



MedMPAnet Newsletter

Towards a representative
Mediterranean MPA network!
Second Issue, Nov.2012

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Kuriat Island © RAC/SPA, Atef OUERGHI





© UBM, University of Seville / CAR/ASP

Cap des Trois Fourches in Morocco: a characterization of a priority marine site suitable to become a future marine protected area

Following a characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become protected areas in Morocco, made during 2011, the Cap des Trois Fourches situated in the Northern Moroccan coast near the Nador area, has been identified as the main intervention site to be comprehensively surveyed.

During the first half of 2011, an extensive programme of work has been prepared in close consultation with the Moroccan High Commission for Water, Forests and the Fight against Desertification.

The on-site survey has been planned and carried out in September 2012. It aims at running a rapid natural habitats assessment of the potential site of Cap des Trois Fourches through data recording, managing and evaluation of all the aspects on zoo/phytobenthic communities and fisheries related to the areas surveyed and with justifiable value for protection as MPA.

10 national researcher/expert(s) and international experts worked together in the field to ensure that biological data are properly collected and recorded in view of reporting such information in maps using the GIS system. This will allow finalising a rapid natural habitats assessment of the site, along with a zoning proposal and recommendations on the management outlines.

Taking advantage of the ecological field survey undertaken, an on-job training has been delivered to local experts and students participating to the mission. This on-job training has embraced various themes like sampling techniques on hard and soft bottoms, but also socio-economic and cultural aspects of planning marine protected areas.

atef.limam@rac-spa.org

New publications

If you wish to receive a copy of any publication, please provide your name and full postal address to: medmpanet@rac-spa.org

Guidelines for management and monitoring threatened population of marine and coastal bird species and their important areas in the Mediterranean



New MedMPAnet Project Leaflet (2012 version)





Identification of important sites to be declared as future marine protected areas in Lebanon

Within the framework of the MedMPAnet Project, a marine survey was conducted by RAC/SPA, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, the National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR) of Beirut and IUCN bureau in Lebanon, in order to assess the biological features and the ecological interest of three Lebanese sites (Chikaa, Enfeh and Raoucheh) with a view of elaborating management outlines.

More than ten Lebanese and international experts completed the assessment in late June 2012. The Research Vessel CANA-NCSR particularly specialized in marine and environmental research was provided by the NCSR Lebanon to support the logistic aspect of the mission.

The studied areas were surveyed from the surface to 47 m depth by scuba diving using the hydroplan and the transect technique. The whole coastline and the underwater and surface caves were also visited.

The mission will lead to:

- A rapid natural habitat assessment (phytobenthos and zoobenthos) along all the coastal and marine parts of the concerned areas, for their better assessment,
- An inventory of species (mainly, of patrimonial and fisheries interest), and mapping of benthic habitats, and
- An ecological characterisation, human impacts and previous evaluation of the zones, with recommendations of the management outlines of the studied areas.

The ecological and GIS data collected during the mission will be used by the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs of Lebanon to elaborate a proposal for the management of the areas.

yassineramzi.sghaier@rac-spa.org



Towards priority suitable new areas needing a status of protection in Montenegro

A field mission was undertaken in Montenegro last June 2012 for the third and last rapid Assessment Survey of coastal habitats to help prioritize suitable new areas needing a status of protection.

The mission was integrated by two RAC/SPA-appointed international experts, the RAC/SPA SAP BIO Officer and the local experts appointed by Montenegro. The experts team undertook a framing of the main environmental values of the areas surveyed, and recorded implemented activities, information and aspects identified as relevant for each studied area, mainly through underwater techniques.

This activity in Montenegro focus on achieving a final report containing an assessment of the main relevant aspects in support to the definition of specific protection / management measures in at least three of the following areas: Ulcinj, Katici, Platamuni, Bar, Buljarica, Jaz, Tivat and Kotor.

During the field work days, a total of 12 team dives were performed (over 50 individual dives). The aim was to collect information on the most important benthic and fish assemblages, dominant macro flora and fauna, protected species and to provide photo documentation.

Among findings to be noted, some locations showed very important for the protected species *Pinna nobilis*, such as Trashte Bay, where very high densities of this giant mollusc species were recorded, equivalent to those of several strictly protected areas in other Mediterranean countries.

Also very high concentration of *Posidonia oceanica* fruits floating on the sea and lying on the beaches as well as conspicuous flowering underwater were recorded.

daniel.Cebrian@rac-spa.org



Kotor Bay, Montenegro © Vesna MACIC

Socioeconomic assessment in Kuriat Islands (Tunisia)

In Tunisia, the MedMPAnet Project is collaborating with the national authorities to provide them with a strong ecological and socio-economic arguments in favour of the development of a marine protected areas in Kuriat Islands.

In parallel to the ecological assessment undertaken in the area, a socioeconomic study has been undertaken to analyze the socio-economic environment of the future MPA and to draw up a broad picture concerning stakeholders views and involvement with regards to the establishment of the MPA, particularly those concerned by fisheries and tourism.

The study allowed compiling the collected information and led to the elaboration of a socioeconomic assessment with concrete proposals serving to the elaboration of the management plan, whose development is on the pipe.

The assessment outlined how imperative to adopt a participatory approach towards local stakeholders and the necessity of their involvement in decision making regarding the creation and the management of Kuriat Islands.

atef.limam@rac-spa.org



Kuriat Islands, Tunisia © RAC/SPA, Louis-Marie



Nueva Tabarca, Spain © Emma BEN LAMINE

Mediterranean training session on ecological monitoring in MPAs

The MedMPAnet Project has organized a second regional training session on the ecological monitoring in MPAs, from 23rd to 28th September 2012, as a continuation of the first Mediterranean training session on the identification and classification techniques of marine and coastal species for the ecological monitoring on the MPAs which was held from 25th September to 1st October 2011.

The main objective of the 2012 training session is to continue strengthening the capacity and skills of MPA managers, lead staff and practitioners, in the Mediterranean countries, by providing them with the tools and know-how needed to improve their knowledge on the issue.

The session on the ecological monitoring in MPAs has been convened in collaboration with the University of Alicante (Spain) and took place in its Marine Research Centre of the Santa Pola (CIMAR) and the Marine Reserve of Nueva Tabarca. It has been delivered by a group of professors and focused in particular on field work. Twelve participants from 8 Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Montenegro, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) participated to the session.

The participants spent 2 days at the Nueva Tabarca Marine Reserve and were able to share ideas with the management team on the management aspects but also on biodiversity recovery and their benefits. Furthermore, field works were also conducted by the participants in two different areas of the marine reserve in order to assess the effect of the protection on fish, limpets, sea urchins and macro-algae.

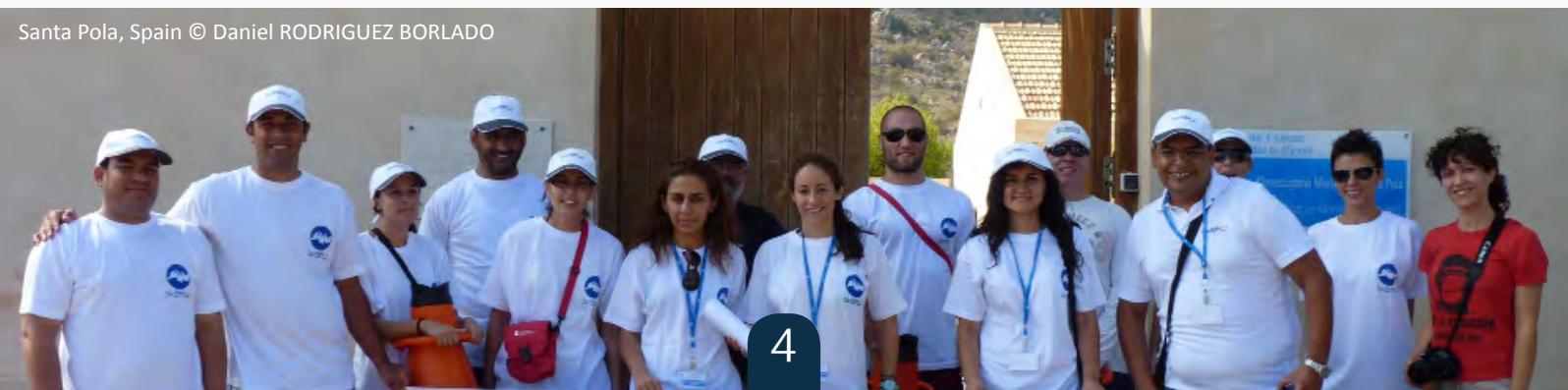
Information on the training workshop has been disseminated in the local periodical of Santa Pola. (<http://www.periodicosantapola.es>).

yassineramzi.sghaier@rac-spa.org



El CIMAR es referente en la formación de investigadores en el Mediterráneo

Santa Pola, Spain © Daniel RODRIGUEZ BORLADO





Improving the capacities of Libyan MPAs stakeholders

A joint meeting between Environmental General Authority of Libya (EGA), RAC/SPA and WWF MedPO has been organised early 2012 (14 February), in Tunisia and allowed the three parties to identify three priority areas to improve the capacities of Libyan authorities representatives and MPAs stakeholders.

Following the recommendations of that meeting, MedMPAnet and MedPAN South projects co-organised two training workshops as follows.

Technical support to GIS department of EGA

The technical support on GIS issues has been run along two steps:

- The first one consisted on carrying out a technical mission, on 17-18 April 2012, by a GIS trainer to assess the needs and facilities of the EGA GIS department in Tripoli,
- Based on that assessment, a 4 day-training workshop for eight participants from EGA GIS department took place from 25 to 31 May in Bizerte – Tunisia and dealt with marine GIS.

This training workshop will allow the GIS treatment and

compilation of the data collected during the field surveys undertaken in both El Kouf and Ain Al-Ghazala areas.

Training workshop about planning socioeconomic assessments in MPAs

The workshop had been organized from 31 May to 3 June 2012 in Tunisia with the participation of three EGA staff and five Libyan researchers from Tripoli and Omar El Mokhtar universities. The workshop was led by a socioeconomic expert on MPAs and aimed at:

- Learning techniques and methods to identify standard data to be included in a socioeconomic questionnaire .
- How to conduct a successful socioeconomic assessment for MPAs.

Following the training, two studies on socioeconomic assessment for El Kouf and Ain Al-Ghazala areas have been launched and are executed by researchers who participated to the training course. They will both allow helping the Libyan authorities and stakeholders developing and reinforcing management measures regarding the two areas.

yassineramzi.sghaier@rac-spa.org





THE 2012 FORUM of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

25 - 28 NOVEMBER 2012
ANTALYA, TURKEY

■ WWW.MEDMPAFORUM2012.ORG

RAC/SPA co-organising the 2012 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

RAC/SPA, in particular the MedMPAnet Project, is actively participating in the organization and good running of the 2012 MPA Forum which will be held from 25th to 28th November in Antalya, Turkey.

The aim of the Forum is to develop a common vision and set a new strategic roadmap to achieve the goals set forth in the Barcelona Convention, to establish by 2020 a comprehensive, effectively-managed and ecologically representative network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.

RAC/SPA will take responsibility in organizing and facilitating the following sessions:

- (i) Workshop on “Creation of marine and coastal protected areas networks: What has changed over the last 5 years?”,
- (ii) Focus session on “Identification and creation of new MPAs in the Mediterranean: Lessons learned and challenges”,
- (iii) Focus session on “Challenges for Open Seas MPAs”.

The workshops will provide in-depth reflection and work on the creation of marine and coastal protected areas networks and will provide concrete recommendations to the Roadmap. The focus sessions will present the main results of the projects executed by RAC/SPA concerning Identification and creation of new MPAs in the Mediterranean coastal and open seas waters.

atef.limam@rac-spa.org



Third Meeting of National Correspondents of SAP BIO...serving also as Mid-term Workshop for the MedMPAnet Project

The Third Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), took place in Malaga (Spain) at the Hotel Barceló Málaga, from 4 to 6 July 2012, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med).

The meeting served also as a Mid-term Workshop for the MedMPAnet Project ("Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of MPA Creation and Management", part of the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem" (MedPartnership), and funded by EC, AECID and FFEM).

This meeting offered the opportunity to :

- Introduce the progress so far made by RAC/SPA in the implementation of SAP BIO,
- Evaluate of SAP BIO implementation by the Contracting Parties and regional bodies,
- Present the SAP BIO roadmap for updating the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with regard to the Ecosystem Approach process within MAP.

Most representatives of involved countries in the project provided information on their national and regional activities related to the Project, both those already implemented and those planned. They welcomed the useful cooperation with RAC/SPA in areas such as fauna and flora protection, and legislative and institutional set-ups.

atef.limam@rac-spa.org



MedMPAnet

Creating new Marine Protected Areas and planning for their management



© Danijel Feka / PIR (Priroda i Ravnojevo)

CROATIA
RAC/SPA is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, the Public Institution for Management of Protected Areas in County of Primorje & Gorski Kotar - Public Institution Priroda and the State Institute for Nature Protection in running ecological surveys and improving capacities in terms of marine resources management in the County of Primorje & Gorski Kotar.



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
RAC/SPA is undertaking an extensive analysis of marine conservation legal and institutional framework in the country. RAC/SPA will be also supporting the Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment in enhancing the integrated management of marine resources in the country.



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MONTENEGRO
RAC/SPA and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism are collaborating in running a rapid assessment of marine habitats along the coast of Montenegro.

RAC/SPA is also working on the pilot development of an MPA in the Kotor Bay, as part of joint efforts with PAP/RAC and CP/RAC.

ALBANIA
RAC/SPA is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration in developing a new MPA in the Porto Palermo Bay.



SYRIA
In close consultation with the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs, RAC/SPA is working on the identification of national priorities in terms of MPA creation and management.



© Mohamad JONY



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MOROCCO
RAC/SPA is joining efforts to the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification for the identification of marine sites suitable to be declared as MPAs.

ALGERIA



ALGERIA
RAC/SPA, in collaboration with the Conservatoire du Littoral, is providing its support to the Ministry for Land Planning and Environment to create an MPA in the Réghaïa area.



© Luis Marie PREAU

TUNISIA
RAC/SPA is collaborating with the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency in planning the management of the newly created MPA of Kuriat Islands.



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LIBYA
RAC/SPA is assisting the Environmental General Authority in:
• Creating an MPA in Ain Al-Ghazala area (together with WWF-MedPO), and
• Promoting the development of the marine extension to El Kouf National Park (in collaboration with 'the Conservatoire du Littoral').

LEBANON
RAC/SPA is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment in undertaking rapid ecological assessments in the Enfeh, Ras Chekaa and Al-Raoucheh sites, in view of promoting their protection.



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