

Format for the Periodic Review of the SPAMIs

SPAMI Name: SP 2 Archipelago of Cabrera National Park

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)

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.

YES

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 maintains or has 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

- Law 30/2014, of National Parks (Ley 30/2014, de parques nacionales)
- Decree 58/2006, approval of the Management Plan (Decreto 58/2006, aprobación del PRUG)

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

(See 3.1)

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.

The main external threats to Cabrera National park are fishing –either sport or professional–, tourism and military manoeuvres –as the owner of the archipelago is the Spanish Ministry of Defence. All of them have been banned or regulated from the setting up of the national park:

a) sport fishing is totally banned (Declaration Law 14/1991; Royal Decree 941/2001 or "Fisheries Decree"; and Management Plan (Decree 58/2006)).

b) professional fisheries has specific regulations for each métier, and it is restricted to 4 fishermen associations in harbours located in the vicinity of the park.

c) visitation and tourism is a closed system; strictly regulated through a quota for numbers of sailing boats and ferries, and daily number of visitors disembarked. Zonification adds additional protection to special areas like islets or sea cliff nesting species breeding zones.

d) Military activities are strictly modulated. Military Special Plan is now being applied and will be formally incorporated into the new management plan.

(Declaration Law 14/1991; Royal Decree 941/2001 or "Fisheries Decree"; and Management Plan (Decree 58/2006)).

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

The management has been transferred to the Regional Administration of Balearic Islands and depends on the General Directorate in charge of Natural Environment. The planning and general administration lies on the park staff while the technical and operational management is ensured by the Balearic Institute of Nature, a public corporation.

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

Decree 58/2006, approval of the Management Plan (Decreto 58/2006, aprobación del PRUG). A new management plan is expected to be approved soon for a ten year period.

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?

YES

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.

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

General budget comes from the Regional Government.

Network lines of financing comes from the Spanish Central Administration. The park now has income generating fees; those revenues flow directly from visitors to the Park administration.
(See 3.1 and 10.1)

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?

A partial monitoring program –not published as a separate piece of legislation– is followed on an annual or biannual basis. Main parameters which are evaluated are:

- a) fisheries: CPUE of each metier; targeted species; spatial and temporal distribution of métiers;
- b) Invasive species, either on land or marine species -mainly algae;
- d) UNE-EN ISO 14001-2004 certification: water, energy, residues, management objectives, set up and evaluated on a six month regular basis.

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

Annual reports on the monitoring activities are prepared and made available to the management board.

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 to be overcome.

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")

3

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

a) Introduced alien species –either land or marine taxa. 2

b) Poaching. 2?

c) Human presence: divers, general visitors and boats. 2

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")

3

Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area See 6.1. in the AF

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

3

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

There is a concern that commercial fisheries in the wider area continues to be a threat to seabirds and turtles.

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

There is a Marine Reserve legally established by the Regional Administration in the north of the park waters, and also another area in the west waters of the park which has been protected. Furthermore, there is a management plan for the Natura 2000 sites which includes the surrounding waters and which is being developed.

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

Although the management plan has no legal influence on other sectors, the significance of the activities undertaken in the plan has the potential to influence governance of other sectors in surrounding areas.

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

This refers to the existing management plan, which is expected to be replaced soon by the new ten year management plan.

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)

2

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

Being issued by decree, the management plan is legally binding for all administrations.

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)

1

After several years of existence of these marks in the park, the managers of the park realize that there was no need to have marks in the outer limits of the marine area. However, during the summer marks (buoys) are installed in specific protected marine zones.

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

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

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

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

For the planning unit the park would need more technicians working on the park.

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

(See 4.1)

Just after the transfer to the Regional Administration and in coincidence with the economic recession (immediately after the last review), the budget dedicated for conservation and the technical support decreased dramatically for at least two years.

The national administration budget covered some of the monitoring marine activities during some years.

Subsequently, the park management body was able to work with limited budget and reorganized management and monitoring activities.

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)

3

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)

2

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)

2

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

Nevertheless, there are knowledge gaps in the marine and terrestrial environment, especially in the marine area.

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

Agriculture, Food and Environment Ministry, Universities, volunteers, NGOs, Foundations, etc...

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

- The monitoring and knowledge for marine and terrestrial areas has been balanced for the first time, which is very positive.
- The budget on research monitoring and management has to be at least kept and increased to the level before economic recession to fulfil the gaps that have been detected in some cases.
- A sufficient representation of stakeholders should be included in the board.
- Cabrera is an example for the rest of the protected areas in the Mediterranean, especially in some aspects as small scale fisheries management. This gives an added value to the SPAMI and to the National Park which can be an example to some other protected areas with similar conditions.

CONCLUSION

Cabrera National Park is a well-designed marine and terrestrial park and remains outstanding in the Spanish protected area system. The archipelago is highly valued by residents and tourists alike, and its pristine nature makes it extremely important as a place for scientific study as well. The two main historic threats to the archipelago: fishing and unregulated recreational use (and with these the attendant pressures caused by invasive species introductions and pollution impacts), were adequately addressed in the design of the park, the zonation adopted, and the regulations pertaining to extractive use and limited entry.

Following the transfer of administration to the Regional Government, the budget was severely constrained and monitoring and research activities were limited. Since that time, park management has figured out how to continue practicing effective management with a much-reduced budget, but additional resources could help strengthen the monitoring and research and adequately assess and address threats, including the pressures brought about by increased visitation and dive tourism.

The park remains well-managed, with a well-articulated quota system for visitation (300 persons maximum at any time on the islands, and a limited number of mooring buoys for boats reserved in advance), and an effective enforcement regime.

The new management structure allows for revenue generation through user fees, profits from which flow directly back to park management. Nonetheless, costs of surveillance, maintenance, interpretation, and public outreach are high due to the size of the park and its remote location. The visitor's center in Colonia San Jordi remains a flagship facility, but the

management costs have strained the park management (operating costs have been reduced from 1.3 million euros per year to 450,000 euros per year).

Artisanal fisheries continue to exert pressure on the marine resources of the archipelago, though the limited entry scheme prevents overexploitation, for the most part, and the particular gears used are nondestructive, with very limited by-catch. The fishing community is an important proponent for the park, and performs de facto enforcement functions as well. Studies could fill further knowledge gaps such as how an extension of the park would affect not only the biota but also the fishermen.

The governance of the park, with the constitution of the Board and active engagement of stakeholders, is a model for other protected areas in Spain and beyond. Improving the stakeholder representation on the Board, as is being explored, will only strengthen its management and demonstration value. Overall, this protected area certainly deserves continuing SPAMI status, and sharing lessons learned with other SPAMIs throughout the Mediterranean will help strengthen the overall network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Technical Advisory Committee recommends to pay special attention to the increase in boats and divers visiting the marine area and take appropriate measures to keep this within levels compatible with the carrying capacity of the zone.
- The new management plan should be finalised and approved as soon as possible.
- The management body of the park and the relevant national and international organizations are encouraged to promote the use of Cabrera National Park as a model for other Mediterranean MPAs.

SIGNATURES

For National Focal Point:

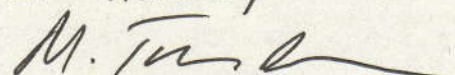
Elena Cansuegra Alcalde

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the word "Elena" written in a cursive style, with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the letters.

Independent Experts

Chicoley RAIS

M. TUNDI AGARDOY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. TUNDI" followed by a stylized flourish.

SPAMI Manager(s)

Jorge Moran

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive "J" followed by a vertical line.

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

SPAMI VALUE-ADDED

Questions		Score	Maximum
5	Threats and surrounding context	20	23
6	Regulations	4	4
7	Management	9	11
8	Protection measures	5	5
9	Human resources	4	5
10	Financial and material means	6	9
11	Information and knowledge	4	6
12	Cooperation and networkings	4	6
TOTAL		56	69