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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Ninth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs

Floriana, Malta, 3-7 June 2009

**Report on the status of the implementation of the
SPA/BD Protocol**

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I. INTRODUCTION

In anticipation of the Ninth Meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) to be held from 3-6 June 2009 in Floriana (Malta), RAC/SPA invited the National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) to provide the report on the implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol) in their respective countries advising to fulfill the new format (Decision IG 17/3 of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention). According to this decision the reporting period dated from January 2006 to December 2007. As it was stated the format had taken into account the future establishment and development of the online reporting system within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan information system.

The FPs for SPAs have submitted to RAC/SPA section 5 relating to the SPA & the Biodiversity Protocol of the new « Report Form on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols ».

The report form includes questions on the following topics:

- 1- Legal measures related to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol
- 2- Creation and management of Specially Protected Areas
- 3- Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)
- 4- Measure for the protection and conservation of species
- 5- Effectiveness

It also includes questions on the implementation of the action plans listed below:

- 1- Action Plan on Cartilaginous fish in the Mediterranean Sea
- 2- Action Plan on Species Introduction and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea
- 3- Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
- 4- Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea
- 5- Action Plan for the conservation of bird species included in Appendix II of the SPA/BD Protocol
- 6- Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal
- 7- Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean

Some difficulties have been encountered for the preparation of this report, as well by the FP as by the Secretariat, being the main reasons of the delayed submission these ones cited as follows:

- scarce of means of having online facilities -unknown password; technical issues to fulfil the format; among others-;
- late submission of the format -only eleven Contracting Parties have sent their report in due time-;
- inappropriate focus on the format contents - four Parties sent the format for one period different from that agree, one Partie fulfilled and submitted the former format and for one Party the format was empty;
- and lastly, the impossibility for the RAC/SPA of reaching the on-line system in order of establishing in an automatic way syntheses required to the establishment of this report.
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This summary has been prepared on the basis of nineteen national reports out of an overall twenty received.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

This section provides information on the Party which completed the report and on any other organization / institution / agency that provided any additional information. The information indicates that in 55% of cases, the SPA FPs are the very contact points for the national report. It also establishes that all the institutions responsible for national reports (to the exception of three countries: have been assisted by other national institutions (ministries, agencies, research organizations, etc.) when compiling their national reports.

III. LEGAL MEASURES

To summarize a range of perspectives on enforcement and compliance issues in legal measures, most of the Contracting Parties have implemented the SPA/BD Protocol as it stated the following information.

Designation of the terrestrial areas (including wetlands) under its jurisdiction that are included in the area to which the SPA and Biological Diversity Protocol applies

Eleven Contracting Parties from 15 have designated these areas, and three reported that the action is in progress.

Protection and management of endangered or threatened plant and animal species

Eleven Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from seventeen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Protection, preservation and management in a sustainable and environmentally sound way of areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of specially protected areas

Ten Contracting Parties has given a positive answer from seventeen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Prohibition of the dumping and any discharge likely to directly or indirectly harm the integrity of specially protected areas

Ten Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from sixteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Regulation of the passage of boats and all stopping or anchoring in the specially protected areas' extension zone

Ten Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from sixteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Regulation of prohibition of all exploration activities or activities that involve modifying the soil or subsoil of the land part, of the seabed or its subsoil in the specially protected areas

Eleven Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from sixteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Regulation of scientific research in the specially protected area

Twelve Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from sixteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Prohibition and regulation of all activities involving taking of species which originate in specially protected areas

Thirteen Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from seventeen Contracting

Parties' contributions.

Regulation and if necessary prohibition of any other activity likely to have an adverse impact on the specially protected areas

Eleven Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from seventeen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Management of animal and plant species, particularly those appearing in Annexes II and III to the Protocol that permits them to be maintained in a favorable state of conservation

Ten Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from seventeen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Taking into consideration, in the planning process leading to decisions on projects and activities that could significantly affect protected areas, species and their habitats, of possible direct or indirect, immediate or long-term, impact, including the cumulative impact of project and activities on habitats

Thirteen Contracting Parties has given their positive answer from seventeen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Difficulties and challenges reported by the Contracting Parties in compliance with any obligation abovementioned are the policy framework and the administrative management.

During the reporting period seven countries have advised that new legal measures have been approved by their national legislation. In so doing, current Contracting Parties' national legislation could maintain regional efforts to achieve compliance even if they recognized to enforce their legislation, what can be drawn from their inputs.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

The aim of this section is to briefly summarize the main conclusions emerging of the establishment and management of specially protected areas.

Setting up of protected areas that come within the Protocol's geographical coverage

Eighteen Contracting Parties have reported the following consideration on the, being twelve of them, which have established Specially Protected Areas.

The major difficulties and challenges are those related to the policy framework.

Elaboration and implementation of a management plan for each SPA

Regarding this measure, most of the countries -eight Contracting Parties - could lead the process of establishment. Five Contracting Parties of the eighteen countries have reported that they have already elaborated and implemented a management plan for each specially protected area.

During the period 2006-2007 the administrative management was the major difficulty and challenge founded by the Contracting Parties.

Concerning the establishment of specially protected areas and the necessary measures, which were taken for the implementation of their management plans, results from the contributed reporting set out the following elements related to the management plans:

Programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in the Protocol Areas' ecosystems and of the impact of human activities

Eleven Contracting Parties has given a positive answer from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Financial resources are the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this element.

Measures for the involvement of local communities in the process of managing the protected areas

Seven Contracting Parties have given a positive answer from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Administrative management and technical capabilities are the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this element.

Providing assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs

Seventeen Contracting Parties have reported the results obtaining the same percentage of five negative answers (and five ongoing programmes, which have been applied to this management plan element. Four positive answers were given.

Administrative management is the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this element.

Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting the protected areas or income generating activities that are compatible with the protection measures

Seven Contracting Parties have given a positive answer from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

As it occurred in the former element, administrative management is the major difficulties or challenges reported.

Appropriate training for the technical managers and other qualified staff of SPAs:

Nine Contracting Parties have given a positive answer from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Financial resources and administrative management are the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this element.

Incorporating into the national contingency plans measures for responding to incidents that could cause damage or constitute a threat to the specially protected areas

Eight Contracting Parties have given a positive answer from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Regulatory framework and administrative management are the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this element.

Institutional arrangements for the management as a whole of each SPA, covering both land and marine areas

Seven Contracting Parties have given a positive answer from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Regulatory framework, administrative management, and technical capabilities are the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this element.

RAC/SPA compiled a limited inventory of reported cases concerning the creation of protected areas using the new format reporting. Thus twenty-two protected areas were created in the reporting period 2006-2007 under several categories of protection as it has been stated by five Contracting Parties. These provided categories are mainly designated as coastal reserves, marine nature reserves, and Sites of Community Interest (SCI) in the framework of Natura 2000.

V. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE (SPAMIs)

To establish what conclusions could be drawn from establishment of SPAMIs and the

necessary measures for the implementation of their management plans it has been carried out the results on the basis of the description of the measures, as follows:

Setting up of SPAMIs

Fourteen Contracting Parties has given a negative answer, obtaining three positive answers from eighteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Administrative management is the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this measure.

Elaboration and implementation of a management plan for each SPAMIs

Seven Contracting Parties have given a negative answer, and four Contracting Parties have reported that they applied other measures for the SPAMIs management. One positive answer has been obtained from fifteen Contracting Parties' contributions.

Financial resources are the major difficulties or challenges to achieve this measure.

VI. MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SPECIES

List of endangered or threatened plant and animal species and their distribution in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the Party

Nine countries out of the nineteen countries concerned claim to have such lists, while four others claim that their lists are in preparation. The main difficulties and challenges facing such activities are most likely financial resources and technical capacities, followed by administrative problems and to a lesser extent by political and regulatory frameworks and public participation.

Bilateral or multilateral cooperation (including agreements) to protect and restore the population of migratory species in areas subject to Protocol application.

In this framework, three countries out of the overall nineteen said that they signed bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements for the conservation of migratory species. Two others reported that they conducted such similar activities with neighbouring countries (AL) or countries of their region in general. The problems mentioned relate first to administrative management, then to a lack in technical and financial resources, and finally and to lesser degree to policy and regulatory frameworks.

Formulation and adoption of measures and plans for ex situ breeding, including captive breeding of protected fauna and flora

Two countries out of nineteen claim to have initiated reintroduction programs or wild life ex situ breeding. One country reported similar activities pertaining to a few flora species. But this project is still at a very early stage. Another Country had undertaken measures for ex situ breeding of reptiles endemic to the country, but their endeavours failed. The challenges and constraints facing the implementation of such projects relate to a lack in financial resources, to administrative and technical flaws and in a lesser degree to inadequate political and regulatory frameworks.

Exception to art. 12, parag. 6, to prohibitions prescribed on the protection of species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol

Three countries out of nineteen said that they t granted exemptions from the prohibitions prescribed on the protection of the species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol. All these exemptions were granted for the purpose of scientific research. One country informs that they are currently preparing such provisions. The few difficulties mentioned in this context relate firstly to regulatory framework and administrative management, secondly to financial and technical capacities, and thirdly to policy frameworks.

Appropriate measures to regulate deliberate or accidental introductions of non-indigenous or genetically modified species.

In this regard, eight countries out of nineteen claim to have the necessary measures to

regulate the introduction into nature of non-indigenous or genetically modified species. Another Country holds strict restrictions on the importation of living organisms in general, including marine organisms. The problems mentioned relate primarily to policy and administrative management, then to technical capacities and financial resources and to a lesser degree to regulatory framework and public input.

VII. CONSERVATION OF THE COMPONENTS OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

Inventory of marine and coastal biodiversity components

The inventory activities have been carried out for six countries out of nineteen, and are being carried out for five other countries. Two other countries claim to have partial and / or preliminary inventories. The main challenges associated with the inventory issue relate primarily to financial resources and technical capacities, to administrative management and to a lesser degree to the political framework.

National strategies and action plans to protect marine and coastal biodiversity components

Five countries out of nineteen claim to have national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity, while four others are developing this kind of strategies during the period covered by this report. Two countries consider the work done in the framework of the PAS BIO (national reports and incidental action plans) as guidelines to be followed in the activities pertaining to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity at a national level. One country established a legal framework in 2007 which provides for the development of a national strategic plan for the conservation of natural heritage and biodiversity. The difficulties mentioned in this context relate essentially to administrative management, financial resources, but also to technical and policy framework inadequacies.

VIII. ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

The report also examines the enforcement measures for non-compliance with the provisions on prohibition and regulation of all activities involving taking of species which originate in specially protected areas, as well as Article 11.3 and Article 11.5. All of these provisions are dealt with the number of inspections; non-compliance cases; fines issued and total amount; and other enforcement measures.

Provisions on prohibition and regulation of all activities involving taking of species which originate in specially protected areas

Eight Contracting Parties have reported. Most of these countries –five of them – have developed programmes for ensuring that regulations are understood by means of daily patrols, on foot or by boat. Although countries have also reported that any direct enforcement action subject to the national standards for surveillance activities, have scarce resources in terms of equipment and logistics.

In very specific situations, surveillance operations can perform but compliance cannot be achieved.

Provisions of Article 11.3 and Article 11.5

Three Contracting Parties have reported. Most of them presented the non-applicability of both articles, and one have remarked the lack of legal and/or regulatory base for enforcement on which is a widely extended to the other Contracting Parties.

IX. EFFECTIVENESS

Seven Contracting Parties have reported some inputs concerning the number of Specially

Protected Area and their total surface; and the number of Specially Protected Area with management plan adopted; the Specially Protected Areas for Mediterranean Importance; the species related to the Annex II of the Protocol covered by protection measures; the known endangered and threatened species in the country; the inspections; the non-compliance cases; and the non-compliance cases in which sanctions were applied.

Many of the contributions yielded different estimations in each case, and considered strengthening effectiveness of the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol. The estimations tended to support the effectiveness but there is a clear variation among countries.

X. ACTION PLAN ADOPTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

X.1. Action Plan on Cartilaginous Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea

Did the Party grant a legal status to chondrichthyens that meet the conventions adopted to protect them from degradation and pollution caused by human activities?

Five countries out of nineteen said that they granted chondrichthyens the legal status to protect them against pollution due to human activities. One country is developing a legal framework at the period covered by this report. The difficulties that may impede the implementation of such provisions are related initially to policy frameworks and technical capacities, to financial resources and administrative management, and finally to regulatory frameworks and public participation.

Has the Party established specific programs in the framework of the FAO plan for conservation and management of IPOA-Sharks?

Two countries out of nineteen reported having specific programs under the FAO sharks conservation plan, while a single country claims to be preparing for such program. Another country has instructed its scientific bodies to collect and update the information required to develop a proposal for a national action plan for the protection of elasmobranches. The difficulties and challenges mentioned relate primarily to administration, then to technical and financial resources, and to a lesser degree to policy frameworks.

Has the party taken measures on fishing?

Five countries out of nineteen reported having taken action on cartilaginous fish fishing activities, while three others are developing such measures during the period covered by this report. The challenges encountered pertain mainly to policy, administrative management, regulatory framework, technical capacities, and in a lesser degree to a lack in financial resources.

Has the Party launched scientific research programs on chondrichthyans?

Five countries out of nineteen claim to have launched scientific research programs on chondrichthyans, while three others say that they have partially initiated some studies in this direction. The problems mentioned are essentially related to financial and technical capacities and in a lesser degree to administrative management.

Has the Party initiated training programs for fisheries' specialists, technicians and managers in the study and conservation of chondrichthyens?

Three countries out of nineteen claim to have undertaken the training of fishery managers and technicians in chondrichthyens conservation, while two others conducted preparatory or general activities in this regard. The difficulties impeding the implementation of such programs are mainly financial and technical capacities, followed by difficulties relating to administrative and regulatory frameworks, in addition to difficulties associated with policy frameworks and public participation.

Has the Party developed documents and information media to local authorities, residents, teachers, tourists, fishing professionals and other recreational fishing adepts, divers or any other category of people involved?

One country out of nineteen reported having developed scientific material only, while two other countries claim to have such documents and information ready or underway. The difficulties and challenges are mentioned in a descending order of importance, they are: financial resources, public participation and administrative management, technical capacities, policy and regulatory framework.

X.2. Action Plan on Introduction of Species and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea

Has the Party adopted a legislation to control the introduction of marine species and taken the necessary measures to transpose into its national legislation the provisions of the relevant international/national treaties' provisions ?

Nine countries out of nineteen, reported having adopted legislations intended to control the introduction of marine species, while three other countries are preparing such projects. The difficulties hindering the implementation of such provisions are mainly related to administrative management, policy frameworks, financial resources and technical capacities, and in a slight degree to regulatory frameworks and public participation.

Does the Party have an assessment report on the situation regarding the introduction of marine species?

Six countries out of nineteen claim to have assessment reports on the situation regarding the introduction of marine species. Three other countries are preparing a similar assessment reports during the period covered by this report, while one country has some scattered studies conducted by universities and national research institutions. The challenges are essentially related to financial resources and administrative management, but also to political and technical capacities, and in a lesser extent to regulatory frameworks and public participation.

Does the Party have a mechanism to monitor and control ballast water discharges within its territorial waters?

Of the nineteen countries, four state that they have a mechanism to control and monitor discharges of ballast water in their territorial waters, while two others (AL, RH) are developing mechanisms during the period covered by this report. The difficulties and challenges listed are primarily related to administrative management, then to technical and financial resources, and to a lesser degree to political frameworks.

Has the Party introduced a plan of action against the introduction of non-native invasive marine species to alleviate its negative impact?

One country out of nineteen, states that it has established a plan of action against the introduction of non-indigenous marine species, while three other countries are preparing such action plans. The difficulties impeding the implementation of such plans are mainly related to administrative management, to financial resources and technical capacities, followed by policy frameworks, and in a lesser extent to regulatory frameworks and public participation.

Has the Party developed training and awareness raising programs on ballast water and hull fouling risks, legal issues and management?

One country out of nineteen, claims to have set up a training and an awareness raising program on the risks of non-indigenous species introductions and on how to manage this problem, while three other countries have partially implemented actions in this direction, such as media communication and the inclusion of this component in the more general training programs. The difficulties impeding the implementation of such programs are mainly related to

administrative and technical capacities, to financial resources, and in a much lesser extent to policy and regulatory frameworks and public participation.

X.3. Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

Does the Party grant legal protection to birds species?

Fourteen countries out of nineteen claim to have given legal protection to bird species, while one country is preparing such a legal framework. The difficulties impeding the implementation of such provisions are primarily related to the regulatory and policy frameworks, financial resources, administrative management, technical capacities and public participation.

Has the Party established on its territory protected areas designed to conserve bird species featuring on the Protocol annexes' lists?

Twelve countries out of nineteen claim that they have protected areas on their territories designed for the conservation of bird species on the PSA/BD Protocol, while one country is currently building such protected areas. One country said that it had established a protection for four of these species only. The difficulties and challenges facing the protection activities arise from the regulatory framework, financial resources, administrative management and public participation. One country invoked a particular problem relating to the difficulty of establishing a regular monitoring of the birds' populations.

Has the Party launched a research program on one or more of the species of birds listed in the Protocol annexes?

In this context, seven countries out of nineteen claim to have launched research programs on bird species protected under the Barcelona Convention. Two other countries reported that their research activities were limited due to extended geographical areas or to the number of species covered. The main problem mentioned bears to limited financial resources; lack of technical capacity was also cited as a challenge to this activity and to a much lesser extent to administrative management and policy frameworks.

Does the Party have a plan of action for one or more of the species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol?

Six countries out of nineteen claim to have plans for one or more species of birds listed in the Annexes to the Protocol. Three countries are developing such plans. The major challenge is linked to limited financial resources, technical and administrative management; regulatory frameworks were also mentioned as additional issues.

X.4. Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

Has the Party developed an action plan for the conservation of cetaceans?

Of the nineteen countries, two claim to have developed action plans for the conservation of cetaceans. On the other hand, five countries are developing such plans. The main difficulties in this context are related to administrative management, financial resources and technical capacities. Issues bearing to policy and regulatory frameworks have also been invoked. Lack of public participation and the need for training were mentioned incidentally.

Has the Party conducted any scientific research and implementation programs on cetaceans?

Nine countries out of nineteen had research programs on cetaceans. Four other countries (GR, IT, SI, SY) reported having either partial studies conducted either by academics, by NGOs, or for stranded specimens only. The difficulties and challenges limiting such studies are most mainly financial resources and technical capacities. Management issues, administrative policy, regulatory frameworks and public participation have also been invoked.

Has the party developed a network to monitor cetacean stranding?

In this framework, six countries (out of nineteen claim to have surveillance networks for cetacean stranding. These networks are being implemented in four other countries. This type of network is managed in a less formal way in two other countries through a system of collaboration with fishermen or with an NGO. The problems cited relate primarily to financial resources, management, administrative and technical capacities, to regulatory and policy framework and to public participation.

Has the Party created marine protected areas and / or SPAMIs to protect one or several species of cetaceans?

Four countries out of nineteen claim to have established marine protected areas for the protection of cetaceans, while three other countries are setting up such MPAs. The few difficulties hindering the establishment of such protected areas are mainly related to financial resources, regulatory framework and technical capacities and in a lesser degree to policy framework, administrative management and public participation.

X.5. Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species inventoried in Annex II of the SPA Protocol

Has the Party adopted a statute for the protection of species and plant formations of importance to the marine environment, particularly grass beds?

Thirteen countries out of nineteen reported having granted a protection status to plant formations of importance for conservation. One country is currently preparing a bill to that effect. The difficulties and challenges mentioned are primarily related to regulatory frameworks and administrative management, to policy framework, financial resources, technical capacities and public participation.

Do the regulations of the Party regarding the impact on the environment, take into account an impact assessment for each activity undertaken on the grass bed and any other vegetation that is important to the marine environment?

Thirteen countries out of the nineteen have stated that they had regulations taking into account the impact of human activities on seagrasses and other vegetation of importance. For one country, these regulations are currently being developed. The few difficulties mentioned are linked primarily to political, technical capacities and administrative management and to public participation.

Has the Party created protected areas devoted to grass beds and other plant formations of importance to the marine environment?

Seven countries out of nineteen claimed that they have set up protected areas devoted to grass beds and other vegetation of importance, while one country said that it already established protected areas included important Organogenous formations. Four countries are setting up such protected areas. The challenges mentioned relate to financial issues, but also to political and regulatory frameworks, administrative management and technical capacities.

Has the Party conducted scientific research and surveys to inventory and map out marine vegetation formations which are natural monuments?

Nine countries (CY, EG, GR, IT, LB, MC, SI, ES, TN) out of nineteen claim to have conducted studies to identify and map out marine vegetation formations that are natural monuments, while three other countries (LY, MT, ME) are developing such studies. The main difficulties mentioned are financial resources and technical capacities and to a lesser degree, administrative management.

Has the Party established mapping programs for seagrass and other major plant formations that are important to the marine environment?

Ten countries out of nineteen had mapping programs for major grass beds and other important plant formations, while four other countries are developing such programs. The main difficulties invoked are financial resources and technical capacities and to a lesser extent, administrative management, and incidentally policy and regulatory frameworks.

Has the Party engaged in advocacy and education activities (targeting users of the sea, local people and the general public) regarding the conservation of marine vegetation, and in particular, surface organogenous formations?

Six countries out of nineteen said that they engaged in advocacy and education on the conservation of marine vegetation. Similar activities are being initiated in two other countries. The main challenges are related to financial and administrative management, and in a lesser extent to technical capacities.

Has the Party set up training programs for specialists in the study and conservation of marine vegetation?

Five countries out of nineteen said that they have designed training programs for specialists in the study and conservation of marine vegetation. One country said that such training is included in the academic biology curricula. The main challenges mentioned are related to financial and technical capacities but also in as a lesser degree to administrative issues.

Does the Party have a plan of action, based on the available scientific data for the conservation of marine vegetation?

Three countries out of nineteen said that they established an action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation. Similar action plans are being prepared for four other countries. The main challenges are related to financial and administrative management, but also to technical capacities.

X.6. Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal

Has the Party awarded protection to the monk seal?

Seven countries reported that they granted a protection status to the monk seal. The few challenges invoked relate to inadequate technical capacities, financial resources, management and regulatory policies.

Does the Party expressly prohibit the use of dynamite in fisheries, the transportation of firearms on board vessels and all fishing techniques that may endanger the monk seal?

Eight countries reported having introduced bans on dynamite fishing and transportation of firearms on board fishing vessels. The main problem related to administration; policy framework and technical capacities are also mentioned as possible challenges impeding the successful implementation of such provisions.

Does the Party still possess monk seals populations at a reproductive age have they taken measures to keep them away from human activity?

Two countries which still have populations of monk seals at a reproductive age said they had established (even partially) measures to keep them away from human activity. Two other countries are developing such measures. The main challenges cited are related to administrative management and technical capacities, but also to a lesser extent to inadequate regulatory frameworks.

Is there, in the territory of the Party, any SPA designed for the conservation of monk seal populations or their potential habitats?

Six countries claim to have created protected areas for the conservation of monk seal populations or their potential habitats. Another country is currently establishing such protected

areas. The main challenges pertain to administrative and technical capacities but also to political and financial resources hindering such activities.

Has the Party prepared a list of reproduction caves and other habitats of major importance to the monk seals?

Eight countries claim to have surveyed the breeding caves and other habitats of importance to the monk seal. Another Country claims to have undertaken some research in this direction, but major efforts are still to be done in this respect. The main challenges cited are related to financial and technical capacities but also in a lesser degree to issues of administration.

Has the Party implemented programs to collect data on monk seals?

Nine countries claim to have implemented programs to collect data on monk seals. Another Country claims that they are currently developing such program. The main problems mentioned are related to financial resources, but also incidentally to technical capacities and public participation.

Has the Party set up sensitization, information and training programs on the conservation of monk seals?

Six countries claim to have established sensitization, information and training programs on the conservation of the monk seal. One country claims to have set such activities as incidental activities in another project. The main challenges invoked were issues dealing with financial resources and technical capacities, but also to lesser degree, to administration and public participation.

Does the Party have a plan of action for the conservation of the monk seal and its potential habitat?

Six countries say they have developed action plans for the conservation of the monk seal and its potential habitat. One country claims to have such activities as activities auxiliary to another project. The main challenges raised concern financial resources and technical capabilities, but also to lesser degree administrative management.

X.7. Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

Does the Party have laws and regulations for the protection of sea turtles?

Fourteen countries out of nineteen alleged to have laws and regulations for the protection of marine turtles. One country has a legal framework prohibiting the fishing of sea turtles. The difficulties and challenges mentioned are related to regulatory frameworks, financial resources, technical capacity and public participation.

Has the Party taken any measures to reduce the incidental catch of sea turtles?

Seven countries out of nineteen have said that they have taken measures to reduce incidental catches of marine turtles. Two other countries are developing such measures. The difficulties and challenges raised are related first to technical capacities and administrative management, then to policy framework and financial resources, but likely also legal framework inadequacies.

Has the Party created care and rescue centres for the sea turtles?

Ten countries out of nineteen claim to have created care and rescue centres for marine turtles. The problems raised are mainly related to financial resources, but also to technical capacities. Other challenges are also likely to arise from policy and regulatory frameworks and administrative management.

Are there on the territory of the Party, SPAs assigned to the conservation of marine turtle populations and to potential habitats?

Six countries out of nineteen claim to have established protected areas to conserve marine turtle populations and their potential habitats. Three other countries are developing such areas during the period covered by this report. The problems cited are mainly related to policy framework, financial resources and administrative management. Issues dealing with regulatory framework, technical capacity and public participation were also invoked.

Has the Party made an inventory of sea turtles hatching /nesting beaches?

Eleven countries out of nineteen reported having developed an inventory of nesting beaches for sea turtles. The challenges raised are mainly related to financial and technical capacities, and incidentally to administration.

Have the Parties participated in programs of sea turtle marking?

Twelve countries out of nineteen claim to have participated in sea turtle marking programs. Another country is preparing for such activities. The main challenge is related to technical capacities. Financial resources and to a lesser extent administrative issues have also been cited as limiting factors.

Has the Party set up sensitization, information and training programmes for the conservation of sea turtles?

Eleven countries (AT, CY, EG, GR, IL, LY, MT, SI, ES, TN, TR) out of nineteen claim to have established outreach, information and training modules on the conservation of marine turtles. Three other countries have initiated preparatory work for such programs. The main challenges limiting this activity are linked to financial resources and administrative management. Public participation and technical capabilities have also been invoked in this regard.

Does the Party have an action plan for the conservation of sea turtles?

Eight countries out of nineteen claim to have plans for the conservation of marine turtles. Three other countries are in the process of developing such plans. The main difficulty is related to financial resources and to lesser degree, to technical and administrative management. Problems associated with policy framework and public participation have been invoked.

CONCLUSION

Progress has been made in the period 2006-2007 regarding the implementation of the Protocol SPA / BD

However, with this new reporting system and taking into account the fact that several countries did not answer whole or part of the questions and that sometimes the answers are not limited to the reporting period, it appears difficult to draw up a complete assessment at the regional level for the considered period.