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I. PREAMBLE

In anticipation of the Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points (FPs) for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), to be held from 2 to 5 July 2013 in Rabat, Morocco, the coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) invited the Focal Points for SPAs to provide a report, for each respective country, on the application of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). The period covered by the reports runs from January 2010 to December 2011. The form is that which was adopted at the Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Decision IG 17/3) and includes the following parts:

- 1. Legal measures
- 2. Specially Protected Areas (SPAs)
- 3. Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)
- 4. Measures to protect and conserve species
- 5. Conservation of the constituent elements of marine and coastal biodiversity
- 6. Coercive measures
- 7. Efficacy

Questions about implementing seven action plans also appear. These include:

- 1. Action Plan on cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean Sea
- 2. Action Plan on introductions of species 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 species of birds listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol
- 6. Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal
- 7. Action Plan for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine turtles

As regards the Action Plans, we have to say that despite its having been adopted in 2008, the Action Plan on the conservation of the coralligenous and other Mediterranean bioconstructions was not included in the present form. It is important to elaborate the relevant form and the one for the draft Action plan for the conservation of dark assemblages if it is adopted.

As in the previous biennium, difficulties were met when preparing this report (problems of connection, communication, modification and postponement of the

date when the forms were to be handed in, political problems encountered by some Parties) which resulted in the late submission of forms, incomplete forms (e.g. papers that had been mentioned in the form were not appended, missing question, tables not filled in) or even differences in form in the forms used (e.g. use of different efficacy indicators).

The present summary was thus made on the basis of fourteen national reports. Since one Party did not answer any of the questions on implementing the Action Plans, the summary was made on a maximum fourteen answers.

For all the Parties that transferred the computerized form online no information was available on the person/s in charge of the report; only the Ministry concerned by the general report appeared. For others, the reports were usually made in partnership with RAC/SPA's Focal Points, and also with other bodies (other ministries, management bodies, universities, etc.) participating.

Finally, it is to be regretted that no computerized analysis system was envisaged, on the basis of the answers provided by the Parties, to provide a comprehensive view of the situation. The summary of the data was thus a long process and the risk of error was always there.

II. LEGAL MEASURES

'Legal measures' tries to identify how the Parties have implemented the provisions of the SPA/BD Protocol. The answers usually refer to an arsenal of existing (sometimes very old) regulatory texts, and only three Parties out of 14 restricted themselves to the period 2010- 2011.

Designation of terrestrial coastal areas (including wetlands) that come under the Party's jurisdiction and are included in the area to which the SPA/BDS Protocol applies)

Eleven Contracting Parties out of 13 have designated these areas, and the two Parties that have not yet done so mainly mention difficulties linked to the political environment and administrative management.

Protection and management of endangered or threatened species

Thirteen Parties out of fourteen mentioned regulatory protection measures for endangered or threatened species.

Protection, conservation and sustainable management of areas of particular natural or cultural value, especially through the creation of SPAs

Thirteen Parties out of fourteen indicated the existence of measures for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of areas.

Ban on throwing away or discharging waste or other substances likely to harm the integrity of the SPAs

Nine Parties out of fourteen indicated that measures exist to ban the throwing away of substances likely to harm the integrity of the SPAs.

Regulating the passage of ships, and of any stop or anchoring in the SPAs' extension area

Seven Parties out of fourteen have regulations that deal with the passage or mooring of ships in SPAs.

Regulation or ban on any prospecting activity or activity that involves modifying the configuration of the soil or exploiting the subsoil of the land part, seabed or subsoil in the SPAs

Twelve Parties out of fourteen have regulatory measures dealing with the prospecting or exploitation of the seabed or subsoil in the SPAs.

Regulating scientific activities in the SPAs

Twelve Parties out of fourteen mentioned rules that regulate scientific research activities within the SPAs, and the procedures for obtaining the corresponding permission.

Regulating or banning any activities that involve the capture of species from SPAs

Twelve Parties out of fourteen mentioned rules about activities involving the capture of species from SPAs.

Regulating and banning any other activity likely to be harmful to the SPAs

Twelve Parties out of fourteen mentioned rules that ban activities likely to harm the SPAs.

Managing species, in particular those appearing in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, to ensure that they enjoy a favourable state of conservation

Nine Parties out of fourteen mentioned management measures concerning the species in Annex II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol, and one of the Parties said that steps were at draft stage.

During the procedures that precede decision-making about projects and activities that can have an impact seriously affecting protected areas and species and their habitats, taking into account the possible direct or indirect, immediate or long-term, impact, including the cumulative impact, of the projects and activities under consideration

Ten Parties out of fourteen gave a positive answer and stressed the existence of impact study procedures before the execution of projects that are likely to affect the environment.

Only height of the Parties mentioned difficulties and challenges encountered in the regulatory application of the Protocol. It is the regulatory framework, financial resources and technical that represent the major difficulties.

III. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

The aim of this part was to take stock of the actions being carried out to help set up, and manage better, the SPAs.

Creation of PAs within the Protocol's geographic field of application

Eleven Contracting Parties out of fourteen answered positively and showed that SPAs exist on their territory, but without taking into account the period covered by the report. Three Parties also mentioned creation new SPA and one declare it intention to declare soon new SPA.

Crafting and applying a Management Plan for each PA

Seven Parties out of fourteen mentioned the crafting or applying of Management Plans. Several Parties said that even if their SPAs did not yet all have a Management Plan, steps were being taken.

Programmes for the observing and scientific monitoring of changes in ecosystems and the impact of human activities

Seven Parties out of fourteen mentioned programmes of observation and monitoring and five Parties said steps are being taken.

Measures to help the local authorities participate in managing the PAs

Ten Parties out of fifteen answered positively and one of the Parties mentioned that steps are being taken. One of the Parties said that the question was not appropriate, as well as one of the two Parties that answered in the negative because his SPAs have no management plan.

Granting assistance to residents who could be affected by the creation of PAs

Six Parties out of fourteen answered positively and some talked about the possibility of compensation.

Mechanisms for funding the promotion or management of PAs or paid activities that are compatible with protection measures

Nine Parties out of fourteen mentioned funding mechanisms for the management of Protected Areas that are rather diverse (e.g. an ecotax on tourist transport, entry fees, temporary concession). One Party said that reflection is under way in this field, and another believed the question was not appropriate.

Appropriate training courses for the managers and trained technical staff of the SPAs

Eight Parties out of fourteen mentioned a training course, but one of the Parties said that training is still insufficient for the marine aspects. Two of the Parties talked about a project being prepared in this field.

Integrating national emergency plans and measures to respond to incidents that can cause harm or constitute a threat to the SPAs

Five Parties out of fourteen answered positively and four Parties said reflection was under way.

Institutional arrangements to permit the overall management of each SPA to cover both its land and sea areas

Eleven Parties out of fourteen mentioned the creation of structures or procedures that enabled both the land and sea aspects to be taken care of. One of the Parties said that at present such arrangements do not yet exist but that a project is under way

Height of the Parties talked of the difficulties and challenges encountered when setting up or managing SPAs. The major difficulties were financial resources and administrative management as well as the technical capacities.

With regard to the tables on SPAs compiled by the Parties, it appears that only three Parties set up new SPAs during the period covered by the report, that one of the Parties will declare 5 new SPA

IV. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE (SPAMIs)

The aim of this part is to take stock of the actions being carried on to create, and better manage, the SPAMIs.

Creating SPAMIs

Five Parties out of fourteen have created SPAMIs, but the creations did not correspond to the period covered by the report

Crafting and implementing a Management Plan for each SPAMI

Five Parties out of fifteen said they had crafted or implemented a Management Plan for their SPAMIs, and one of them said that steps are being taken, to adopt a Management Plan being finalized and another being crafted. Seven Parties said that since they have no SPAMIs, the question is not appropriate.

Five of the Parties said they had met difficulties and challenges in setting up or managing their SPAMIs. The main difficulties seem to be due to the administrative management and financial resources.

With regard to the tables on SPAMIs compiled by the Parties, it seems that no new SPAMI is in the list during the period covered by the report.

V. MEASURES TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE SPECIES

The aim of this part is to take stock of conservation and protection measures related to endangered or threatened species.

Listing the endangered or threatened animal and plant species and determining their distribution in the areas subject to the Party's jurisdiction

Seven Parties out of thirteen mention listing species that are endangered or threatened at national level, or the ongoing updating of existing lists. One Party mentioned that this work is under development. Lastly, the Parties stressed the fact that this kind of study is financially costly and requires specialists in several fields to establish national lists.

Installing bilateral or multilateral cooperation (including agreements) to protect and reconstitute the populations of migratory species in the Protocol's enforcement area

Six Parties out of fourteen mentioned cooperation programmes, particularly the ACCOBAMS Agreement, or indicated actions taken in the context of the Convention on Migratory Species.

Formulating and adopting measures and plans concerning the ex situ reproduction, particularly in captivity, of protected fauna, and the growing of protected flora

Four Parties out of fourteen said they have programmes for the ex situ reproduction or reintroduction of wild fauna. This particularly refers to programmes for the reproduction in

captivity of green turtle (Latin name), or the reproduction of other species for the reintroduction in national parks including sensitive littoral zones.

Granting dispensations, in pursuance of Article 12 Paragraph 6, concerning bans set for the protection of the species appearing in the Annexes to the Protocol

Three Parties out of fourteen mentioned the possibility of dispensations concerning bans set for the protection of the species appearing in the Annexes to the Protocol, without necessarily indicating whether they had had recourse; however, they usually state that these dispensations are given for scientific objectives

Taking the appropriate steps to regulate the intentional or unintentional introduction of non-native or genetically modified species into the wild

Seven Parties out of fourteen said that have measures regulating the introduction into the wild of non-native or genetically modified species. One of them also stated that a database on non-native or genetically modified species was established. Two Parties indicates that actions are under way and another Party confirm that introduction of genetically modified species is prohibited.

As regards this part, height of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered when setting up measures to manage and protect the species. The main difficulties seem to be due to the technical capacities and political framework.

VI. CONSERVATION OF THE CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

This part takes stock of the more general aspects of the conservation of the constitutive elements of biodiversity.

Listing the constituent elements of marine and coastal biodiversity

Seven Parties out of thirteen have carried out, or are carrying out, inventorying actions with particular emphasis on marine areas in particular, due to the application of the European Habitats, Fauna, Flora Directive and the extension of the Natura 2000 network out to sea. Three other Parties said that these activities are being prepared or under development.

Formulating a national strategy and an Action Plan to protect the constituent elements of marine and coastal biodiversity

Five Parties out of thirteen stated that they have national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity. Two countries considered the work done in the SAP BIO context (national report and the related National Action Plans) as major lines to be followed for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity at national level.

Only six of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in setting up measures to conserve the constituent elements of biodiversity. No cause seemed dominant and the Parties mentioned equally the difficulties related to the financial resources and technical capacities.

VII. COERCIVE MEASURES

In this part the report examines the application of measures regarding non-respect for the arrangements concerning the banning and regulating of all the activities involving the capture of species from SPAs, as provided for in Article 11.3 and Article 11.5.

Arrangements concerning the banning and regulating of activities involving the capture of species from SPAs

Only five Parties completed the table on arrangements for banning and regulating activities involving the capture of species from SPAs.

Arrangements in Article 11.3 and Article 11.5

Only one Contracting Parties provided answers about the arrangements in Article 11.5.

VIII. EFFICACITY

The part on efficacy was relatively little dealt with by the Parties, since only four Parties completed the information requested and often in a very incomplete way, which does not allow us to get a clear view of the situation.

IX. ACTION PLANS ADOPTED WITHIN THE MAP CONTEXT

IX.1. Action Plan on cartilaginous fishes

Has the Party given chondrichthyans a legal status that satisfies the conventions adopted to protect them against degradation and harm due to human activities?

Five Parties out of thirteen said they have given chondrichthyans a legal status that protects them against harm due to human activities. Three Parties said that some species are protected in the context of other conventions or the European regulations and do not enjoy national protection. Lastly, one of the Parties stated that the entire questionnaire on chondrichthyans does not apply at its level. Only one country indicates action underway in this field

Has the Party established specific programmes in the context of the IPOA- Sharks FAO plan to conserve/manage sharks?

Four Parties out of thirteen said they have specific programmes in the context of the FAO's shark conservation plan, and one of them mentioned the European Community's setting up of an Action Plan for sharks in 2009. One of the Parties said that a National Action Plan is under discussion. Two of the Parties, judged that the question does not apply in that the concerned species are not species that are targeted by the fishery at national level.

Has the Party taken steps about fishing?

Five Parties out of thirteen said they have taken steps concerning the fishing of cartilaginous fishes or implemented the fishing restrictions imposed in the context of the European Community. Two Parties stated that actions in this field are under development.

Has the Party launched scientific research programmes on chondrichthyans?

Six Parties out of thirteen said they have launched programmes of scientific research on chondrichthyans or mentioned follow-up projects (data on by-catch, positioning satellite markers, follow-up of catch). One of the Parties said that a research programme is under development.

Has the Party undertaken training programmes for specialists and fishing technicians and managers on the study and conservation of chondrichthyans?

Two of the Parties has undertaken a specific training programme for fishing managers and technicians on the conservation of chondrichthyans, but two Parties stated that this is at project stage and a third stated that such actions are anticipated in the context of the Action Plan launched by the European Community in 2009.

Has the Party crafted documents and information materials for local authorities, residents, teachers, tourists, people working in commercial fishing and sport fishermen, divers, and all the other groups likely to be concerned?

Four Parties out of thirteen mentioned information documents crafted especially for fishermen. One of the Parties mentioned the publishing in 2010 of a guide for identifying sharks and rays. Two Parties mentioned producing presentation papers for awareness campaigns among fishermen, including on chondrichthyans, or documents on sustainable fishing.

Only seven of the Parties spoke about the difficulties and challenges encountered when setting up the Action Plan on cartilaginous fishes. The main difficulties seem to be of a financial nature and those linked to regulatory framework.

IX.2. Action Plan on introductions of species and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea

Has the Party adopted legislation to check the introduction of marine species and taken the necessary steps to transpose into its own national law the provisions of the pertinent international treaties?

Eight Parties out of thirteen said they have adopted general legislation to check the introduction of marine species, or are implementing the measures decreed by the European Community in this field. Two Parties said that actions are being prepared in this field.

Has the Party an assessment of the situation concerning the introduction of marine species?

Nine Parties out of thirteen have an assessment of the situation concerning the introduction of marine species. One Party said these assessments. One of the Parties said that steps are being taken.

Has the Party a mechanism to monitor and fight the discharge of ballast water into its territorial waters?

Three Parties out of thirteen have a mechanism to fight and monitor the discharge of ballast water into their territorial waters. One of them said it has ratified the IMO Convention on the management of ballast waters, and another that it has passed regulations to this effect, but it stated that progress remains to be made in the enforcement, with a better coordination between the authorities in charge of protection and those in charge of monitoring.

Lastly, three Parties said that reflection is under way in this field with, in particular, an experimental follow-up project for ports

Has the Party set up an Action Plan to fight against the introduction of non- native marine species and to mitigate the harmful effects thereof?

Three Parties out of thirteen said they have set up an Action Plan to fight against the introduction of non-native marine species, and three of them said there are progress in this regard.

Has the Party set up training and awareness programmes on the risks, legal aspects, management of ballast water and the fouling of ships' hulls?

Only two Party out of thirteen said it has set up a training and awareness programme on the risks linked to the introduction of non-native species and on ways of handling this problem, and one of the Parties said reflection is under way.

Only height of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in setting up an Action Plan on introductions of species and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea. The difficulties mentioned concern financial resources, technical capacities and administrative management.

IX.3. Action Plan for the conservation of species of birds

Does the Party grant legal protection to the bird species?

Twelve Parties out of thirteen give legal protection to bird species.

On the Party's territory, are there Protected Areas created to conserve the bird species that appear on the lists in the Annexes to the Protocol?

Twelve Parties out of thirteen said that on their territories they have Protected Areas to conserve the bird species in the SPA/BD Protocol, in particular within the context of implementing the European Habitats, Fauna, Flora Directive and designating special protection areas.

Has the Party launched one or several research programmes on one or several of the bird species appearing in the Annexes to the Protocol?

In this context, ten Parties out of thirteen said that they have started research programmes on protected bird species in the context of the Barcelona Convention. These programmes particularly concern the Cory's shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*, the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, the osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, the Eleonora's falcon *Falco*

eleonorae, the Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, the little tern *Sterna albifrons*, Audouin's gull *Larus audouinii*.

Has the Party an Action Plan for one or several of the species appearing in the Annexes to the Protocol?

Five Parties out of thirteen said that they have Action Plans for one or several of the bird species appearing in Annex II to the Protocol. These Action Plans concern the osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, the Eleonora's falcon *Falco eleonorae*, and the Audouin's gull *Larus audouinii*. Lastly, one of the Parties stated that an inventory was started in 2010 that should lead on to the formulating of a National Action Plan for some species.

Only six of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in setting up an Action Plan for the conservation of bird species. The main difficulty mentioned seems to be of a financial nature. The regulatory framework and technical capacities are in second position.

IX.4. Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans

Has the Party crafted an Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans?

Two Parties out of thirteen said that they have crafted Action Plans for the conservation of cetaceans; Two Parties mentioned ongoing reflection.

Has the Party carried out studies and set up scientific research programmes on cetaceans?

Six Parties out of thirteen said that they have set up research programmes on cetaceans, particularly in the context of one of the SPAMIs, and two other Parties said that these actions are only carried on by NGOs.

Has the Party set up a cetacean stranding monitoring network?

Six Parties out of thirteen mentioned monitoring networks for cetacean strandings that were set up during or after the period covered by the report. they mentioned either networks implemented by NGOs, research bodies or other public bodies, or actions now in preparation.

Has the Party set up MPAs and/or SPAMIs to protect one or several species of cetacean?

Five Parties out of thirteen said they have set up MPAs for the protection of cetaceans, but that does not always refer to the period covered by the report. Two Parties mentioned a creation project.

Only eight of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans. The main difficulty mentioned is once again of a financial nature and administrative management.

IX.5. Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

Has the Party adopted protection status for the plant species and assemblages that are of importance for the marine environment, in particular the meadows?

Ten Parties out of thirteen said they have granted protection status to plant formations that are of conservation importance, but some Parties seemed to restrict the important species to the marine magnoliophytes only, and to *Posidonia* in particular.

Do the Party's rules on environmental impact studies take into account an impact analysis for each human activity undertaken over meadows and other plant formations that are important for the marine environment?

Nine Parties out of thirteen said they have rules on environmental impact studies that take into account the impact of human activities on meadows and other important plant formations. For one Party, these regulations are being crafted as part of an environment code.

Has the Party set up Protected Areas devoted to meadows and other plant formations that are important for the marine environment?

Six Parties out of thirteen said they have set up Protected Areas devoted to meadows and other important plant formations, in particular within the context of the designation of Natura 2000 sites out at sea. Among the five Parties that replied in the negative, two said there were none during the period covered by the report. Two Parties said that sites are being designated.

Has the Party done studies and scientific research to inventory and map marine plant formations that are natural monuments?

Six Parties out of thirteen said they have done studies to inventory and map marine plant formations that are natural monuments, and several stated that these actions were done in the context of the European Natura 2000 programmes and focus on the *Posidonia* meadows. Only one Party indicated that actions are under way in this field.

Has the Party established programmes to map the main meadows and other plant formations that are important for the marine environment?

Eight Parties out of thirteen said they have set up programmes to map the main meadows and other important plant formations.

Has the Party undertaken awareness and education actions (targeting users of the sea, local people and the wider public) concerning the conservation of marine plants, in particularly the organogenic surface formations?

Four Parties out of thirteen have undertaken awareness and education actions concerning the conservation of marine plants, with in particular the publishing of a popular work on *Posidonia*, or on protected or endangered marine species, or actions within their SPAs. Lastly, two of the Parties mentioned actions that are being prepared.

Has the Party started specialist training programmes for the study and conservation of marine plants?

Four Parties out of thirteen said they have started specialist-training programmes for the study and conservation of marine plants, like programmes for training in mapping habitats. Two Parties said that training actions are being prepared.

Has the Party an Action Plan, established on the basis of the scientific data available, for the conservation of marine plants?

Two Parties has established an Action Plan for the conservation of marine plants. One of the Parties mentioned ongoing reflection to prepare an action Plan.

Only nine of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation. The main difficulties mentioned are once again financial resources, plus a lack of technical capacities in this field.

IX.6. Action Plan for the conservation of the monk seal

Has the Party conferred protection status on the monk seal?

Eight Parties out of thirteen said they have conferred protection status on the monk seal. One of the Parties mentioned that a draft law is under preparation. Lastly, three of the Parties said that since the monk seal is absent from their territory, almost the entire questionnaire does not apply

As regards fishing, does the Party expressly forbid the use of dynamite, the carrying of firearms on board ship, and all the fishing techniques that can imperil the monk seal?

Seven Parties out of thirteen said they have installed bans on fishing with dynamite and the carrying of firearms on board ship. Lastly, three of the Parties said that since the monk seal is absent from their territory, almost the entire questionnaire does not apply.

If the Party still has monk seal populations of reproductive age, have steps been taken to keep them away from all human activity?

Two Parties out of thirteen said they have monk seal populations that are of reproductive age and that they have taken steps to keep them away from all human activity, but for one of them this concerns Atlantic populations. One of the Parties mentioned the drafting of a some measures is under way. Finally, a total six Parties stated that since they have no monk seal population of reproductive age, the question does not apply.

On the Party's territory, do there exist SPAs created to conserve the monk seal populations or their potential habitats?

Six Parties out of thirteen said they have created Protected Areas for the conservation of monk seal populations or their potential habitats.

Has the Party made a list of reproduction caves and other habitats that are extremely important for the monk seal?

Six Parties out of thirteen said they have made a list of the reproduction caves and other habitats that are extremely important for the monk seal. Among these, one mentioned the identifying of 568 sites, 99 of which are caves probably used for reproduction.

Has the Party implemented programmes of data collection on the monk seal?

Seven Parties out of thirteen said they have implemented programmes of data collection on the monk seal. Three other Parties mentioned projects to do this.

Has the Party set up awareness, information and training programmes on the conservation of the monk seal?

Three Parties out of thirteen said they have set up awareness, information and training programmes on the conservation of the monk seal. These awareness actions are sometimes carried out as part of inter-state cooperation or through NGOs and concern the circulation of brochures for the wider public.

Has the Party an Action Plan for the conservation of the monk seal and of its potential habitats?

Three Parties out of thirteen said they have crafted Action Plans for the conservation of the monk seal and of its potential habitats, and one Party mentioned that the action plan is axed on the conservation of its habitats in three sites. Another Party indicate the element for the Action Plan is already included in the law protecting this species..

Only five of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in setting up an Action Plan for the conservation of the monk seal. The main difficulties reported concern administrative management and technical capacities and also financial resources.

IX.7. Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles

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

Twelve Parties out of thirteen said they have laws and regulations for the protection of marine turtles. Lastly, one of the Parties said that the entire questionnaire on marine turtles does not apply to it.

Has the Party taken steps to reduce by-catch of marine turtles?

Four Parties out of thirteen said they have measures to reduce by-catch of marine turtles. Three Parties mentioned actions being prepared but without going into any detail, and one of the Parties mentioned the setting up of such measure during nesting season and within a protected areas.

Has the Party set up care and rescue centres for marine turtles?

Ten Parties out of thirteen said they have set up care and rescue centres for marine turtles.

In the Party's territory, do SPAs exist created to conserve populations of marine turtles or their potential habitats?

Seven Parties out of thirteen said they have set up Protected Areas to conserve the populations of marine turtles or their potential habitats and one party indicate that 21 nesting beaches are protected; One Party mentioned a project to do this, related to several nesting sites.

Has the Party made an inventory of marine turtle nesting sites?

Seven Parties out of thirteen said they have made an inventory of marine turtle nesting beaches, but most stated that these activities happened before the period covered by the report. A total five Parties said that the question does not apply, since they have no nesting sites on their Mediterranean coast

Does the Party participate in marine turtle tagging programmes?

Eleven Parties out of thirteen said they participate in marine turtle tagging programmes, and one of the Parties also mentioned putting on satellite markers.

Has the Party set up programmes of awareness, information and training on the conservation of marine turtles?

Ten Parties out of thirteen said they have set up programmes of awareness, information and training on the conservation of marine turtles. These awareness actions concern both schoolchildren and the general public and specialists. They are usually organised at nesting sites or in care centres. These programmes have proved to be important, particularly for fishermen.

Has the Party and Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles?

Six Parties out of thirteen said they have Action Plans for the conservation of marine turtles. One Party indicated that the Action Plan was revised and another Party mentioned that an Action Plan is being prepared by an NGO and three relevant Ministry.

Five of the Parties mentioned the difficulties and challenges encountered in setting up the Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles. The main difficulties reported concern financial resources, technical capacities and administrative management.

X. CONCLUSION

Because of the political difficulties encountered for the past several months in the region, the present summary could only be made on the basis of fifteen reports out of a total twenty-two Contracting Parties. Furthermore, as with the previous exercise, it seems that several Parties only gave partial answers to the questionnaire, or answered without really paying attention to the period covered by the report. Thus it is hard to draw up a complete balance sheet on a regional scale for the period under consideration.

It does however seem that the period 2010-2011 witnessed progress made in implementing the SPA/BD Protocol at regulation level. Indeed, several Parties adopted regulatory arrangements (e.g. laws, decrees) that enabled the Protocol to be better applied. More generally, three-quarters of the Parties that answered the questions have regulatory measures as far as the following are concerned:

- designation of Protected Areas
- the protection and management of endangered or threatened species
- a ban on the discharge of substances likely to harm the SPAs
- the regulating of ships' passage or mooring and scientific activities within the SPAs
- the regulating or banning of activities involving the captures of species in the SPAs, or that are harmful to the SPAs
- taking into account the possible impact projects and activities can have on protected areas and species.

Concerning the SPAs, three-quarters of the Parties that answered the questions has SPA on their territories. With regard to the tables on SPAs compiled by the Parties, it appears that only three Parties set up new SPAs during the period covered by the report, that one of the Parties will declare 5 new SPA

As for managing these SPAs, progress remains to be made, since only 50% of the Parties stated that they have crafted or implemented management plans.

No new SPAs were put on the SPAMI List during the period covered by the report. As regards management, there too progress remains to be made, since all the Parties that have SPAMIs have not yet crafted or implemented management plans for them.

As for the measures to protect and conserve species, a list of endangered or threatened species progress remains to be made .

The parts relating to coercive measures were only dealt with by less than half the Parties that filled in the form, so it is hard to draw a conclusion. Similarly, the absence of information from the Parties, and the imprecise nature of the data contained in the report, does not generally allow us to give correct information on the efficacy indicators. It would be a good

idea to draw the Parties' attention to this point and invite them to be more rigorous, if a true balance sheet of progress made has to be drawn up in the future.

Finally, analysis of the data on the various Action Plans shows that in terms of regulatory status it is the monk seal and the birds, and then the marine turtles, that enjoy the most legal measures (this element having not been assessed in the context of the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans)

On the other hand, it is the cartilaginous fishes, the monk seal, cetaceans and birds that benefit from National Action Plans or specific programmes.

The research programmes undertaken during the period mostly targeted marine vegetation, cetaceans and the monk seal.

Lastly, awareness actions gave priority consideration to marine turtles and the monk seal (this part having not been assessed in the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans and that related to birds).