

SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE (SPAMIs)



SPAMIs and their year of inclusion in the SPAMI List: 34 sites (as per last update of the SPAMI List in February 2016)

ALBANIA

AL1.Karaburun Sazan National Marine Park (2016)

ALGERIA

DZ1.Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve (2005)

DZ2.Habibas Islands (2005)

CYPRUS

CY1. Lara – Toxeftra Turtle Reserve (2013)

FRANCE

FR1.Port-Cros National Park (2001)

FR2.Natural Reserve of Bouches de Bonifacio (2009)

FR3.The Blue Coast Marine Park (2012)

FR4.The Embiez Archipelago - Six Fours (2012)

ITALY

IT1.Plemmirio Protected Area (2008)

IT2.Marine Protected Area of Portofino (2005)

IT3.Miramare Marine Protected Area (2008)

IT4.Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Protected Area (2008)

IT5.Marine Protected Area of Torre Guaceto (2008)

IT6.Marine Protected Area Punta Campanella (2009)

IT7.Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (2009)

IT8.Porto Cesareo Marine Protected Area (2012)

IT9.Capo Carbonara Marine Protected Area (2012)

IT10.Marine Protected Area of Penisola del Sinis (2012)

LEBANON

LB1.Palm Islands Nature Reserve (2012)

LB2.Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (2012)

MOROCCO

MA1.Al-Hoceima National Park (2009)

SPAIN

ES1.Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (2003)

ES2.Archipelago of Cabrera National Park (2003)

ES3.Natural Park of Cabo de Gata-Nijar (2001)

ES4.Natural Park of Cap de Creus (2001)

ES5.Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (2001)

ES6.Alboran Island (2001)

ES7.Columbretes Islands (2001)

ES8.Medes Islands (2001)

ES9.Mar Menor (2001)

TUNISIA

TN1.La Galite Archipelago (2001)

TN2.Kneiss Islands (2001)

TN3.Zembra and Zembretta National Park (2001)

FRANCE, ITALY AND MONACO

Int1.Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals(2001)

Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance

The 1975 Mediterranean Action Plan and the 1976 Barcelona Convention enabled close regional cooperation to be established between the Mediterranean states several years ago and provided a suitable framework for the protection and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. This was particularly shown in the creation, between 1975 and 1995, of 122 protected areas.

With the adopting of the new Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) in 1995 and its entry into force in 1999, a new key phase was begun. This SPA/BD Protocol started the drawing up of a List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and offered the Contracting Parties the possibility, for the first time ever, of creating protected marine areas outside the waters that come under their national jurisdiction.

Definition and objectives of a SPAMI

A SPAMI is an Area that:

- presents importance for the conservation of elements that make up biological diversity in the Mediterranean;
- contains ecosystems that are specific to the Mediterranean region or habitats of species threatened with extinction or;
- or presents particular interest at scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational level.

The basic objectives of a SPAMI are protecting the natural heritage, scientific research, and environment education, provided that these are compatible with conservation objectives.

In the context of the Barcelona Convention, and in order to promote cooperation on managing and conserving natural areas and protecting endangered species and their habitats, the Parties have drawn up a List of SPAMIs.

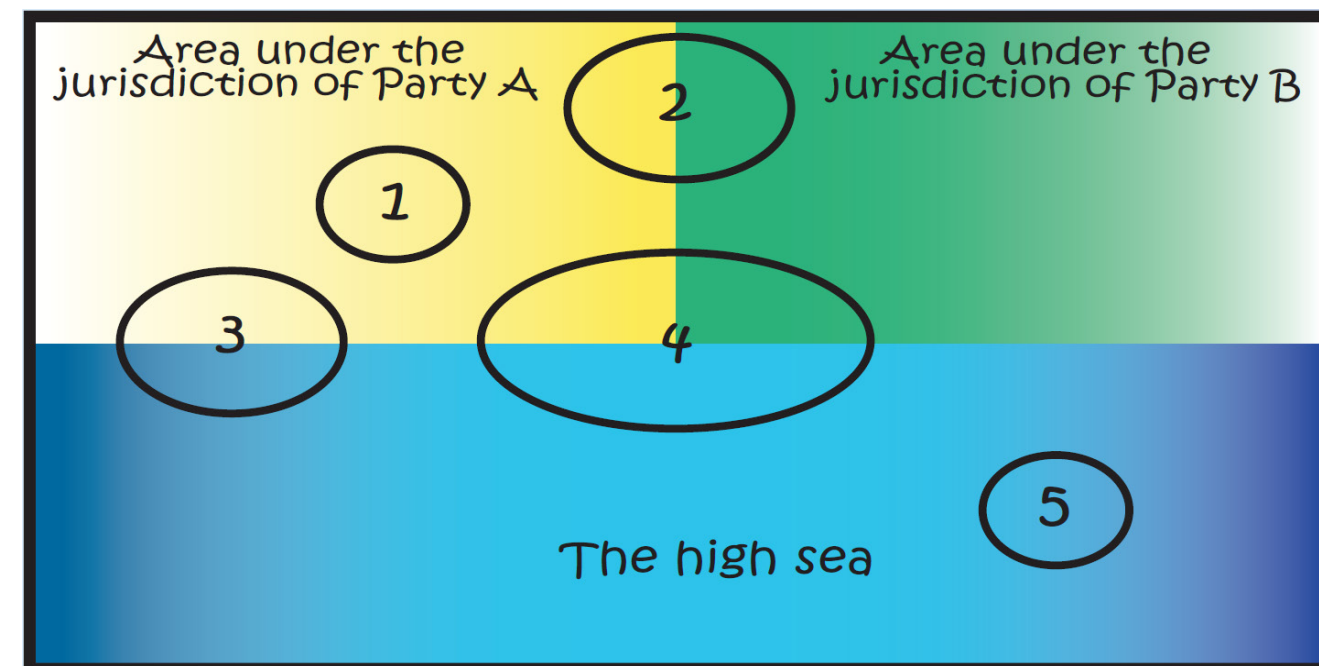
The SPAMIs appearing on the List, and their geographical distribution, must be representative of the Mediterranean region and of its biodiversity. The List must represent the greatest possible number of kinds of habitat and ecosystem.

SPAMIs, because of their legal status, the measures of protection and management applied therein, and the approaches and means of management implemented, are intended to serve as examples of the conservation of the Mediterranean heritage.

Where can we create a SPAMI?

SPAMIs can be created in any area under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party to the SPA/BD Protocol and also in areas in the Mediterranean Sea located outside the jurisdiction of the states. Several possible scenarios can therefore coexist :

1. A marine and/or coastal area completely located inside an area subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of a Party.
2. A cross-border marine and/or coastal area completely located inside areas subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of two or more Parties.
3. A marine and/or coastal area located inside an area subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of a Party and also extending outwards into the high sea.
4. A cross-border marine and/or coastal area located inside areas subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of two or more Parties and also extending outwards into the high sea.
5. A marine area totally located in the high sea.



Who can create a SPAMI?

A SPAMI is created when it is included in the List after a decision by the Contracting Parties on the grounds of criteria defined by the SPA/BD Protocol Annex I.

When the SPAMI only concerns one country: For areas that lie completely within areas under the jurisdiction of one Party, the procedure for including that area in the SPAMI List is initiated by the concerned Party.

When the SPAMI concerns several countries: For sites lying partially or totally outside the states' limits of jurisdiction, the proposal to include it in the List must come from one or several neighbouring Parties.

