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CONTENTS

Context Background 2

Materiel and Methods 2

Results and analysis 4

Results of the evaluation process 4

Results and analysis of the ordinary evaluation 4

Conclusion 17

Context Background

At their last ordinary meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a procedure for the revision of areas registered on the list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/5 – Decision 17/11) and requested RAC/SPA to implement this decision during the 2008 – 2009 biennium. RAC/SPA on June 2008 invited the Focal Points of the concerned SPAMIs to follow these procedures and to communicate the results to the Secretariat so that a synthesis report on this first evaluation phase could be prepared.

Materiel and Methods

The procedure to be followed is detailed in document (UNEP(DEPI)MED IG.17/5 – Decision 17/11) and reproduced in extensor below:

1. A regular in depth review of the SPAMIs shall take place every six years, counting from the date of the inclusion of the site in the SPAMI List. Following the Format proposed previously, this Periodic Review will assess the degree of conformity with the criteria defined in the Protocol. The Format concerns the existing threats, regulations, management, protection measures resources, means, knowledge, cooperation and networking. In order to adapt the questionnaire to the specific context of each SPAMI, stakeholders should agree to the proposed sub-questions in the format before they are used in the evaluation. The Technical Advisory Commission (TAC)/evaluation team should receive the completed Format for Periodic Review and supporting documentation prior to the site visit.

2. The Periodic Review would be entrusted to a mixed TAC comprising:

- *The NFP/SPA concerned and/or the person responsible for the SPAMI management;*
- *A national expert on the particular biology and ecology of the area;*
- *Two independent experts with all the necessary qualifications, scientific rigour, regional experience in protected area management, independence and impartiality, and must not be a national of the country in which the review is carried out.*
- *At least one member of the evaluation team involved in the country visit must have a working knowledge of the language of that country (should not assume the PA staff can speak English, although this would be desirable).*
- *The evaluation team should receive key SPAMI documents and prescriptive list of threats prior to the field site visit.*
- *The evaluation team should make a preliminary assessment of SPAMI compliance based on the documents prior to the site visit.*

3. To cover the costs of such a Technical Advisory Commission a SPAMI Fund could be established, possibly allocating resources from the ordinary MAP budget, plus voluntary contributions from the States or other donor agencies. Expenses incurred by the experts during this visit shall be met by this Fund, so as to ensure that the appraisal is completely objective.

4. The Periodic Review will be based in an official format, for which a proposal is presented at the end of this document. The PA manager completes the Format for Periodic Review prior to the site visit by the evaluation team and the responses to the sub-questions must be in line and coherent with the supporting documentation. The completed format should be endorsed by signature from all the members of the Technical Advisory Commission. However, the format includes a final field in which each member can add his/her own comments, if deemed necessary.

5. The results of the review shall be forwarded to the Centre, to be reviewed and submitted for approval to the next NFP/SPA biannual meeting. In the case of a negative recommendation (see Format) the NFP/SPA will recommend the Meeting of the Parties to include the SPAMI in a period of provisional nature.

The SPAMI's concerned in this ordinary evaluation are those which have been in existence for over 6 years and these correspond to the 12 SPAMIs registered on the list in 2001.

France

Port-Cros National Park

Spain

Alboran Island

Natural Park of Cabo De Gata-Nijar

Natural Park of Cap de Creus

Columbretes Islands

Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria

Mar Menor

Medes Islands

Tunisia

La Galite Archipelago

Kneiss Islands

Zembra and Zembretta National Park

France, Italy and Monaco

Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals

Results and analysis

Results of the evaluation process

All the reports expected, 11 were received by the Secretariat, even very lately, which reflects a strong involvement by the countries concerned and a respect for the decisions adopted at the last ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties.

None of the countries involved in the evaluation made any comments on the procedure followed or any difficulties found during that procedure. There is therefore a lack of certainty as to how the procedure had been implemented.

As for the reports received, the stakeholders involved did not adapt the form (Point 1) and there is no mention of any field visit (Points 1 and 2).

As for all the SPAMIs, the revision had been carried out by a Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) comprising, at least by the National Focal Point and the person in charge of the management of the SPAMI. Three SPAMIs only referred to the contribution of experts and only two said that they had recourse to two independent experts and a national expert as scheduled in Point 2. This low involvement of independent experts may be due to i) the absence of specific financing allocated for this activity in contrast to what was envisaged in Point 3, ii) the difficulty in identifying foreign experts (outside the country) or iii) to the novelty of the step to be taken. It is important to stress that no request for financial or technical assistance had been submitted to RAC/SPA.

In accordance with Points 4 and 5, the forms had been completed and sent to RAC/SPA. The synthesis tables were established on the basis of these forms (Tables 1 & 2). Upon completion of the procedure only five TACs made comments, conclusions and recommendations and in particular those TACs which had recourse to experts (Table ll).

Results and analysis of the ordinary evaluation

The actual evaluation results show that the compulsory criteria for registering a site on the SPAMI list have been complied with to a large extent. 100% of the SPAMIs evaluated have retained their conservation status or even improved since they were first created (Table l).

On the basis of these mandatory criteria, 50% of the assessed SPAMIs satisfied to the total set of criteria.

The difficulties met by the others SPAMIs concern the availability of resources and information (criteria 4 - 14% of responses) and the legal status (criteria 2 - 8 % of responses; Table I).

On a legal level the problems mentioned are the following: there is a lack of definition of the competencies and responsibilities in the texts governing the SPAMI and external threats were not taken into account and/or there is a lack of coordination between the land and the marine authorities. As for management, one SPAMI notice that the management plan is not yet in force whereas this particular point must be control within the three years which follow the registration of the SPAMI on the list if this management plan is missing at the time of the initial request. Three SPAMIs highlight a lack of financial and human resources in the team in charge for management (Table l).

Concerning the elements that contribute a plus-value to the SPAMI, the regulations (criteria 6) as well as human resources (criteria 9, Table II) bring the maximum plus-value to the whole SPAMIs. On the contrary, elements that penalize the SPAMIs the most are the financial and material means (criteria 10), cooperation and the networks (criteria 12).

In a global view, the greatest plus-value goes to the French SPAMI of Port-Cros, the Tunisian and the Spanish SPAMIs obtained very similar results. The results related to Pelagos Sanctuary are more difficult to evaluate owing to the fact that the answers often differ between the Parties concerned (France and Italy in particular).

Table I : Synthesis of the results concerning the section I, for the SPAMIs which have fill in the evaluation form. Alb: Alboran; C. Gata: Cabo de Gata, Creus: cap de Creus; Col: Columbretes; L. Alm.: Levant of Almeria; M. Men.: Mar Menor; Med: Medes; P. Cros: Port-Cros; Gal: La Galite; Kne: Kneiss, Zem: Zembra; S. Pel.: Pelagos Sanctuary; Y: yes; N: No; Y-N: Yes and No; NA: Not applicable; white: no-answer. In order to facilitate the readability of the table, positive points appear in blue and the difficulties appeared in red.

SECTION I : CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST												
1. CONSERVATION STATUS												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
1.1 Does the SPAMI fulfill the criteria of creation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1.2 Are the objectives of the SPAMI actively pursued?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. LEGAL STATUS												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
2.1. Does the area maintains its legal protection status	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2.2. Does the legal declaration of this area consider the conservation of natural values as the primary objective?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2.3. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
2.4. Are external influences/threats been taken into account in the legal framework of the SPAMI?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y-N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Remarks

Alboran: Uses are limited with several protection types and no-take zones. The SPAMI has a service of maintenance and protection with fishing guards and 2 boats

Cabo de Gata: Limited use with several levels of protection and integral zone (no-take). Maintenance and safeguarding provided through protection vessels and 3 boats.

Capo de Creus : Taking into account of the external threats (“Pla Especial”) but no real coordination between the different departments

Columbretes: Uses are limited with several protection types and no-take zones. The SPAMI has two wardens’ teams, responsible for the surveillance in the marine part. The protected area is patrolled all year through. The marine reserve is equiped with a radar installation and 2 boats.

Levante de Almeria: This point is being elaborated within the framework of the SPAMI Management Plan.

Mar Menor This form has been filled by the authorities that managed the marine reserve(MR) of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas, the Spanish Ministry of environment and the regional Goverment of Murcia.The MR is only a southern part of the SPAMI and completely marine. Coordination with terrestrial authorities exists referred to town council.

Medes : Taking into account the external threats within the framework of the Management Plan, but no real coordination between the different departments

Port-Cros: External threats taking into account an evaluation of the attendance (Bount’îles tool), control of the boating (regulation, mooring), control of the fishery ‘pressure (agreement, regulation) and monitoring of the location and eradication of *Caulerpa taxifolia.*

La Galite: The present legal framework is inadequate; a draft law on marine & coastal protected areas has been prepared but not yet promulgated. It is to be promulgated in 2009 & a decree on zoning. Regulation will be on the basis of elements in the updated management plan.
Kneiss: Texts and mechanisms of prevention of the major risks are installed, also, law 96-29 of April 3, 1996 instituted a national plan of urgent intervention to fight against marine pollution
Zembra: The present legal framework is inadequate; a draft law on marine & coastal protected areas has been prepared but not yet promulgated. It is to be promulgated in 2009 & a decree on zoning. Regulation will be on the basis of elements in the updated management plan.
Pelagos : France - The Ecological Protection Zone is in place for the French Party. Air control is provided as well as the State's presence on the sea, namely the national Navy & Customs to control human activities on the high seas together with the land authorities. As for the agreement, reflection is ongoing to harmonize control on the sea between the signatory countries. An Ecological Protection Zone project for the Italian part of the Sanctuary will contribute towards a better harmonisation of means and control. Finally reflection is ongoing concerning the Mediterranean side to set up a regulation to control the whale watching activity in support of the measure to set up a label.
Italy - The Sanctuary is an area situated mostly on the high seas, thus there are objective problems due to the threats connected to human activities on the high seas. The recent Italian declaration of an ecological protection area according to law No. 61 of 2006 will make it possible, together with the French ecological protection area, to extend the jurisdiction of the two countries for the protection of the environment to the whole Sanctuary area. Work groups of the Technical & scientific Committee are ongoing to have better coordination between the control activities at sea, and impacts of human origin in the Sanctuary will be further limited. Other legal means are being evaluated which could further strengthen the application of protection measures.

3. MANAGEMENT METHODS

	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
3.1. 3.1. Does the area have the same or an improved management body/authority as when the SPAMI was established?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.2. Is the management plan in force?	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.3. Does the management plan address the requirements set out in article 7 of the Protocol t?	Y	Y	Y[1]	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

4. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
4.1. Is there basic equipment, human and financial resources for the management body?	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
4,2. Does the area have a monitoring program?	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Remarks : Nature of the Monitoring programmes
Alboran: Fisheries monitoring, and marine bottoms monitoring with remote observation vehicle (ROV)
Cabo de Gata : Artisanal fisheries and recreational fisheries monitoring, Visual fishes census, *Posidonia oceanica* meadows monitoring and Crustacean population

[1] The management Plan, which integrate all the human activities conducted on the marine area, as requested by the Protocol Article 7 is in approval period.

monitoring **Cap of Creus**: Since 2005, a monitoring of biological indicators (vunerable species and habitats) has been established **Columbretes**: Monitoring of the main restricted uses in the marine reserve (professional fishing, recreational fishing and scuba diving). The marine reserve monitoring program includes several studies, which are undertaken by the reserve staff and other scientific organisms such as Universities (Barcelona, Girona), IEO and CSIC. **Levante of Almeria**: Conservation action to improve the state of the posidonia meadows and the halo-nitrophilous maquis. Targeted action to restore species of *Cystoseira amentacea*, *C. spinosa* et *C. zosteroides*, et *d'Astroides calycularis*, *Scyllarides latus* et *Patella ferruginea*. **Mar Menor:** Monitoring of the main restricted uses in the marine reserve (professional fishing, recreational fishing and scuba diving). The marine reserve monitoring program includes several studies, which are undertaken by the reserve staff and other scientific organisms such as Universities (Barcelona, Girona), IEO and CSIC. **Medes**: Monitoring of the emblematic habitats and species of the flora and fauna, and physical parameters of the quality of the sea water. **Port-Cros**: Pressures due to frequentation, Observatory of biodiversity and marine uses (ongoing), Permanent monitoring of heritage species and guidelines for objective contract. **La Galite**: Present parameters followed concern frequentation, fresh water source flow rates, ornithology and herpetology. An ecological monitoring protocol has been prepared for implementation in 2009. **Kneiss**: The Management Plan – Evaluation of the Management of the Kneiss protected area comprises several aspects which taken together give information necessary to the management of space and resources. 1. Continuous follow-up of the state of the natural resources of the zone of Kneiss concerning the physical data (tides, swell currents, etc), chemical and climatic (SUIVI1), birds (SUIVI 2), marine biodiversity (SUIVI 4), monitoring of the quality of the land-sea interface (Rapid impact assessment inside and outside the Kneiss protected area (SUIVI 5) 2. Permanent follow-up of the socio-economic activities of development and exploitation of the resources along the littoral of the zone of Kneiss related to the evolution of the fishery sector (fish, aquaculture), the follow-up of the frequentation by the visitors and their appreciation of the site (SUIVI 6),This set of elements makes it possible to produce an Annual report of the state of the environment (physical, economic, social and environmental) and to propose modifications or adjustments of the management of the surface protected from Kneïss **Zembra**: Birds monitoring **Pelagos: France -** Guidelines exist on the French level and concern research, whale watching, maritime traffic, fishing, internet site, offshore courses in relationship to the objectives of the management plan.												
4.3 Is there a feedback mechanism that establishes a link between the monitoring results and the management objectives, and which allows adaptation of protection and management measures?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N[2]	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-N[3]

[2] The process required are not yet established

[3] France Yes – This later step in the assessment process of the management of the SPAMI will be elaborated in cooperation by the three countries concerned in the framework of the international working groups.

Italy: No – In the framework of the working group, the definition of the monitoring and control process are on going in accordance with the goals of the Management Plan. Once realized, it will proceed to their systematization and thus to the mechanisms of follow-up, probably in the next three years 2009-2011.

Table II: Synthesis of the results concerning the section II, for the SPAMIs which have fill in the evaluation form. Alb: Alboran; C. Gata: Cabo de Gata, Creus: cap de Creus; Col: Columbretes; L. Alm.: Levant of Almeria; M. Men.: Mar Menor; Med: Medes; P. Cros: Port-Cros; Gal: La Galite; Kne: Kneiss, Zem: Zembra; S. Pel.: Pelagos Sanctuary; Y: yes; N: No; Y-N: Yes and No; NA: Not applicable; white: no-answer. In order to facilitate the readability of the table, positive points appear in blue and the difficulties appeared in red or orange.The yellow correspond to intermediate situation.

SECTION II : FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA												
5. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
5.1. Assess the level of threats within the site												
Unregulated exploitation of natural resources	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	3	1	1-0
Serious threats to habitats and species	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	0
Increase of human presence	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	0
Historic and current conflicts between users or user groups	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	0

Remark : Nature of evaluated threats

Alboran: Increase capacity harvest fisheries, Prohibited and furtive fisheries, illegal immigration

Cabo de Gata: Annual increase in boats, touristic constructions and illegal fishing is prohibited.

Cap of Creus : Overexploitation of red coral, impact of recreational fishing especially underwater fishing on vulnerable species ; impact of scuba diving on the coralligenous because of localized over-frequentation and impact of anchors of pleasure boats on posidonia meadows.

Columbretes: The introduced algae *Caulerpa racemosa* and *Lophocladia lallemandii* are present in the marine reserve. Since their presence is relatively new, effects on the local communities are still being studied. -Increasing activities related to tourism (boats, scuba diving) and poaching.

Levante of Almeria:. Excessive pressure of the commercial fisheries and trawlers, illegal fishery, Increase of agriculture activities in the area and development of nautical activities. Increase of the urban development.

Mar Menor: Outburst of Scuba diving, Alien species, Urban development, Sports fishing.

Medes: New system to control hydrocarbon pollution. Illegal exploitation of coral & fauna.

La Galite: Risk of over-.frequentation & accidental pollution

Zembra: Risk of over-frequentation, illegal fishing & accidental pollution

Pelagos: France - Nuisance linked to urbanisation & industrialisation. The Sanctuary has particularly urbanized coastal zones and subject to strong touristic pressures. Industrialisation of the coastal zone means more pollutants but also acoustic & seismic disturbances linked to civil engineering works and exploitation of the continental shelf. Nuisance linked to maritime traffic. International maritime traffic and links between the large island & and continent means that there is a danger of collision, direct disturbances and acoustic pollution. Maritime transport of petroleum and/or dangerous products means a permanent threat to the ecosystem and the Sanctuary's species. The development of sea routes could in time lead to new constraints linked to increased maritime traffic.

Nuisance linked to pleasusre boating and touristic observation of cetaceans. Pleasure boating and development of touristic observation of cetaceans, organized or not, risk to disturb the animals directly. In some case there is danger of collision.

Nuisance linked to fishing as it might have an impact of by-catch and competition for food resources. Industrial fishing needs to be watched.

Threats linked to climate change. An increase in the average temperature of the sea water could affect the presence and/or abundance of krill (*Meganyctiphanes norvegica*). The fin whale could be affected by changes in this resource. Acidification of the oceans is a threat to marine organisms. These acidifications are due to the oceans absorbing carbon dioxide which is increasing in the atmosphere. In 50 to 100 years the exoskeleton of some of these organisms could start dissolving and not be able to re-form again. A reduction in pteropods could lead to a chain reaction as they constitute the basic food of organisms such as zooplankton and whales.												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
5.2 Assess the level of external threats												
Pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current	3	3	3	3	2	0	3	2	3	0	3	1
Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	3
Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area [4]	3	3	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	0	2	0
5.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or land-use laws in the area limiting or surrounding the SPAMI?	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-N [5]
5.4. Does the management plan for the SPAMI have influence over the governance of the surrounding area?	Y	Y	N	Y	N		N	N	Y	Y	Y	N

[4] The threats evaluated are the same as those in question 5.1.

[5] France –There is an EPZ which both include and surround the SPAMi. On land, there are regulations rising from several « contrats de Baie and from the Water framework directive.

6. REGULATIONS												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
6.1. Assess the degree of legal regulations												
At the national level, regulations concerning the strengthening of the application of the other Protocols to the Barcelona Convention?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
At the national level, regulations on the introduction of any species not indigenous to the specially protected area in question, or of any genetically modified species	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
At the national level, regulations concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and projects that could significantly affect the SPAMI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-N[6]
At the local level (within the SPAMI), regulations for fishing, hunting, taking of animals and harvesting of plants or their destruction, as well as trade with animals, parts of animals, plants, parts of plants, which originate in the area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. MANAGEMENT												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
7.1. Assess the degree of detail of the management plan	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2
7.2. Assess to what extent land ownership is well determined	2	2	2	3	3		2	3	3	3	3	NA
7.3. Is there a body representing the public, professional and non-governmental sector and the scientific community linked to the management body	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7.4. Assess the quality of the involvement by the public and local communities, in the planning and management of the area	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1
7.5. Is the management plan binding for other national/local administrations with competencies in the area?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

[6] **France** Yes in the case of the Natura 2000 areas have been defined ; **Italy** : No

8. PROTECTION MEASURES												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
8.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures												
Are the area boundaries adequately marked on land and on the sea?	N	N	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y-N[7]
Is there any collaboration from other authorities in the protection and surveillance of the area and, if applicable, is there a coastguard service contributing to the marine protection	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Are third party agencies also empowered to enforce regulations relating to the SPAMI protective measures?	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement of regulations and is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N[8]
Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or other serious emergencies?	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y-N[9]

[7] **France** – A reflexion is in progress on a French level and will be proposed at international level in order to set up marking system in relation with engagement of the coastal municipalities in the SPAMI area**. Italy** – Not applicable according to the status beyond national jurisdiction of the SPAMI

[8] **France** - A reflexion is proposed on an international scale to evaluate the effectiveness of tools proposed by IMO, for instance PSSA in order to propose new regulations

[9] **France** – No, but we can mention the Ramoge POL which include a part of the SPAMI area **– Italy** - Yes

9. HUMAN RESOURCES												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
9.1. Adequacy of the human resources available to the management body												
Is there a permanent field administrator of the area?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Are there other permanent staffs in the field	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y-N[10]
9.2. Asses the adequacy of the training level of available staff	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	2-1
10. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
10.1. Assess the degree of adequacy of the financial means	3	3	1	3	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1-0
10.2 Assess the basic infrastructure	1	2	2	2	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	1
10,3. Assess the equipment	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	1	0
11. **INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE**												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
11.1. Assess the extent of knowledge about the area and its surrounding zones	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	1[11]
11.2. Assess the adequacy of the program for data collection and the monitoring program	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
12. **COOPÉRATION AND NETWORKING**												
	Alb.	C. Gata	Creus	Col.	L. Alm	M. Men.	Med.	P. Cros	Gal.	Kne	Zem.	S. Pel.
12.1. Are other national or international organizations collaborating with human or financial resources?	2	2		2	0	2	0	3	2	2	2	2
12,2. Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs	1	1	2	1	0	3	2	2	1	1	2	1-0

[10] **France** – Yes, several persons of the Port Cros national park team spend a part of their activity to the animation of the French Part of the Sanctuary and take part in the operation of the international authorities (Working groups, Scientific Committees, Conference of Parties…). In addition, other human resources are available within the SPAMI, in particular through the cetacean stranding network and the NGOs structures. **Italy** - No

[11] France - Knowledge are increasing with the triennial research programs financed by the State since the creation of the Sanctuary.

Comments of the Commission

Mar Menor : The marine part within the MR is being managed with high standarts since 1996 in cooperation by the fisheries authorities of the regional goverment of Murcia and Spanish Ministry of Environment.

Port-Cros : Non regulated use of natural resources, poaching, threats for the habitats & species. Uncontrolable development in our present state of knowledge and means of the alga Caulerpa racemosa; appearance or proliferation of exogenous species (barracuda), not enough rainfall affecting the quality of the environments & species (temporary pools & oueds), exhaustion & risk of pollution by salt of aquifers.

La Galite Despite the delay in promulgating the specific law on marine & coastal protected areas – which is in its final stage of approval – a management unit is implementing the La Galite management plan in view of the prerogatives of the Agency for the Protection & Development of the Littoral.

Kneiss The goal of the management of continuous the Kneiss islands to being the promotion of the mechanisms of rational use of the natural resources of the site, so as to maintain the processes ecological fundamental and preserving its biological diversity, with the participation of the population The process implemented by current management aims in particular: i) · the protection of fauna and terrestrial and marine flora of the Kneiss islands ; ii)· establishment of the conditions for a rational use of spaces and natural resources (zoning for multiple use…) iii) the support of an economic and social development durable of the local populations. The safeguarding and the rehabilitation of this single inheritance of Mediterranean value, are currently the ultimate goal towards which all the effort of the management of the islands of Kneiss. In order to fill this objective, it is advisable to improve the participation of all the recipients in constructive discussions to future of this site and in particular on the strategies of management installation and to structure and make functional a terrestrial and marine mixed protected surface and not only the current reserve, by equipping it with means human, material and financial adequate

Zembra : The delayed implementation of the management plan id due basically to the remoteness and isolation of the site, financing which is limited to the land part of the island of Zembra, the marine part has no budget. The promulgation of the specific law on marine and coastal protected areas will facilitate the institutional procedures for the implementation of the land and marine management plan in the field.

Conclusions

La Galite: La Galite is a pilot site of marine and coastal protected areas in Tunisia, it is isolated & with its institutional context the La Galite archipelago project is advancing smoothly to ensure all adequate conditions for proper, effective and efficacious management. The institutional context is favourable, legislation is soon to change and the management plan is being implemented by a team of managers already there.

Kneiss T Taking account of the current state of management of the Kneiss islands and after having taken into account the general objectives and the orientations of the policy of management integrated of long-term the Kneïss islands the various driving forces and the pressures which are exerted there, the APAL through a new plan of management whose development was completed during first half of the year 2009 defined the specific objectives being able to be applied in the short and medium term (over 5 years) to improve management of this site considered as the most important zone of all Mediterranean for the migration and the wintering of the water birds, and in particular of the limnicoles ones. This new plan of management will improve the use of space on the level of the site and will make it possible to install the infrastructures necessary to the conservation of the biodiversity and the development of the local populations.

Zembra: In view of the specificities of the Zembra and Zembretta archipelago from the natural, Cultural, social and economic viewpoint and the ensuing challenges and the absence of adequate legislation, an operational management of the two marine and land areas of the site so far was only in the form of monitoring of key species and the organisation of short scientific missions.

Pelagos : The response synthesis obtained by each Contracting Party to the Pelagos Agreement shows a certain unity despite some nuances linked to the objectives and vital goals of each country on certain themes as well as an emerging coordination by the permanent Secretariat. This Agreement was been working on an international level for the last 3 years only and the good progress made so far during this period should be taken into account. Priority actions have been defined on the basis of the management plan with a first list of concrete measures in 2009 some of which will be operational in the summer. A schedule and financial means will be approved at the conference of the Contracting Parties this year on the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical committee which

convened on 21 and 22 April 2009. An analysis of the SPAMIs plus value shows that the challenges are still great and it is therefore important that the objectives fixed in the priority measures action plan is achieved as soon as possible. This is a great challenge and the mobilisation of the 3 countries must continue.

Recommandations

Mar Menor: The cooperation between terrestrial and marine authorities can be improved.

La Galite: Training of the personnel. More material to be available for the management unit. Financing to be assured beyond 2010 (contractual end of financing by FFEM) and 2011 (end of 11th development plan in Tunisia).

Kneiss : For a better efficiency in the management of the site of the Kneiss islands, it would be advisable to adopt the law on the protected marine and coastal surfaces (APMC). This aspect is essential to ensure the management of the Kneiss protected area and in particular in its new space configuration as declared within the framework from the Ramsar site, covering 22027 ha instead of 5850 ha for the current natural reserve. Once the adopted law, the site of Kneïss would have by Decret being declared APMC and notification to require the modification of surface within the framework of the ASPIM of the Barcelona convention. The actions to be carried out would be: to strictly apply the legislation and the existing legislation, in particular as regards fishing, to impose on any project of development in a radius of 50 km of the site the procedures of Strategic Evaluation of the Environment, to associate the administration of the protected area in the decisions for the issue licences or permits concerning of the economic activities as fishing or services in its zone of jurisdiction, to make profit the Unit of Management from a financial autonomy, to equip the unit of local management with the infrastructures (offices, information centre and residences) and equipment material and technical essential to the.correct operation of the protected surface, to install descriptive for various zones d activity of the protected aea, for information and the sensitizing of the visitors.

Zembra: The operational management of the marine and coastal protected area of Zembra requires more coordination and improvement of the institutional context for the site. A management unit with qualified personnel is already managing the Cap Bon natural sites. Targeted financing for the implementation of the management plan for the marine part & the imminent promulgation of the law will facilitate everything.

Pelagos: The Pelagos Sanctuary is at present receiving special attention from equivalent structures being created and intergovernmental organisms involved in marine management and especially on the high seas. This is an example of the first international SPAMI on the high seas and it should become a real zone of exemplary management so as to develop exportable tools to help evolve human activities towards a better compatibility with the presence of protected species and their habitats. The presence of the Pelagos Sanctuary on the SPAMI List is a guarantee of actions and measures underway and also an encouragement to continue with this more complicated and more mobilizing tripartite involvement than just working strictly on a national level.

The Port-Cros SPAMI stands out clearly as far as regulation, protection measures, financial and material means are concerned, with average results concerning threats (criteria 5) with a management plan which does not integrate the surrounding area and serious threats to habitats and species and conflicts between users. These good results are due to the historical nature of this protected site which was set up over forty years ago and also due to its importance on a national level (the only National Park which included a marine zone up until the 2000s).

The Spanish SPAMIs in general obtained good results in terms of information and knowledge but seem weakly competitive in terms of cooperation and networking. Reading the results one SPAMI appears confronted with difficulties in several of the domains reviewed, which means that there should be better cooperation at least on a national level (Table II).

Regulatory aspects are well taking into account in the Tunisian SPAMIs, even if they will be still improved but they appear penalized by human resources not very present or whose formation is evaluated weakly. The geographical location of these three SPAMIs, two of which are far removed from the shore and often difficult to access could at least partly explain the lack of permanent staff in the field.

The Pelagos international SPAMI in contrast seems to have well trained personnel but the site is facing serious threats which are detailed in table ll and these details refer to the French part.

As for threats, the basic problems seem to concern all the SPAMIs and seem to be linked to threats outside the SPAMIs and the absence of an integrated management plan for the coastal zone or laws to regulate the uses made of the areas around the SPAMIs. Most of the SPAMIs evaluated had pointed out this gap.

As for the regulation, the gaps pertain to a small number of SPAMIs and imply a weak level **of** application of the other protocols of the Barcelona Convention and the absence of legislation pertaining to the introduction of foreign or genetically modified species.

The most frequently emphasized weak point within the framework of the SPAMI management is linked to the poor quality of the public’s participation and planning within the area and this phenomenon affects nearly 50% of the SPAMIs. Contrary all the SPAMI indicate to lay out representatives (public sector, professionals and scientific community) within their management body.

Inadequate protection concerns 10 SPAMIs out of 12 ; there is also no emergency plan to deal with accidental pollution, the description is inadequate and the SPAMI protection measures are not being respected and in case of infringement the penalties are inadequate.

Absence and the lack of qualified human resources affect half of the SPAMIs.

The same applies to financial means which are adequate in only four SPAMIs from 12. When they are deemed to be inadequate, then this refers to the infrastructure and to the equipment.

Lack of information is mentioned by three SPAMIs including the Pelagos Sanctuary which can be explained by the SPAMI's extensive range and the fact that it was created only recently.

As for cooperation and networking, it is especially contact and exchanges between the SPAMIs which need to be improved.

Conclusion

The ordinary evaluation of SPAMIs registered in 2001 has been carried out in accordance with the decision of the last ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties with a participation level of 100% even if it is difficult to check whether the procedure adopted had been complied with. In the same way the results obtained show a very satisfactory or satisfactory situation in the large majority of cases (nine SPAMIs). The situation rose for the two remaining SPAMI must encourage to a greater attention as well at the regional as national levels in order to check the adequacy between the evaluation and the reality of the SPAMI. The RAC/SPA remains available to support any assistance in this field, if needed.

Insofar as this result is only partial (12 SPAMIs from 21) it seems necessary to continue with this approach and to plan the revision of the SPAMIs registered in 2003 and 2005 for the next biennium. The Parties concerned should also be encouraged to include in the TAC experts with an independent vision and to propose measures to improve the running of the SPAMI. It would also be good if the TAC could announce the difficulties met during the evaluations and be more precise as to how the evaluation had been carried out. Finally a greater attention should be given by the CTC to fulfil boxes concerning the remarks, the conclusions and the recommendations, insofar as this information is of primary importance to improve the effectiveness of the management of the SPAMI.

The usefullness of this approach seems to be clear as it allows identifying the strong and weak points of each SPAMI evaluated and also some of the common problems facing some of the areas. If the SPAMIs are to be more effective and sustainable then there needs to be an improvement in resources available for the SPAMIs (financial, human and technical means) as well as emergency plans development so that a suitable strategy can be set up in case of a serious emergency.

Weaknesses have been identified in the required compulsory criteria and managers and the Parties concerned are to be encouraged to rapidly implement measures to remedy this situation so as not to put in doubt the inclusion of the area on the SPAMI List. Particular care should thus be taken in defining and in implementing the management plan. The

management plan should not be limited only to the perimeter of the SPAMI but should also bear in mind the pressures from the surrounding area and encourage a participative approach for all the users so as to reduce their mutual conflicts. So what is needed is real integrated management of the coastal area on the basis of the last Protocol signed in Madrid in January 2008. If there are different problems from one SPAMI to another, cooperation between the SPAMIs should be strengthened on a national and regional level and sponsoring actions could be looked into.