

Format for the Periodic Review of the SPAMIs

SPAMI Name: SP4 Natural Park of Cap de Creus

SECTION I: CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST

(Art. 8.2. of the Protocol and General Principles and C and D of Annex I)

In each question, crossed references to the Annotated Format (AF) are given.

1. CONSERVATION STATUS

1.1. Does the SPAMI fulfill one of the criteria related to Mediterranean interest as presented in Protocol's (Annex I section B para. 2), strictly maintain the status of populations of its protected species (those in Annex II to the Protocol), the status of its habitats and no adverse significant changes in the functioning of its ecosystems? (Article 8.2.) (See 3.4. and 4 in the AF)

YES

In case of "no", indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies, their relative seriousness and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

1.2 If "yes", are the objectives, set out in the original SPAMI application for designation, actively pursued?

YES

2. LEGAL STATUS

2.1. Does the area maintain or improved its legal protection status from the date of the previous report? (A-e and C-2, Annex I). See 7.1.2 in the AF

YES – management has improved since listing and area maintains legal protection status

2.2. Does the legal declaration of this area consider the conservation of natural values as the primary objective? (A-a and D1 in Annex I).

See 7.1.3 in the AF

YES

2.3. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area? (D4 Annex I). See 7.4.3 in the AF

YES

2.4. Are external influences/threats been taken into account in the legal framework of the SPAMI? Does the legal text clearly establish coordination means between land and sea authorities? (D4 Annex I, Art.7.4. in the Protocol).

YES

In case there is no sea within the SPAMI, this question would be non-applicant.
See 7.4.3. in the AF

Indicate measures that have been adopted to address these influences/threats.
In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

Buoys installation for diving and recreational boating.

Use and Management Plan processing in the marine part of the park.

To know the conservation state of the most interesting marine habitats through annual surveys.

To know bionomics and bathymetry for the background of our reserves.

3. MANAGEMENT METHODS (General principles D Annex 1)

3.1. Does the area have the same or an improved management body/authority as when the SPAMI was established and/or last evaluated?

Existence of a management body with sufficient powers (Art. 7.2.d, 7.2.f).
D6 - Annex I: "To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area". See 8.1. in the AF

YES

3.2. Is the management plan in force?

Has the management plan been officially adopted? (D7 Annex I). See 8.2.1, 8.2.2. in the AF

Yes for land management, marine management plan being developed (and should be completed by 2016)

3.3. Does the management plan address the requirements set out in

article 7 of the Protocol and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated Format?

More details useful for the evaluation of the management plan are addressed in question 7.1 of this questionnaire.

In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

The marine management plan is already redacted and is waiting to be applied; more stakeholder support is being gained.

4. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

4.1. Is there basic equipment, human and financial resources ensured to the management body?

(Art. 7.2.d, 7.2.f. D6 in Annex I: "To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area"). See 9.1, 9.2. in the AF

YES

4.2. Does the area have a monitoring program?

(D8 - Annex I: "The program should include the identification and monitoring of a certain number of significant parameters for the area in question, in order to allow the assessment of the state and evolution of the area, as well as the effectiveness of protection and management measures implemented, so that they may be adapted if need be"). See 9.3.3. in the AF

YES

If yes, what are the monitoring parameters and the management objectives being addressed by these parameters?

Monitoring parameters: natural heritage (fishes, seagrass, bryozoan, coral and gorgonian) and professional and recreational activities (artisanal and recreational fishing, diving and recreational boating).

Management objectives: to know the evolution in natural heritage and impacts done by professional and recreational activities.

4.3 Is there a feedback mechanism that establishes an explicit link between the monitoring results and the management objectives, and which allows adaptation of protection and management measures?

YES

In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies, their relative seriousness, and the date in which they are expected

SECTION II: FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA
(Section B4 of the Annex I, and other obligatory for a SPA (Art. 6 and 7 of the Protocol))

5. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT

5.1 Assess the level of threats within the site to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a Annex I).

See 5.1. consider also 3.5.2.b, 6.3 & 6.4. in the AF

In particular:

Unregulated exploitation of natural resources

(e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources) See 5.1.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")

2

Serious threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species)

See 5.1.2. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")

2

Increase of human presence (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...)

See 5.1.3. in AF

(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")

2

Historic and current conflicts between users or user groups

See 5.1.4., 6.2. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats"):

2

Please include a prescriptive list of threats that are of concern and are evaluated individually

Anchoring, coral poaching, occasional illegal encroachment by industrial fisheries, spearfishing.

5.2 Assess the level of external threats to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a of the Annex I). See 5.2. in the AF

In particular:

Pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current.

See 5.2.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

3

Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values.

See 5.2.2

(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

2

Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area

See 6.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

2

Please include a prescriptive list of external threats that are of concern and are evaluated individually.

Proposal for fracking in offshore waters, hydrocarbon dumping risk when weather is bad, ships come nearer coast – both threats are improbable, and not in park waters themselves.

5.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or land-use laws in the area limiting or surrounding the SPAMI? (B4.e Annex I). See 5.2.3.

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1=YES – JUSTIFIED BY THE PRESENCE OF A GOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LAND PARK ADJACENT TO THE SPAMI

5.4. Does the management plan for the SPAMI have influence over the governance of the surrounding area? (D5-d Annex I). See 7.4.4. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

6. REGULATIONS

6.1. Assess the degree of legal regulations See 7.4.2. in the AF

In particular, within the national framework:

Regulations concerning the strengthening of the application of the other Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, particularly dumping, passage of ships and modification of the soil (*Art. 6b, 6c, 6e in the Protocol, D5-a Annex I*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Regulations on the introduction of any species not indigenous to the specially protected area in question, or of any genetically modified species, (*Art. 6 d in the Protocol, D5-b Annex I*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Regulations concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and projects that could significantly affect the protected areas (*Art. 17 in the Protocol*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

In particular, within the SPAMI framework:

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 (*Art. 6 g in the Protocol, D5-c Annex I*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

7. MANAGEMENT

7.1. Assess the degree of detail of the management plan

(e.g. zoning, regulations for each zone, competencies and responsibilities, governing bodies, management programs as protection, natural resource management, tourism, public use, education, research, monitoring, maintenance, services and concessions....) See 8.2.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= No Management Plan / 1= Weak / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

7.2. Assess to what extent land ownership is well determined

(Undetermined land tenure regimes and registrations are a common source of conflicts in most protected areas world-wide)

See 7.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Undetermined / 1= Weak / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

3

7.3. Is there a body representing the public, professional and non-governmental sector and the scientific community linked to the management body? (B4b, B4c of the Annex I). See 8.1.2. & 8.1.3

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

7.4. Assess the quality of the involvement by the public, and particularly of local communities, in the planning and management of the area (B4.b of the Annex I)

(e.g. adequate planning involves local stakeholders and accommodates within appropriate management regimes a spectrum of possible multiple uses and regulated human activities, within the primary objective of conservation of marine and coastal environments) See 8.1.4. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= No involvement / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1

7.5. Is the management plan binding for other national/local administrations with competencies in the area? See 8.2.2 in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

8. PROTECTION MEASURES

8.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures

In particular:

Are the area boundaries adequately marked on land and, if applicable, adequately marked on the sea? See 8.3.1. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

Yes on land but demarcation at sea incomplete. Offshore buoys to mark outer boundaries of park require expensive lights / buoy systems.

0

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? See 8.3.2. 8.3.3. in AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are third party agencies also empowered to enforce regulations relating to the SPAMI protective measures ?

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1 Park uses police and coast guard to enforce

Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement of regulations and is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions? See 8.3.4. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or other serious emergencies? (Art. 7.3. in the Protocol, Recom. 13th Parties Meeting)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1- Contingency plan for whole of Catalonia exists and is operating well.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES

9.1. Adequacy of the human resources available to the management body (Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I) (e.g. enough number of employees to ensure adequate management and protection of the area) See 9.1.1. in the AF

Is there a permanent field administrator of the area?

See 9.1.2. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are there other permanent staffs in the field?

(e.g. technicians, wardens, guides, ...) See 9.1.2. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1 How many?

9.2. Assess the adequacy of the training level of available staff

(Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I) (e.g. enough training level to ensure protection of the area). See 9.1.2. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

10. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS

10.1. Assess the degree of adequacy of the financial means

Sufficient resources for the development and implementation of the management plan, including e.g., interpretation, education, training, research, surveillance and enforcement of regulations. See 9.2.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1 Additional funds needed for marine management, including staff and surveillance

10.2. Assess the basic infrastructure (Art.7.2-f in the Protocol)

Administrative premises in the site, visitors' facilities (reception centre, trails, signs...), specific information, education and awareness materials

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

10.3. Assess the equipment.

Guard posts and signs on the main accesses, means to respond to emergencies, marine and terrestrial vehicles, radio and communications equipment. See 9.2.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1

11. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

11.1. Assess the extent of knowledge about the area and its surrounding zones. (D3 - Annex I: Considering at least specific maps,

habitat distribution, species inventories, and socio-economical factors)
See 9.3.1. in the AF
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1 MARINE HABITAT CLASSIFICATION AND MAPPING ABSENT

11.2. Assess the adequacy of the program for data collection and the monitoring program.

See 9.3.2. in the AF
(SCORE: 0= Inexistent / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

12. COOPÉRATION AND NETWORKING

12.1. Are other national or international organizations collaborating with human or financial resources? (e.g. researchers, experts, volunteers..).

See 9.1.3. in the AF
(SCORE: 0= No / 1= Weakly / 2= Satisfactory / 3= Excellent)

2

12.2. Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs (especially in other nations) (Art. 8, Art. 21.1, Art. 22.1., Art. 22.3, A.d in Annex I)

(SCORE: 0= No / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

COMMENTS by the Technical Advisory Commission

In general, the support to this park is nowhere near what is needed, given its national, Mediterranean, and global significance and potential to serve as a demonstration model for multi-use, integrated protection.

Developing an acceptable management regime for marine waters is difficult given the park's size, complexity, and the propensity of the public here to reject the idea that change may be needed. (The populace feels the area is being conserved adequately without the park, and is not aware enough of the prospects for us becoming unsustainable, nor the benefits of conservation to them.) There is resistance to additional regulations or management on the marine portion – with the exception of regulations against red coral removal, which stakeholders feel is a poor use of the resource (realize that red coral left in place can bring more economic benefit than red coral removed and sold as jewellery).

Major issue is placement of moorings and prevention of anchoring. Stakeholders are opposed to this – as they want open access maintained. Suggest piloting moorings in only a few sites (see below) to show benefits, and create an incentive system to catalyse a change in attitudes.

Because staffing is so limited for a park of this size and complexity, suggest ways to use volunteer associations to be 'eyes on the water', and to do public outreach.

CONCLUSION

This immensely valuable site certainly deserves continued SPAMI status. A management plan for the marine park is being developed with stakeholder engagement – although the public is difficult to work with and largely opposed to management of any kind. The park is able to build on the good management accomplished in the adjacent terrestrial area, with Natural Park zone, Natural Sites of National Interest, and Integral (terrestrial) Reserves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Look for ways to catalyze more public education, awareness raising, and stewardship – especially through drawing on other examples of how marine parks provide benefits, but also by piloting marine management activities at key, priority sites.
- 2) Look for ways to provide financing for additional management activities, including volunteer-based surveillance (soft enforcement), and education.
- 3) The park has adequate infrastructure, and could capitalise on this by finding funding to hire more staff, or contract needed services under consultancies. The value of providing sites for research, especially applied research that has application to management, should be more broadly communicated (and this value should be included in future SPAMI evaluations).
- 4) A basic habitat classification and mapping should be done to serve as a basis for future planning (such as the possible expansion of the Marine Integral Reserve to include the Ille de Massa) and for monitoring the efficacy of management.

SIGNATURES

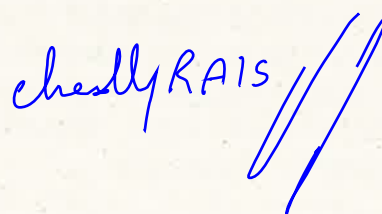
National Focal Point



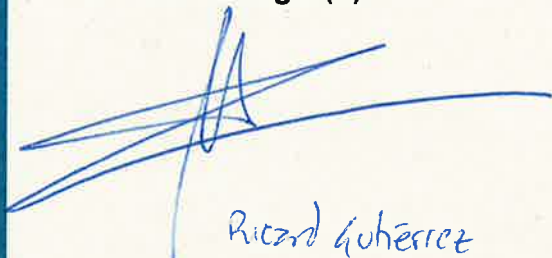
Independent Experts



M. TUNDI AGARDY



SPAMI Manager(s)



Ricardo Guhérrez

(ADDITIONAL PAGES MAY BE ADDED FOR EACH MEMBER'S COMMENTS)

SPAMI VALUE-ADDED

Questions		Score obtained	Maximum
5	Threats and surrounding context	17	23
6	Regulations	4	4
7	Management	8	11
8	Protection measures	4	5
9	Human resources	4	5
10	Financial and material means	4	9
11	Information and knowledge	3	6
12	Cooperation and networkings	4	6
TOTAL		48	69

