

Newsletter of RAC/SPA

special
MedMPAnet project
May 2016

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EDITO

In this new issue of the newsletter, we are pleased to provide you with information on the latest activities of RAC/SPA, with a focus on the MedMPAnet project. This project aims to help the Mediterranean countries to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity, particularly through the establishment of marine protected areas.

Each site has unique natural assets but also a socio-economic context to be taken into account and valued. The objective of protection of marine areas is not making them into sanctuaries. Protect areas where life is present in all its forms, and where men are never far away, also enable us to protect intangible heritage and to share and transmit to future generations precious universes.

We seize this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the project's success and sustainability. The MedMPAnet project is a long-lasting, sustainable process that starts now its second phase, for a period of two years and a half.

RAC/SPA Director
Khalil ATTIA

AGENDA

12 - 13 JULY 2016

Expert meeting to discuss and finalize documents to be adopted during the meeting of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) Biodiversity and Fisheries
Organized by RAC/SPA

JULY 2016

Training session on marine key habitat mapping and monitoring
Organized by RAC/SPA - Kuriat Island, Tunisia

Training Session on marine turtles monitoring
Organized by RAC/SPA - Kuriat Island, Tunisia

SEPTEMBER 2016

Ad hoc meeting to revise the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean
Organized by RAC/SPA - Barcelona, Spain

12-13 OCTOBER 2016

Meeting of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) biodiversity and fisheries
Organized by RAC/SPA

28 NOVEMBER -
1 DECEMBER 2016

The 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
Organized by RAC/SPA, MedPAN and the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (Morocco) - Tangiers, Morocco

MedKeyhabitats Project final workshop
Organized by RAC/SPA - Tangiers, Morocco

COVER PICTURE: Study of the Barda'ah marine environment, Libye. ©RAC/SPA, Mathieu Foulquié

NEWS IN BRIEF

EcAp-MED II project kick off

RAC/SPA has been committed to the development of the Ecosystem Approach process (EcAp process) since 2008, with the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the marine

and coastal environment. The Centre is in charge since June 2015 of the implementation of the EcAp-MED II 2015-2018 project, which follows the EcAp-MED I project. RAC/SPA will support 7 Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) to implement

the EcAp Roadmap that has been agreed upon at COP 15 (Almeria, Spain, January 2008) through assisting them in establishing new monitoring programmes regarding Biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species.

To read the roadmap, click [here](#)



The 2016 forum of MPAs

RAC/SPA, the network of marine protected areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) and the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control of Morocco organised on 1 March 2016 in Rabat, the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the 2016 Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean.

The Forum will be held from 28 November to 1 December 2016 in Tangiers and will provide a unique opportunity for managers, policy-makers, socio-economic actors, civil society

and the scientific community to address the challenges of MPAs in the Mediterranean in view of the 2020 Aichi Targets deadline.

Participated to the steering committee representatives of ACCOBAMS, City of Marseille, Conservatoire du Littoral, French MPA Agency, IUCN, MedWet, Plan Bleu, Tour du Valat and WWF.

This meeting was preceded on 29 February 2016, by a meeting with Mr. High Commissioner for Water, Forests and Desertification Control.

From left to right: Christel Georges (City of Marseille), Pierre Vignes (MedPAN), Souha El Asmi (RAC/SPA), Jean Jalbert (Tour du Valat), Khalil Attia (RAC/SPA), Céline Damery (Conservatoire du Littoral), Puri Canals (MedPAN), Abdennadi Abarkach (High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control), Marie Romani (MedPAN), Maïlis Renaudin (MedWet).

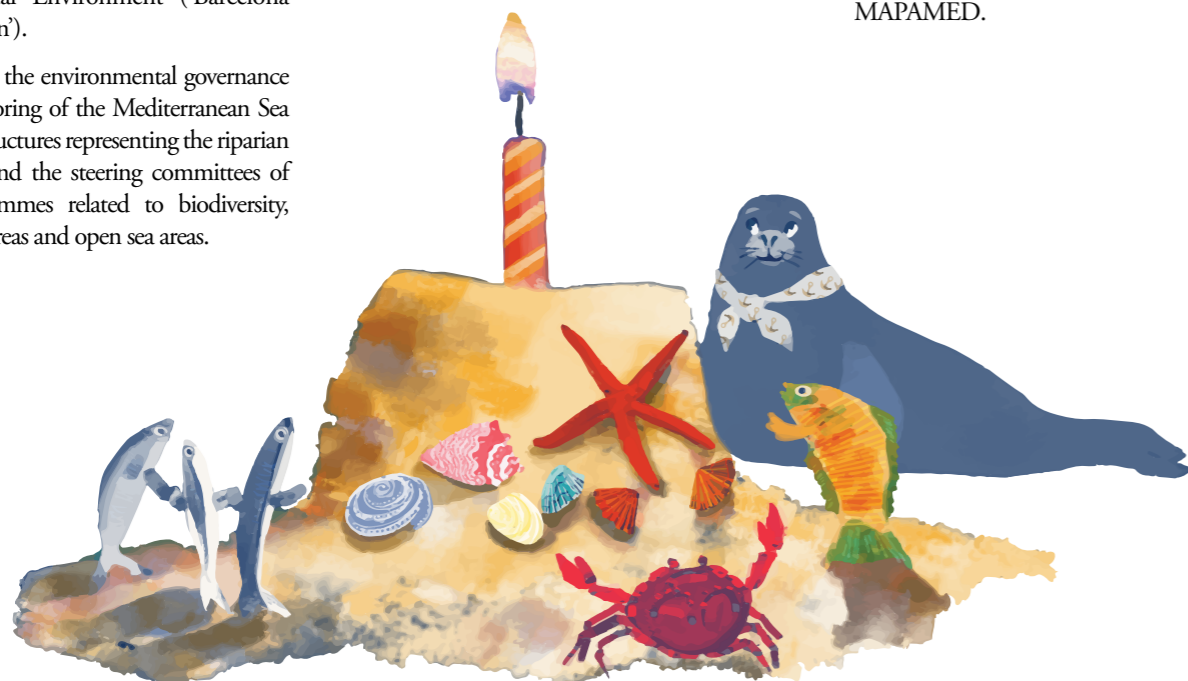
RAC/SPA, 30 YEARS in the service of the MEDITERRANEAN

The five years of the MedMPAnet Project have been rich in events, but 2015 has been special. RAC/SPA celebrated its 30th anniversary

RAC/SPA is an institution that was created as part of the Barcelona Convention to protect Mediterranean biodiversity through setting up Marine Protected Areas. The Centre acts in synergy with all the elements of UNEP/MAP and its partners to serve a wider objective: helping protect and conserve the marine and coastal environment and promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

RAC/SPA's strong points and most important achievements may be summed up as follows:

- Developing a dynamic system for the regular updating of the List of endangered or threatened Mediterranean species, plus those whose use is regulated (Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol).
- Setting up the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO).
- Setting up 9 Action Plans for the conservation of species and habitats.
- Developing regional projects: MedMPA, MedPosidonia, MedOpenSeas, MedMPAnet, MedKeyHabitats, EcAp-MED.
- Elaboration of a regional working programme for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean and developing a roadmap calling for urgent action to achieve the aims set by the year 2020.
- Pioneering capacity building for the conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean.
- Setting up a strategy for stimulating open sea conservation in the Mediterranean.
- Making a List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) in 2001.
- Setting up 5 regional theme databases: MedGIS, MAMIAS, FSD, MEDACCESS, MAPAMED.
- Supporting the environmental governance and monitoring of the Mediterranean Sea through structures representing the riparian countries and the steering committees of the programmes related to biodiversity, protected areas and open sea areas.



Dessin de Sofiya Voznaya.



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Cocktail organized by the Centre to celebrate its 30th anniversary, 25 May 2015, Athens.

GO FURTHER

- A presentation of the Centre's history, given at the 12th Meeting of Focal Points, has also been prepared; a video version can be watched on this [link](#) (French commentary, English subtitles).
- A two-minute cartoon directed by Sofiya Voznaya to introduce RAC/SPA, available in three languages ([Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#))

GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW OF THE MedMPAnet project

The MedMPAnet project was implemented in the framework of the UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership, with the financial support of EC, AECID and FFEM. It has received a budget of 2 756 040, 57 € for the period of 2010 to 2015.



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 3 regional coordination meetings >> 21 countries and 20 regional organizations attended
- 1 regional MPA forum >> 320 participants
- 13 guides and manuals (endangered species and habitats management / monitoring, connectivity, stakeholder participation, sustainable financing)
- 1 documentary film (26')
- 2 animated films (1'30)
- 2 regional strategies (Capacity building, Technical tools)
- 1 MPA status report (2012)
- 1 financial analysis of MPAs (2015)
- 1 best practices and lessons learnt document (2015)
- 9 regional training workshops (ecological monitoring, planning, sustainable fisheries/ tourism, climate change, sustainable financing) >> 246 participants

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 16 oceanographic campaigns
- 14 socio-economic / fisheries / tourism / stakeholders studies
- 1 national strategy on protected areas (libya)
- 4 management plans, 3 business plans for new MPAs
- 9 national training workshops (96 participants)
- 10 on-the-job trainings during field surveys (48 participants)
- 3 legal and institutional assessments
- 1 draft law on protected areas (libya)
- 7 MPAs (98,411 ha of marine waters) are declared or in the process of declaration

NEW MPAs IN THE MED: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The RAC/SPA supports countries to carry out processes for establishing MPAs and ensure their sustainable management. Albania, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, among others, have sites endowed with remarkable natural and cultural features. Four sites jointly selected with local authorities to become Marine Protected Areas are presented hereafter.

The Bay of Porto Palermo, Albania

The bay of Porto Palermo includes two small bays, separated by a peninsula where stands a 19th century castle.

Under the crystal clear waters, seagrass meadows, coralligenous and underwater

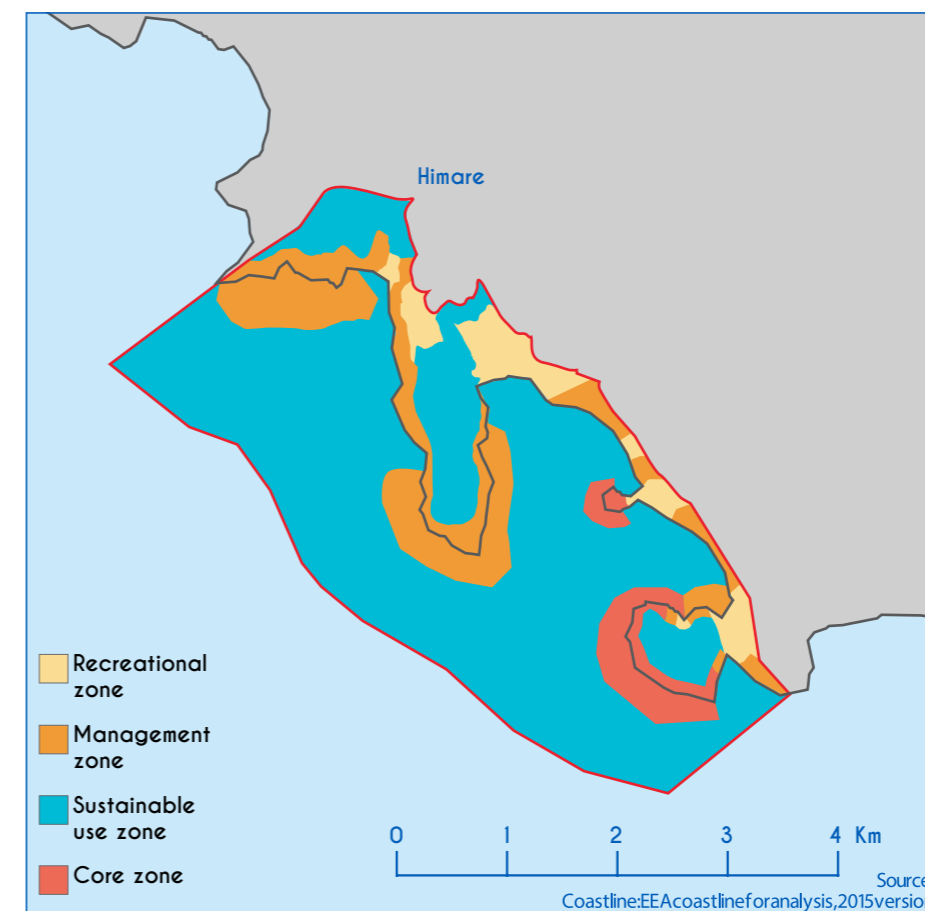
caves provide refuge for many species of conservation interest.

Despite that the area is little developed, it constitutes already an attraction for tourists. Thus, tourism, along with fishing and

aquaculture, must be regulated for a sustainable development of the area without damaging its natural resources.

More precisely, the activities to be developed are:

- enhancing the management of the site that commits the people and the local authorities ;
- ecotourism, one of the region's priorities ;
- scientific activities in order to fill the lack of knowledge about ecology ;
- environment education and awareness for users of the marine area.



GO FURTHER

RAC/SPA - UNEP/MAP, 2013. Ecological study in the Porto Palermo Bay and surrounding areas. By Lefter KASHTA, Sajmir BEQIRAJ, Arjan GACE and Xhemal MATO. Ed. RAC/SPA - MedMPAnet Project, Tunis. 44 pp + annexes (Albanian, English).

RAC/SPA - UNEP-MAP, 2015. Management Plan of "Porto-Palermo-Llamani Bay" Protected Area in Albania. By Zamir DEDEJ, Genti KROMIDHA and Nihat DRAGOTI. Ed. RAC/SPA - MedMPAnet Project, Tunis: 84 p + annexes. (Albanian, English).

Zoom on the INCA

For further information, visit
www.inca-al.org

The INCA (Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania) is a NGO set up in 2000. Its main aims are: protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development, especially in the rural areas ; managing protected areas and river basins ; awareness for the public, decision-makers and politicians ; training ; developing the participatory approach.

For four years INCA has been directing the Network for Nature Protection in Albania, which today brings together eight local environment NGOs. In 2012, INCA was appointed to coordinate the implementing of RAC/SPA's MedMPAnet Project in Albania, in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Water Management

Réghaia, Algeria

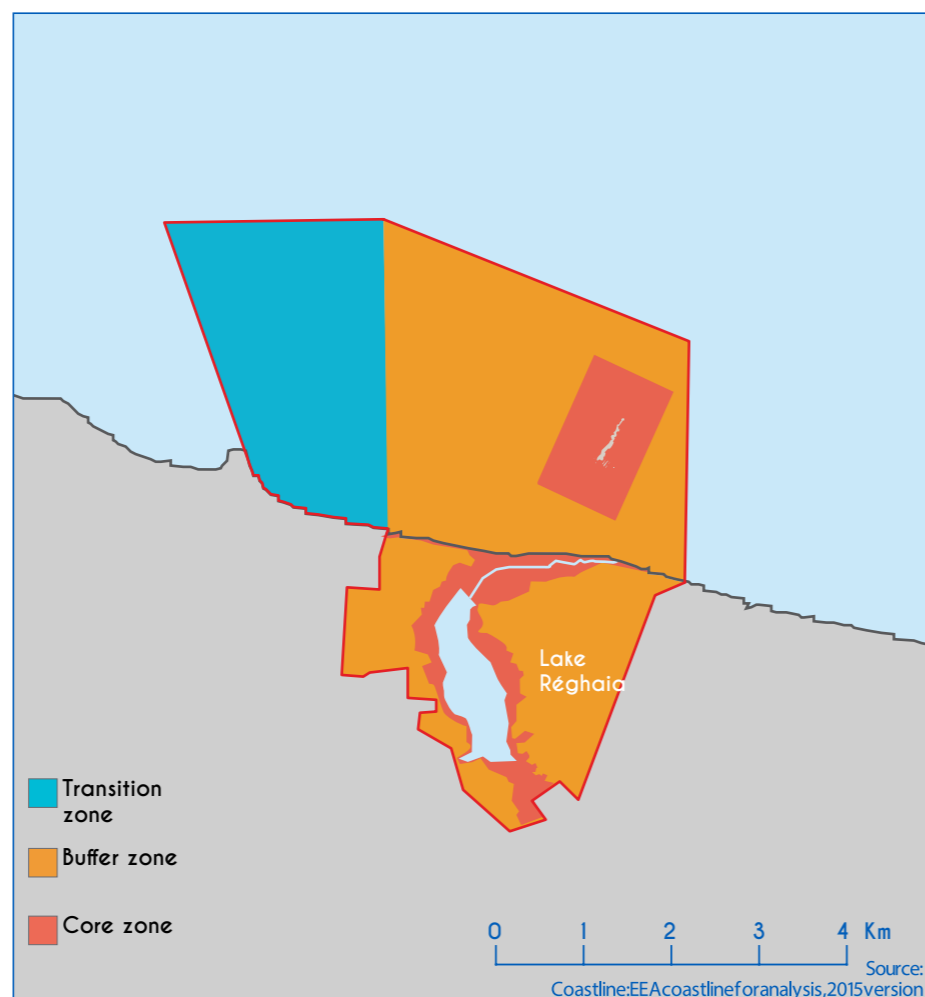
The Réghaia site is one of the last natural sites on the coastline near Algiers. While 80 % of the coastline of the wilaya of Algiers is urbanised, the Réghaia marine area contains one of the wilaya's rare dune belts and a maze of interdependent ecosystems of heritage value (sea, islets, beach, lake and marsh).

In 2002, Réghaia lake was put on the Wetlands of International Importance List by the Ramsar Convention. Extending this protection to the marine and coastal environment generally aimed at enhancing the conservation of biological diversity and making sure its use did not compromise its most vulnerable elements.

More specifically, the aim was to:

- rehabilitate and restore the habitats that had been degraded by human activities
- de-pollute Réghaia lake and its environs
- regulate agricultural, industrial, irrigation, fishing and fish farming activities
- develop ecotourism that would be compatible with the site's calling.

In the end, the Marine Natural Reserve of Réghaia should act as a pilot site for making best use of and protecting coastal areas in Algeria. It will also allow new approaches to Integrated Coastal Zone Management to be developed in the country



GO FURTHER

CAR/ASP - PNUE/PAM, 2015. Caractérisation bioécologique de la zone marine de l'Est algérois (Algérie). Par BENABDI M., BACHETARZI R. Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis : 55 p. (French).

CAR/ASP - PNUE/PAM, 2015. Bilan diagnostic de la Réserve naturelle de Réghaia (Algérie). Par BENABDI M., BACHETARZI R. Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis : 55 p. (French)

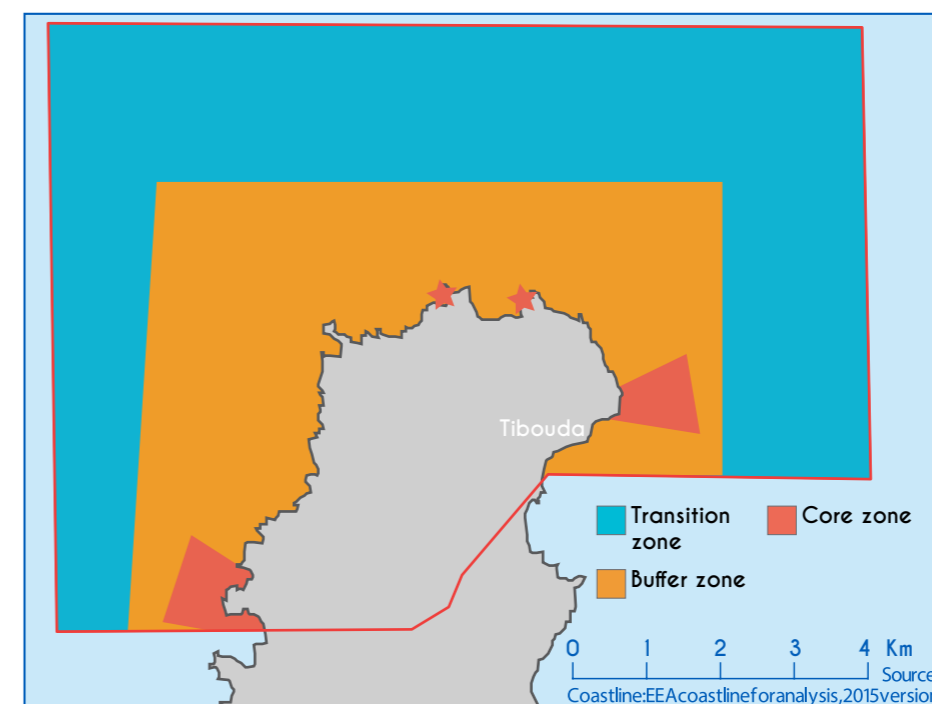
CAR/ASP - PNUE/PAM, 2015. Plan de gestion de la future réserve naturelle de Réghaia en Algérie. Par Mouloud BENABDI. Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis: 120 p. (French)

Cap des Trois Fourches, Morocco

The ecological importance of the Cap des Trois Fourches in Morocco was first highlighted in 1996, in the context of a national study, leading to its being listed as a Site of Biological and Ecological Interest (SIBE). This interest was confirmed by the RAC/SPA's MedMPAnet Project, which enabled over 180 species and 10 types

of community to be inventoried on the seabed.

The selection of the site to become a future MPA was also motivated by socio-economic reasons. The Cap des Trois Fourches lies near areas that are subjected to strong human-origin activities, such as the town of



Submarine views of Cap des Trois Fourches
©RAC/SPA, University of Seville



Melilla and the province of Nador. The aim is to install integrated management that takes into consideration the context of the area's economic and social development.

The main objectives of the future Cap des Trois Fourches MPA are:

- conserving biodiversity by setting up zoning (defining the calling of each zone in the area), and ecological monitoring ;
- developing and organising traditional fishing ;
- making best use of the site's natural and cultural assets by carrying out eco-development projects and promoting ecotourism ;
- awareness and education for users of the future Marine Protected Area.

The long-term vision in Morocco is to create a network of MPAs that is capable of helping protect resources, rehabilitate marine ecosystems and bring about sustainable traditional fishing.

GO FURTHER

- CAR/ASP-PNUE/PAM, 2015. Élaboration du plan de gestion de la partie marine et côtière du SIBE du Cap des Trois Fourches (Maroc) : Phase 1: Bilan et diagnostic. Par Ibis Consulting, Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis: 39 p + Annexes. (French).
- CAR/ASP-PNUE/PAM, 2015. Élaboration du plan de gestion de la partie marine et côtière du SIBE du Cap des Trois Fourches (Maroc) : Phase 2: Plan de gestion. Par Ibis Consulting, Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis: 61 p + Annexes. (French)
- CAR/ASP-PNUE/PAM, 2015. Élaboration du plan de gestion de la partie marine et côtière du SIBE du Cap des Trois Fourches (Maroc) : Phase 3: Modalités de mise en place d'un mécanisme de participation et d'engagement des parties prenantes locales. Par Ibis Consulting, Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis: 24 p. (French)

The Kuriat Islands, Tunisia

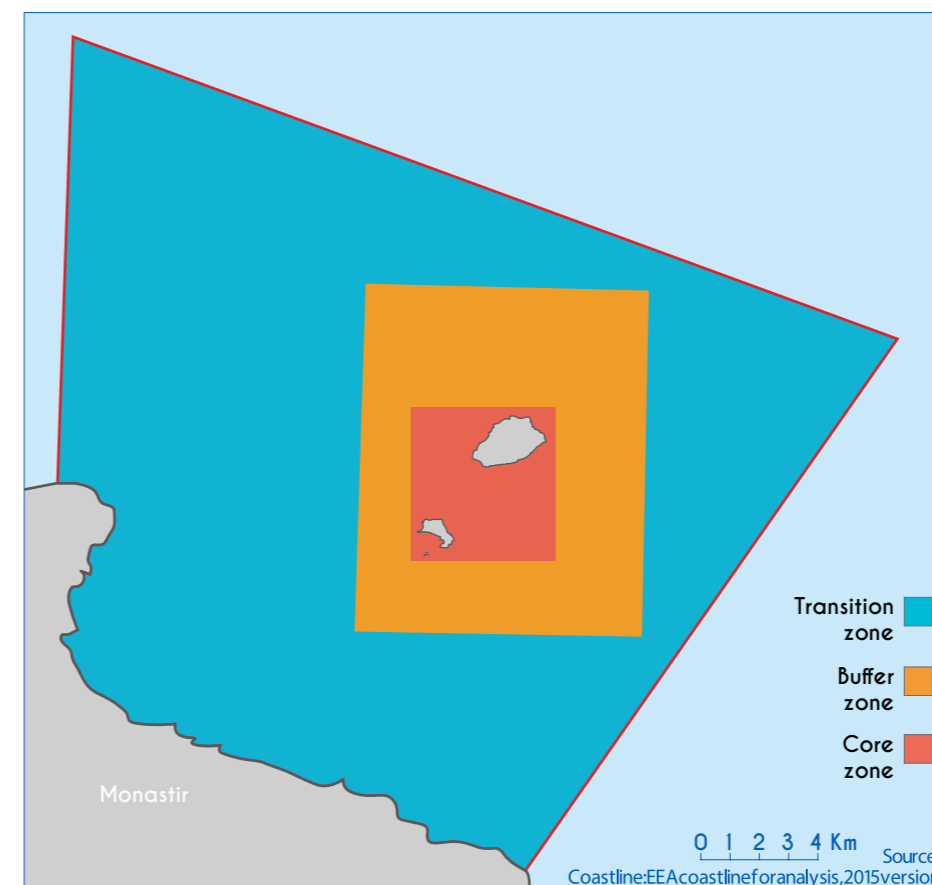


The Kuriat Islands in Tunisia are known to be an important nesting site for the *Caretta caretta* turtle in the Mediterranean. It is also a place where many species of seabirds come to nest in the wetlands. Out at sea, *Posidonia* barrier reefs can be seen, and maërl beds less than one metre down.

Without suitable management, fishing, fish farming and seaside tourism are progressively degrading the archipelago's marine and coastal ecosystems. Setting up a Marine Protected Area will help protect these ecosystems without, however, making them into sanctuaries. The management advocated for the future MPA rests on three principles: protecting assets, rehabilitating potential, and sustainably adding value.

More precisely, for the next five years we must:

- guarantee a high level of land-sea protection with maintenance and enhancement of the site's natural character ;
- keep up the archipelago's scientific calling ;
- make sure there is rational tourist frequentation ;
- gradually set up Integrated Coastal Zone Management within the Bay of Monastir ;
- make the Kuriat archipelago a pilot site for environment awareness in Tunisia.



GO FURTHER

- CAR/ASP-PNUE/PAM, 2014. Elaboration d'un Plan de Gestion pour l'Aire Marine et Côtière Protégée des îles Kuriat (Tunisie) - Phase 1: Bilan et Diagnostic. Par Thetis-Cabinet Sami Ben Haj. Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis : 72 p + annexes. (French).
- CAR/ASP-PNUE/PAM, 2015. Elaboration d'un Plan de Gestion pour l'Aire Marine et Côtière Protégée des îles Kuriat (Tunisie) - Phase 2 : Gestion de l'AMCP; définition des objectifs et planification des opérations. Par Thetis-Cabinet Sami Ben Haj. Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis : 56 p + annexes. (French).
- CAR/ASP-PNUE/PAM, 2015. Elaboration d'un Plan de Gestion pour l'Aire Marine et Côtière Protégée des îles Kuriat (Tunisie) - Phase 3 : Stratégie de mobilisation des parties prenantes. Par Thetis-Cabinet Sami Ben Haj. Ed. CAR/ASP - Projet MedMPAnet, Tunis : 27 p.



Zoom on the Notre Grand Bleu association

The Notre Grand Bleu association was set up in 2012 in Monastir in Tunisia. Its aim is to protect the Mediterranean Sea and its resources, and make children and young people aware of the marine ecology.

The association regularly carries out clean-up campaigns in the Kuriat Islands. Its action, at archipelago level, has enabled the eradication

of the black rat, an introduced species that attacks the nests of turtles and seabirds. Notre Grand Bleu is also greatly involved in setting up the future MPA's management plan suggested by RAC/SPA and piloted by the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL).

For more information, visit:
www.notre-grand-bleu.com

HOW TO PROTECT 10 % OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BY 2020 ?

The Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopts the Roadmap for a comprehensive, coherent network of well-managed MPAs

Six years ago, 194 countries committed themselves to this: 'by 2020, at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 % of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and sea landscape'. That was Aichi Target 11, adopted as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In the Mediterranean, the countries are still far behind this Target, with only 4.56 % of the surface area being protected, 5.26 % when restricted fishing areas and deep-sea trawling ban zones are taken into account. Developing the MPA network requires considerable means to protect new areas, and also to guarantee them efficacious, sustainable management.

'What is really important is that the whole complexity of a Protected Area be financially sustainable. Throughout the world, Protected Areas constitute major assets, economic assets. So in the Mediterranean too, means must be found for that to happen.' (Giuseppe Notabartolo di Sciarra, President of the Tethys research institute.

There does exist a Regional Working Programme on MPAs set up in 2009 by UNEP/MAP ; it has today been updated and enhanced by a Roadmap that suggests concrete activities to achieve Aichi Target 11.

The roadmap crystallizes the vision of all Mediterranean stakeholders: MPA managers, scientists, government representatives, on what should be Mediterranean MPAs and conservation in general. It is built around four key objectives:

- 1) develop the MPA network,
- 2) improve its management,
- 3) promote equitable and sustainable use of MPAs,
- 4) sustain their financing.

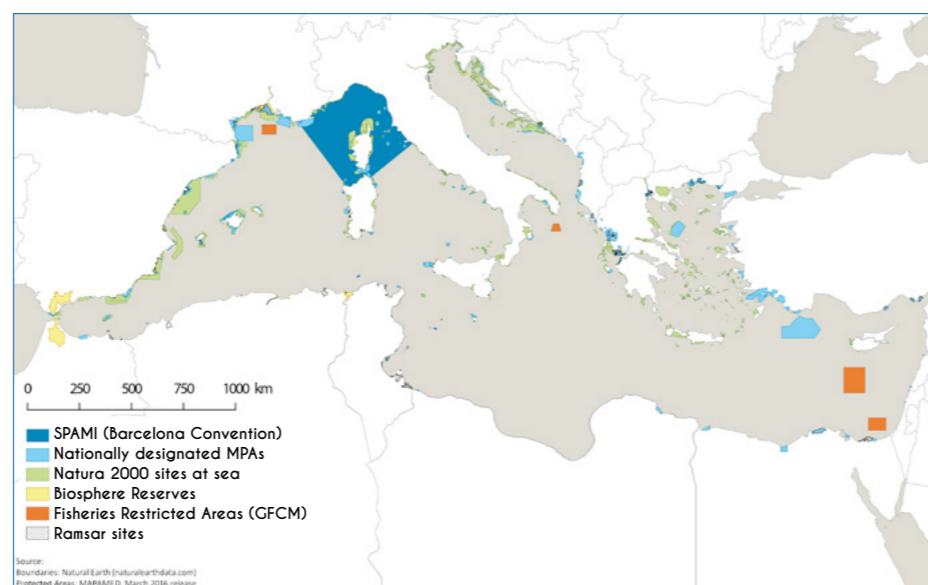
The first version of the roadmap was developed at the 2012 MPA Forum. It was then amended and adopted at the last COP

of the Barcelona Convention, which proves countries commitment to move forward the Mediterranean protected areas agenda.

The 2016 MPA Forum (Morocco/late November) will be an opportunity to take stock of protected areas status and make further recommendations.

In 2017, it is planned to assess the implementation of the 2009 regional working programme and the roadmap adopted in 2016. To be continued...

[Download the map of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean](#)



GO
FURTHER

- To consult the Roadmap, click on this [link](#) (go to page 615).
- Consult the [Programme of work on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas](#) (2009).
- Watch the interview of experts in Mediterranean MPAs, to know more about this Roadmap ([English](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#)).



Cinque Terre, Italy, is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage List since 1997. The site also has the status of National Park and Marine Protected Area to safeguard the natural and cultural heritage.

On the picture, a crowded beach in Monterosso, one of the five villages of Cinque Terre (Dan Zelazo).

INTERVIEW

PROTECTED AREAS
AND SOCIETIES
DEVELOPMENT

Imen Meliane is Regional Vice Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas of IUCN. For the purposes of the MedMPAnet project, she developed the study "Reflections on achievements and future directions for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean"

- **What was the starting point for this thinking?**

For this work, the starting point was the MedMPAnet Project, its achievements and successes. We also wanted to analyse the situation, taking into account the evolution of Marine Protected Areas at world level and at Mediterranean level. That enabled us to think about future priorities for the eastern and southern Mediterranean.

- **What conclusion did you reach about Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas?**

For the Mediterranean generally, evolution over the last ten years of Marine Protected Areas' coverage and of their number has been less than the global average. There are many reasons for this. The most important is that the evolution at world level was driven by setting up new areas that were very big and in places that are not much populated or used. In the Mediterranean, this possibility does not exist. Most of the countries have not declared their Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZ) and thus exercise control over a narrow part of the sea. Also, the Mediterranean is a sea where the marine space is very intensively used. Furthermore, there are major challenges for the management of declared areas. Most of the declared MPAs have rather weak management structures and often lack dedicated staff or an adequate budget.

- **In your publication you say that we have to consider socio-economic criterion as much as ecological criterion when selecting areas to protect. Are you first suggesting a change of vision?**

In fact it's not really me who is suggesting this, it's a part of Aichi Target 11 that is often forgotten. In this Target, the 10% of Marine Protected Areas we are talking about must be important as regards both biological diversity and ecosystem services. Also, the services rendered by the ecosystems are closely linked to the socio-economic context, they are services to populations, communities... That is perhaps the change of focus we want to urge in the Mediterranean, paying a bit more attention to this

question. Generally speaking, all the criteria used previously for selecting and setting up Marine Protected Areas have been purely biological or ecological criteria. There has been no thinking about how to choose and set up a Marine Protected Area to produce ecosystem services. There is a theory that an area that is important for biodiversity must automatically produce ecosystem services but actually this isn't so. The Mediterranean is a sea where the socio-economic context is complex and where the use of space and marine resources is fairly intensive. The Mediterranean can be a laboratory for ideas. New Marine Protected Areas do not have to try to copy the models and experiences of the countries of the north but should answer the socio-economic needs and realities of the countries of the south. We can give communities new opportunities of using natural resources, creating new sources of employment for the young people in distress, and helping toward the new development objectives.

- **What nourished this thinking?**

What nourished this study was a former piece of work I did with a colleague, Mark Spalding. We had analysed the evolution of Marine Protected Areas at world level, taking into consideration the new criteria established by the Aichi Target. We made a diagram to analyse the siting of Marine Protected Areas compared to coastal population density. Most of the Marine Protected Areas lie in areas that are very little inhabited, or even uninhabited, and where there is the least socio-economic conflict. This is even more obvious in the tropics. There are, for example, coral reefs that have been protected in uninhabited places. These reefs are perfect, intact... But that doesn't mean that other reefs, which are rather disturbed and therefore of lesser importance as regards biodiversity, cannot render important ecosystem services, either for fishing or for coastal protection, especially now, with the issue of climate change. And that is the question, shall a reef, or a rather disturbed ecosystem, which won't have very high biodiversity indices, be protected or not? And if we do protect it, it will be another kind of protection that needs to be set up, because the



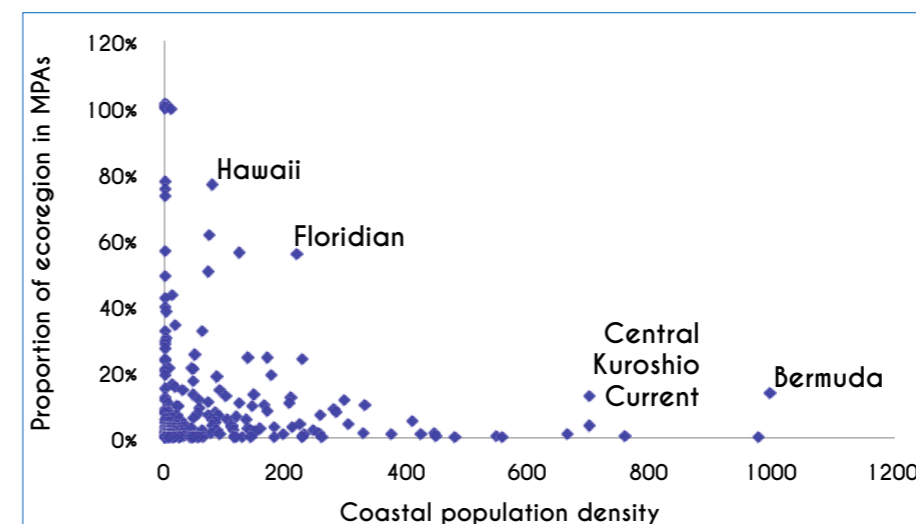
Fishing Boats in Kerkennah ©RAC/SPA, Audimage

management will be different, because we perhaps have to do restoration work, etc. Thus, when we did this analysis at world level, this conclusion was obvious, and I think we should do the same thing in the Mediterranean, in a much deeper way. This context is ideal for that.

- **You were appointed Vice-President of the World Commission on Protected Areas responsible for North Africa, the Middle East and Western Asia. What is your new assignment?**

The World Commission is a network of voluntary experts, the aim of which is to push forward the Marine and Land Protected Areas agenda, advise governments or actors in Protected Areas, make analyses, etc. There are a lot of challenges to be faced in the region of North Africa, the Middle East and Western Asia. This region contains 22 countries, from Morocco to Afghanistan. There is no biological, ecological or cultural homogeneity. One

of my first priorities is to re-launch the group of experts, to make it more dynamic, to call on young talent, in order to use their dynamism and creativity and also train them. I insist on offering training and capacity-building, on giving the new generation new opportunities. Capacity-building will be one of the priorities that will not only concern talented people but also agencies responsible for Protected Areas that lack qualified staff. Enhancing capacity is one of the things we shall be thinking about; the other concerns national agendas. Several countries are at war or in direct conflict and government priorities are other than the environment. I think the question is not to ask governments to do everything they can to advance the Protected Area agenda; what I'd like to do is turn the issue on its head and ask them what we can do to help them offer opportunities to the poor and vulnerable people in the rural areas, reduce the rate of unemployment, help them keep their young people at home, minimise the risks and impacts of climate change and help develop regions and societies. That is the challenge I'd like us to take up over the coming years.



A comparison of MPA coverage in coastal waters with coastal population density

Data for both use the Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) ecoregions (a set of intertidal and subtidal biogeographic regions extending from the coast to the 200 m depth contour) as spatial units.

Coastal population densities were generated from CIESIN and CIAT population maps for populations within 5 km of the coast.

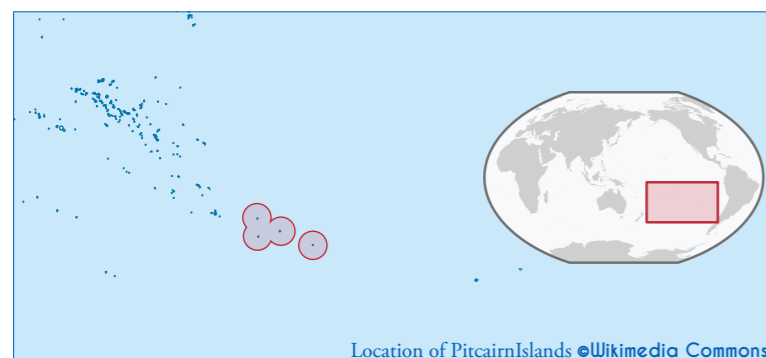
(Source : Spalding M., Meliane I., Milan A., Fitzgerald C., Hale L. 2013. Protecting Marine Spaces: Global Targets and Changing Approaches. Ocean Yearbook 27: 213-248.).

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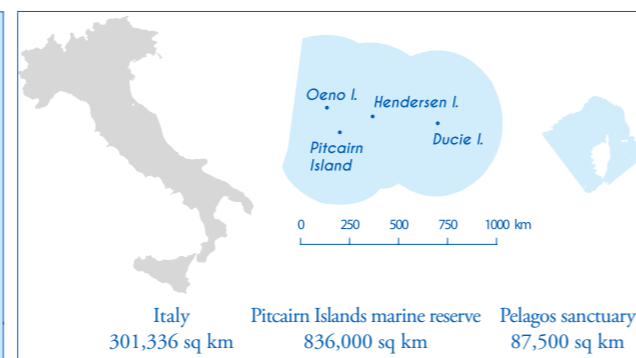
- RAC/SPA-UNEP/MAP, 2015. Reflections on achievements and future directions for marine protected areas in the Mediterranean. By Meliane I., Limam A. & El Asmi S. Ed. RAC/SPA - MedMPAnet Project, Tunis : 37 p. (English).
- Toropova, C., Meliane, I., Laffoley, D., Matthews, E. and Spalding, M. (eds.) (2010). Global Ocean Protection: Present Status and Future Possibilities. Brest, France : Agence des aires marines protégées, Gland, Switzerland, Washington, DC and New York, USA : IUCN WCPA, Cambridge, UK : UNEP-WCMC, Arlington, USA : TNC, Tokyo, Japan : UNU, New York, USA : WCS. 96pp. (English)
- Spalding M., Meliane I., Milan A., Fitzgerald C., Hale L. 2013. Protecting Marine Spaces: Global Targets and Changing Approaches. Ocean Yearbook 27: 213-248. (English)



The Pitcairn Islands are one of the largest marine reserves in the world. With a permanent population of about fifty people, the archipelago is also the least populated political entity in the world



Location of Pitcairn Islands ©Wikimedia Commons



Imèn MELIANE is the regional Vice Chair of the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas for North Africa, Middle East and West Asia. She has over 15 years of experience in environmental management and international policy particularly in the areas of protected areas, ecosystem-based and multi-objective ocean management, ocean governance, sustainable fisheries, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. She worked for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and was most recently the director for international marine policy for The Nature Conservancy. Imèn lived and worked in various regions including South and Mesoamerica, Western Pacific, West Africa, Caribbean, Red and Arabian seas and her native Mediterranean. She worked both at grassroots level as well as at the highest levels of international policy-making to address the interface between conservation priorities, environmental sustainability, social equity and economic development. She has a keen interest in addressing the challenges faced by developing countries.

THE KARABURUN-SAZAN MARINE NATIONAL PARK ON THE SPAMI LIST

The western coast of the Karaburun Peninsula and Sazan Island in Albania listed as Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance

The SPAMI label, established in 2001 in the context of the Barcelona Convention, promotes regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable development of the natural and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean. Now that the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park is included on the List (February 2016), the List includes 34 exceptional marine and coastal sites.

For almost half a century a military zone, declared a Protected Marine Area in 2010,

the Karaburun-Sazan Park is one of Albania's best protected sites. It hosts at least 36 marine species that are globally threatened and/or enjoy international protection, such as the red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) and the grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*). Posidonia meadows are well developed in certain places, and the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) can sometimes be seen.

On the coast and underwater, many archaeological and historical ruins also make this site of cultural interest. South-west of the Karaburun Peninsula, in Grama Bay, an old port can be seen, and on the nearby rocks many inscriptions, engraved on the rock face, date back two thousand years.

The Park has recently been given a management plan. This defines the zoning, reflecting the various levels of conservation, the stakeholders and their role and also the necessary budgets and their sources as well as activities to be developed that concern fishing, sustainable tourism, awareness, research, communications, governance and the setting up of a management unit.

With its new status, the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park should provide a Mediterranean example of MPA management and help establish a balance between protection of natural resources and economic development. It will provide the services and natural products that are likely to support the development of the coastal communities.



Grاما Bay ©Grtak

GO FURTHER

- Understand the SPAMI label in a minute and a half, in sound and (animated) images, [here](#).
- Consult the Park's [management plan](#).

[Download the map](#)



DOCU
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MEDITERRANEAN, MEN AND SEA

The MedMPAnet Project involves partners and people in a strong link with the sea. The documentary *'Mediterranean, Men and Sea'*, produced by RAC/SPA in 2015, tells us about this link and the process of an ambitious but necessary project. This selection of photos rounds off the film. It presents epic figures and provides additional information, a look at the places visited.

*Article prepared in collaboration with the film's director, Rim Mathlouthi.

Tunisia, Kerkennah

Khaled Ben Hamida

Khaled is a retired soldier. He founded the Ennakhil association. Its aim is to protect and restore Kerkennah's heritage. The island has Roman remains that have been, and are still being, plundered. Walking around, the curious can still see Roman water tanks.



Hamadi Farous

Hamadi is 76 years old. When he was 12, his father taught him how to fish in the traditional way using the *charfia*. He later handed this teaching and his love for the sea down to his son, who is still with him. Today, he went to his concession out at sea at 5 a.m. There he found in his keepnets a few crabs and some sardines. He will make 30 Tunisian Dinars from this small-scale fishing, and feed his family. The sea has changed; it no longer gives as many fishes as before. Use of the *kiss* for fishing is one of the reasons for this decline.



GO FURTHER

- To find out more about the effects of trawling on the Posidonia meadows in Kerkennah, read the article of Ben Hmida *et al.* in page 40: PNUE/PAM - CAR/ASP, 2015. Actes du 5^{ème} Symposium Méditerranéen sur la Végétation Marine (Protorož, Slovénie, 27-28 octobre 2014). LANGAR H., BOUAFIF C., OUEGHY A., édits., CAR/ASP publ., Tunis : 264 p ([French](#)).
- Understand the principle of the *charfia* in two minutes ([Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#)).

Tunisia, Kuriat



Najet Dimassi

A PhD student at the Higher Institute of Biotechnology in Monastir, Najet is studying species of spider in Tunisia. At the outing organised by the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL) and the Notre Grand Bleu association, Najet found a dozen species of spider belonging to the Araneidae, Theridiidae, Lycosidae, Agelenidae and Salticidae families.



Kamel Nouira

This activist of the Notre Grand Bleu association has light bulbs that are used to provide light for fishing boats on night outings. When they no longer work they are thrown in the sea. Kamel picks them up on the beaches of the Kuriat Islands in order to re-use them. They are made into lamps and decorative articles.



Feed for fish farms

Feed made up of animal flour and fish oil is used to feed the fish raised in the fish farms in Monastir Bay. The feed is packed in plastic bags. Driven by the wind, these bags are sometimes washed up on the beaches of the Kuriat Islands.

Albania

Doreid Petoshati

Doreid is the local representative of the INCA (Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania) association in Vlora. He is one of the local authorities' special spokespersons. He undertakes awareness actions and informs local people about the Porto Palermo Bay Marine Protected Area.



©RAC/SPA, Audimage

Ali Pacha Castle

Ali Pacha had this castle built in honour of his wife Vasiliqi. The castle stands on a peninsula in the Porto Palermo Bay. Tourists can visit it, accompanied by a guide who will tell them stories about Ali Pacha's life. There are a lot of legends associated with his history; he was born in Tepelena, a small town in the south of Albania.



©RAC/SPA, Audimage

Sauge

Sage, *Salvia officinalis*, is an aromatic medicinal plant that grows in the mountains of the Porto Palermo Bay. Albanians drink it regularly as a tisane. After being picked it is dried in an airy sheltered place.



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Spain



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CIMAR, Santa Pola

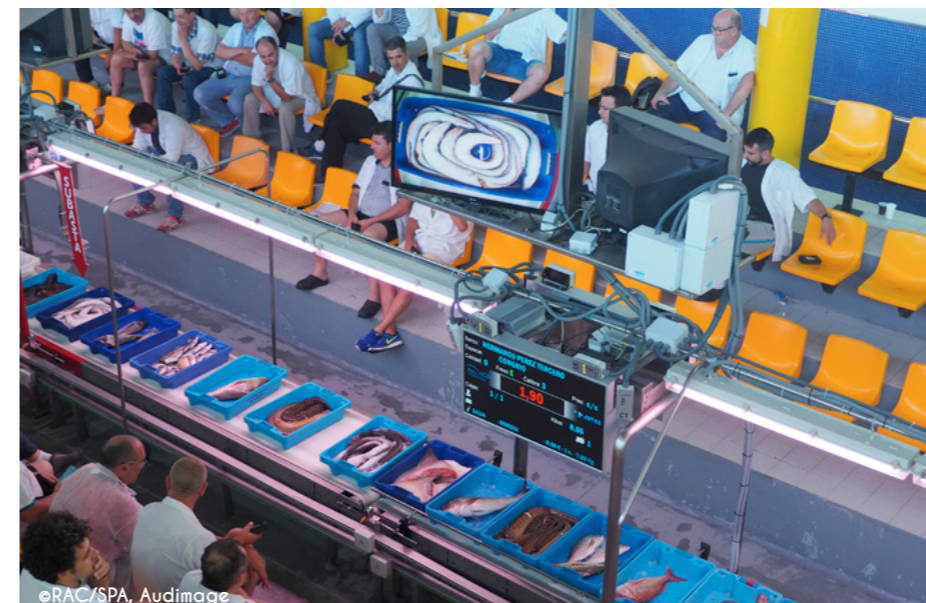
CIMAR, the Centre for Marine Research at Santa Pola, was set up in 2005. It was the result of an agreement between the town of Santa Pola and the University of Alicante. Its aim is to help towards a better knowledge of the marine environment, and its biodiversity, in order to help protect ecosystems. The Centre hosts meetings and opens its doors to pupils, providing workshops and marine environment-linked training. It has a laboratory, a library and exhibition halls that display Mediterranean marine species.

Education about nature

Education about nature is one of the assignments of the Environmental Education Centre, the CEAM. It is helping to make the heritage of the island of Nueva Tabarca better known and better exploited. The Centre holds classes all year round. The Alicante municipality offers excursions working alongside the islands Museum.



©RAC/SPA, Audimage



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The fish market

The Santa Pola fish market is open every day. The fishermen who exploit the reserve effect of the Nueva Tabarca Marine Reserve offer fish for sale. The fish are placed in trays on a conveyor belt that stops under a camera. Buyers can thus see the size and quality of the fish, and offer a price.

MedMPAnet PROJECT TRAININGS

RAC/SPA collaborated with WWF-MedPO and MedPAN in designing a capacity-building strategy to enhance the management of Mediterranean MPAs.

As a first step towards implementing this strategy, the three organizations set-up a Mediterranean web portal for capacity building tools dedicated to MPAs: <http://mpatrainin-ginthemed.org/>.

- Number of trained persons: 390
- Partner organizations: MedPAN, WWF-MedPO, University of Alicante and NOAA.
- Training budget: 238,201.42 €.

Otherwise, RAC/SPA and its partners organized 18 training sessions for MPA managers, scientists, post-graduate students and public employees working on MPAs.

The main training topics are: identification and classification techniques of marine species, GIS, MPA management, stakeholder participation, sustainable financing of MPAs, MPA planning, sustainable fisheries in MPAs, planning for sustainable tourism in MPAs, planning socio-economic assessments in MPAs, climate change and Mediterranean MPAs.

Particular attention was paid to ecological monitoring in MPAs. To this end, four

training sessions were held at the University of Alicante (CIMAR) and the marine reserve of Nueva Tabarca.

GO FURTHER

- Di Carlo G., Lopez A., Staub F., 2012. Capacity building strategy to enhance the management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea. Commissioned by WWF MedPO / MedPAN / UNEP/ MAP/RAC/SPA. 19 pages + Annexes (English)



Regional Training Workshop on planning for sustainable fisheries in MPAs (Kas, Turkey, October 2010) ©RAC/SPA, Atif LIMAM

MedMPAnet PROJECT PUBLICATIONS

RAC/SPA has completed a significant number of studies to develop the Mediterranean MPAs network, which allowed producing in five years, more than 70 publications related to ecological and socio-economic aspects and also to the management of MPAs.

On the other hand, the Centre has collaborated with MedPAN to develop a key document on MPAs: the "Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean", which has been presented at the Forum of MPAs in 2012.

RAC/SPA has also published in collaboration with MedPAN and WWF MedPO a groundbreaking study on the financial needs of MPAs entitled "Sustainable financing of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: a financial analysis".

Furthermore RAC/SPA has produced a number of technical guides and tools for MPA managers, responding to needs identified through a survey conducted together with MedPAN and WWF MedPO (2012).

- Number of publications: 92 (view the catalogue).
- Partner organizations: MedPAN, WWF-MedPO, UICN, ACCOBAMS, Conservatoire du littoral, Délégation Europe et international.
- Publishing and printing budget: 220,138.27 €.

GO FURTHER

- Ben Haj S., 2012. Development of Guidebooks for Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (English).
- Gabrié, C., Lagabrielle, E., Bissery, C., Crochelet, E., Meola, B., Webster, C., Claudet, J., Chassanite, A., Marinesque, S., Robert, P., Goutx, M., Quod, C. 2012. The Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea. MedPAN

& RAC/SPA. Ed: MedPAN Collection. 256 p. (English).

- Binet, T., Diazabakana, A., Hernandez, S. 2015. Sustainable financing of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: a financial analysis. Vertigo Lab, MedPAN, RAC/SPA, WWF Mediterranean. 114 pp (English).



MedMPAnet project team ©RAC/SPA

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