European Union member countries. To achieve the right balance between the preservation and

exploitation of natural resources, one must support the establishment of restricted fishing areas as long as they have the expressed purpose to conserve biodiversity (as is the case in Italy and Cyprus)². One must also support the establishment of no take zones which contribute to the regeneration of fishery areas as well as EEZs³ (as is the case for the Gulf of Lion) which are an asset for increasing coastal States' control of the marine environment that is within their national jurisdiction.

In the current context of financial crisis and MPA public expenditure cuts, the economic value of natural resources should be increased and there should be a systematic quantification of ecosystems' services in order to integrate their value to national and regional economies. It is crucial to involve the private sector and to link sustainable development to economic development in order to overcome the lack of funding for biodiversity protection which is valued at 17 billion per year. ■

² Restricted fishing areas contribute toward the achievement of Aichi Target 6 on sustainable fishing and may not necessarily contribute toward Target 11 unless they have an expressed purpose to conserve biodiversity or that biodiversity protection is a co-benefit of other management purposes or activities.

³ Exclusive Economic Zone



PLENARY SESSION DEVOTED TO EXAMINING THE ANTALYA DECLARATION

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

SESSION CHAIRED BY PURIFICACIO CANALS, CHAIRMAN OF MEDPAN.



The Antalya Declaration is a common policy document; it is intended to be used in meetings with policy makers at all levels. It summarises the strategic Roadmap agreed on during this Mediterranean MPA Forum.

The vision of the Declaration adapts Objective 11 of the 'Aichi Targets' to the Mediterranean context.

The Four strategic objectives of the Declaration are:
 - 1) Establish an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected, 2) Achieve an effective and sustainable management and a good governance in Mediterranean MPAs, 3) Develop a territorially and sectorially integrated governance of Mediterranean MPAs while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits,

4) Increase the allocation of financial resources to establish and maintain an ecological network of effectively managed MPAs.

The text of the Declaration highlights commitments made on a regional and international level for the protection of biodiversity which need to be transposed into national legislations. "Sustainable financing" is an important topic mentioned in the Declaration that suggests that these support mechanisms must be geared to the long-term. ■



CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2012

CHAired BY JEAN-PIERRE THÉBAULT, FRENCH AMBASSADOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



1ST PART

JEAN-PIERRE THÉBAULT DECLARATION.

The Antalya Declaration is a document that reflects the strong and vital commitment of stakeholders involved with the marine environment. Through the activities of the MedPAN network in the Mediterranean, managers, scientists, representatives of local and national governments and civil society produce together knowledge and actions to develop Marine Protected Areas. During the last few years, MPAs have become a major topic in the biodiversity protection international agenda.

Thanks to significant initiatives, such as the ones carried out in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the decisions taken during the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (with the 10-year action programme and its ambitious objectives for the protection of marine biodiversity), the protection of biodiversity is today as much marine as terrestrial. And since Rio+20, Member States are invited, under paragraph 162 of the Rio Declaration, to reflect on developing a legal status for the protection of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions. Such a status would enable the creation of Marine Protected Areas in the high sea, a long forgotten region of our common heritage.

Forum participants must remain mobilised so that this key commitment of the Rio Summit is accomplished in the Mediterranean. Civil society can influence decisions and over the next two years its constituents must remain mobilised so that Member States commit to negotiating a legal status for these areas beyond national jurisdiction. These very complex negotiations must begin, otherwise there will never be a real protection of the high seas and this would be a shortcoming for the protection of marine biodiversity.

An integrated action is based on an active cooperation from the countries bordering the Mediterranean and is essential to achieve the 10% target of protection or even surpass it. The Antalya Declaration is a programme of action which is able to reinforce the coherence of the regional network of MPAs, along with the Barcelona Convention, and enable it to contribute to achieving Objective 11 of the «Aichi Targets».

2ND PART COMMENTS ON THE ROADMAP.

PARTICIPANTS

HABIB EL-HABR (UNEP/MAP), **JUAN PABLO PERTIERRA** (EC), **MARIE-CHRISTINE GRILLO-COMPULSIONE** (ACCOBAMS), **MOUSTAFA FOUDA** (EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS), **MARIA CARMELA GIARRATANO** (ITALIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT), **DAVID WILCOMME** (FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY), **CHRISTINE SANDEL** (PACA REGIONAL COUNCIL), **ALAIN JEUDY DE GRISSAC** (IUCN), **CATHERINE PIANTE** (WWF-FRANCE), **GIUSEPPE DI CARLO** (WWF-MEDITERRANEAN), **CÉLINE DAMERY** (CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL), **PILAR MARIN** (OCEANA), **JULIEN CALAS** (FRENCH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY), **PAULE GROS** (MAVA FOUNDATION), **PHILIPPE MONDIELLI** (PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION), **NAJIA FATINE** (MOHAMMED VI FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION), **HOCEIN BAZAIRI** (MOHAMMED VI-AGDAL UNIVERSITY), **GIUSEPPE NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA** (CONSULTANT-THETYS RESEARCH INSTITUTE), **GUILLAUME SELLIER** (PORT CROS NATIONAL PARK, FRANCE), **SANDRO DUJMOVIC** (BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK, CROATIA), **FABIO VALLAROLA** (TORRE DEL CERRANO MPA, ITALY), **ABDELAËLI BEGHOURA** (ALGERIAN NATIONAL COAST GUARDS), **DIMITRIOS ZANNES** (MEDARTNET-PLATFORM FOR MEDITERRANEAN ARTISANAL FISHERMEN), **SABA GUELLOUZ** (TUNISIAN COASTAL PROTECTION AND PLANNING AGENCY), **LAURENT CHAZEE**, A MEDWET REPRESENTATIVE (TOUR DU VALAT).

With the Antalya Declaration, the Roadmap supports the ongoing process of revising the CBD's Strategic Plan for the conservation of biodiversity by 2020 and boosts the drive to create new marine and coastal protected areas.

The Roadmap is an excellent tool but it now needs an implementation plan and a strengthened coordination at local, national and regional scales. The financial sustainability and the socio-economic impact of the network of MPAs in the Mediterranean will need to be taken into account. Relevant organisations will then be able to integrate this implementation plan more effectively into their strategies and disseminate detailed information on the status of its execution.

To get out of the current financial deadlock which is hindering achieving the MPAs management objectives, all the tools, protocols and expertise need to be pooled. This is particularly important to move forward on the high seas and surpass the 10% target. Moreover, conservation stakeholders must prepare for the future by anticipating the large-scale impact of oil exploration, aquaculture and climate change. While helping politicians to study this impact, MPA managers could contribute to decision making. These exchanges would also allow politicians to have a more precise view of the issues at stake for the MPA network, which connectivity needs to be reinforced.

There is a political will to continue the efforts committed within the framework of the CBD and Rio+20. However, governments cannot act alone: conservation issues must be shared with NGOs and other stakeholders and must be addressed through increased cooperation between the Mediterranean's riparian countries. For example, the pooling of regional efforts is essential to achieve the 10% target.

Donors invite MPA stakeholders to maintain the momentum initiated by the Forum. They are ready to support the implementation of the Roadmap. To do this, they would like to consult a regularly updated database and one which also gives accurate results of stakeholders' actions.

Political will and funding are not the only enablers to implement the Mediterranean basin's protection objectives. What is often lacking in the field is scientific capacity and support. Researchers should be more open by publishing and sharing the extensive data they hold. Science would thus be able to influence concrete decisions on a long-term basis. Responsible science and communication should be put to the service of biodiversity protection and of men reconciled with nature. This requires a better understanding of stakeholders and their needs.



3RD AND FINAL PART ANTALYA DECLARATION ADOPTION AND CLOSING REMARKS

Jean-Pierre THÉBAULT took the floor again and warmly thanked Turkey for their successful hosting of the Forum and reminded that Turkey will host in 2013 the 18th Conference of Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

The Antalya Declaration was then adopted by ovation.

Finally, some stakeholders made statements to announce events and to share closing remarks.

- **Alain PIBOT** (French Marine Protected Areas Agency) announced the organisation of the 3rd International Congress of Marine Protected Areas (IMPAC 3) in Marseille in October 2013. «This third edition will be an opportunity to convey recommendations to help managers in their daily duties to fulfil their mission,» he said. He assured that IMPAC 3 will allow to internationally promote the Antalya messages related to the need to lift technical and financial barriers and to pool resources and share experiences. «We are counting on managers' involvement,» he declared, calling for MPA stakeholders and local stakeholders to bridge their issues in order «to see the emergence of a blue society».
- **Purificació CANALS** (MedPAN) welcomed the «rich discussions» held during the Forum and in which «a positive spirit was felt». She said that the messages in the Declaration and the Roadmap would be passed on during the next Conference of the Parties as well as at IMPAC 3. She thanked the Turkish representatives and all MedPAN's partners that contributed to the Forum.
- **Habib EL-HABR** (UNEP/MAP) supported the goal of increasing the number and size of Mediterranean MPAs and improving the network's connectivity to reinforce the protection of both species and habitats. «The Forum will have been a success if, in four years time, most of the competent regional organisations will have implemented effective management and protection of the land/sea interface plans», he also said.
- **Abderrahmen GANNOUN** (RAC/SPA) reaffirmed the importance of moving forward on the issue of protecting the high seas. «It is time to take care of this area which has a rich biodiversity and there is a real desire to work in this area, at least on a European level.» «We will continue to provide technical assistance to the Mediterranean's riparian countries to fully implement the Barcelona Convention», he guaranteed.
- **Irfan UZUN** (Turkish Ministry of the Environment and Urban Development) closed the forum by saying that MPAs «are a topic of the utmost importance to Turkey». Welcoming the common vision that the Antalya Declaration and Roadmap requires, he urged participants to «act together now and in the future» in order to halt the decline of biodiversity. ■



ROUND TABLE





TOWARDS A LONG-TERM FUNDING MECHANISM TO MANAGE AND PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

ROUND TABLE ORGANISED BY MEDPAN

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

JULIEN CALAS (FRENCH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY – FGEF), **ARTURO LOPEZ ORNAT**
(CONSULTANT), **BARRY SPERGEL** (LAWYER AND CONSULTANT IN ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE),
BERTRAND CAZALET (PERPIGNAN UNIVERSITY), **THOMAS BINET** (PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY).

SPEECH BY **ARTURO LOPEZ ORNAT,** CONSULTANT

MPA management financial needs depend on the sites considered. To effectively manage national parks it is estimated that over 1 000 Euros per hectare and year are required; between 50 and 300 Euros per hectare/year is required for other not so strictly managed marine areas, and may go down to less than 10 Euros per hectare/year for MPAs in the high seas. The annual operating budget of MPAs in the Mediterranean is covered at 30%, compared to 48% for MPAs worldwide. Generally, it is considered that an annual operating budget of 250 000 Euros for a site smaller than 2.000 ha may be an appropriate budget.

The disparity between EU member countries bordering the Mediterranean and non-EU countries is significant as non-EU member countries would need a total of between 20 and 42 million Euros per year to manage their MPAs better.

In 2006, Mediterranean MPAs' actual budgets amounted to less than 12 million Euros, with 50% being financed by international funding sources and 20% by national funding sources. In this context, the levying of additional public funds from national sources should not just be from the conservation sector but extended to additional sectors (such as International Aid) by emphasizing development goals such as the role of MPAs in the fight against poverty and the development of a «blue» economy.

Knowing that the allocation of conventional public funds will always be insufficient, one must seek other sources of private funding. MPA managers would benefit from gaining skills on financial mechanisms that may be set up on a local level, e.g. raising funds through diving, hotel and construction taxes, issuing fishing licenses and services' concessions, while making management less expensive by developing the potential of a truly collaborative management system involving fishermen, coast guards, and greater support from the civil society. It is also essential that MPAs make solid business plans (currently only 30% of MPAs have one), train their staff in fundraising, launch foundations or make co-funding agreements with coastal municipalities.

In the long term and on a national level, unconventional funding sources may be established by creating partnerships with private economic sectors willing to contribute to conservation such as tourism, aquaculture, shipping transport, oil and gas or even wind energy. Finally, public budget funding could tap on airport and environmental taxes, and in some countries use debt-for-nature-swaps. Examples of all these mechanisms were cited for the Mediterranean area.

SPEECH BY **BARRY SPERGEL,** CONSULTANT

The exploitation of marine resources should contribute more significantly to the funding of MPAs. There are indeed potential sources linked to offshore extraction of oil and gas, aquaculture and commercial fishing, bio-prospection or placing a value on «blue» carbon storage.

Collecting funds from measures associated with the exploitation of mineral resources would be legally possible for states that declared exclusive economic zones, but not from international waters.

Relevant national or local legislation would be required in order to enable all or part of the levy or tax on the exploitation of marine resources to be used specifically (“earmarked”) to fund the management of MPAs.

Let us look at what is being done elsewhere. In the United States, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has raised 9 billion dollars over the last 40 years by auctioning offshore oil and gas exploitation leases contracts. This money is exclusively used for the protection of national parks and state (i.e., provincial) parks. One can add to this windfall, the fines of several billions imposed by the State of Alaska on Exxon and by the U.S. Federal Government on BP for their oil spills; around half of these multi-billion dollar fines have been used to support several funds and programmes for the long-term protection of nature (rather than simply for restoration or compensation).

Other examples are: the payment of access rights to tuna fisheries in the South Pacific and the use of EU fishing access fees in West Africa which are specifically allocated to fund the conservation of protected areas. In New Zealand, all commercial fishing companies pay the equivalent of about 3% of their catch to the research and conservation of fishery resources.

MPAs in countries such as Croatia, Italy (Cinque Terre) and Ecuador (Galapagos) have established MPA entry fees for visitors which can be as much as 125 Euros per person (in the case of the Galapagos, where 90% of this fee is paid to the MPA’s management agency).

In the United States, telecommunication companies who are putting in fibre-optic lines through MPAs must pay a fee ranging from 40 000 to 100 000 dollars per mile. In Brazil, an environmental compensation tax which is the equivalent of 1% of the total cost of any construction work (road, pipeline, electric power lines...) within a protected area, must be paid to that specific protected area. In the Mediterranean region we must learn from these innovative measures.

Among the levies which actually help MPAs financially, let us also mention the following fines: illegal fishing and selling of seized fish and equipment, coastal pollution and damage caused by oil spills. One must also mention the debt forgiveness agreements in exchange for environmental protection programmes. Such “Debt for Nature Swaps” have sometimes been used partly to provide funding for MPAs, for example



in the case of the 2001 Debt Swap between Egypt and Italy which was partly used to support MPAs in the Red Sea, or the Debt Reduction Agreements between the governments of France and Madagascar, and between Germany and Madagascar, which together generated a total of more than 30 million Euros for Madagascar's protected areas, including the creation of new MPAs.

Regional conservation trust funds have proven their worth as potential funding levers available to MPAs (Mesoamerican Reef Fund, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and Micronesia Conservation Trust in particular). These regional trust funds have each succeeded in attracting more than 30 million Euros from international donors. On the other hand, donations to these trust funds from wealthy

philanthropists are minimal, even though many people are willing to give small donations or pay small fees to support MPAs, if they know that all of the money will be used for marine conservation, rather than just going into a government's general budget or the national treasury.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROUND TABLE

Taxes, Fees and Fines related to the commercial exploitation of marine resources:

- Strengthen MPA managers' legal capacity to directly collect (and use for MPA management costs) new kinds of taxes, fees and fines that are related to the commercial exploitation of marine resources, including taxes and fees related to commercial fishing, new coastal construction, etc., and fines or penalties for illegal activities affecting MPAs, etc.
- Improve the ability of national funding mechanisms to contribute to financing MPA
- Reinforce the principles of regional cooperation by encouraging neighbouring countries to cooperate in co-financing MPAs that share boundaries
- Improve the demarcation of marine territories to encourage the establishment of EEZ and expand national jurisdictions and their funding mechanisms beyond existing territorial waters

Ways to raise additional funding related to tourism and recreational activities:

- Set a fee for certain services provided by MPAs and charge fees for certain kinds of recreational activities within MPAs
- Appeal to tourists to make small voluntary donations to support MPAs
- Require permits and collect fees for the right to use MPAs for activities such as commercial film-making and photography, concerts, weddings, constructing and using marinas for private boats inside MPAs (i.e., «mooring» fees), etc.
- Sell merchandising (such as T-shirts) bearing the MPA's identity;
- Solicit coastal municipalities to make fiscal contributions to MPAs based on the economic benefits of MPAs to the local tourism industry ;
- Form partnerships and sponsorships with private stakeholders from the transport, diving, hotel, restaurant sectors, etc.
- Attract sponsors and donors (e.g., banks or cell phone companies, as in the case of an MPA in Slovenia);
- Develop robust business plans;
- Communicate with other MPAs on experiences in raising funds;
- Provide financial training to MPA personnel (fundraising, business planning, etc.);
- Establish legal structures for obtaining and managing funds.

Payments for ecosystem services (PES):

- Identify the key local ecosystem services provided by MPAs and their main beneficiaries, assess the opportunities for development of market-based instruments to protect these services;
- Adopt a local approach to support services that contribute to improve the quality of water on the land-sea interface (wetlands/retention/low flows support);
- Review the regulatory framework for funding of MPA at national level and promote new laws for collecting Payments for Ecosystem Services which MPAs provide;
- Review the major ecosystem services at regional level, their economic values and key beneficiaries; identify opportunities for development of regional PES;
- Develop a regional standard for «blue carbon» for Mediterranean seagrass meadows and coastal wetlands ;
- Support the creation of a regional institution that promotes seagrass and wetlands conservation through sale of carbon credits to individuals and businesses, on a voluntary basis.

Regional funds:

- Support the establishment of a clear political agreement under the Barcelona Convention which is politically backed by the Parties;
- Describe the planned mechanism, in particular its standards and principles;
- Obtain an agreement for creating a regional trust fund which would also support the development of national trust funds (each country has its own needs and legal frameworks);
- Recognise that MedPAN can be the driving force for this initiative;
- Recognise that the regional trust fund can ensure the self-financing of MPAs (which can be co-financed by the EU and other donors in the framework of the fund);
- Recognise that the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) can solicit the shipping industry sector to be a contributor to the fund (a permanent source of funding);
- Recognise that the CBD's «Lifeweb» initiative can contribute to the establishment and operation of the proposed regional MPA Fund;
- Recognise that if the Caribbean example is followed, donors from outside the region can participate in the Mediterranean trust fund. ■



WORKSHOPS





WORKSHOP ON THE INTEGRATION OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN MPAS

WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY WWF- MEDITERRANEAN
AND NOAA

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

GIUSEPPE DI CARLO (WWF- MEDITERRANEAN), **ANNE WALTON** (NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION - NOAA), **ZELJKA RAJKOVIC** (CROATIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND PROTECTION OF NATURE), **JOCHEN LAMP** (WWF-GERMANY).

SPEECH BY **ANNE WALTON** (NOAA)

Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a process for analysing and allocating the spatial distribution of human activities in marine and coastal areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives. From this theoretical definition, we must ask ourselves what are the indicators required by MSP and the most appropriate tool to achieve management objectives. Multiple use MPAs often experience conflicts in allocating space for a range of human activities (too many uses, too little space); conflicts between the nature of the uses themselves (kayaking vs jet skis); and conflicts between the requirements of each activity (placement of activity or infrastructure requirements, for example).

The conservation, socio-economic and cultural or even governance objectives of an MPA may clash with the activities within an MPA, or the objectives themselves may not be complementary to one another. The manager's job is thus to reconcile these incompatibilities in order to achieve his objectives.

The standard MSP model developed by NOAA has four stages: a pre-planning process, understanding the impacts, a development plan and its implementation/evaluation. Each step requires an important involvement from the stakeholders. It is on the ground and through dialogue that the objectives and management strategies must be established, the impact areas identified or even the terms of spatial allocation agreed.

Before and after, one must keep in mind that it is not only the management objectives which often clash with human activities, but that they can be mutually incompatible.

A simulation exercise was conducted to illustrate the setting and context of spatial pre-planning including a compatibility assessment between: the MPA management objectives; the existing human uses of the MPA; the resources to protect; the legislation and future human uses.

During this exercise, French speaking managers, practitioners and experts spoke about their national experiences. For example, an Algerian manager noted an inconsistency between the enforcement of a current law to protect cetaceans in his country and the persistent use of certain fishing techniques, including artisanal. «The dune ridges are also impacted by the high number of tourists», he also pointed out.

In general, the panellists agreed that their management objectives (protection of biodiversity and marine mammal migratory corridors) were «particularly incompatible» with high-impact recreational activities (jet skis, speed boats, etc.) and heavy shipping traffic.

Moroccan and French managers drew attention to the sources of potential conflict between conservation objectives and legislation: they highlighted the conflict between the need to protect and the powers and function of public institutions such as the Ministries of Tourism and Transport and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), «whose rules are not enforced, which encourages the escalation of flags of convenience».

The speakers also stressed that their work demanded long-term planning; they must anticipate the changes in human activities on their sites in terms of their nature and intensity and integrate them into their management plan. «It is essential to identify the possible sources of conflict in terms of tourism, industry and transport developments, particularly by incorporating new technologies», it was said.

They recognised that the current escalation in coastal and marine tourism, commercial fishing, gas, oil and sand extraction and the construction of new port terminals may continue to hinder their actions for the protection of biodiversity, representative habitats, marine mammals, fishery resources and dune belts.



SPEECH BY **ZELJKA RAJKOVIC**

(CROATIAN MINISTRY
OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
PROTECTION OF NATURE)

Zoning activities carried out in Croatia within a pilot project initiated by the MedPAN South Project in the mid-2000s, arose from the involvement of all the Croatian conservation institutions. The very definition of zoning standards, which were inspired from the IUCN protected areas management categories, came from an important think tank and consultation process with stakeholders involved in the protection of nature.

Each country develops its own principles, because each context is unique. In Croatia, we have focused on the need for both the management plan and spatial planning to be compatible and complementary. The management plan must include a zoning which lists the desirable, undesirable and prohibited activities after which a code of conduct is established, regulating the running and current uses of the protected areas taken into consideration.

The division of protected areas into zones is carried out according to the conservation objectives and management needs contained in the aforementioned documents. In Croatia, MPAs are divided into three zones: strict protection, managed protection and usages. The first and second types have classic conservation objectives for habitats and natural processes and the third type targets sustainable use of the area. For each zone, we determine the permitted and prohibited

activities whose nature helps or on the contrary hinders the achievement of the MPA's objectives.

This zoning process has been successfully applied to three Croatian MPAs: Telašćica Nature Park, Brijuni National Park and Lastovo Islands Nature Park. Workshops were held to develop this zoning with the participation of stakeholders involved in nature conservation, fisheries representatives, national land use planning institutions, but also the army and citizens' associations.

A new Fisheries Act which entered into force in 2010 has resulted in the reclassification of Croatian nature parks into fishing zones. This involves laying out strict regulations for fishing practices in these protected areas, which is still ongoing, based on a sea zoning which still needs to be done.

SPEECH BY
JOCHEN LAMP,
FROM THE BALTIC SEA DEPARTMENT
AT WWF-GERMANY

Finding solutions to ensure the resilience of marine areas must be led by the notion that this resilience is based on the ecosystem. Conservation actions undertaken by ecological operators in the Baltic Sea have focused on creating a preserved marine environment, networks of well managed MPAs, an efficient and sustainable supply of ecosystem services and clear environmental statutes. All these are essential to conserve biodiversity and ensure the repopulation of species in our polluted sea.

In the Baltic Sea, which is sectorally managed by riparian countries and which exploitation faces saturation, MSP can be a solution because it requires a systematic understanding of the marine potential and takes into account the limits when determining plans and objectives.

The European «BaltSeaPlan» project, which took a planning perspective until 2030, offers a foundation on which the countries in this region could rely on to reach a pan-Baltic common vision, which founding principles are spatial connectivity and effectiveness. The plan's objectives are the materialisation of a healthy marine environment, a harmonisation of energy policies, the 'greening' of shipping transport and 'sustainability' of fishing and aquaculture activities.

To this end, the project results calls for fisheries to be integrated into MSP. Their activity is relevant from a spatial point of view and because fishing activities as well as transport activities are pursued in every marine area and they both have an impact on the environment and other sea users. If we want to plan effectively, the information on fish species that can be provided by fishermen are key in order to get in depth knowledge on the state of ecosystems and their needs. By incorporating the fishermen's views in MSP, we can also defend their activity by assigning certain areas to them.

Among the initiatives set up to accelerate the implementation of the «BaltSea» plan are the use of the MARXAN planning software in the Baltic Sea, integrated development tools for fisheries in management and planning models, as well as awareness-raising campaigns.

In a context of rising 'blue growth' aspirations, MSP is certainly an ideal instrument to strengthen the ecosystems' resilience, especially for the 'sustainable' use of marine resources and conservation efforts. Developing a regional culture of cooperation between policy makers, experts and local stakeholders will be the only way for marine spatial planning to progress in the Baltic Sea

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collect more bio-ecological and socio-economic data which is necessary for the different stages of MSP (identifying sources of conflict and incompatibility between conservation objectives and exploitation in MPAs)
- Improve mapping of habitats
- Make an inventory of all the species present in an MPA
- Link the protection of biodiversity objectives to the ecosystems' functioning
- Use sites as observatories
- Ensure that all the MPA management objectives are considered a priority and not just those with a commercial or industrial value
- Facilitate dialogue among stakeholders through a real participatory MSP process and that communication strategies are aimed at a mobilisation of skills
- Identify all the stakeholders' areas of common interest to develop new projects which are consistent with the operators' objectives, the laws and powers of the various bodies
- Increase the control of illegal activities
- Encourage policymakers to go more often into the field ■



WORKSHOP ON THE CREATION OF NETWORKS OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS: WHAT ARE THE DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY RAC/SPA

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

SOUHA EL ASMI (RAC/SPA), **GIUSEPPE NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA** (CONSULTANT),
CATHERINE GABRIÉ (CONSULTANT), **CHEDLY RAIS** (EXPERT ON MARINE RESSOURCES), **ARTURO
LOPEZ** (CONSULTANT), **CAROLE MARTINEZ** (IUCN).

SPEECH BY **CATHERINE GABRIÉ** (CONSULTANT)

Ms Gabrié presented an evaluation study of the MPA network led by MedPAN and RAC/SPA. The first of its kind was conducted jointly in 2008 by MedPAN, WWF and IUCN.

The study's objectives were to determine the current level of protection in the Mediterranean Sea, to measure the network's representativeness and its management efficiency, and identify the threats to MPAs. It fits into the context of achieving the Aichi Targets and implementing the SPA/BD Protocol.

The Mediterranean represents 0.8% of the total ocean surface and it has 677 MPAs, 6.6% of the world's total. Less than 5% of the Mediterranean is protected (114 600 km²), an equivalent of 1.38% of the total surface area of marine protected areas on the planet. Since 2008, 23 new MPAs were established in 10 countries.

In 2012, the Mediterranean has 161 MPAs with a national status and 9 MPAs with an international status. The 507 «Natura 2000» sites must be added to these areas, and other 4 fisheries restricted areas from the GFCM-FAO; additionally, 55 new MPAs are being created. Geographically, MPAs are unevenly distributed, with 80% of these areas being located in the western basin under EU Member States' jurisdiction, and with connectivity estimate lower than 70%.

The number of international MPAs is insufficient: two UNESCO World Heritage sites, 5 biosphere reserves and 32 SPAMIs, including the Pelagos Sanctuary. Only 4.56% of the Mediterranean is protected and less than 1% of no take zones have been established. Thus, the protection objectives are far from having been achieved.



Knowledge on the representativeness of species is insufficient, whilst the species habitat is essential to perpetuate life cycles. For now, the action focuses on protecting the habitats of the most threatened iconic species which distribution is rather known in the Mediterranean. As reported in the 2008 study, the bathyal and abyssal benthic habitats, brine pools, cold seeps and cold-water coral reefs are under-represented. Only a few species and habitats are well represented, some by over 10%, whilst some of the most endangered species, such as monk seals and sea turtles, are not. Moreover, there is little knowledge available on the key habitats of rare or endangered species.

MPAs are under pressure from harmful activities due to tourism, fishing and shipping traffic: 25% of assessed MPAs suffer from the adverse effects of port activities and nearly 20% from pollution, shipping transport and industrial fishing. 40% are affected by illegal activities.

The study concludes that to achieve the 10% target by 2020, one would need to create in 7 years more MPAs than have been created in half a century. To generate the missing 150 000 km², we need to extend the boundaries of existing MPAs, create new MPAs of all sizes, create vast MPAs in areas outside national jurisdictions and incorporate as MPAs other types of restriction zones.

SPEECH BY **CHEDLY RAIS,** EXPERT ON MARINE RESOURCES

On a national level, NGOs, research institutes, national maritime agencies, civil society, donors and international organisations are working together to improve habitat and species inventories, identify under-represented ecosystems and develop national plans for extending the size of existing MPAs.

In such a context, we must raise the awareness of the general public, policy makers and sea users to the crucial conservation role of MPAs. For this purpose, it is necessary to enhance the representation of Mediterranean MPAs in the regional and global protection networks and assess the adequacy of the geographic and ecological coverage of each MPA in order to extend, if necessary, the size of the area or to make zoning changes.

Special attention must also be given to threatened species and habitats which are essential to the renewal of fish stocks and the conservation of marine biodiversity.

On a regional level, we must increase the procedures to compile existing data by using databases like MAPAMED and atlases which could be used as planning and management tools. The multilateral process of identifying potential MPA sites which are located beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) should be facilitated.

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

- For management: the need for a territorial approach to improve the integration of coastal areas (segmentation between marine waters and terrestrial areas is irrelevant because watersheds have a great influence on the marine environment). The Conservatoire du Littoral (France), the Commissariat National du Littoral (Algeria) or others could demonstrate their skills which apply to the land/sea interface. For statistics (reporting) it would be more convenient to just take into account the marine part.
- On the definition of MPAs: the important thing is not whether a site is an MPA or not, but if it helps to improve the quality of the marine environment and resources.
- However, one must agree on standard definitions, based on those provided by IUCN, in order to be able to compare the Mediterranean with other regions. Consider the definition on several levels: statistical, managerial and administrative. A rationalisation of the IUCN categories needs to be done.
- The need to have a regional common basis for analyses. MAPAMED is an important tool that should be developed further. On a national level, it is important to encourage stakeholders to feed this database.
- Considerable work remains to be done on a regional level to improve/gather knowledge on the habitats and species, especially for the most threatened species and on connectivity analyses. Assess gaps by national and regional 'gap-analysis'. Harmonise inventories.
- Harmonise the representativeness and connectivity evaluation criteria.
- Support for managers: give support to MPAs needing it the most while contributing to the efficiency of the most advanced MPAs.
- Encourage MPAs to integrate cooperation with other MPAs in their management plan.
- Capitalise on national strategies for the protection of the marine environment in order to have a global vision of these strategies. (This is SAP BIO's purpose, which will be updated in 2013).
- Promote the development of national plans so that the creation of MPAs is not only opportunistic, but more strategic and responds to the needs.
- Encourage MPAs to include in their management plan cooperation with other MPAs.
- Fight against disparities between countries.
- All countries should include MPAs in their ICZM plans.
- Inform decision-makers in a scientific way, but also make concrete planning proposals to them in order to facilitate decision-making processes.





FOCUS SESSIONS





AN ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF MCPAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: THE BLUE PLAN'S CONTRIBUTION

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY BLUE PLAN

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

ABDERRAHMEN GANNOUN (RAC/SPA), **ANAÏ MANGOS** (BLUE PLAN), **ESRA BAŞAK**
(INDEPENDENT EXPERT), **MOUNIR BELLOUMI** (INDEPENDENT EXPERT).



INTRODUCTION FROM **ANAÏ MANGOS,** BLUE PLAN

The Blue Plan, which acts as an observatory for the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, looks at the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) from an economic perspective. It evaluates the «MCPA effect» on local development. In order to do this, it applied an analytical framework to five studied territories in the north, south and east of the Mediterranean: the Cap de Creus Nature Park (Spain), the Mount Chenoua and Handles of Kouali Protection Projects (Algeria), the Zakynthos National Marine Park (Greece), the Kuriat Islands hotspot (Tunisia) and the Kaş-Kekova specially protected area (Turkey).

Among the findings of the qualitative and quantitative evaluation (cost-benefit analysis) of ecosystem services (ES) provided by MCPAs, the Blue Plan notes first that the considered MCPAs are located on the outskirts of dynamic territories, as protected natural settings on the edge of densely populated and busy areas. In addition to the ecological characteristics of these adjacent changed environments, MCPAs face a complex socio-economic context. The Blue Plan also notes that uses that develop on protected sites are primarily recreational (tourism, diving, etc.), and are therefore structuring elements for spatial planning of uses and governance of MCPAs. Finally, MCPAs are little known and recognised by the public and both local and sector authorities. In this respect, it would be advisable to enhance their reputation among residents and non-residents and encourage

public and private stakeholders to integrate them into their local development plans.

The qualitative and quantitative economic approach highlights the links between MCPAs and territorial development, and can be another argument for protection. The quantitative evaluation makes it easier to take into account certain benefits associated with the provision of ecological services within MCPAs. The qualitative study contributes to the understanding of the mechanisms that link environmental protection and development, to the identification of conflicts of interests, possible tradeoffs and sustainable opportunities.

SPEECH BY **ESRA BAŞAK,** CONSULTANT

Kaş-Kekova Special Environmental Protected Area (SEPA) is an MCPA located in the Antalya Province, Turkey, characterised by rocky shores and specialised tourism activities such as daily boat tours, diving, hiking, sea kayaking and cultural/ archeological visits. Local development relies mainly on Ecosystem Services (revenues and benefits related to fishing, tourism, diving, daily boat tours and carbon storage). Therefore, quantitative and qualitative economic benefits of the ES, and the costs involved in their preservation (conservation and management activities) have been assessed in three scenarios projected for the period 2011-2030:



trend scenario, reinforcing protection scenario and decreasing protection scenario.

The assessment demonstrates that loosening the conservation measures would lead to a drop in the overall benefits derived from the MCPA. Scenario 1 and 2 follow parallel trends; however Scenario 2 – tighter conservation measures – lead to, on average, 16 million €/year more benefits. Results of the study show that increased conservation measures tend to increase the benefits related to the ES flows. On the short term, the regulating service of CO₂ sequestration can respond quickly, granted forest management is ensured. On the medium term, revenues related to tourism can increase within a decade and on the long term, the provisioning service of fishing needs stock replenishment.

Due to the lack of first-hand data, both benefits and costs are based on assumptions and estimates. In any case, for the ES to be 'sustainable' it is necessary in the short, medium and long term to regulate their management.

SPEECH BY **MOUNIR BELLOUMI,** INDEPENDENT EXPERT

In the study on the Kuriat Islands hotspot, we find three scenarios projected to 2030: the trend scenario, the creation of an MPA scenario and an abandoned protection scenario. The first anticipates stagnation in the commercial fishing output observed from 2006 until its 1% decrease predicted from 2021. All the other recreational activities (recreational fishing, island tours, scuba diving, etc.) continue to grow. The second scenario foresees stagnation in the commercial fishing output up to 2020, followed by a 1% increase from 2021. Recreational fishing will be prohibited in the MPA whilst scientific tourism and eco-tourism will be intensified. The third scenario anticipates an increase in all the activities up to 2020 and then deterioration in the situation from 2021.

The value of the benefits from commercial fishing is still the most important in all three scenarios, followed by tourism and carbon sequestration.

The qualitative economic evaluation on the effects of this hotspot advocates the protection of the Kuriat Islands and to establish MPAs in their vicinity. In this context, the organisation of tourist activities in these islands and the enforcement of fishing activities regulations could maximize all individual and collective profits and finance the MPA's management expenses. ■



MPAS AND FISHING: THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE MEDPAN NORTH PROJECT

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY WWF-FRANCE,
COORDINATOR OF THE MEDPAN NORTH PROJECT IN
COLLABORATION WITH PORT-CROS NATIONAL PARK

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

CATHERINE PIANTE (WWF-FRANCE), **NICOLAS GÉRARDIN** (PORT-CROS NATIONAL PARK), **TONI FONT AND JOSEP LLORET** (GERONA UNIVERSITY), **DIMITRIS ZANNES** (FEDERATION OF COASTAL FISHERMEN IN THE SOUTHERN AEGEAN), **MARCO COSTANTINI** (WWF-ITALY).

SPEECH BY **MARCO COSTANTINI,** WWF-ITALY

At the meeting held in Brindisi in March 2012 for MPA managers and artisanal fishermen in the Mediterranean, the 60 or so participants pointed out that coastal artisanal fishing is an economic activity which structures territories and is one of the pillars of Mediterranean culture. MPAs are one of the useful tools for managing artisanal fisheries and it is important to emphasise that the sustainability of Mediterranean coastal artisanal fishing has now been scientifically proven in MPAs. The biomass larval production and spill-over effect created by MPAs enrich all ecosystems and contribute to an increase of Mediterranean's fishery resources.

The collaboration between MPAs and artisanal fishermen via innovative activities enables to save public money and thus contributes to the economic sustainability of the activity. Moreover, artisanal fishermen and MPAs share common goals for ecological monitoring at sea.

For all these reasons, it is essential that fishermen participate in the process of creating, planning and managing MPAs. Best practices which have been tested in MPAs should serve as a model for the whole coastal artisanal fishing sector, particularly by standardising co-management and promoting artisanal fishing and its products.

From a political point of view, it is important that small-scale coastal fisheries' specificity and sustainability is recognised and integrated into the Common Fisheries Policy's (CFP) reform, otherwise the activity's survival could be jeopardised. The European Commission (EC) must support the diverse trades within the Mediterranean coastal artisanal fishing activity and give financial backing to its co-management. The EC must also give support to the development of MPAs in the Mediterranean in order to conserve its biological and cultural diversity, as well as increasing its fishery resources.

This meeting concluded with the participants putting across the following messages to the EC:

- No to individual transferable quotas;
- No to developing aquaculture as it threatens coastal artisanal fishing;
- No to commercial use of rejects.

And they requested:

- support for the versatile and diverse nature of the Mediterranean coastal artisanal fishing trades;
- support for co-management of artisanal fishing and its long term action plans, including a specific funding line;
- that recreational fishing be taken into account in the management of fisheries resources;
- support for a development policy of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to conserve its biological and cultural diversity, as well as increasing its fishery resources.



SPEECH BY
DIMITRIS ZANNES,
 PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF
 COASTAL FISHERMEN IN THE SOUTHERN
 AEGEAN, THE NORTHERN CYCLADES
 MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECT AND
 REPRESENTATIVE OF MEDARTNET

**MedArtNet : the Mediterranean
 Platform of Artisanal Fishers.**

MedArtNet is a platform gathering artisan fishermen from Spain, France, Italy and Greece that defend artisanal fishing with the following principles: dignified and self-sufficient livelihood with prospects for the future, sustainable activity, social and economical pillar.

Missions of MedArtNet:

- Representativeness and participation in decision-making processes, as for instance the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Reform;
- Real engagement on sustainability through initiatives to protect and restore the fish stocks and the marine environment, co-management plans, designation of MPA, etc;
- Fair commercialisation of sea products;
- Social recognition, and recognition of the traditional knowledge of artisan fishermen;
- Awareness raising and cooperation with other fishermen, the scientific community, local stakeholders, etc.

In the short term, MedArtNet aims at promoting the cooperation and organisation of the artisanal fishing sector and influencing the CFP Reform. It also looks forward to changing the fishing management model: MedArtNet believes that through Management Plans, it is possible to manage a set of fisheries (mono or multi-specific) in a coherent approach that takes place on a specific spatial scale under the governance of co-management Committees.

Northern Cyclades Marine Conservation Project (Greece).

As a coastal fisherman, Dimitris Zannes is also currently developing a sustainable artisan fisheries management project in Northern Cyclades. This project aims at applying the EC measures for managing the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean. This island of Gyros was chosen to implement the project because it acts a natural reef and shelters a number of protected marine habitats. It is also the main reproduction area of the monk seal in the Mediterranean Sea. The project is supported by the residents.

Local scientists already gave their support to the project by providing data on Posidonia meadows and the fish biomass in the coastal zone, as well as the identification of key species.

The project currently goes through a fundraising phase. Based on this scientific information, it is expected that in the future, no take zones and protected areas with sustainable fisheries management measures will be established and hopefully, the area declared a national monument.

It is expected that it will benefit the fisheries sector as well as the other sectors such as tourism.

SPEECH BY TONI FONT ET JOSEP LLORET, RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GIRONA (SPAIN), AUTHOR OF A TRANSNATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATIONAL FISHING IN MEDITERRANEAN MPAS

Recreational fishing is a booming activity in Mediterranean coastal areas, particularly in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Despite generating a variety of impacts and imbalances on marine resources and ecosystems, there is much less research into recreational fishing than there is into commercial fishing. The overall aim of the survey carried out in 2012, which is one of the first of its kind in the Mediterranean, is to provide an outline of the current situation as regards recreational fishing in Mediterranean MPAs, to compare these areas and to establish common methodological foundations that will facilitate the management of this activity.

The results illustrate the diverse impacts caused by recreational fishing on the marine ecosystems of Mediterranean MPAs. The prime causes of these impacts are (i) the immense pressure exerted by the various types of recreational fishing on coastal marine resources, particularly on vulnerable species; (ii) anchoring in sensitive habitats, in particular those of interest to the European Community (Posidonia meadows, coralligenous

reefs, etc.) in the context of the Natura 2000 Network; (iii) lost or abandoned fishing gear (iv) the use of exotic baits and (v), the practice of catch and release. In addition there is a degree of interaction with commercial (artisanal) fishing which is usually a source of conflict over space and resources.

The different types of fishing (boat, shore and underwater fishing) have been compared because each one deserves differentiated attention. Recreational fishing in the Mediterranean MPAs considered in the study targets a large number of fish species, of which 41 are vulnerable species. Boat fishing, is responsible for catching more species (including vulnerable ones) than the other types of fishing, has the largest extractive potential (followed by spearfishing and shore fishing), and involves the highest number of fishing techniques

used, and bottom fishing with a rod is by far the most commonly-used. It is worth underlining the importance of indirect emerging and potential impacts such as lost or abandoned fishing gear, the use of exotic species as bait, by-catch and anchoring in sensitive habitats.

Recreational fishermen have a relatively low level of knowledge and awareness regarding the impact generated by their activity. Conflicts between different users of the MPAs occur fairly often, especially with professional fishermen in terms of space and resources. More than 70% of MPAs have at least one no-take zone, but the size of these areas is rather small (normally <10%). About half of the MPAs require some sort of fishing license, but less than 30% require a fee. The type of restrictions most used by managers concern fishing techniques



and fishing effort. Moreover, recreational fishing is of huge economic importance which, on occasion in certain locations, exceeds that of commercial fishing. Boat fishing appears to generate the greatest economic impact.

Based on the results of this report, we propose a number of recommendations for the study and management of recreational fishing, as well as environmental education. The list of recommendations is directed at the MedPAN network as a whole, the managers of MPAs and their technical staff and the European, national and regional authorities that are responsible for the evaluation and management of recreational fishing.

Overall, this study supports the idea that MPAs not only help sustain coastal marine resources and biodiversity, preserve habitats and conserve the maritime cultural heritage, but also provide resources for fisheries, in particular leisure fishing, allowing for the enjoyment of these areas and for the development of local economies. For sustainable uses of the sea, further research and management actions regarding recreational fishing should be urgently undertaken in Mediterranean MPAs. ■



MPAS : DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY IUCN /
MEDPAN-NORTH PROJECT

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

MARIA DEL MAR OTERO (IUCN MED), **DAN LAFFOLEY** (IUCN'S WORLD COMMISSION),
JOAQUIM GARRABOU (SPANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL)



No one challenges the fact that climate change has a major impact on the physical environment. In the Mediterranean Sea for example, climate and hydrological changes create a rise in the air temperature, which disrupts rainfall and the water level rises, causing a sequence of extreme events. Currents direction has itself been altered, as has water chemical content which is becoming more and more acidic and salty. The understanding of the problem clashes with the common perception that nothing can be done in the face of this evolving situation which could accelerate global warming and the desertification of the Mediterranean region by the end of 21st century. On the other hand, if climate change and its effects are certain, the future regional climate is not.

Despite this uncertainty, initiatives have been taken to prepare for the future. IUCN as part of the MedPAN North project funded by the EC has been working with Mediterranean experts to guide the development of biodiversity conservation in MPAs against the threats of climate change. In cooperation with RAC/SPA, a set of potential tools and indicators to monitor climate change impacts on marine biodiversity has been selected to build a common strategic orientation at the Mediterranean MPA network level.

In the short term, IUCN work and SAP-BIO's priority has been to improve the coordination of actions undertaken by Mediterranean MPAs to contribute to improve the resilience of marine areas in the face of climate change. This starts with data collection, including the setting of standardised monitoring indicators... Efforts are currently being made to achieve the installation of an early climate warning system shared by all the MPAs in the region and reduce the vulnerability within the sites. Oceanographic monitoring stations have been established in some MPAs. The data collected, coupled with those of other research programmes, have shown a continuous rise in average summer temperatures which was correlated with the emergence of phenomena such as the increasing physiological stress undergone by gorgonians and sponges, a shift in the range of thermophilic species (native and introduced) towards the northern and western basin, or the increase in mucilage phenomena in some coastal sites.

Mediterranean MPAs must continue to play a key observational role in the structural changes to marine communities induced by climate change. The management of MPAs must also incorporate scientific knowledge on the effect of climate change, in order to identify, among other things, areas that can mitigate the impact of the phenomenon and that therefore need priority protection. ■



ENSURE THE FUNCTIONING OF MPAS: LESSONS LEARNED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY
WWF-MEDITERRANEAN / MEDPAN SOUTH PROJECT

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

MARINA GOMEI (WWF- MEDITERRANEAN), **SANDRO DUJMOVIC** (INTERIM DIRECTOR OF BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK, CROATIA), **MILENA SIJAN** (« SUNCE » ASSOCIATION, CROATIA), **SAMI DHOUB** (WWF-MEDITERRANEAN), **HACÉNE KADDOUR** (DIRECTOR OF TAZA NATIONAL PARK, ALGERIA), **ALMOKHTAR SAIED** (ENVIRONMENTAL GENERAL AUTHORITY, LIBYA), **NILAY AKCA** (WWF-TURKEY).



INTRODUCTION BY **MARINA GOMEI,**

WWF- MEDITERRANEAN

In 2008, the findings regarding the management of MPAs in the southern and eastern Mediterranean were alarming: inadequate management plans, weak governance systems, incomplete scientific understanding, communities not involved enough and insufficient number of staff with low capacities.

The MedPAN South Project responded to the need of strengthening the management effectiveness of several MPA across the Mediterranean. The project involved several partners (governments and NGOs), MPA practitioners and stakeholders from 11 countries. Through a combination of initiatives at the regional and national level, the Project addressed several shortfalls that prevented MPAs from becoming operational. At the regional level, the Project built the capacity of MPA practitioners, strengthened the network of MPAs and created a troubleshooting program to support MPAs in addressing management gaps. The Project specifically engaged 5 countries (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia, and Turkey) to ensure that their MPAs were pushed forward, from a dormant state into an operational state, with trained staff, standardised management plans, scientifically sound monitoring, and zoning plans.

The added value of this Project was the adoption of a participatory approach, where stakeholder engagement in MPA 'business' was key to securing buy-in from local communities and stakeholders (including fishermen), endorsement from national and local governments, and ownership of the MPA.

SPEECH BY **SANDRO DUJMOVIC AND MILENA SIJAN.**

The pilot project conducted in Croatia was the first of this magnitude in the field of nature conservation. It was successful thanks to the support and involvement of civil society associations and government institutions. Significant progress has been made in management planning and standardisation of Croatian protected areas through an important cooperation and commitment by the general public. The relevant conservation processes and implementation of environmental policies have become more democratic. Thanks to this, the functioning of the Croatian network of MPAs has improved since 2008 and its integration into MedPAN and AdriaPAN is a reality.

SPEECH BY **SAMI DHOUIB.**

The objectives linked to the creation of the marine and coastal protected area of «Cap Négro-Cap Serrat» in Tunisia - helping authorities to implement an effective management of the area, strengthen management capacity and raise the public's awareness on the importance of the MPA - have all been successful. However, and like other MPAs we encounter difficulties to fund them with the project funds available.

It is essential to ensure the continued existence of funding because there is always a threat to the

sustainability of improvements made after the donors' withdrawal. When one compares the low level of public expenditure in the south with the one in the north, the situation further aggravates: African States spend on average \$1 per hectare, while the regional average in the Mediterranean is about 25 dollars per hectare.

SPEECH BY **HACÈNE KADDOUR**

The partnership between the project's Scientific Committee, the intersectoral Steering Committee and the consultation and dialogue Commission helped to achieve results. The pilot project for the integration of the marine area of the Taza National Park, which mobilised about 11 countries, represented the first experience of consultation and cooperation in creating an MPA in Algeria. The project also established the first underwater trail in North Africa. On the strength of these results, the competent authorities and stakeholders in conservation projects have launched promising partnerships with marine parks and fishermen associations. In general, the training sessions granted during the setting up of this project and exchange missions with other Mediterranean MPAs have been the driving force for the partners' commitment to the project and their integration in the development of the management and work plan.

SPEECH BY **NILAY AKÇA**

The project on the Special Environmental Protected Area of Kaş-Kekova in Turkey sought to involve stakeholders in the development of a zoning plan. The consultation process with the MPA's users led to the development of a code of conduct. The preservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and the capacity building of management institutions required the implementation of these regulations. These were defined with stakeholders, divers, fishermen and those in charge of anchorage and demarcation. The main challenge remaining to be addressed now is the enforcement of regulations related, among others, to illegal amateur fishing activities, with the set up of efficient buoy systems.

SPEECH BY **ALMOKHTAR SAIED**

Considerable progress has been made in the management capacity building project for the Ain El Ghazala MPA in Libya. This habitat is potentially ideal for the conservation of migratory birds, seagrass meadows, sea turtles and monk seals. The regional training workshops on capacity building (management planning activities and sustainable fishing and tourism activities) organised with the support of WWF and MedPAN in Tunisia, Turkey and Croatia were a godsend. On a national level, the action focused on improving geographical information systems, evaluating the status of marine biodiversity and socio-economic needs. The project has undoubtedly contributed to

a closer cooperation between managers and authorities, increasing knowledge of the MPAs and consolidating funding for managers and researchers.

SESSION WORKING GROUPS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND REMARKS

- To ensure/improve the functioning of MPAs, a regulatory/statutory strict framework is required to prevent protected areas from being transformed into commercial exploitation areas (drift): the main objective of an MPA is nature protection.
- Maintain a regular connection with local stakeholders (fishermen, tourism sector, and communities). It is crucial to improve their engagement in the participatory decision-making processes and in the support of MPA implementation.
- The involvement of stakeholders should start early in the process of establishing MPAs.
- Consultations and participation processes should be led by public institutions with the mediation, when needed, of an independent facilitator.
- Instead of engaging external consultants, the work of drafting the management plans should be carried out by MPA staff.
- There is a need to constantly lobby decision-makers and politicians to enforce MPA regulations effectively through appropriate penalties and surveillance.
- Good MPA governance should take into account experiences from other areas and lessons learned. However, each country should develop its specific governance system based on national legislation and institutional framework.
- Raising awareness among local communities and the general public on the value of MPAs significantly contributes to effective MPA implementation.
- More effort should be put in exploring the feasibility of establishing sustainable financial mechanisms: right of access, entry and diving fee (eco-tourism), concession fee, trust funds, eco-taxation, etc.. ■



WHALE-WATCHING IN MEDITERRANEAN MPAS: PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND RAISE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY ACCOBAMS

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

MARIE-CHRISTINE GRILLO-COMPULSIONE (ACCOBAMS), **PHILIPPE ROBERT** (ACCOBAMS CONSULTANT), **NICOLAS GÉRARDIN** (FRENCH ACTIVITY TEAM FOR THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY).



Whale-watching initiatives whose aim is to observe the whales in their natural environment form an essential element for the conservation of marine mammals and to raise the awareness of this cause.

In MPAs, whale-watching is a potential source of revenue for protected areas and their managers (it is estimated that the financial benefits generated each year by whale-watching activities in the world amount to 1.75 billion). In order to make this activity sustainable in the Mediterranean, a study on the practice of whale-watching in the French Mediterranean was conducted in 2005 to assess its economic, ecological and environmental potential. Based on its results, thirty stakeholders were mobilised in the Pelagos Sanctuary and a database was established.

The first objectives were to mitigate the adverse effects (intrusive approaches which disrupt species) and to make the economic potential sustainable. In the process, guidelines for the creation of a «Pelagos-ACCOBAMS» label for commercial whale-watching and specifications were drawn up in consultation with the French, Italian and Monegasque operators and business providers. These guidelines include a code of conduct, ban swimming with cetaceans, the running of a practice that remains extensive and naturalistic, the sorting of waste on board the boats, or recommendations that operators participate in research programmes. In 2012, a training session for French and Monegasque operators seeking to get the label, whose creation was formalised on this occasion, was organised in Porquerolles by the French side of Pelagos in collaboration with ACCOBAMS. In a case of non-compliance with the code of conduct,

sanctions can go up to the suspension and the withdrawal of the label.

The 2005 study's conclusions noted a growth in whale-watching in the Mediterranean which was attributed to the biological interests in this zone, the Sanctuary's good communication and the growing involvement of the local communities. To maintain a balanced development of this activity, the authors asked Pelagos to immediately consider measures to manage this activity, while taking local characteristics into consideration and favouring cooperation between stakeholders.

Today, the emphasis should be on strengthening the enforcement of regulatory measures for whale-watching activities. If the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) recognises Pelagos as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, this would facilitate the relationship between the competent authorities of the States bordering the sanctuary and the establishment of strict rules that also apply to every boat entering this area. For its part, ACCOBAMS reiterates its position to technically and scientifically assist the creation of MPAs which can benefit economically and environmentally from cetaceans being present in the area covered by the Agreement. For its part, the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS includes in its work program support to countries for the development of a sustainable whale-watching activity, that can economically benefit MPAs and that contributes to the conservation of cetaceans. ■



ESTABLISH A STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH INVASIVE MARINE SPECIES IN MPAS

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY IUCN WITHIN THE MEDPAN-NORTH PROJECT

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

MARIA DEL MAR OTERO (IUCN-MED), **EMMA CEBRIAN** (CSIC), **ATEF OUERGHY** (RAC/SPA).



Marine invasive species (IAS) are those alien species which, becoming established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitats, become an agent of change, increase in abundance and distribution, threaten native biological diversity and pose a important threat to native communities.

They can have a considerable impact on biodiversity, ecosystems, fisheries, human health, and coastal infrastructures. In Europe, the impact of these aquatic invasions has been estimated to cost at least 2.2 billion EUR per year to the Mediterranean region. The characteristics of the Mediterranean and the maritime traffic that criss-crosses it, make it particularly susceptible to alien species invasion.

For MPAs, the presence of fish farms or ports in or around MPAs further complicates the situation. This context, marked by a lack of awareness of the problem on a local level, facilitates the introduction of marine invasive species. The invasion of some species thus passes unnoticed until they become established in the local ecosystems making it technically and economically difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate. Faced with this urgent problem, IUCN within the framework of the MedPAN North project funded by the EC, has defined a strategy for MPAs and the network system with the overall goal "to establish a MedPAN network level common framework to develop action on marine invasive species".

The MedPAN network's strategy for marine invasive species follows the CBD Guiding principles for action to prevent or minimise IAS impacts to biodiversity with a three-stage hierarchy of interventions (prevention, early detection and rapid response, long-term control and containment). Its main objectives are to increase awareness among relevant stakeholders, decision makers and the general public to fight against the introduction of invasive species; to improve information on the status and distribution of IAS in MPAs; to develop regional coordination and cooperation partnerships to accelerate the implementation of management plans; to identify the potential vectors introducing these species into the MPA's environment and to counter act via rapid action plans; and to identify national and international expertise that could hold a key role in managing these IAS. Within this framework, IUCN is also involved in developing the first guidelines for monitoring invasive species in MPAs.

On a regional level, the Action Plan for species and invasive species introductions in the Mediterranean adopted under the Barcelona Convention and the existing specialist networks (i.e. Invasive Species Specialist Group – ISSG - of IUCN and others) and databases (i.e. MAMIAS, DAISIE, etc) represent a good complementary arsenal of tools for MPAs to work together and prevent the impacts caused by invasive marine species. ■



PIM INITIATIVE: 7 YEARS OF ACTION AND EXCHANGES ON SMALL MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY THE CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL AND THE PIM INITIATIVE

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

CELINE DAMERY (CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL), **SAMI BEN HAJ** (THETIS CONSULTANTS),
PASCALE JANNY & CHRISTEL GEORGES (CITY OF MARSEILLE), **MOHAMMED RIBI** (HCEFLD)
& **HOCEIN BAZAIRI** (RABAT-AGDAL UNIVERSITY), **ELMAKEE ELAGIL** (EGA), **SAJMIR BEQIRAJ**
(APAWA - TIRANA UNIVERSITY), **AUGUSTO NAVONE** (TAVOLORA MPA), **NAIMA GHALEM** (MATEV),
SABA GUELLOUZ (APAL).

Launched in 2006 by the Conservatoire du Littoral, the small Mediterranean islands initiative's (PIM) aim is to promote and support the management of small island territories on the institutional and organisational levels, through concrete actions on the ground, by encouraging know-how and knowledge exchanges between managers, scientists and experts of the islands of the Mediterranean basin.

There are approximately 15,000 islands and islets in the Mediterranean. Among these, less than 40 archipelagos are effectively managed.

The small islands were selected as pilot sites for concrete actions on the integrated management of coastal zones, because they offer several advantages: they represent living laboratories and refuges for many species and they contain an important ecological landscape and cultural heritage. Also, the small size of these areas (less than 1,000 hectares) facilitates the understanding of the challenges on hand. Thus, these small islands are an ideal place to inventory, to evaluate and to share and exchange experiences, in order to support the implementation of an efficient and practical management in the long term.

The PIM initiative is a long-lasting, sustainable process, through partnerships with public institutions and collaboration with national, local, and regional organisations. On a practical level, expertise is based on synergies between actors from different geographical and professional backgrounds, combining in particular the scientist's rigour with the manager's pragmatism.

The structuring programmes of the PIM Initiative (Sentinel Islands, Albatros project, Pharos project, Terra Cognita, Atelier des îles et Ileum) are the foundation of this active network. They help advance the knowledge of islands environments, better understand the impacts of global change on biodiversity, implement specific management actions on the ground to improve conservation. These programmes enable the dissemination and sharing of experience and information and work towards a sustainable development through the implementation of good practices to improve local communities living conditions and the exploitation of natural resources.

Since 2006, and thanks to the support of its funders (the French Global Environment Facility, the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency (RMC), the City of Marseille, the French Conservatoire du Littoral ...) and partners (ministries of environment, National Agencies for Coastal Protection, local authorities, academics, scientists, managers...), the PIM Initiative has been able to involve over 350 experts and partners from 12 countries.

Expertise have been conducted on about 80 islands and islets, and resulted in the publication of more than a hundred scientific and technical reports, in the implementation of dozens of awareness actions, in the regular implementation of monitoring programs, and in the enforcement of activities related to environmental engineering, cultural and landscape heritage enhancement, and public welcoming improvement. ■



THE MEDITERRANEAN MPA NETWORK'S STRATEGY 2013-2017

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY MEDPAN

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

DAVID DE MONBRISON (BRLI), **BARRY SPERGEL** (INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT).

SPEECH BY **DAVID DE MONBRISON** ON MEDPAN'S NETWORK STRATEGY

Since 2008, the MedPAN organisation runs and provides the Secretariat of the MedPAN network, in close cooperation with its partners (RAC/SPA, WWF, IUCN, Conservatoire du Littoral...) and MPA managers. The analysis of surveys conducted with many members and partners of the organisation produced several lessons which have led to the definition of a participatory 2013-2017 strategy for the MedPAN network, integrating the activities of the organisation and the synergies with its partners.

The long-term mission of the network is, now more than ever, to promote through partnerships the sustainability and the operation of MPAs which are representative, connected and effectively managed in the Mediterranean in order to fight against the decline of marine biodiversity. In doing so, MedPAN also gives itself the means to participate in achieving the goals of international conventions and European policies.

In recent years, the organisation has proved its legitimacy and effectiveness while maintaining a transparency and dynamism appreciated by all. The next few years represent a consolidation phase of gains already secured, which is necessary to stabilise and ensure the sustainability of the network. This consolidation around the strategic axes of the network and a selected number of specific actions, will also be a period for strengthening exchanges, increasing proximity to the field, and improving the network's economic model;

So over the next few years, MedPAN will strive to consolidate its place as a network of knowledge, information, anticipation and synthesis. For this strategic effort to bear fruits, several objectives were set: improve the provision of information on MPAs and the status of the network in order to facilitate the establishment of managed MPAs and to ensure a better representation of the network; share multi-thematic scientific information; give support to ecological inventories and surveillance mechanisms; strengthen the ties between researchers and managers to make AMP real places of knowledge on coastal functional mechanisms and places of innovation in relation to sector-specific challenges (fishing, tourism,...) and social issues.

Another strategic effort will be to increase interactivity between members of the network and build their management capacity. To do this, it is necessary to provide direct support to actions led by MPA managers by giving them access to the most relevant updated information, and for example, support through calls for small projects. The complementary nature of training-actions approaches, capitalisation tools, exchanges of experiences and direct support between members will be coordinated to optimise resources. Information and communication tools will be maintained and improved (website, newsletter...) to support the different actions of the network and of the MedPAN organisation.



As brought forward by the analysis of seven transnational networks of managers, the challenges related to strengthening the synergies between partners and financing MPAs and the management of transverse regional activities are critical for the sustainability of a transnational network. The strategy thus foresees that the MedPAN organisation takes its rightful place, recognised among members and partners, by playing a key coordination role.

Moreover, given the scale of the task for the Mediterranean, activities and tasks will be shared by enhancing the skills of each partner. The synergies and integration developed will allow for the elaboration in 2017 of a common regional strategy, optimally integrated between partners. The MedPAN organisation shows a very

satisfactory track record in 2012, but will need to reinforce its internal governance and technical secretariat with some improvements by focusing on a limited number of specific activities and strong issues for the future (in particular, capacity building in financial engineering and financing of MPAs, improved links with the fishing sector...). It will mainly have to diversify and sustain its funding while accompanying with partners, the development of national, sub-regional and local funding for MPAs.

SPEECH BY
BARRY SPERGEL
 ON THE POSSIBLE WAYS
 OF FINANCING MEDPAN'S
 STRATEGY

Diversification of funding sources is a major challenge for the MedPAN organisation, for MPAs, as well as for national systems of MPAs. Trust funds are, along with many other mechanisms, proven to support the financing of MPA management and the management of transnational networks and are yet practically non-existent in the Mediterranean. Critical analysis of strengths and weaknesses and of the donors context, confirmed that it is appropriate to imagine the establishment of a regional conservation trust fund to support the implementation of MedPAN's strategy. It could be modelled on the Mesoamerican Caribbean and Micronesia funds, namely a legally independent institution whose governance is provided by donors and members of the civil society. Such a fund must stipulate in its charter that the financial resources can only be used for conservation purposes.

The structure of the fund would support cross-regional activities, stimulate the development and matching of national funds, and also allow public and private donors to support individual MPAs in the Mediterranean rim, with earmarked funding.

A trust fund can provide effective long-term funding in three ways:

- only the annual interest is spent;
- the annual interest and part of the capital are spent each year;
- funds from the collection of taxes and other usage charges can be paid into it annually.

The fund would ensure that the MedPAN organisation's activities run over a long period, that direct support to the MPA managers actions as well as regional partners' initiatives mentioned in the strategy be given and that the establishment of a national MPA creation support fund be backed.

The legal status of the fund could be an independent charitable foundation registered in Switzerland or the United Kingdom; these countries have favourable legislation and taxation for foundations and trust funds, or it could be a «sheltered fund» under the aegis of WWF-France, the "Fondation de France" or the Albert II of Monaco Foundation. ■



MPAS ON THE HIGH SEAS' ISSUES

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY RAC/SPA

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

DANIEL CEBRIAN (RAC/SPA), **CHARLES BESANCON** (CBD), **PILAR MARIN** (OCEANA).

The Joint Management Action of the EC with UNEP/MAP was launched in 2007 to accelerate the achievement of the 10% target for the protection of the Mediterranean (Aichi Target 11). Its main objective is to promote, through the creation of SPAMIs, the establishment of a representative network of MPAs in the Mediterranean including open sea areas (32 SPAMIs are currently established in the Mediterranean). Until 2009, the project focused on collecting existing information on open sea ecosystems, including deep seas, to identify marine ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSA) in the Mediterranean Sea¹. The project's activities during Phase 1 also focused

on a study in the same areas on the conservation needs of the most vulnerable demersal and pelagic shoals and ecosystems exploited by fisheries. The Joint Management Action also looked into defining operational selection criteria for sites on the high seas, based on the selection criteria of existing SPAMIs.

The second phase of the project (2010-2011) was to facilitate, based on the results obtained during Phase 1, the SPAMI designation process for sites in priority conservation areas further defined within each EBSA. In this context, the Joint Management Action set up ad-hoc working groups to facilitate the coordination and consultation between neighbouring countries of the sites to be considered. The SPA/BD Protocol entitles to suggest that these sites are included on the

¹ CBD Decision XI/17, agreed in Hyderabad in October 2012 takes note of the "Synthesis Report On The Work Carried Out Regarding Description Of EBSAs in the Mediterranean", as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8, and its conclusion regarding the continuation of the work in close cooperation with Mediterranean countries and relevant organisations, in order to finalise the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs in the Mediterranean region



SPAMI list and to propose adequate measures of protection and management.

It appears from the execution of these two phases that the legal context is particularly complex in the Mediterranean, which is slowing down the MPA designation process in open seas, including deep seas. Moreover, environmental data in this area is still insufficient, especially for benthic habitats and demersal species.

Based on these findings, Phase 3 of the project which is currently under way aims to improve the level of knowledge on open sea and deepwater ecosystems and their uses, and to develop a framework with competent countries and organisations.

The open sea SPAMIs project originated from the lack of protection mostly in areas beyond national jurisdictions. This loophole has been also detected by international organisations working on marine conservation, and as such, several initiatives have been developed over the past years to collaborate on improving the protection of the Mediterranean Sea. Oceana is one of these groups, having recently launched a proposal for a well-connected network called MedNet. The proposal includes 100 sites to reach the 10% target, which overlap in several cases with the EBSAs defined under the aforementioned SPAMIs project. It is worth highlighting that despite their importance based on CBD criteria to define EBSAs, seamounts and submarine canyons have no representation in the existing Mediterranean MPA network. Over the



years, Oceana has gathered information through at-sea expeditions which demonstrates the high value of these features in the Mediterranean Sea, which is why they are an important part of MedNet.

It was confirmed in November 2012 that this crucial phase would be funded by the donor (EC). This will enable the Joint Management Action activities to actively complement those undertaken by the countries concerned and relevant organisations in the area (ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN, RAC/SPA in particular) and to thereby facilitate the establishment of SPAMIs in open seas, including deep seas. ■



REINFORCEMENT OF THE MCPA SYSTEM IN TURKEY (2009-2014): RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY THE TURKISH
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR PROTECTION OF
NATURAL ASSETS AND UNDP TURKEY

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

HARUN GÜÇLÜSOY (UNDP TURKEY), **ESRA BAŞAK** (CONSULTANT), **CAMILLE BANN**
(CONSULTANT).

The economic analysis of six Turkish MCPAs (the project sites) was carried out by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded «PIMS 3697: Strengthening the System of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Turkey» project which aims to facilitate the expansion of the national MCPAs system and improve its management effectiveness. Ecosystems naturally consist of habitats that give yield goods and services and thus generate benefits and profits. The objectives of this study were to raise awareness on the range of marine goods and services provided by the project sites; contribute to their sustainable management by highlighting pressures threatening the viability of key ecosystem services and the economic implications of these; and inform the business plans to be developed for the sites by demonstrating the economic value of marine services and highlighting potential revenue generating activities and mechanisms.

An Ecosystem Service Valuation Framework was developed for the economic assessments covering both the use and non-use values. The research was based on a review of the available data and literature on each site, interviews with key stakeholders and data gathered through site visits. The study points out the potential of the land/sea interface's range of goods and services in 6 Turkish MCPAs, is estimated at over 400 million dollars per year generated from their ecosystem services.

Tourism and recreation activities prevail as the most important sectors in the 6 sites covering about 85% of the total values, thus pointing to the importance of their management. Even though fishing makes up only 2% of the values, it is a

critical sector for the sustainable management of the study sites and the reported values are believed to be based on under-reported fish catch levels. Non-use values of erosion protection and waste treatment, on the other hand, make up 14% of the values and require regular assessment in order to observe the changes that can affect the viability of other ecosystem services.

The economic results of the study are provided in the table below:

| | Surface | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Foça SEPA | 71,38 km ² | 37 066 203 |
| Gökova SEPA | 307 km ² | 31 231 572 |
| Ayvalık Nature Park | 179,5 km ² | 42 856 804 |
| Köyceğiz-Dalyan SEPA | 461,5 km ² | 51 216 071 |
| Dağça-Bozburun SEPA | 1 443,89 km ² | 38 175 788 |
| Fethiye-Göcek SEPA | 816 km ² | 209 596 185 |

Value/ year, US\$



IDENTIFYING AND CREATING NEW MPAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: LESSONS LEARNED AND ISSUES

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY RAC/SPA

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

SOUHA EL ASMI & ATEF LIMAM (RAC/SPA) **REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALBANIA,
ALGERIA, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, MOROCCO, CROATIA, LIBYA,
MONTENEGRO AND TUNISIA.**

SPEECH BY **SOUHA EL ASMI**

(MEDMPANET PROJECT OFFICER,
RAC/SPA)

The RAC/SPA launched the Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network through the boosting of MPAs Creation and Management (MedMPAnet Project) and is part of the UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership project (Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem). This project implements, with the MedPAN South project, executed by WWF-Mediterranean, Component 3.1 of the MedPartnership which focuses on the conservation of coastal and marine diversity through the development of a network of Mediterranean MPAs. This component's objective specifically meets the SPA/BD Protocol's regional protection requirements.

A total of twelve riparian countries benefit from the implementation of the MedMPAnet Project: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. An important communication and awareness raising work has been done on conservation issues in these countries via the development of the Project's website, the regular publication of scientific papers and technical guides as well as training workshops and public meetings.

The MedMPAnet Project relies on the existing MPA network and focuses a large part of its activities on improving the representativeness of vulnerable coastal and marine habitats in the Mediterranean.

It gives specific assistance to countries in the following areas: identifying and planning new MPAs to extend the network's coverage and enhance its ecological representativeness; developing priority activities to establish MPAs in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro and Syria; identifying potential partnerships and stakeholders; proposal of innovative and sustainable financial mechanisms; characterisation work on marine sites in view of their designation as MPAs.

On this last point, MedMPAnet performed two natural habitat surveys along the coast of Montenegro in 2011 and 2012 and established a list of 6 Montenegrin marine sites which could be eligible for an MPA status.

The project also did extensive planning, zoning and development activities for newly established MPAs in Tunisia, Montenegro, Croatia, Albania and Algeria. In 2010 and 2011, again within the MedMPAnet Project, the first ecological and socio-economic assessments of Libyan marine sites was undertaken (Al Ain-Ghazalah and the Gulf of Bomba region, and the marine part of El Kouf National Park), in collaboration with WWF Mediterranean and the Conservatoire du Littoral.

MedMPAnet enhances MPA connectivity and the management capabilities of coastal biodiversity sites in the Mediterranean countries where it is implemented. However, much work remains to be done in order to achieve the ecologically representative and interconnected network that we wish to establish in the Mediterranean region. ■



NATIONAL STANDARDISED STRATEGIES FOR MPAS

FOCUS SESSION ORGANISED BY WWF ITALY AND THE FRENCH AGENCY FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS.

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

MAIN PARTICIPANTS

MARCO COSTANTINI (WWF-ITALY), **MARIA CARMELA GIARRATANO** (ITALIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA), **CARLO FRANZOSINI** (WWF ITALY – MIRAMARE MPA, SHORELINE COOPERATIVE), **ALAIN PIBOT** (FRENCH AGENCY FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS).



ISEA : STANDARDISING THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MPAS IN ITALY

The Ministry of the Environment, WWF-Italy and the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) being declared as SPAMIs (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance, according to the Barcelona Convention) have set up in 2010 the ISEA project - Standardizing the Effective Management of MPAs in Italy.

The 8 SPAMIs participating in the project are Miramare, Torre Guaceto, Porto Cesareo, Plemmirio, Punta Campanella, Tavolara, Capo Caccia and Portofino.

A standardised methodology was developed for planning, managing and monitoring the activities related to biodiversity conservation covered in the management plans.

In order to standardise SPAMI's management plans, the "Open Standard" methodological approach was chosen, following the indications of the Conservation Measures Partnership. The Miradi software (www.miradi.org), a tool commonly used in the management of environmental conservation projects, helped in computerizing the management plans of each MPA.

Management plans were sketched in a comparable framework, outlining the targets of conservation, the short and long-term objectives and the strategies in place designed to reduce threats to the habitats and species for which the MPAs were recognised as SPAMIs.

ISEA laid the foundations to have in place by 2012 (surely by 2020) an effectively managed network of ecologically representative MPAs in Italy, as requested by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The same standardised approach should be applied at the basin level in order to reach the CBD goal in the Mediterranean

DASHBOARD OF FRENCH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS - FRENCH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AGENCY.

In the general context of public policy assessment, it was necessary to develop a tool - the MPA dashboard – used to evaluate whether the marine area objectives are met.

Indeed, a marine protected area is created in order to meet one or several goals according to its type.

From this perspective, the Marine Protected Areas Agency aims at implementing this MPA assessment system, at an individual and a network level.



Thus, several steps have already been identified:

- define a national framework used to report on the efficiency of French MPAs according to their primary objective
- develop assessment methodologies adapted to each type of management document
- organise and gather the technical and scientific skills necessary to develop and provide managers with data collection harmonised protocols, shared indicators, databases and interoperable operational analysis tools
- identify and make up for the gaps in methodology, technology, research and training of managers,
- quantify the means that underlie the national system of MPA efficiency assessment

A test phase was implemented in 2008-2011, analysing about 10 MPAs of different types. This first phase led to the definition of a national methodological framework. The current phase consists in implementing the dashboards in all French MPAs. ■



ANTALYA DECLARATION

VISION :

« To achieve by 2020 a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas which ensures the long-term conservation of the key components of the marine biodiversity and gives significant support to the sustainable development of the region. »



The Mediterranean Sea and the services provided by its ecosystems are a **common natural heritage** which complements the region's cultural heritage. The anthropogenic pressure and impacts, associated with climate change, affect national economies and populations, more so in this region of the world than in many others. Most Mediterranean countries have made an effort to reduce these impacts and set up **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** to improve the conservation of marine biodiversity in zones under their jurisdiction. However, despite the efforts deployed, the Mediterranean network of MPAs is still suffering **significant weaknesses**: it is not based on ecological representativity and connectivity, it lacks effective management and sustainable financing as well as effective coordination among its stakeholders.

Improving the state of the Mediterranean MPA network will help Mediterranean countries achieve **the Aichi Targets set under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and/or fulfil their obligations towards the Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS, GFCM as well as the Bern and Ramsar conventions. It will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments taken within the framework of RIO+20. It will also help the Mediterranean EU Member countries implement the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Biodiversity Strategy.**

In this context, the commitments made on a regional level by Mediterranean countries provide a solid foundation for establishing a network of MPAs

in the Mediterranean. Such commitments have been set within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (Paris Declaration, Decision IG 20/4), ACCOBAMS and GFCM.

However, **stronger political commitment**, further effort on a national level as well as greater cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance on a Mediterranean level are needed. New integrated management and governance approaches must be developed at all levels and translated into political commitments.

Consolidation of the knowledge base and integration processes and mechanisms (institutional, co-management...) should give support to an effective management of the existing system of MPAs, and thus strengthen trust between all stakeholders, whilst mobilising them to achieve more ambitious objectives on different geographic levels. An iterative and adaptive management, regularly evaluated, is highly recommended.

During the **Forum held in Antalya (Turkey, 25-28 November 2012)**, the Mediterranean MPA community reviewed the status of MPAs in the region and identified the **actions needed to establish an ecological network of MPAs which is effectively and sustainably managed. They elaborated a roadmap calling for urgent action and aimed at achieving, by 2020, the objectives set by international commitments.**

All involved stakeholders are invited to adopt the vision developed during the Forum, to adhere to the roadmap and to actively contribute to achieving its four strategic objectives.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH AN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK OF MPAS WHICH IS REPRESENTATIVE AND CONNECTED

With the view of improving the representativity and connectivity of the Mediterranean MPA network, ecosystems and other components of marine biodiversity that are under-represented should be identified, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This would help transform the network from a group of individual sites, into a true ecological network of MPAs.

In this context, special effort should be made to improve the quality, reliability and spatial coverage of inventories, habitat and species monitoring, as well as monitoring of uses (in and around MPAs) in a view to consolidate regional monitoring. A recognised and standardised methodology will help clarify the terms of connectivity and representativity on a regional level, but also criteria for assessing the achievement of these goals.

Efforts should be made to develop and maintain national and regional MPA databases (MAPAMED) and to ensure they are integrated in the IUCN and UNEP World Database on Protected Areas. Collecting and compiling protected areas data are essential in both MPA planning and management and in informing decision-makers and the general public on the progress made as regards the network.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND A GOOD GOVERNANCE IN MEDITERRANEAN MPAS

Improving the management and the protection of Mediterranean MPAs is a priority and requires the implementation of all the strategic objectives of this roadmap. Management systems (including fisheries reserves) should be assessed, if possible in a harmonised way on a national level and consolidated on a regional level. Clarification and simplification of the institutional frameworks governing MPAs will be undertaken, as well as strengthening the enforcement of regulations and removing barriers to the proper institutional functioning of MPAs.

Mediterranean MPAs must implement and update management and financial plans while reinforcing synergies with an involvement of all stakeholders. Furthermore, programmes for raising awareness, exchanging experience and building the management capacities of MPA managers and those of stakeholders should be developed and adapted to the identified needs and the challenges of co-management.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

DEVELOP A TERRITORIALLY AND SECTORIALLY INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE OF MEDITERRANEAN MPAS WHILE PROMOTING THE SHARING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

MPA governance should be directed towards further involvement of stakeholders and further integration of MPAs into their surrounding territory. It should also integrate other public policies using, as appropriate, relevant tools which correspond to integrated ecosystem-based management and territorial planning.

National, European and international policies should be further harmonised and adapted to better integrate biodiversity governance with other sectors. Thus, institutional and operational synergies with other sectors (especially fisheries, river basin management, sea patrolling, taxation, tourism) should be developed on local, national or international levels, while highlighting the benefits for local communities (in particular those linked to the traditional activities of artisanal fishing and eco-tourism). MPA co-management based on zoning should be systematically reinforced.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity approaches (TEEB) on marine issues and MPAs will support countries in implementing integrative approaches to MPA co-management. Institutions

should regularly develop evaluations of ecosystem services and their value on a local, national and regional level. This information will need to be integrated into statistical systems, national and regional databases (MAPAMED) in order to help with a mapping of ecosystem services.

In addition, Mediterranean riparian countries and European, Mediterranean and international institutions should regularly identify and progressively replace subsidies which may be detrimental to the marine and coastal environment. They should test innovative “green” policies and procurement procedures, relevant to marine conservation and a “blue economy” which respects biodiversity and the marine environment.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

INCREASE THE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK OF EFFECTIVELY MANAGED MPAS

The identification and analysis of MPAs financial needs/ gaps and a regular evaluation of funding schemes should be done in order to reinforce national policies and institutional frameworks (local, national, international) to improve the funding and diversification of financial resources.

New sustainable financial mechanisms (trust funds, payment for ecosystem services, earmarked taxes, etc.) need to be tested and developed on a local, national and regional level. The lessons learnt will be regularly capitalised on by stakeholders.

The status of national and regional financing of MPAs should be regularly presented to the parties of the Barcelona Convention as an indicator of their compliance to the Aichi Target 20. Donors will be invited to support the development of long-term sustainable financing mechanisms. Furthermore, new donors should be identified and mobilised to support MPAs.



THE FULL ROADMAP CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM WWW.MEDMPAFORUM2012.ORG



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



ABARKACH Abdennadi

High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (HCEFLD)

MOROCCO

**ACCORNERO PICON
Alessandra**

Calanques National Park

FRANCE

AKÇA Nilay

WWF Turkey

TURKEY

ALADŽUZ Admir

Hydro Engineering Institute

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ALESSANDRO Vittorio

Cinque Terre National Park

ITALY

ALJINOVIC Biljana

Mljet National Park

CROATIE

AMIR Mohamed

Sea Fisheries Department

MOROCCO

ANDRELLO Marco

IRD (Development Research Institute)

FRANCE

ARAÇ Nilüfer

WWF Turkey

TURKEY

ARETUSI Graziano

Torre del Cerrano MPA

ITALY

ARIEL Asaf

Ecocean

ISRAEL

ATKIN GENÇOĞLU Gülden

UNDP Turkey

TURKEY

AUSCHER Fabrice

Regional Directorate of Environment (DREAL Languedoc-Roussillon)

FRANCE

AVŞAR Ulaş

MedCoast

TURKEY

AXIME Rachida

Association for integrated resource management (AGIR)

MOROCCO



BABAČIĆ AJDUK Anita

Public Institution for Management
of protected areas in Šibenik-Knin
County
CROATIE

BAČIĆ Morana

Public Institution for Management
of Protected Areas in Zadar County
CROATIE

BAKOVIĆ Nikolina

Telaščica Nature Park Public
Institution
CROATIE

BANN Camille

Consultant
UK

BARBIERI Michele

University of Pisa / Leonardo-IRTA
ITALY

BARIC Demir

PAP RAC and University of Cadiz
CROATIE

BARITAKI Christina

Ministry for the Environment,
Energy and Climate Change
GREECE

BAŞAK Esra

Project House
TURKEY

BASGUL Eda

French Development Agency (AFD)
TURKEY

BASOGLU Basak

Istanbul Bilgi University
TURKEY

BATAKOVIC Milena

Environmental Protection Agency
MONTENEGRO

BAUDE Jean-Louis

CPIE Côte Provençale (Permanent
Centre of Initiatives for the
Environment)
FRANCE

BAYADAS Giorgos

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural
Resources and Environment.
CYPRUS

BAYKAL Damla

General Directorate for Protection
of Natural Assets
TURKEY

BAZAIRI Hocein

Mohammed VI Agdal University
MOROCCO

BEGHOURA Abdelaâli

Algerian National Coast Guards
(CNL)
ALGERIA



BELBACHA Said

University of Jijel
ALGERIA

BELHIMER Yassine

Taza National Park
ALGERIA

BELLOUMI Mounir

University of Sousse
TUNISIA

BEN HAJ Sami

Thétis Consultants
TUNISIA

BEN NAKHLA Lobna

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA
TUNISIA

BEN SOUISSI Jamila

National Agronomic Institute
TUNISIA

BENJEDID Moncef

El Kala National Park
ALGERIA

BENMMOUSA Abderraouf

Sea Fisheries Department
MOROCCO

BEQIRAJ Sajmir

APAWA - University of Tirana
ALBANIA

BERBASH Ali

Environment General Authority
(EGA)
LIBYA

BERGER Patrick

City of Montpellier
FRANCE

BERRAHO Amina

National Institute of Fisheries
Research (INRH)
MOROCCO

BESANCON Charles

UNEP CBD Secretariat
CANADA

BESAR Mohammed

Egyptian Environmental Affairs
Agency (EEAA)
EGYPT

BESSAH Ghania

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development
ALGERIA

BIAGIOLI Giuliana

University of Pisa / Leonardo-IRTA
ITALY

BINET Thomas

CEMARE - Portsmouth University
UK

BLAN Charlotte

OCEANICA Prod
FRANCE

BLOUET Sylvain

ADENA
FRANCE

BODILIS Pascaline

University of Nice Sophia Antipolis
FRANCE

BOERO Ferdinando

University of Salento
ITALY

BONHOMME Patrick

GIS Posidonie
FRANCE

BOUCHARD Mathieu

Econostrum.info
FRANCE

BOUGNÈRES Sophie

MedPAN
FRANCE

BRAUN Daniel

University of Rostock
GERMANY

BRICHET Marion

French Marine Protected Areas
Agency
FRANCE

BUONO Fabrizia

Ca' Foscari University of Venice
ITALY

CALAS Julien

French Global Environment Facility
(FGEF)
FRANCE

CAMPBELL Colin

Assist Social Capital
UK

CANALS Purificació

MedPAN
SPAIN

CAPPANERA Valentina

Portofino MPA
ITALY

CASTRO Raúl

AZTI-Tecnalia
SPAIN

CAZALET Bertrand

Perpignan University
FRANCE

CEBRIAN Daniel

RAC/SPA-UNEP/MAP
TUNISIA

CEBRIAN Emma

CSIC
SPAIN

CEVIZ Kübra

UNDP Turkey
TURKEY

CHAKOUR Mohamed

Wilaya of Jijel
ALGERIA

CHAKRANI Mohamed

Noumidia Association for culture
and environment
MOROCCO

CHAVANCE Pablo

IUCN
MAURITANIA

CHAZEE Laurent

Tour du Valat
FRANCE

CHÉRÉ Edouard

ADENA
FRANCE

CHIARELLI Pierre Jean

Redac+
FRANCE

CHOKRI Mansour

University of Tunis
TUNISIA

CHOUIKHI Abdelouahab

IMST / Dokuz Eylul University
TURKEY

ÇIÇEK Burak Ali

EMU URIC
TURKEY

CLAVERIA Licia

Assist Social Capital
UK

COLEMAN Heather

PacMARA
CANADA

CORRADO Teofili

FEDERPARCHI
ITALY

COSTANTINI Marco

WWF Italy
ITALY

COUSIN Christopher

Malta Environment and Planning
Authority (MEPA)
MALTA

CRNČEVIĆ Marija

Public Institution for Management
of Nature protected areas in
Dubrovnik Neretva County
CROATIE

DAĞLI Hayri

Doğa Derneği (Nature Society)
TURKEY

D'AMBROSIO Paolo

Porto Cesareo MPA
ITALY

DAMERY Céline

Conservatoire du Littoral (French
coastal protection agency)
FRANCE

DAVIES Helen

Sustainable Fishing Solutions
UK

DE FRANCO Francesco

Consortium of Management of
Torre Guaceto
ITALY

DE MONBRISON David

BRLi
FRANCE

DE PALMA Jean Pierre

WWF France
FRANCE

DE VAUGELAS Jean

University of Nice Sophia Antipolis
FRANCE

DEDEJ Zamir

Institute of Nature Conservation
ALBANIA

DEMIAN Sherin

Redac+
FRANCE

**DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI
Florence**

Scientific Center of Monaco
MONACO

DEVECI Ali Anil

Muğla Province Directorate of
Environment and Urbanisation
TURKEY

DHOUB Sami

WWF Mediterranean
TUNISIA

DI CARLO Giuseppe

WWF Mediterranean
ITALY

DISSAUX Romain

Ministry of Ecology, Energy and
Sustainable Development
FRANCE

DRAGUTIN Tina

Public Institution for Management
of protected areas in Šibenik-Knin
County
CROATIE

DRAMAN Murat

Kas Underwater Association
(KASAD)
TURKEY

DRUON Jean-Noël

European Commission
ITALY

DUBOIS Gérard

County Council of the Var
FRANCE

DUJMOVIC Sandro

Public Institution Brijuni National
Park
CROATIE

**DUPUY DE LA
GRANDRIVE Renaud**

MPA of the Natura 2000 site
«Posidonies du Cap d'Agde»
FRANCE

DURGUN Denizcan

University of Alicante
SPAIN

DUVAL-DIOP Dominique

West African Regional Network of
Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO)
SENEGAL

EL ASMI Souha

RAC/SPA
TUNISIA

EL ATRASSI Imad

Agence du Partenariat pour le
Progrès (Millennium Challenge
Account)
MOROCCO

ELAGIL AYAD Elmaki

Environment General Authority
(EGA)
LIBYA

EL-HABR Habib

United Nations Environment
Programme (UNEP)
GREECE

ELTAYEB Mohamed

IUCN Regional Office for West Asia
JORDAN

ELTER Audrey

MED Programme
FRANCE

ENGELHARDT Udo

Reefcare International Pty Ltd
AUSTRALIA

ERDAL Özhan

Mediterranean Coastal Foundation
TURKEY

EREN Turan

Deputy Governor of Antalya
TURKEY

ERGUN Güner

General Directorate for Protection
of Natural Assets
TURKEY

**ESPARZA ALAMINOS
Oscar**

WWF Spain
SPAIN

FATINE Najia

Mohammed VI Foundation for
Environmental Protection
MOROCCO

FAUCON Naïk

Technical Workshop for Natural
Areas (ATEN)
FRANCE

FONT Toni

Gerona University
SPAIN

FOUAD Mahmoud

Envirionics, Environment &
Development Advisors
EGYPT

FOUDA Moustafa

Egyptian Ministry for Environmental
Affairs
EGYPT

FOULQUIE Mathieu

SEANEO
FRANCE

FRACHON Noémie

GIS Posidonie
FRANCE

FRANZOSINI Carlo

WWF / Miramare Marine Protected
Area
ITALY

FRENCH David

Antinea Foundation
SWITZERLAND

GABRIE Catherine

Medan Consultant
FRANCE

GANNOUN Abderrahmen

RAC/SPA-UNEP/MAP
TUNISIA

GARRABOU Joaquim

Institut of Marine Sciences
SPAIN

GELEWSKI Elisa

The ARTEMIS Project
GERMANY

GEORGES Christel

City of Marseille
FRANCE

GERARDIN Nicolas

Port Cros National Park
FRANCE

GHALEM Naima

Ministry of National Planning and
Development, Environment and
Tourism
ALGERIA

GIANGRANDE Ilaria Lisa

Torre del Cerrano MPA
ITALY

GIARRATANO Maria Carmela

Ministry of the Environment
ITALY

GIDRON Tsafirir

Zalul Israel Environmental
Association
ISRAEL

GILBERT Nicolas

OCEANICA Prod
FRANCE

GÖKÇE AKTAŞ A. Özge

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)
TURKEY

GÖLGE Mehmet

Ministry of Forestry and Water
Affairs
TURKEY

GOMEI Marina

WWF Mediterranean
ITALY

GOMIS BATALLER Pilar

IUCN
SWITZERLAND

GRILLO-COMPULSIONE Marie-Christine

ACCOBAMS
MONACO

GRIMANIS Konstantinos

MEDASSET
GREECE

GRIMES Samir

Algerian National Coast Guards
(CNL)
ALGERIA

GROS Paule

MAVA foundation
SWITZERLAND

GROSSET Stéphanie

City of Montpellier
FRANCE

GUALA Ivan

IMC Foundation - International
Marine Centre - ONLUS
ITALY

GÜÇLÜSOY Harun

UNDP Turkey
TURKEY

GUELLOUZ Saba

Tunisian Coastal Protection and
Planning Agency
TUNISIA

GUEZGUEZ Mohamed Dhia

RAC/SPA-UNEP/MAP
TUNISIA

GUIDONE Carmela

Punta Campanella MPA
ITALY

HALIMI Ermal

Ministry of Environment, Forestry
and Water Administration
ALBANIA

HART Virginie

United Nations Environment
Programme / Mediterranean Action
Plan (UNEP/MAP)
GREECE

HASSOUNI Fatimazahra

Sea Fisheries Department
MOROCCO

HERNÁNDEZ Pilar

General Fisheries Commission for
the Mediterranean (GFCM)
ITALY

HOGG Katie Elizabeth

University of Murcia
SPAIN

HOTHAM Paul

Fauna and Flora International
UK

IHRAI Said

Mohammed V University
MOROCCO

IMBERT Mathieu

CEN PACA
FRANCE

INCONTRO Vincenzo

Plemmirio Siracusa MPA
ITALY

IRFAN Uysal

Ministry of Forestry and Water
Affairs
TURKEY

ISSARIS Yiannis

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
(HCMR)
GREECE

**IVANOVIC KALEZIC
Aleksandra**

Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone
Management of Montenegro
ROMANIA

IYIMAYA Osman

General Directorate for Protection
of Natural Assets
TURKEY

JANNY Pascale

City of Marseille
FRANCE

JERMOUNI Samira

Sea Fisheries Department
MOROCCO

JEUDY DE GRISSAC Alain

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean
Cooperation
SPAIN

JONY Mohammad

Independent Expert in
Environmental Impact Assessment
(EIA)
SYRIA

JOURDAN Eric

CPIE Côte Provençale (Permanent
Centre of Initiatives for the
Environment)
FRANCE

KADDOUR Hacene

Taza National Park
ALGERIA

KAIKAI Abdelouahed

Association for integrated resource
management (AGIR)
MOROCCO

KARTAL Esra

UNDP Turkey
TURKEY

KATISÖZ Özlem

UNDP Turkey
TURKEY

KERRIS Tayeb

Gouraya Bejaia National Park
ALGERIA

KINIKLI Pinar

Akdeniz University
TURKEY

KUCUKAVSAR Selin

Underwater Research Society
TURKEY

LAFFOLEY Dan

IUCN's World Commission on
Protected Areas
UK

LAMOUTI Souad

Faculty of of Biological Science
ALGERIA

LAMP Jochen

WWF Germany
GERMANY

LANG Marianne

MedPAN
FRANCE

LANG Kenneth

Stony Brook University / UNDP
USA

LE RAVALLEC Célia

ACCOBAMS
MONACO

LETHIER Hervé

EMC2I
SWITZERLAND

LEVY Ran

Yad Hanadiv (The Rothschild
Foundation)
ISRAEL

LLORET Josep

Gerona University
SPAIN

LÓPEZ ORNAT Arturo

Independant consultant
SPAIN

LOZANO Matias

Pélagos Investigación
SPAIN

MABARI Magali

MedPAN
FRANCE

MAC SHARRY Brian

EEA-European Topic Centre on
Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)
FRANCE

MACE Jonathan

Monaco Oceanographic Institute
/ Foundation Albert I, Prince of
Monaco
MONACO

MACERONI Cristina

WWF Mediterranean
ITALY

MAČIĆ Vesna

Institute of marine biology
MONTENEGRO

MACKELWORTH Peter

Blue World Institute of Marine
Research and Conservation
CROATIE

MAGILEVICIUTE Edita

Fauna and Flora International
UK

MAHE Charles

French Marine Protected Areas
Agency
FRANCE

MAISON Elodie

Technical Workshop for Natural Areas (ATEN)

FRANCE

MAJDALANI Samir

Ministry of Agriculture

LEBANON

**MALOULI IDRISSE
Mohammed**

National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH)

MOROCCO

MANAP Emrah

General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assets

TURKEY

MANGOS Anaï

Blue Plan

FRANCE

MARAVAL Philippe

French Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate

FRANCE

MARIN Pilar

OCEANA

SPAIN

MARINO Rita

WWF / Miramare MPA

ITALY

**MARKANTONATOU
Vasiliki**

Polytechnic University of the Marche

ITALY

MARTINEZ Carole

IUCN

BELGIUM

MCCLINTOCK Will

University of California Santa Barbara

USA

MCDUGALL Chris

IMP-MED Project

UK

MEDIĆ Vanda

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

MEDIONI Emilia

City of Marseille

FRANCE

MEOLA Bruno

MedPAN

FRANCE

MESSAOUDI Hakim

RODPAL

MOROCCO

MEYER Lydia

Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development

FRANCE

MIHELIC Vladislav

Kornati National Park

CROATIE

MILAM Amy

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UK

MIMA Marieta

ECAT Tirana (Environmental Center for the Administration and Technology)

ALBANIA

MONDIELLI Philippe

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

MONACO

MORENO Jorge

Balearic Islands Government

SPAIN

MOULAI Riadh

University of Bejaia

ALGERIA

MUSCOGIURI Luciana

Porto Cesareo MPA

ITALY

NADAR Sanaa

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

LEBANON

NAJAM Shahid

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

TURKEY

NAJI Mohamed

Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine

MOROCCO

NAVONE Augusto

Tavolara Punta Coda Cavallo MPA

ITALY

NESIMI Ozan Veryeri

Underwater Research Society

TURKEY

NITA Victor

NIMRD

ROMANIA

**NOTARBARTOLO DI
SCIARA Giuseppe**

Tethys Research Institute

ITALY

ODY Denis

WWF France

FRANCE

OJEA Elena

Basque Centre For Climate Change
(BC3)
SPAIN

ORUÇ Ayşe

WWF Turkey
TURKEY

OTERO Maria del Mar

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean
Cooperation
SPAIN

OUERGHİ Atef

RAC/SPA-UNEP/MAP
TUNISIA

OZGUR OZBEK Elif

Akdeniz University
TURKEY

ÖZTÜRK İlayda Destan

Middle East Technical University
TURKEY

ÖZTÜRK Bayram

Turkish Marine Research
Foundation (TUDAV)
TURKEY

PALIAGA Bruno Roberto

Capo Carbonara MPA
ITALY

PALOMEQUE Raquel

Fundacion Biodiversidad
SPAIN

PANOU Alikı

Archipelagos - Institute of Marine
Conservation
GREECE

PAPOULIAS Fotios

European commission
BELGIUM

PASCUAL Marta

Basque Centre For Climate Change
(BC3)
SPAIN

PAYROT Jérôme

Cerbères-Banyuls Natural Reserve
FRANCE

PEĆAR Osvin

Mljet National Park
CROATIE

PECAREVIC Marko

MAVA foundation
SWITZERLAND

PEREZ-PERERA Amanda

Management Consortium of the
Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo MPA
BELGIUM

**PERGENT-MARTINI
Christine**

University of Corsica
FRANCE

PERTIERRA Juan Pablo

European Commission
BELGIUM

PIANTE Catherine

WWF France
FRANCE

PIBOT Alain

French Marine Protected Areas
Agency
FRANCE

PIERRAGI Jean-Louis

Office of the Environment in Corsica
FRANCE

POREJ Deni

WWF Mediterranean
SERBIA

PRVAN Mosor

Association for Nature, Environment
and Sustainable Development
(Sunce)
CROATIE

RACHIK Sara

Hassan II University
MOROCCO

RAIS Chedly

Expert in marine resources
TUNISIA

RAJKOVIĆ Željka

Croatian Ministry of Environment
and Nature Protection
CROATIE

**RAMADAN-JARADI
Ghassan**

Palm Islands Nature Reserve
LEBANON

RAMDANI Mohamed

Scientific Institute of Rabat
MOROCCO

RAMOV Milena

Telašćica Nature Park Public
Institution
CROATIE

REKIK Oualid

National Environmental Protection
Agency
TUNISIA

RIBI Mohammed

High Commission for Water, Forests
and Combating Desertification
(HCEFLD)
MOROCCO

RIERA Victoria

Cap de Creus Nature Park /
Generalitat de Catalunya
SPAIN

ROBERT Philippe

ACCOBAMS Consultant
FRANCE

RODLEY Anne-Sophie

Antinea Foundation
SWITZERLAND

RODRIGUEZ-BORLADO Daniel

HIDTMA (Hydraulics and Environment SL)
SPAIN

ROGOŠIĆ Mario

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development
CROATIE

ROMANI Marie

MedPAN
FRANCE

RUNDE-CARIOU Sandra

French Marine Protected Areas Agency
FRANCE

SAGUÉ PLA Oscar

International Forum for Sustainable Underwater Activities
SPAIN

SAIED Almokhtar

Environment General Authority (EGA)
LIBYA

SALMAN Albert

EUCC Centro Mediterraneo
SPAIN

SANCHEZ LIZASO José Luis

University of Alicante
SPAIN

SANDEL Christine

PACA Regional Council
FRANCE

SBAI Larbi

Sea Fisheries Department
MOROCCO

SCHAFFER Daniel

Ecoocean
ISRAEL

SELLIER Guillaume

Port Cros National Park
FRANCE

SEMROUD Rachid

Institute of Marine Sciences and Coastal Management
ALGERIA

SERRE Christophe

Alpes-Maritimes County Council
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ŠIJAN Milena

Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development (Sunce)
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SIMARD François

IUCN
SWITZERLAND

SKANDRANI Yassine

Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Bizerte
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SOHLOBJI Donia

Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources
TUNISIA

SOURBES Laurent

National Marine Park of Zakynthos
GREECE

SPERGEL Barry

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SROUR Abdellah

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
ITALY

STAGLICIC Nika

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
CROATIE

STARMAN Marko

Public Institute Landscape Park Strunjan
SLOVENIA

STURARO Nicolas

University of Liege
BELGIUM

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MALTA

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National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH)
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Interministerial Mission

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Ministry for the Environment,
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TURKI Akram

Marine Biology research center

LIBYA

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Ege University

TURKEY

UZUN Irfan

Turkish Ministry of the Environment
and Urbanization

TURKEY

VALLAROLA Fabio

Torre del Cerrano MPA

ITALY

VARDA Dusan

Mediterranean Center for
Environmental Monitoring
(MedCEM)

MONTENEGRO

VIGNES Pierre

MedPAN

FRANCE

VUKADIN Vesna

State Institute for Nature Protection

CROATIE

WALTON Anne

National Oceanographic and
Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA)

USA

WEAVER Philip

Seascope Consultants Ltd

UK

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ISRAEL

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(AMTT)

TUNISIA

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Derya**

UNDP Turkey

TURKEY

YILMAZ Engin

Doğa Derneği (Nature Society)

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Dr. YUCEL GIER Guzel

Dokuz Eylül University Institute of
Marine Sciences and Technology

TURKEY

Dr. ZAHARIA Tania

NIRDEP - National Institute for
Marine Research and Development
«Grigore Antipa»

ROMANIA

ZAHER Mohamad

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

LEBANON

ZANNES Dimitrios

MedArtNet - Platform for
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GREECE

ZUPPA Francesco

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