



CALL FOR CONSULTANCY N°48_2023 SPA/RAC

Terms of reference for the provision of consultancy services to support SPA/RAC in promoting the 3rd Mediterranean Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Background

The "Mediterranean Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species" is an initiative led by SPA/RAC within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean ([SPA/BD Protocol](#)). It is aimed at addressing the ecological and conservation concerns pertaining to marine and coastal bird species in the Mediterranean region.

The symposium serves as a platform for experts, researchers, and conservationists to share knowledge, research findings and strategies. It provides an opportunity to reflect on how to enhance the protection and preservation of these avian species in the Mediterranean context, particularly through the "[Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity](#)". The event also serves to encourage cooperation and collaboration among conservation stakeholders in the Mediterranean.

The first edition of the Symposium was held in Villanova I la Geltrú, Spain, in 2005, with the collaboration of SEO/BirdLife and MedMarAvis. The second edition was organized in 2015, in partnership with Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia), in Hammamet, Tunisia, with support by Medmaravis, Tour du Valat Biological Station and the Conservatoire du Littoral (please refer to Annex III for further information).

The third edition is scheduled to take place in Djerba, Tunisia, from 13th to 15th February 2024. This edition is being organized in partnership with Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux", and other regional partners such as IUCN Med, Tour du Valat, BirdLife International, Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO/BirdLife in France), and the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA). The event is organized thanks to the French Voluntary Contribution (FVC), provided to UNEP/MAP to implement its Programme of Work 2022-2023.

The event will feature plenary talks, keynote sessions, panel discussions and poster presentations.

2. Objective

The objective of this assignment is to support the efforts on the promotion of the 3rd Mediterranean Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species, through the development and implementation of an effective communication and visibility plan.

More specifically, it is about:

- Informing stakeholders, such as National Focal Points of the Barcelona Convention – SPA/BD Protocol and other international agreements, researchers, experts, NGOs, institutions, and the general public about the symposium's existence, its significance, and the conservation issues related to Mediterranean marine and coastal bird species.
- Encouraging interested individuals to register, submit abstracts, participate, and contribute to the symposium.
- Contributing to the organization of a dynamic and efficient symposium, encouraging networking and collaboration.

- Promoting the outcomes / outputs of the symposium, during and after the event, making them more accessible and engaging for the targets concerned.
- Promoting the Barcelona Convention role, particularly SPA/RAC's mission, in conserving bird species in the Mediterranean.
- Highlighting efforts by Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties, NGOs and other stakeholders, to implement the Regional Action Plan for bird conservation and promote the [Regional Action Plan Partner title](#).

3. Tasks to be undertaken

Planning

- Define a **communication plan** before, during and immediately after the symposium.

Graphic design

- Propose a **graphic identity** for the symposium. This should be aligned with the graphic charter of SPA/RAC.
- Prepare an "**invitation**" card to be shared on social media, **template for emailing** to be used on <https://hub-score.com/en/hub/>.
- Development of a template for the **PowerPoint** presentations and **posters**.
- Layout of the **symposium programme, press kit, Word template to be used for the proceedings and book of abstracts**.
- **Design of materials** (to be defined) to be printed for the symposium and for social media.

Web

- Creation of a **mini website for the symposium**, including the following sections: Home, Venue, Programme, Documents & resources, Partners, Contact us, as in this website <https://post2020sapbio-donorconference.org>
- The mini website should also include a section for registering and submitting abstracts.
- The domain name will have to be purchased by the service provider.

Writing and editing of texts

- Formulate the **key messages** to ensure clear and coherent communication.
- Prepare **textual content** to promote the symposium, to be used on the website and in proceedings (foreword/introduction), mail, press kit, social media, videos if any, etc.

Other

- **Recommendations on the programme of the conference** from a communication point of view for smoother exchanges and more dynamic meetings, encouraging networking and collaboration.
- **Recommendations and support for the presentation by SPA/RAC** of the symposium, the regional Action Plan for Bird Conservation, and the title of AP partner (PowerPoint and oral presentation).
- **Recommendations and support to boost the event's visibility**, particularly on social media and in the local press, when preparing and disseminating the content and material to be produced.

4. Time duration, deliverables & timeline

The time duration of this work is estimated at 3 months starting from the date of its signature.

The contract deliverables and timeline of their submission should be carried out in conformity with the following table:

Deliverables	Estimated number of working days	Provisional timeline
1. Communication plan	7	30 November 2023
2. Mini website	7	10 December 2023
3. Key messages (to be completed by 30 November 2023) and textual contents	4	15 January 2024
4. Graphic identity (to be completed by 10 December 2023) and design of materials	7	29 January 2024
5. Recommendations and support (programme, SPA/RAC presentation, visibility)	3	20 February 2024

5. Supervision and collaboration

The consultant(s)/consultancy firm will work under the supervision of the SPA/RAC director and in close collaboration with the team working on the symposium, in particular the scientific and organization committees.

6. Skills and experience required

The consultant(s) should meet the following criteria:

- Proven communications skills, with experience in the field of marine environmental and bird conservation.
- Proven skills in writing content in English, including summary texts.
- Proven skills in graphic design.
- Proven skills in web development.
- Experience in programming and facilitating international meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSES

Article 1 - Conditions for participation in the consultancy

Are eligible for the present call of consultancy, consulting firms or individual consultants.

Individual consultants may associate with each other to form a consultant association to complement their respective areas of expertise, or for other reasons. They must clearly identify the lead consultant, who will be the legal representative of the consultant association.

Consulting firms must propose a lead expert and can be supported by other experts to complement their respective areas of expertise or for other reasons that need to be specified in the offer.

Article 2 - Composition and presentation of offers

The submitted offer must include separately: (i) a technical offer, (ii) administrative documents, and (iii) a financial offer.

The services provided as part of this assignment consist of an overall fixed and non-revisable cost.

The estimated number of net working days to implement the tasks and deliverables of this contract is 28 effective working days (WD). They are estimated as follows:

Deliverables	Estimated number of working days	Provisional timeline
1. Communication plan	7	30 November 2023
2. Mini website	7	10 December 2023
3. Key messages (to be completed by 30 November 2023) and textual contents	4	15 January 2024
4. Graphic identity (to be completed by 10 December 2023) and design of materials	7	29 January 2024
5. Recommendations and support (programme, SPA/RAC presentation, visibility)	3	20 February 2024

1. Technical offer

It must contain:

For individual consultant(s):

1. For each consultant: Personal CVs indicating educational background as well as all experience and references in the field of: communications (elaboration of communications plan), with experience in the field of marine environmental conservation; writing content in English, including summary texts; graphic design; web development; programming and facilitating of meetings.

2. A detailed methodological note on how the consultant(s) intend(s) to approach and implement the assignment.

For consultancy firm:

1. The consulting firm references regarding similar studies.
2. For each member of the team: Personal CVs indicating educational background as well as all experience and references in the field of: communications (elaboration of communications plan), with experience in the field of marine environmental conservation; writing content in English, including summary texts; graphic design; web development ; programming and facilitating of meetings.
3. A detailed methodological note on how the consultant(s) intend(s) to approach and implement the assignment.

Applicants are encouraged to send links to references of previous works completed on subjects relevant to the consultancy or share relevant documents by e-mail if those are not accessible online (please see the evaluation table in Article 6).

2. Administrative documents

The administrative offer should include the following administrative documents:

For individual consultants:

1. Document certifying the ability to practice this profession (registration certificate, for example) according to the legislation of their country with the tax number on it.
2. A sworn statement that the bidder is in no situation that could in any way be incompatible with the mission or compromise independence in carrying out the mission.
3. Terms of reference signed (date, signature of the provider at the end of the document).

For consultancy firms:

1. A certificate proving that the tenderer is registered in the commercial register, or the equivalent.
2. A tax certificate, valid on the offer submission date, proving that the consulting firm/service provider company has no outstanding tax obligations.
3. A statement delivered by the social security body to which the consulting firm/service provider company is affiliated stating that all dues have been paid and which is valid on the date of submission.
4. A sworn statement of non-bankruptcy.
5. A sworn statement that the consulting firm/service provider company is in no situation that could in any way be incompatible with the mission or compromise independence in carrying out the mission.
6. A sworn statement from each of the team of expert members, who are not staff members, confirming that they are willing to participate in the work team to carry out this mission.
7. The present restricted call for tenders signed (date, signature and stamp of the consulting firm/service provider company at the end of the document).

If the original administrative documents are not in English or French, it should be provided with additional copies translated into English or French by a sworn translator. Should any of the administrative documents be missing, the tenderer will be contacted to complete the missing offer documents within a period of five (5) days. If after a period of five (5) days, the documents are still not complete the offer will be eliminated.

3. Financial offer

The financial offer must be expressed in Euro, in both tax-free and all tax-included prices. It should include all the costs connected to the provision of the service, **including on-site participation in the symposium for one or more team members.**

The participation fees (Flight ticket and full board) of only one team member will be covered by SPA/RAC.

The financial offer should include the following documents:

- submission letter, using the template attached in Annex 1; and
- the details of the global price using the template in Annex 2.

Article 3 - Submission

Proposals must be received electronically at the following e-mail address: car-asp@spa-rac.org, before **19 November 2023 11:59 pm UTC+1 (Tunis Time)**.

E-mails should have the following subject: **CALL FOR CONSULTANCY N°48_2023_ SPA/RAC**

Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

Article 4 - Additional information

Should questions or need for clarification related to these terms of reference and their content arise, bidders may submit a written request by e-mail to: car-asp@spa-rac.org ; cc: lobna.bennakhla@spa-rac.org wassim.gaidi@spa-rac.org dorra.maaoui@spa-rac.org no later than five (5) calendar days before the deadline for the proposal submission.

Article 5 - Terms of payment

Payment for the mission will be made as follows:

1. The 1st Instalment of 15 % will be paid upon submission of deliverable 1 and after its review and approval by SPA/RAC.
2. The 2nd instalment of 50 % will be paid upon submission of deliverables 2, 3, 4 after the review and approval of SPA/RAC.
3. The 3rd and last instalment of 35% will be paid after the completion of the work and submission of all its final version deliverables. This payment is also conditioned by a certificate from SPA/RAC that the service provider has accomplished all its contractual obligations and duties to SPA/RAC's satisfaction.

All payments will be made by bank transfer after the receipt of an invoice from the contractor. Payments shall be made to a bank account held by the contractor.

Article 6 - Evaluation procedure

The evaluation will be based on combined technical and financial criteria as follows:

1. Technical evaluation

The technical offers will be first examined, while the financial offers remain sealed. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. General experience of the consultancy firm
2. Personal experience and academic profile of the team members involved in the project
3. Methodology.

Criteria		Scoring for consulting firms	Scoring for individual consultants	
General experience of the consultancy firm	Relevant experience in developing and implementing communications plans (please present a list of projects)	15 points maximum (3 points/project + 1 extra points if the project deals with environmental conservation and +1 extra points if the project is carried out with a Mediterranean international organization)	N/A	
	No experience	0 points (in this case the offer is eliminated)	N/A	
Personal experience and academic profile of the team members involved in the project	• Communication plan development and implementation	Relevant experience in developing and implementing communication plans (please present a list of projects)	15 points maximum (3 points/project + 1 extra points if the project deals with environmental conservation and +1 extra points if the project is carried out with a Mediterranean international organization)	20 points Maximum (3 points/project + 1 extra points if the project deals with environmental conservation and +1 extra points if the project is carried out with one of the components of the Barcelona Convention system)
		No similar project	0 points (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 points (in this case the offer is eliminated)
	Diploma of the expert in charge of this activity	Post-graduate university degree in communications / Public Relations or related field	5 points maximum	5 points maximum
		University degree in the above-mentioned field	3 points	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned field	0 point (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 point (in this case the offer is eliminated)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content writing in English 	Relevant experience in writing contents in English (please present a list of articles or other contents with links or share relevant documents by e-mail)	10 points maximum (3 points/ article)	15 points maximum (3 points/ article)
		No similar project	0 point	0 point
	Diploma of the expert in charge of this activity	Post-graduate university degree in communications, marine environment or other relevant field	5 points maximum	5 points maximum
		University degree in the above- mentioned fields	3 points	3 points
		No university degree in the above- mentioned fields	0 point	0 point
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphic design 	Relevant experience in graphic design (please present a list of projects with links or share relevant documents by e-mail)	12 points maximum (3 points/ project)	15 points maximum (3 points/ project)
		No similar project	0 point	0 point
	Diploma of the expert in charge of this activity	University degree in graphic design	3 points maximum	5 points maximum
		No university degree in the above- mentioned field	0 point	0 point
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web development 	Relevant experience in web development (please present a list of projects with links or share relevant documents by e-mail)	7 points maximum (2 points/ project)	7 points maximum (2 points/ project)
		No similar project	0 point	0 point
	Diploma of the expert in charge of this activity	University degree in web development	3 points maximum	3 points maximum
		No university degree in the above- mentioned field	0 point	0 point
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting planning and facilitation 	Relevant experience in planning and facilitation of meetings	7 points maximum (2 points/ similar activity)	7 points maximum (2 points/ similar activity)
		No similar activity	0 point	0 point

	Diploma of the expert in charge of this activity	University degree in communications or other field relevant to the project	<u>3 points maximum</u>	<u>3 points maximum</u>
		No university degree in the above-mentioned field	0 point	0 point
An expert may hold more than one position at a time and more than one expert can be proposed per position. In the latter case, each expert will be evaluated separately, and the average score will be the one assigned to that position.				
Methodology		Methodology clearly presented, well developed, and meets the terms of reference and the project's objectives	<u>15 points maximum</u>	<u>15 points maximum</u>
		Methodology more or less well developed but clearly meets the terms of reference and the project's objectives	10 points	10 points
		Methodology poorly developed and meets partially the terms of reference and the project's objectives	5 points	5 points
		Methodology not clearly presented and does not meet the terms of reference and the project's objectives, or no methodology presented	0 points	0 points

Any offer that has not attained the minimum score of 80 points will be eliminated.

In the event of no offer obtains 80 points or more, the call for consultancy process will be declared unsuccessful

2. Financial evaluation

Once the technical evaluation has been completed, the financial offers of applicants that have not been eliminated during the technical evaluation will be examined.

The evaluation committee will check that the financial offers do not contain any obvious arithmetical errors. Any possible obvious arithmetical errors will be corrected, and the corrected figures will be taken into consideration.

The evaluation committee will then proceed to a financial comparison. The lowest financial offer that is judged acceptable will receive 100 points. The other offers will be attributed a score based on the following equation:

Financial score = (amount of the lowest accepted offer/amount of the offer in question) x 100

3. Conclusions of the evaluation committee

The choice of the best offer is achieved by weighting the technical and financial scores using a distribution key of 80/20 basis. To this end:

- The technical score will be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.80.
- The financial score will be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.20.

The weighted technical - financial scores thus calculated will be added to ascertain the offer with the best technical and financial score.

If two offers obtain the same weighted technical-financial scores, preference will be given to the applicant in the following order:

- having obtained the best technical score.
- having obtained the best score for methodology.
- having obtained the best total score for experience and qualifications of experts.

Note: The selection process may include interviews (through a teleconferencing platform), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

Article 7 - Monitoring, control and validation of the work

The consultant will work under the supervision of SPA/RAC. The consultant will submit draft version of each deliverable. The consultant will submit the final version of deliverables as indicated in section 4 (Time duration, deliverables & timeline).

Article 8 - Penalty

In the absence of completion by the consultant of the services at his/her charge within the contractual deadlines envisaged in section 4 (Time duration, deliverables & timeline), it will be applied as of right and without notice, a penalty of one two hundredths (1/200) of the total amount of the contract (All Taxes Included - ATI) for each calendar day of delay.

The amount of the late penalties will be deducted from the accounts. The amount of the penalties is capped at 10% of the total amount of the contract in ATI. When this threshold is reached, SPA/RAC reserves the right to terminate the contract at the holder's fault, in accordance with Article 13 (Cancellation conditions) below, without that the holder cannot raise disputes or claim any compensation.

Article 9 - Intellectual property rights, ownership of document

All legal rights throughout the world in works or inventions created by the provider in connection with the consultancy shall be allowed to SPA/RAC. The provider recognizes that such rights include, but are not limited to, copyright and other rights in written material, sound and video recordings (including films), maps, photographs, etc. as well as patents and other rights in inventions, and that the said rights

enable SPA/RAC to control and authorize, where appropriate all publications, publicity material and other exploitation of the said works and inventions.

All the plans, drawings, software, photos, videos, data, presentations, study reports and any other documents, elaborated and submitted by the provider to SPA/RAC for the execution of the contract, will become and remain the property of SPA/RAC, and the consultant will submit them to SPA/RAC.

The provider does not have the right to use or copy the products resulting from this consultancy, whatever their form or their media, without the explicit written non objection of the SPA/RAC.

Article 10 - Arbitrage, dispute settlement

Every dispute arising from or in connection with this contract execution shall be solved by way of amicable negotiations by the parties. The contract is deemed to have been made in Tunisia and to be subject to Tunisian law. In case of dispute, the Court of Tunis is competent.

Article 11 - Liability and insurance

SPA/RAC does not accept any liability for acts of third parties, accidents, sickness, or losses of any kind, however caused arising during the implementation of the specific actions and the production of the relative outputs expected. The bidder confirms that they or any staff involved will be covered by appropriate insurance.

Article 12 - Force majeure

Force majeure means any event outside the control of a party so that it is impossible for one party to carry out his obligations or the implementation of these obligations becomes so difficult that it is considered to be impossible to carry them out under such circumstances.

The party which invokes force majeure must inform its co-contractor within seven (7) days of its occurrence so that the contractual deadline will be suspended with a joint agreement between the parties for the period which is covered by the case of force majeure.

SPA/RAC has a right to assess the circumstances of the impediments invoked by the holder as a case of force majeure to see if they are convincing, and if this should not be the case, then the days of discontinued work will be accounted for as days of delay.

Failure by either party to fulfil any of its contractual obligations does not entail a contract termination or failure to fulfil its contractual obligations if such a failure is due to a case of force majeure, if the party that finds itself in such a situation has done the following:

- a. has taken all the reasonable precautions and measures to allow it to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and
- b. has informed the other party of the event, as soon as possible. Any timeline given to a party for the execution of its contractual obligation will be prolonged by a period which is equal to the period during which that party was prevented from fulfilling its obligations.

Any timeline given to a party for the execution of its contractual obligations will be prolonged by a period which is equal to the period during which that party was unable to fulfil its obligations due to the case of force majeure.

Article 13 - Cancellation conditions

SPA/RAC could cancel this contract through a notification in writing addressed to the tenderer after one of the events indicated in the following paragraphs:

- a. no respect for the deadline of the execution in the application of section 4 (Time duration, deliverables & timeline).
- b. in the case described in Article 8 (Penalty) when the amount is capped at 10% of the total amount of the contract;
- c. non-conformity to the content of the service listed in the technical specifications of the present consultancy (section 3 of the technical specifications: Tasks to be undertaken),
- d. If the tenderer goes bankrupt or into receivership.
- e. If, after a case of force majeure, the holder is unable to execute a substantial part of the Services for a period equal to at least sixty (60) days;
- f. If the tenderer was involved in corruption or fraudulent manipulations to obtain the contract or during the execution of the contract. For the purpose of the clause: a person is guilty of "corruption" if he/she offers, gives, solicits or accepts any kind of advantage in order to influence the action of a public official during the selection or the execution of the contract; and undertakes "fraudulent manipulations" which distort or denature the facts so as to influence the selection or the execution of the contract to the detriment of the borrower; by "fraudulent manipulations" is meant any agreement or collusive manipulation of the tenderers (before or after submitting the proposals) so as to artificially maintain the prices of the tenders at levels which do not correspond to prices which would have resulted from free and open competition and which deprive the borrower of the advantages of free and open competition; or
- g. If SPA/RAC, on its own initiative and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate the contract.

Article 14 – Conflict of interests

1. Prohibition of incompatible activities

The contract tenderer, the personnel and agents must not engage, directly or indirectly, during the contract implementation period, in professional or commercial activities which could be incompatible with the activities with which they have been entrusted due to the present contract.

2. Non-participation of the holder and his associates in certain activities

The tenderer and his associates are prohibited, during the contract duration and at the end of the contract period, to provide good, works or services means for any project stemming from the services or closely connected with the present contract services (except for the implementation of the present contract services and their continuation).

Article 15 - Provisional and final acceptance

The provisional acceptance is pronounced after complete completion of the services covered by this consultancy i.e., after the completion of the service described in section 3 tasks to be undertaken of the technical specifications, and section 4 (Time duration, deliverables & timeline). The provisional acceptance will be pronounced only in the case of complete conformity deemed conclusive by SPA/RAC and a provisional acceptance report issued by the SPA/RAC no later than 30 days from receipt of the deliverables and at the written request of the service provider and the signing of a report of completion of the work/services jointly by the service provider and SPA/RAC. The Service Provider

shall, however, correct any deficiencies identified by the SPA/RAC upon completion of the various phases.

Final acceptance will be given one (1) month after the date of provisional acceptance without reservation of the contract. The final acceptance report will only be delivered once the service provider has fulfilled all his obligations resulting from sections 3 (Tasks to be undertaken) and section 4 (Time duration, deliverables & timeline) of the "Technical Specifications" and after corrections of all deficiencies signaled by SPA/RAC.

Annex 1

SUBMISSION LETTER

I, the undersigned..... (Lead expert), after having taken due note of the dossier documents of the call for consultancy N°48_2023 SPA/RAC launched by....., pertaining to a mission of ... I hereby pledge to execute the requested services in conformity with the provisions defined in the documents referred to, for the prices as established by myself without taking into account the taxes and knowing that the stamp duties and registration are to be covered by the insurer. The total price of the bid is (.....) EURO ATI. I take due note of the fact that you are not obliged to proceed with the tendering procedure and that I cannot claim a compensation. I pledge that the conditions in my offer will remain valid for a period of one hundred and twenty days (120 days) starting from the day after the date for the deadline for the receipt of tenders. SPA/RAC pledges to pay the amount after the signing of a convention into the bank current account of the Bank In the name of Under the number of RIB (BIC – IBAN)

In, on

(Name, first name and function) Right for submission (Signature)

ANNEX 2

DETAILS OF TOTAL PRICE

The bidder, in support of its bid, should provide a breakdown of each unit price according to the following model:

Designation	Unit price	Tasks 1		Tasks 2		Tasks 3		Total Tasks (1+2+3...)	
		Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total
Fees									
Lead consultant									
Associate consultant									
Other costs									
Travel and accommodation									
Other costs necessary for the proper execution of the present consultancy									
Sub-total / task (excluding VAT)									
	TOTAL Excluding VAT								
	VAT Amount								
	TOTAL All Taxes Included								

Amount of the offer excluding Tax is fixed at the sum of

Amount of the VAT is fixed at the sum of

Amount of the offer is fixed at the sum of All Taxes Included (ATI).

(Signature and official stamp of the bidder)

ANNEX 3

Background information on the Symposia

In 2005, the first edition of the **Mediterranean Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species** took place in Villanova I la Geltrú, Spain, from 17 to 19 November 2005, specifically at the ancient mansion of Molí del Mar, at Vilanova i la Geltrú, Barcelona.

SPA/RAC entrusted SEO/BirdLife with organizing the event, with contributions from MedMarAvis on scientific matters. The Symposium saw the participation of 31 ornithologists and conservation experts of 16 Mediterranean countries, including Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

The participants made several recommendations for SPA/RAC (Cf. [Proceedings](#)), including the **addition of 10 marine and coastal bird species to the List of endangered and threatened species** (i.e. [Annex II of SPA/BD Protocol](#)).

In November 2009, the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Marrakech, Morocco, adopted the proposal to include 10 additional bird species in Annex II, resulting in a total of 25 bird species in the Annex ([Decision IG.19/12](#)).

The **second edition of the Symposium** was convened in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 20 to 22 February 2015, with the aim (a) to update the knowledge on the status of marine and coastal birds; (b) to assess the effect of new regulations, conventions and research tools; and (c) to call for a closer cooperation among countries that had adopted the list of 25 bird species of Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol (Cf. [Proceedings](#)).

The event was organized by SPA/RAC in partnership with the Tunisian Association “Les Amis des Oiseaux” (AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia), Medmaravis, Tour du Valat Biological Station and the Conservatoire du Littoral. The Symposium was attended by 52 ornithologists and conservation experts from 13 Mediterranean countries.

Subsequently, the 19th Conference of Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in February 2016 in Athens, asked SPA/RAC to **update the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species** listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol including all 25 target species ([Decision IG22/12](#)). The Action Plan was updated and adopted by the 20th Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which took place in Albania in December 2017 ([Decision IG.23/08](#)).

Following a subsequent request made at COP 21 ([Decision IG.25/13](#)) to review the outcomes of activities undertaken between 2018 and 2022 aimed at effectively implementing the [Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity](#), SPA/RAC updated the Action Plan in the biennium 2022-2023. The updated Action Plan was reviewed by the Sixteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points ([UNEP/MED WG.548/5](#)) in May 2023 and submitted for adoption to the COP 23 of the Barcelona Convention (Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023).

Currently, preparations are underway for the upcoming symposium, scheduled to be held in Djerba, Tunisia, from 13 to 15 February 2024.

This third edition has several objectives:

- Provide a platform for researchers and ornithology experts to share their latest findings, experiences, exchange ideas, and collaborate on future projects.
- Discuss current issues, challenges and the state of knowledge regarding threats to marine and coastal bird populations.
- Explore Mediterranean strategies and action plans to mitigate these threats.
- Identify research gaps and areas for future research to enhance our understanding of the ecology and conservation of marine and coastal birds.
- Create opportunities for networking and building partnerships to facilitate the development and implementation of conservation strategies and action plans.

