

**Specially Protected Areas Regional
Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)**

**The Mediterranean biodiversity centre
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**The MedMPA
network project**

*Towards an ecologically
representative and efficiently
managed network of Mediterranean
Marine Protected Areas*



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The MedMPA network project



The regional project « **Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas** » is a 30-month project (2016-2018) managed by UN Environment/MAP, co-executed by SPA/RAC, WWF-MedPO and MedPAN, and financially supported by the European Union.

The global objective of the project is to support achieving a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean which ensures the long term conservation of key elements of the marine biodiversity and gives significant support to the sustainable development of the region.

SPA/RAC activities focus on the following actions:

- Establishing new MPAs through their ecological characterization (Batroun, Medfoun and Byblos in Lebanon) and management and business planning (Sallum MPA, Egypt; Jbel Moussa, Morocco; North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia) in order to extend the existing regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness;

- Strengthening MPA regional coordination to ensure long-term networking through
 - (i) the setting up of an ad hoc advisory group of experts focused on Mediterranean MPA issues under the SPA/BD Protocol
 - (ii) the organization of the 2016 Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean (28 November - 1 December, Tangier, Morocco);
- Sharing information and raising awareness about MPAs in the Mediterranean by
 - (i) upgrading and updating the Mediterranean MPA database (MAPAMED),
 - (ii) elaborating the report of the 2016 status of MPAs in the Mediterranean,
 - (iii) evaluating the 2020 MPA Roadmap implementation
 - (iv) developing information and communication tools on MPAs.

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