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Mediterranean Action Plan
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A number of significant suggestions were also made by the RAC/SPA Secretariat.

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I. Introduction & background information

In 1995 the Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a new protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. Annex II of this new protocol lists the endangered or threatened species found in the Mediterranean, including 15 bird species¹. The principal objective of this protocol includes *inter alia* the adoption of measures to protect and manage species with a view to maintaining or restoring them to a favourable state of conservation. During their meeting in Monaco in November 2001 the contracting parties asked RAC/SPA to draw up a draft action plan for the birds species appearing in Annex II.

After a lengthy process of consultation and consent among international organisations, NGOs and experts throughout the Mediterranean the draft action plan was discussed at the sixth meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs in Marseilles in June 2003 and then approved and adopted by the XIII Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at Catania, Sicily, in November 2003.

The activities advocated by the Action Plan were to be spread out over a three-year period, starting after adoption by the Contracting Parties as follows:

Table 1, Implementation timetable :

1- Organisation of the first Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species in Annex II.	Beginning of the year 2005	RAC/SPA & Partners
2- Launching of the procedures for legal protection of species	1 year after adoption	Contracting Parties
3- Establishment of research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species.	1 year after adoption	Contracting Parties
4- Establishment of a directory of organisations and experts concerned with the threatened and endangered bird species in the Mediterranean.	End of year 2004	RAC/SPA
5- Establishment of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.	2004-2006	Contracting Parties
6- Application and implementation of any Action Plans already in existence.	2004-2006	RAC/SPA & Contracting Parties
7- Setting up of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations.	End of year 2005	RAC/SPA & Partners
8- Legal establishment protected areas with adequate management plans at breeding sites.	End of year 2005	Contracting Parties
9- Development of guidelines for monitoring and management plans in collaboration with experts and other interested organisations.	2004-2006	RAC/SPA & Partners
10- Identification of areas important for birds at sea.	2004-2006	Contracting Parties
11- Mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic species.	2004-2006	Contracting Parties
12- Preparation of reports on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan.	End of year 2006	RAC/SPA
13- Training courses.	2004-2006	RAC/SPA, Partners & Contracting Parties

¹ The number of species is now 16 as the former Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus Yelkouan* has been split into two species Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus Yelkouan* and Balearics Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*.

During their meeting in Portoroz in 2005, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention made a recommendation to RAC/SPA to prepare a report on progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of birds species listed in annex II of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, to be submitted to the next SPA Focal Points meeting, who will make follow-up suggestions to the Parties.

This progress report mainly contains assessments of the Regional and National components of the action plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially protected areas (SPAs) and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. It is based on the activities carried out by the administration of RAC/SPA and by the Mediterranean countries since 2003.

The information has been extracted from the half year progress reports prepared by RAC/SPA and from the 2005 national reports of the Mediterranean countries provided to RACSPA. A questionnaire (the questionnaire template appears in annex I) was also sent in 2006 to all the Mediterranean National Focal Points calling for further information and clarifications, regarding the implementation of the MAP Birds Action Plan. The questionnaire aimed to find out amongst other things

- Which of the species are legally protected
- If there are any ongoing research programmes on the species
- If there are any resources available for research
- If any national action plans have been established for the conservation of the species
- If any breeding sites have been established as protected areas with adequate management plans
- If any mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of the species has been carried out?

The following countries responded to the questionnaire in time to be included in this progress report Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Israel, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, and Turkey.

II- Assessment of the advocated activities appearing on the adopted timetable (2003-2005)

II.1 The first Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species in Annex II

The first Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species in Annex II was held on 17-19 November, 2005, at Vilanova i la Geltrú, Barcelona (Spain). The organisation of the symposium was entrusted by RAC/SPA to SEO/BirdLife, with the collaboration of Medmaravis on scientific issues. 31 ornithologists and conservation experts attended the Symposium from 16 Mediterranean countries (Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey).

The chief objective of the Symposium was to enhance the implementation of the MAP Bird Action Plan, evaluating its present situation and planning future steps, and mainly to

- Promote the achievement of the objectives of the plan
 - (a) Sharing knowledge and expertise between Mediterranean countries;
 - (b) Coordinating efforts amongst them and other relevant initiatives and agreements, so as to ensure the implementation of these activities;

- (c) Encouraging a synergetic approach among Mediterranean countries in the protection of these bird species and their habitats;
 - (d) Encouraging research to fill the many gaps in knowledge of coastal and pelagic birds in the Mediterranean, particularly of seabird distribution and movements, and of their feeding, moulting and wintering areas at sea.
- Achieve the first task scheduled in the timetable of the Action Plan.
 - Publicize the Action Plan among the scientific and conservation community in the Mediterranean and enhance their cooperation on this purpose.
 - Update the knowledge of the status of these species in the Mediterranean marine and coastal regions.
 - Complement the Mediterranean Action Plans with other similar conservation tools in force in the Mediterranean Region.
 - Initiate an efficient regional monitoring network for these species.

The recommendations of the symposium appears in Annex II.

The proceedings of the First Mediterranean Symposium on the Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal birds have been published by UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA in October 2006 and could be downloaded from the RAC/SPA web site: www.rac-spa.org

II.2. Launching of the procedures for legal protection of species

One of the components which was advocated by the Action Plan and encouraged by RAC/SPA addressed the necessary legal protection of the Annex II birds species in those contracting parties where this was lacking. To date all the Annex II species are afforded legal protection where they occur by at least fifteen Mediterranean countries out of the twenty-one, which are brought together by MAP, operating within the framework of the Barcelona Convention. (The table appearing in annex III gives information on the legal national protection)

The fact that Annex II species are legally protected in the majority of the Mediterranean countries is very positive. However some of the species are still exposed to various risks from pollution, habitat change and inappropriate habitat management in those areas where they breed.

II.3. Research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species in coordination with RAC/SPA

It is a known fact that several wide gaps in knowledge on the Annex II species exist in the Mediterranean particularly in marine avifauna. A recent study on identifying weaknesses and strengths on the knowledge of the Mediterranean Marine Avifauna appears in the proceedings of the first symposium on the Mediterranean Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal birds. A large proportion of the studies carried out so far deal with the local status and trends of species and very few address population dynamics. From a conservation point of view only four of the Annex II species are relatively well known: *Larus audouinii*, *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Puffinus mauretanicus* and *Sternula albifrons*. Furthermore the seabird avifauna of the western basin is better known than that of the eastern one and consequently the available publications reflect this sad situation too.

In order to fill in any gaps in knowledge of threatened species in some Mediterranean countries, RAC/SPA has offered support to implement the following activities:

II.3.1 Field studies in Libya and Albania

Two field studies were carried out on the coasts and wetlands of Libya and Albania, on 2-18 January 2005 and 24 January-4 February 2005 respectively. These field studies had the following objectives:

- To help in implementing the measures provided for by the Action Plan for the Conservation of Species Listed in Annex II and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migrant Waterfowl (AEWA).
- To investigate whether the critically endangered Slender-billed Curlew, winters in Libya and in Albania.
- To survey wetlands for other wintering wetland species in Libya and Albania.
- To advise on habitat conservation measures at the sites that were visited.
- To enhance national ornithological capacities.

The two studies were organised in collaboration with AEWA (The agreement on the conservation of the African – Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds) through two tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the Libyan Environmental General Authority (EGA) and the Albanian Ministry of Environment respectively.

Repeat surveys on Census of wintering waterbirds were carried out in January 2006 and February 2007 in Libya, Following a request received from the Environmental General Authority (EGA) of Libya, which co-sponsored these surveys under a MoU with RAC/SPA and with support from wetland International, the Instituto Nazionale Per La Fauna Selvatica (INSF) Italy and the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCF) France. The summary of the findings of the first two surveys in Libya were published within the framework of the *Wildfowl 56 Edition*².

II.3.2 Field survey on Eleonora's falcon in La Galite Island

RAC/SPA has supported a field survey on Eleonora's falcon census carried out in its only breeding locations in Tunisia , La Galite archipelago and the Fratelli islands. The investigation was done by the Tunisian Birdlife partner "Association les Amis des Oiseaux"

II.3.3 Census of Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* on the coast of Libya

The Lesser Crested Tern is one of the fifteen species in the RAC/SPA Action Plan for Birds. A small localised population of the endemic subspecies *Sterna bengalensis emigrata* breeds in the Mediterranean. Libya holds more than 99% of the Mediterranean breeding population, localized on 2 offshore islands: Geziret Garah and Geziret Al Elba. Due to the lack of recent data about the two breeding colonies and especially the movements of Lesser Crested Tern in the Mediterranean, the Environmental General Authority (EGA) of Libya and the RAC/SPA agreed to organise a survey in order to:

- visit the mentioned breeding colonies.
- search for a new Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* nesting colonies.
- identify the sites of major importance for Lesser Crested Tern nesting colonies.
- prepare the census and ringing of the Libyan Lesser Crested Tern colonies in 2007.
- investigate the status of the other 14 bird species in the RAC/SPA Bird Action Plan in Libya.

² SMART M., ESSGHAIER MOHAMED F., ETAYEB K., HAMZA A., AZAFZAF H., BACCETTI N., DEFOS DU RAU P., DLENSI H. (2006)- Wetlands and wintering waterbirds in Libya, January 2005 and 2006. *Wildfowl & Wetland 56*: 172-191.

This survey took place from the 1st to the 7th of August 2006 and covered 5 sites. This mission confirmed, once again, the importance of Geziret Ghara and Geziret Al Elba for breeding *Sterna bengalensis*. 1551 and 21 breeding couples were recorded respectively and the populations seem to be stable at the moment but remain vulnerable because the breeding of the species seems to be restricted to those two sites.

II.4. Establishment of a directory of organisations and experts concerned with the threatened and endangered bird species in the Mediterranean

RAC/SPA started the establishment of a directory of experts and organisations concerned with the threatened and endangered birds species in the Mediterranean, as soon as the Action Plan was adopted, but due to delayed replies from the countries, the directory was not completed in 2004. Consequently a consultant was contracted by RACSPA to prepare the directory of experts and organisations. The Directory was finalised in the first half of 2006 and it's available on RAC/SPA Web Site: www.rac-spa.org

II.5. Establishment of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean

The Action Plan for the conservation of Annex II bird species emphasised that Contracting Parties should establish National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean, as well as to apply and implement those action plans which are already in existence. It goes on to highlight the importance to address the current factors that cause loss or decline of the Annex II bird species.

Although legal protection to the species is afforded in the majority of Mediterranean states, the protection and management of sites as well as research and monitoring of populations are still widely lacking in several countries.

Within the framework of the elaboration of the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity (PAS BIO) in the Mediterranean region (2001-2004), the following National Action Plans were prepared according to the guidelines prepared by the RAC/SPA:

- National Action Plan for the conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* in Albania and Montenegro;
- National Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal birds in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; and
- National Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal birds in Israel.

Other contracting parties have taken the initiative to establish National Actions Plans for various Annex II species (e.g. national action plans for *Puffinus mauretanicus* (Spain), *Puffinus yelkouan* (Malta), *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Israel), *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (Albania, Greece and Israel), *Pandion haliaetus* (Israel), *Falco eleonora* (Italy and Israel), *Numenius tenuirostris* (Albania and Italy), *Larus audouinii* (Italy and Spain) and *Sternula albifrons* (Albania and Slovenia).

Considering the above there are still several species such as *Calonectris diomedea*, *Hydrobates pelagicus* and *Sterna bengalensis* which are not yet covered by any national action plan within the Mediterranean. Only eight countries have prepared specific species' national action plans and these addresses only ten of the Annex II species.

In recent years some species (e.g. *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, and *Larus audouinii*) have responded positively to protective measures in some countries and an

increase of the population and distribution has been noted. But in spite of the efforts that have been made so far, the Annex II species are not properly covered by national action plans and several species' population levels are still below a favourable conservation status.

II.6. Application and implementation of any Action Plans already in existence

The Action Plan for the conservation of Annex II bird species carries outlines for specific species plans and encourages their implementation in all Mediterranean countries where the species breed, winter or occur on migration. The Action Plan also points out action plans which at the time of publication existed for *Puffinus mauretanicus*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Falco eleonora*, *Numenius tenuirostris*, and *Larus audouinii*. In spite of this, very few countries reported that they have applied and implemented some of these action plans.

However some research programmes (mentioned above) were carried out with the support of RAC/SPA in order to initiate the implementation of the NAPs elaborated within the framework of the SAP BIO Project. (eg. Libya and Albania)

II.7. Setting up of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations

A small network made up of experts from different organisations (ONCF,INSF, AAO, National institutions and Universities) has been set up for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species. Their first monitoring activities have been carried out in Libya in the last three years.

II.8. Guidelines for Monitoring and Management Plans for the Mediterranean Threatened Bird Species

The monitoring and management of protected areas of coastal and marine important bird areas are indispensable in ensuring the long-term conservation of these bird species. One of the main actions to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan is the elaboration of a set of guidelines for monitoring the populations of these species and for the development of management plans for the coastal areas where they breed.

RAC/SPA hired a consultant in April 2006 in order to elaborate on a set of Guidelines for Monitoring and Management Plans for the Mediterranean Threatened Bird Species to assist Mediterranean countries in monitoring and managing their coastal and marine protected areas of importance to the birds found in Annex 2 of the Protocol. The document was finalised in June 2006 and this will be presented as document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/10) for adoption, during the Eighth Focal Points Meeting, scheduled for June 2007.

The document presents two sets of guidelines in the following order:

- (a) Guidelines for management plan for coastal and marine important areas to birds (nesting, moulting, breeding, feeding, wintering) and/or marine and coastal protected areas; and
- (b) Guidelines for monitoring threatened population of marine and coastal bird species in the Mediterranean.

II.9. Legal establishment protected areas with adequate management plans at breeding sites

According to the responses to the questionnaires, several breeding sites for annex II bird species have been established as protected areas or are included in protected areas in the Mediterranean countries, but a few sites have specific management plans.

Therefore, the guidelines for management plan for coastal and marine important areas to birds (nesting, moulting, breeding, feeding, wintering) and/or marine and coastal protected areas, presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/10, should be considered as a tool to develop such management plan.

II.10. Identification of areas important for birds on land and at sea and mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas

In spite of being a daunting task the identification of important bird areas at sea has been initiated by some countries albeit for a few species, while mapping particularly of the breeding areas is being carried out by several countries (see report of such activities in para. III below). Much has still to be covered in this field, especially the identification of important bird areas at sea to find out where the pelagic species concentrate while they are away from their breeding sites and where are they foraging for food.

II.11. Preparation of reports on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan

The activities advocated by the Action Plan had to be spread out over a three-year period after adoption and at the end of the period RAC/SPA had to prepare reports on the progress made in the implementation plan. This report presents all the activities by RAC/SPA as well as by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the plan. Para. 9. below summarises the progress made by the Mediterranean states.

II.12. Training courses

RAC/SPA contributed to the organisation of the 11th Pan African ornithological Congress 'Birds without Borders – linking people and habitats', and the workshop on Greater Flamingo, which were held from 21st to 26th November 2004 in Djerba, Tunisia and covered the participation of three Mediterranean experts.

II.13. Contribution to information campaigns and publishing public awareness material

- The action plan in bilingual version has been published.
- A poster on the Action Plan, including drawing of the annexe II bird species has been prepared and printed.
- RAC/SPA participated to the the International workshop on Audouin's Gull, held on September 2006 in Alicante, Spain and presented the Mediterranean Action Plan for birds.

III. Summary of the progress made by the Mediterranean Countries in the implementation of the Action Plan for birds listed in Annex II to the Protocol

Countries	Summary of implementation of the Action Plan
ALBANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wintering bird species are monitored all along the Albanian coasts. • All the Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • A monitoring programme is in place for the following species: <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>, <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. • National Action Plans have been established for <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>, <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>, and <i>Sternula albifrons</i> in coordination with NBSAP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding sites of the Annex II species which breed in Albania have been established as protected sites with management plans. • <i>Important areas at sea have been identified for the following species: Calonectris diomedea, Puffinus Yelkouan, Hydrobates pelagicus, Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Sternula albifrons, Sterna sandvicensis.</i> • <i>Mapping has been carried out for Sternula albifrons.</i> • <i>Coordination has taken place with the Museum of Natural Sciences n of Tirana and WIWO (Netherlands).</i> • Some financial help has been received from Tour du Valat (France) and WIWO (Netherlands).
<p style="text-align: center;">ALGERIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inventory of the Annex II species is being undertaken. • The Annex II species which are legally protected are: <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Phoenicopterus roseus, Pandion haliaetus, Falco eleonora, Numenius tenuirostris, Larus audouinii, and Sterna albifrons.</i> • Observations studies on <i>Pandion haliaetus, Falco eleonora, and Sterna albifrons</i> are carried out by Béjaïa University and PNEK. Water birds census of all species (not isolated ones) are also carried out during winter. • Protected marine areas have been created at in El Kala and Jijel Bejaia and the Annex II species which occur there are protected in those marine park areas. • Protected areas with management plans have been established at Beni Saf for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>; Om El Bouagi for <i>Phoenicopterus rubber</i>; El Kala for <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>; Chetaibi (Annaba) for <i>Falco Eleonora</i>; and Fetsala Lake for <i>Sterna albifrons</i>. A management plan is in preparation for Habibas Islands which has been established as a protected site for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>. • Important areas have been identified for <i>Calonectris diomedea; Phalacrocorax aristotelis; Larus audouinii, Sterna sandvicensis; and Sterna albifrons.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA</p>	<p>No information on any specific action has been received.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CROATIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species which occur are legally protected. • Ongoing research programmes are ongoing for <i>Calonectris diomedea; Puffinus yelkouan</i> and <i>Falco Eleonora</i> (study of population size and distribution); and for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Phalacrocorax pygmeus; Larus audouinii, and Sterna albifrons</i> (monitoring of breeding population). • Breeding sites for <i>Calonectris diomedea; Puffinus yelkouan; Phalacrocorax aristotelis; Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i> have been legally established as protected areas at PP Lastovsko otočje, PP Vransko jezero, NP Brijuni and NP Mljet. The latter two national parks have detailed physical plans for the protection of habitats and species found there. • Important areas for birds have been identified for <i>Calonectris diomedea; Puffinus yelkouan; Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Larus audouinii, and Sterna albifrons.</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">CYPRUS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All the Annex II species that occur are legally protected. Chasing, taking, shooting, killing, possessing or selling any of the Annex II species is illegal and offenders can be penalized with a max of 3 years in prison and/or with a fine of up to 10,000 CYP.• Breeding population of <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> is monitored annually.• <i>Numbers of Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Phoenicopterus roseus, Pandion haliaetus, Sternula albifrons, and Sterna sandvicensis are recorded during monthly wetland counts.</i>• Breeding population monitored twice in September-October.• No species-specific action plans have been drawn but species are protected through the protection of major wetlands and coasts.• Management plans are in preparation for areas such as Akrotiri and Larnaca salt lakes.• All coasts and wetlands are protected areas. Breeding sites of <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> and <i>Falco eleonora</i> and all wetlands are wildlife conservation areas where hunting is prohibited. Several coastal areas have been also declared as SCIs (e.g. Cape Greco, Polis – Gialia, Moulia).• The major breeding colony of <i>Falco eleonora</i> at Cape Aspro has been an SPA since Nov 2005.• Larnaca and Akrotiri salt lakes are both RAMSAR sites. Larnaca salt lake is also an SPA.• Pafos Lighthouse Area has been designated as an SPA.• Mapping of the breeding areas of pelagic birds (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Larus audouinii</i> and <i>Sternula albifrons</i>) has been carried out.
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<p>EGYPT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The species listed in Annex II to the Protocol which occur are all legally protected. • There are no specific current research programmes dealing with particular species, however Protected Areas Managers are involved in regular counts of waterbirds in many of Egypt's wetlands providing regular assessment of population size. • No specific action plans have been developed for species by species basis action planning. However, species such as <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i> and <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> are addressed in various management plans. • Breeding sites for <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>, <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, and <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> have been established. There are three PAs, which encompass major wetlands (Zaranik, Ashtoum El Gamil, Brullus). Currently there are studies being conducted with IUCN support to establish new Marine PAs at Salum and elsewhere on the Egyptian Med Coast, which will provide additional conservation for species such as <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>. • Several initiatives to train park rangers for bird identification and census are in place. These have been developed in cooperation with Medwet, specific PA management plans, as part of the bird-flu monitoring programme.
<p>FRANCE</p>	<p>No information on any specific action has been received.</p>
<p>GREECE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • Research projects are in place for several species: <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>, <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>. • A project will be implemented in 2007 by Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), financed by private sources, including actions on population census of seabird species, monitoring of breeding performance and population parameters, identification of main foraging grounds as potential Marine IBAs through radio and satellite tracking, workshops, meetings and networking. The project will be extended in future years depending on availability of funds. • Counts of the breeding populations of Pygmy Cormorant in Lakes Prespa and Kerkini are undertaken annually, and occasionally in other sites. (LIFE96 NAT/GR/003217). • Pelican populations have been studied by a number of organisations and individuals in both breeding and wintering sites since the 1980's including monitoring and censuses of breeding populations, ringing, studies on survival, foraging, site use, movements etc. Project includes complete census of population, monitoring of breeding colonies, rat eradication on islets, habitat enhancement actions, toxicological analyses, public awareness, etc. (LIFE03/NAT/GR/000091) • Data on the occurrence and habitat availability of the Slender-billed Curlew have been collected during the LIFE95 NAT/GR/001111.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-winter counts started in 1968 and have taken place annually since 1982 in most wetlands, covering Flamingos among other species. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food and HOS have financed mid-winter counts. • During the IBA review in 2000 by HOS, breeding populations of terns were censused, while their populations are occasionally monitored in certain wetlands during other projects. • 69 Important Bird Areas are being re-evaluated for the characterization as SPAs according to the Birds Directive. Compilation of Management Plans for the species of priority will also be initiated. The Operational Programme "Environment" of the Ministry for the Environment will finance the project and a call of tenders is being issued. • A national action plan has been established for the <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>. • Some breeding sites for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>, <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i> have been established, but management plans have been drafted for breeding sites of <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>, and <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>. • The Seabirds project planned for 2007 includes actions on identification of main foraging grounds as potential marine IBAs, using radio and satellite tracking. • Limited results in mapping of breeding sites with scattered data on feeding areas for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i> and <i>Sternula albifrons</i>. • Mapping conducted by the Hellenic Ornithological Society; data being used to assign Natura 2000 sites. • International workshops on monitoring methods for <i>Larus audouinii</i> and <i>Falco eleonora</i> have been organised.
ITALY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the Annex II species are legally protected from hunting, egg collecting, etc; but some of them are still exposed to risks from pollution, habitat change and inappropriate habitat management during breeding. • Monitoring of breeding success and censuses are carried out on <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i> <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> . • A reintroduction programme is in place for <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>. • Ringing and /or colour ringing is carried out on <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. • Various other research projects: breeding biology of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>, statelite tracking of <i>Eleonora's Falcon</i>, foraging behaviour studies on <i>Larus audouinii</i>, as well as a beach bay survey. • National Action Plans are in place for <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i> • General Action Plan on the Annex II species is in preparation

	<p>by ICRAM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of the breeding populations of the Annex II species which breed in Italy fall within protected areas; but only a few sites have specific management plans. • Only for <i>Larus audouinii</i> has any important areas at sea been partially identified. Information is only available for the surroundings of breeding colonies and for some coastal waters or migratory bottlenecks. • Mapping of breeding areas have been carried out for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> and <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>. Mapping of wintering areas have been carried out for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. Mapping of moulting area has been carried out for <i>Sternula albifrons</i>.
<p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • Monitoring for ADC is carried out on <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> and <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>. All species are included in an annual census. • National Action Plans have been established for <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> and <i>Falco eleonora</i>. • Breeding sites for <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> and <i>Sternula albifrons</i> have been established as protected areas. • As part of the winter water birds census there are training sessions to all participants.
<p style="text-align: center;">LEBANON</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bird species in marine and coastal protected areas are legally protected and continuously monitored. • Monitoring work and efforts to reduce competition with <i>Larus cachinnans</i> to bring back the former breeding <i>Larus audouinii</i> on Palm Islands Nature Reserve after a long absence have been successful.
<p style="text-align: center;">LIBYA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • Research has been initiated for the following Annex II species: <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>, <i>Phoenicopus roseus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, and <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>. • EGA has initiated since January 2005 an annual census for wintering waterbird, in close collaboration with RACSPA, AEWA and other neighbouring countries' institutions (ONCFS-France, INFS-Italy). The 2007 census will be the third census in Libya. • Special attention is being paid to study and set conservation measures for <i>S. bengalensis</i>. A detailed study was conducted (again with collaboration of RACSPA), and a proposal for the establishment of a protected area in Gara island has been submitted. • EGA has initiated proposals for the setting up of marine protected areas where some Annex II species are nesting

	<p>(e.g. Farwa for <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, Bard'a island for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, and Gara island where > 95% of the Mediterranean population of <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> breed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore oil exploration companies are strongly advised to take in consideration foraging offshore areas and report such areas when preparing EIA studies (activities of exploration need the approval of EGA). • Some mapping have been carried out for <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, and <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>. • Projects have been financed by EGA with some support for some research from RACSPA and AEWA. • Plans are ahead to host a North African training session in Benghazi during 2007 in monitoring and surveying birds.
MALTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • Breeding population monitoring and breeding biology research have been going on for several years on <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> and <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (the only 3 Annex II breeding species). • Mapping of the breeding sites of <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> and <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> have been carried out. • Several sites where the above species breed have been declared protected areas (e.g. the islet of Filfla, Kemmuna and Kemmunett, and Ta' Cenc). • A <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> Life project which includes an action plan and a management plan is being launched by BirdLife Malta in collaboration with MEPA and several other Government entities. This will also include satellite tracking to discover its foraging areas. • Management plans of protected areas holding colonies of <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> and <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> are in preparation. • Rafting areas at sea of <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> have been identified and a project to identify feeding areas of <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> has been initiated. • Mapping of breeding areas of <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>; <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> and <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> has been carried out.
MONTENEGRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • Census of waterbirds is carried out annually at Skadar Lake. • National Action Plan has been established for <i>pelecanus crispus</i>. Implementation will be carried out with support from RAC/SPA. • <i>Managed breeding sites have been set up for Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Pelecanus crispus and Sternula albifrons</i> • An Important area at sea for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i> <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, has been identified but it has not yet been declared a protected area. • Mapping has been carried out for <i>Sternula albifrons</i> and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>.
MOROCCO	<p>No information on any specific action has been received.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">SLOVENIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species that occur are legally protected, but only one, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, is breeding, which is continuously monitored. • A national action plan has been established for <i>Sternula albifrons</i>. • Secovlje Salina Park, breeding site for <i>Sternula albifrons</i> has been established as a protected area. • Two important areas at sea have been identified: Open waters of the Gulf of Trieste for <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>; and Slovenian coastal waters between Strunjan and Piran for <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. • Mappings have been carried out for <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. • Government funds the projects...collaboration with Ornithological Association Ixobrychus Slovenia.
<p style="text-align: center;">SPAIN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species that occur are legally protected. The species are included in the National Catalogue of Threatened Species. • Tagging Programs for the identification of important areas at sea are being carried out through Life projects on <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>. The latter has been the subject of in-depth research funded by the Life programme. Topics studied include breeding biology, competition with other gull species, and feeding ecology. • National Action Plans have been established for <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>. • Breeding sites of <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>, <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i> are included in several protected areas. • The identification of important areas at sea for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i> is an ongoing activity. The Life-Nature Project "Important Birds Marine Areas in Spain" is currently working on the identification of marine breeding and feeding sites. • Mapping is going on for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>. • Projects are funded by the European Commission and the Spanish Ministry of Environment. • Tagging with satellite transmitters is one of the methods used in some of the research projects.
<p style="text-align: center;">SYRIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific action plans have been established, but a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which proposes 30 sites to be protected areas in the future, has been prepared to protect all biodiversity components including the birds.
<p style="text-align: center;">TUNISIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Annex II species that occur are legally protected. • Research programmes include: Annual census of the winter population of <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>; census of the nestling populations (including reproduction success rate) and genetic research on <i>Falco eleonora</i>; census of the nestling

	<p>populations (including reproduction success rate) of <i>Larus audouinii</i> at the main breeding site, and limited research on breeding success of <i>Sternula albifrons</i>. Research is also co-ordinated with les Amis des Oiseaux (NGO).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding sites of <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i>, and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> are found in protected areas (e.g. Zembra, Galite, Sed Wadi, Thyna salt marsh, and other areas on Gulf of Gabes). • Management plans are implemented for Zembra and Galite. • Digital mapping has been carried out for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>. • FFEM and GEF have helped in funding some projects. • Training courses for students and hunting guards have been organized by AAO (NGO) within the framework of ZICO programme.
TURKEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All species are legally protected (except for <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> as it does not occur in Turkey). • Research projects are carried out for <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>, <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Sternula albifrons</i> and <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. International and national funds have been available for some species, but for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>, and <i>Larus audouinii</i> there are funding problems. • Most of the Annex II species are found breeding in protected areas (e.g. Goksu Delta Lake Uluabat, Lake Manyas and Gediz Delta). • Management plans exist for the above-mentioned sites. • Mapping has been carried out for <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>.

IV. Main Conclusions and New Implementation Timetable

The following conclusions were prepared taken into consideration the responses resulting from the questionnaires and the recommendations of the First Mediterranean Symposium *on Ecology and Conservation of the Bird Species in Annex II*, while bearing in mind the regional and national programmes, and the parameters of the Mediterranean scenario:

- Many knowledge gaps persist on the ecology of birds listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol,
- There is a lack, in a number of Mediterranean countries, of know-how regarding certain projects, which Contracting Parties are called to carry out, as well as a shortage of human and financial resources to carry out the necessary projects,
- A number of Mediterranean countries have not carried out the proposals as outlined in the Action Plan.

Therefore, a set of actions are proposed and summarized in a new timetable (Table II)³:

Actions aimed at to RAC/SPA Secretariat:

- Assist countries, in coordination with international and/or national NGOs, on the
 - (a) Preparation and implementation of national action plans for the conservation of birds listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol.
 - (b) Preparation and implementation of management plans for protected areas important for birds listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol.

³ The new implementation timetable is presented for adoption by the fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona convention.

- (c) Establishment of research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species.

- Organize specific training courses and workshops, in coordination with international and/or national NGOs, related to the:

- (d) Setting up of standardized methods for breeding and wintering census surveys and monitoring programmes.
(e) Identification of Important Bird Areas at Sea.
(f) Mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic species.

Actions aimed at to the Contracting Parties:

- Protecting legally all birds species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol which occur in their respective countries
- Establishing research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species(c) Preparing and implementing National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.
- Establishing Legally protected areas with adequate management plans.
- Identifying Important Bird Areas on land and at sea (mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas)
- Participating in future training courses, workshops and symposia organized by RAC/SPA
- Co-ordinate with International and National NGOs in carrying out projects related to the bird species listed in Annex II.
- Propose the addition of the following 7 species of marine and coastal birds species in need of protection in the Mediterranean to the aves list of the annex II of SPA /BD protocol, according to the adopted procedure, which is presented on document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/13:

Balearic Shearwater, *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Gull-billed Tern, *Sterna nilotica*
Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*
Slender-billed, Gull *Larus genei*
Armenian Gull, *Larus armenicus*
Mediterranean, Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
Kentish Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*

- Explore the possibility of including also the following 3 species:
Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis*,
White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Greater Sand-Plover, *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Table 2, The New Implementation Timetable:

Action	Deadline	By Whom
1. Development guidelines to assist countries in their efforts to afford adequate legislative protection to endangered species	By year 2008	RAC/SPA
2. Protect legally all bird species in Annex II.	By year 2008	Contracting Parties
3. Adding new species to Annex II ⁴	By year 2009	Contracting Parties and RAC/SPA
4. Public awareness and Information campaigns	Starting from Year 2008	RAC/SPA , Partners and Parties
5. Organise specific training courses and workshops in coordination with international and/or national NGOs.	Starting from Year 2008	RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties
6. Pursue the setting up of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations.	By year 2011	RAC/SPA & Partners
7. Establishment of research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species.	By year 2008	Contracting Parties
8. Establishment of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.	By year 2012	Contracting Parties
9. Identification and mapping of areas important for birds on land and at sea -(of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas)	By year 2012	Contracting Parties
10. Legal establishment protected areas with adequate management plans at breeding sites.	By year 2012	Contracting Parties
11. Preparation of a report on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan.	By year 2013	RAC/SPA

⁴ The implementation procedure of this action will be started once the common criteria for the modification of the Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol, presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/13, is being adopted by the fifteenth Contracting Parties Meeting.

ANNEX I
QUESTIONNAIRE TEMPLATE

Questionnaire

**sent to National Focal Points for SPAs
to evaluate the implementation of the Action plan
for the conservation of bird species listed in annex II of
the protocol SPA and Biological Diversity**

1-The objective of the Action Plan:

The main objectives of the action plan is to maintain and/or restore the population levels of bird species⁵ found in the SPA Protocol's Annex II to a favourable conservation status; to stop the decline of any species by the year 2006; and to increase the populations to acceptable levels by year 2009 to ensure their long-term conservation.

2- Timetable (as adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention)

Action	Deadline	By whom
Organisation of the first Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species in Annex II.	Beginning of the year 2005	RAC/SPA and Partners
Launching of the procedures for legal protection of species	1 year after adoption	Contracting Parties
Establishment of research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species.	1 year after adoption	Contracting Parties
Establishment of a directory of organisations and experts concerned with the threatened and endangered bird species in the Mediterranean.	End of year 2004	RAC/SPA
Establishment of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.	2004-2006	Contracting Parties
Application and implementation of any Action Plans already in existence.	2004-2006	RAC/SPA & Contracting Parties
Setting up of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations .	End of year 2005	RAC/SPA & Partners
Legal establishment protected areas with adequate management plans at breeding sites.	End of year 2005	Contracting Parties
Development of guidelines for monitoring and management plans in collaboration with experts and other interested organisations ⁶ .	2004-2006	RAC/SPA & Partners
Identification of areas important for birds at sea.	2004-2006	Contracting Parties
Mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic species.	2004-2006	Contracting Parties
Preparation of reports on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan.	End of year 2006	RAC/SPA
Training courses.	2004-2006	RAC/SPA, Partners & Contracting Parties

⁵ For the purpose of this questionnaire the Mediterranean Shearwater is treated as 2 species Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* and Balearics Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

⁶ the Guidelines for monitoring and management plans of the AP species will be presented during the next Focal Points Meeting, scheduled for June 2007)

COUNTRY: _____

Official/s responsible for answering the questionnaire:

Action 1: Launching of the procedures for legal protection of the Action Plan species

1. Are the Action Plan species legally protected in your country? Tick as appropriate (*Are these species being protected by specific laws, Are there any penal sanctions for damage caused to these species*)

Species	Yes	No	Remarks
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			
Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			
Balearics Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			
White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>			
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			
Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>			
Slender-billed Curlew <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>			
Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouini</i>			
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>			

Use the following space for any additional information and remarks:

Action 2: Establishment of research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species.

2. Are there any ongoing research programmes on the Action Plan species? If yes please specify briefly type of research. Mention also if any resources are available for research.
 (example: collection and permanent updating of data, conservation programme)

Species	Yes	No	Remarks
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			
Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			
Balearics Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			
White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>			
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			
Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>			
Slender-billed Curlew <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>			
Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouini</i>			
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna begalensis</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>			

Use the following space for any additional information and remarks:

Action3: Establishment of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.

3. Have any National Action plans been established for the conservation of the following species ? Does the national plan being coordinated with other relevant national plans.

Species	Yes	No	Remarks
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			
Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			
Balearics Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			
White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>			
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			
Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>			
Slender-billed Curlew <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>			
Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouini</i>			
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna begalensis</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>			

Use the following space for any additional information and remarks:

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Action 4: Legal establishment protected areas with adequate management plans at breeding sites.

4. Have any breeding sites of the following species been established as protected areas with adequate management plans?

Species	Yes	No	Remarks
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			
Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			
Balearics Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			
White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>			
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			
Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>			
Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouini</i>			
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna begalensis</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>			

Use the following space for any additional information and remarks:

Action 5: Identification of areas important for birds at sea

5. Have any important areas at sea of the following species been identified ?

Species	Yes	No	Remarks
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			
Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			
Balearics Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouini</i>			
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna begalensis</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>			

Use the following space for any additional information and remarks:

--

Action 6: Mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic species.

6. Have any mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and/or wintering areas of the following species been carried out?

Species	Yes	No	Remarks
Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			
Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			
Balearics Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			
Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			
Audouin's Gull <i>Larus audouini</i>			
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna begalensis</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>			

If yes, please complete the following information:

- Programme / main actions / period of implementation : _____
- Methodology used (standardised or particular) : _____
- Contributors / Participants / Associates / Assistants : _____
- Financing: _____

Action 7: Training courses

7. Are there any training actions for the Action Plan species in your country ?

ANNEX II

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THE FIRST MEDITERRANEAN SYMPOSIUM ON ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF THE BIRD SPECIES IN ANNEX II

**The recommendations of the the First Mediterranean Symposium on Ecology
and Conservation of the Bird Species in Annex II**
17-19 November 2005, Villanova I la Geltrù, Spain

Recommendations

1. Considering that many knowledge gaps persist on the ecology of birds listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol, the participants propose to the RAC/SPA / UNEP / MAP to implement the following in synergy with other ongoing ornithological programmes and initiatives:
 - ✓ To establish a network of institutions, NGO's and concerned individuals with a scientific knowledge of the species in the Action Plan.
 - ✓ To organize specific workshops in order to set up standardized methods for breeding and wintering census surveys and monitoring programmes.
 - ✓ To set up a Pan-Mediterranean Ornithological Observatory and an Ornithological Mediterranean Database (including complete published and unpublished literature and reports dealing with these species and RAC/SPA's Standard Data-Entry Forms).
 - ✓ To organize regular symposia on the "Mediterranean Action Plan for the conservation of sea and coastal birds" every two years.

2. Considering that some coastal bird species threatened in the Mediterranean are omitted in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol, the participants urge RAC/SPA / UNEP / MAP to submit to the meeting of National Focal Points a complementary list of 7-10 species (to be determined after further consultations) of marine and coastal birds species in need of protection in the Mediterranean. These species are the following:
 - Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*
 - Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*
 - Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*
 - Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*
 - Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*
 - Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
 - Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

The need for including the following three species needs to be explored:

 - Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
 - White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
 - Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

3. Realizing that most bird species listed under Annex of the SPA/BD Protocol migrate out of the Mediterranean Region during part of their annual cycle, the participants of the Symposium propose to National Focal Points, scientists and NGO's to contemplate in all national and international action plans cooperation efforts with the Non-Mediterranean countries visited by these species.

4. Considering that within this Action Plan there are a numbers of actions that fall under the direct responsibility of the Contracting Parties, the participants recommend RAC/SPA / UNEP / MAP to urge the Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations related to:
 - ✓ Launching procedures for the legal protection of species.
 - ✓ Establishing research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species.
 - ✓ Establishing National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.
 - ✓ Legally establishing protected areas with adequate management plans.

- ✓ Identifying Important Bird Areas at Sea.
- ✓ Mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic species.

5. The participants,

- Recognising the importance of having information flows for birds and other taxa in our region,
- Recalling the goals and objectives of this Action Plan and of the SPA/BD Protocol,
- Noting the importance of compiling information by all stakeholders on sites of conservation interest,
- Welcoming the adoption of Standard Data-Entry Forms by the Conference of the Parties,

Invite RAC/SPA / UNEP / MAP to consider the following:

- ✓ To concentrate its efforts for the next biennium on fostering application of Standard Data-Entry Forms, in particular in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea Countries.
- ✓ To enhance the engaging of NGO's as Action Plan Partners and so contribute more effectively in providing RAC/SPA / UNEP / MAP with more information on natural sites of conservation interest.
- ✓ To find a mechanism to ensure the exchange of the information collected in Standard Data-Entry Forms between NGO's in each Party and the National Focal Points.

ANNEX III

**SUMMARY TABLE ON NATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION OF THE
ANNEX II BIRD SPECIES**

Aves	Albanie/Albania		Algérie/Algeria	
	National Protection / protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/ Date of Protection/ Date de protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/Date of Protection/ Date de protection
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	YES	Law "On the protection of wild fauna and hunting" no.7875, dated 23.11.1994, with some additions and changes by Law no.9219, dated 08.04.2004	YES	- Décret n° 83-509 du 20 Août 1983 relatif aux espèces animales non domestiques protégées. Arrêté du 17 janvier 1995 complétant la liste des espèces animales non domestiques protégées. Tous les rapaces sont protégés en Algérie
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	YES	"	No	
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	YES	"	YES	Tous les rapaces sont protégés en Algérie
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	YES		NO	
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	YES	"	YES	Décret n° 83-509 du 20 Août 1983 relatif aux espèces animales non domestiques protégées. Arrêté du 17 janvier 1995 complétant la liste des espèces animales non domestiques protégées.
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	YES	"	NO	
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	YES	"	NO	
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	YES	"	NO	
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	YES	"	YES	Décret n° 83-509 du 20 Août 1983 relatif aux espèces animales non domestiques protégées. Arrêté du 17 janvier 1995 complétant la liste des espèces animales non domestiques protégées
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	YES	"	NO	
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	YES	Law "On the protection of wild fauna and hunting" no.7875, dated 23.11.1994, with some additions and changes by Law no.9219, dated 08.04.2004 / Regulation no.1, dated 23.02.2005 "On the management, protection of wild fauna and the development of hunting"	YES	Décret n° 83-509 du 20 Août 1983 relatif aux espèces animales non domestiques protégées. Arrêté du 17 janvier 1995 complétant la liste des espèces animales non domestiques protégées
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	YES	"	NO	
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>			NO	

Aves	Bosnie-Herzégovine		Chypre/Cyprus	
	National Protection / protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/ Date of Protection/ Date de protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			YES	- Cypriot legislation (Law 152(I) 2003, Annex VI). The chasing, taking, shooting, killing, possessing or selling of any of the above species (all species in Annex VI) is illegal and offenders can be punished with a max of 3 years in prison and / or up to 10,000 CYP fine.
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			YES	"
<i>Falco eleonorae</i>			YES	"
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			YES	"
<i>Larus audouinii</i>			YES	"
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>			YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>			YES	"
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			YES	"
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			YES	"
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			YES	"
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			YES	"
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>			YES	"
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			No recorded	
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>			YES	"

Aves	Croatie/Croatia		Egypte/Egypt	
	National Protection / protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/ Date of Protection/ Date de protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	YES			
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	YES			
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			YES	
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	YES		YES	

Aves	Espagne/Spain		France/France	
	National Protection / protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/ Date of Protection/ Date de protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	YES		YES	Décret n°2002-1454 du 9 décembre 2002 portant publication du protocole relatif aux aires spécialement protégées et à la diversité biologique en Méditerranée (ensemble trois annexes adoptées à Monaco le 24 novembre 1996), fait à Barcelone le 10 juin 1995 (J.O. du 15 décembre 2002)
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	NO		YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	NO		YES	"
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	NO		YES	"
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	NO		YES	"
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	YES		YES	"
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	NO		YES	"
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	YES		YES	"

Aves	Italie/Italy		Grèce/Greece	
	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/Date of Protection/ Date de protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference ⁷ / Référence du texte légal/Date of Protection/ Date de protection
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		Legge n°175 del 27/05/99 (G.U. n°140 del 17/06/99)	YES	(I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983, (IV) L. 2719/1999
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>		1999	YES	I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983,
<i>Falco eleonora</i>		1999	YES	I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983,
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		1999	YES	I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983,
<i>Larus audouinii</i>		1999	YES	(I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983, (IV) L. 2719/1999
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>		1999	YES	I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983,
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		1999	YES	I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983,
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>		1999	YES	(I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983, (IV) L. 2719/1999
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		1999	YES	“
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		1999	YES	(I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983, (IV) L. 2719/1999
<i>Phoenicopiterus roseus</i>		1999	YES	(I) PD 67/1981, (II) JMD 414985/29-11-85, (III) L. 1335/1983,
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>		1999	YES	“

Aves	Israël/Israel		Liban/Lebanon	
	National Protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal	National Protection / Protection nationale

⁷ PD 67/1981 is the Presidential Decree 67/1981 on the “Protection of Native Flora and Fauna”
 JMD 414985/29-11-85 “Measures for the management of wild avifauna” consists the transposition of the Directive 79/409/EC
 L. 1335/1983 is the ratification of the Convention for the conservation of wildlife and natural environment of Europe (Bern Convention)
 L. 2719/1999 is the ratification of the convention of migratory species of wild fauna (Bonn Convention)

<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	YES	The national parks, nature reserves and national sites law of 1998 and its regulations of 2005 protect these species from any harm or damage.		
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	YES	"		
<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	YES	"		
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	YES	"		
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	YES	"		
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	YES	"		
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	YES	"		
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	YES	"		
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	YES	"		
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	YES	"		
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	YES	"		
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	YES	"		
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	YES	"		
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	YES	"		
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	YES	"		

Aves	Lybie/Libya		Malte/Malte	
	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal

<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	YES	All species of birds are protected by Law, hunting of animals and birds is officially banned in Libyan since 1993.	YES	L.N. 79 of 2006 Conservation of Wild Birds, Regulations, 2006
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	YES	"	YES	«
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	YES	"	YES	"

Aves	Maroc/Morocco		Monaco/Monaco	
	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>				
<i>Falco eleonora</i>				
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>				
<i>Larus audouinii</i>				
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>				
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>				
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>				
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>				
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>				
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>				
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>				

Aves	Montenegro/Montenegro		Slovenie/Slovenia	
	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal/ Date de protection	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	YES	Decree on protection of certain plant and animal species 76/06	YES	Governmental decree on protected animal species, Off. Bull. No. 46, 2004
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	YES	Decree on protection of certain plant and animal species 76/06	YES	
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	YES	Decree on protection of certain plant and animal species 76/06	YES	
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>			YES	
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	YES	Decree on protection of certain plant and animal species 76/06	YES	
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	YES		YES	
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	YES	Decree on protection of certain plant and animal species 76/06	YES	
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	YES	"	YES	
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	YES	"	YES	
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	YES	"	YES	
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	YES	"	YES	
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>			YES	"
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	YES	"	YES	"

Aves	Syrie/Syria		Tunisie/Tunisia		Turquie/Turkey	
	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal	National Protection / Protection nationale	Legal Text reference/ Référence du texte légal
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	No	The Hunting Law No. 152 Dated 23/07/1970 is the main reference for wildlife hunting in the country. The main articles in this law that deal with the migratory, resident birds and wildlife species in general. This Law is under the updating process	YES	Arrêté du Ministre de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques fixant la liste de la faune et de la flore sauvages rares et menacées d'extinction / Arrêté annuel du Ministre de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques relatif à l'organisation de la chasse : Article 7	YES	Terrestrial hunting law&Central ; Hunting Commissions' Desicions
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	No		absente		YES	"
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	No		absente		YES	"
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	No		absente		YES	"
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	No		YES	"	YES	"