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Eighth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs

Palermo, Italy, 6-9 June 2007

**Summary of National Reports on Implementation of
the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and
Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
for the Period March 2005 to March 2007**

*For reasons of economy, this document will be available
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I. INTRODUCTION

In anticipation of the Eighth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), to be held from 6-9 June 2007 in Palermo (Italy), RAC/SPA invited the Focal Points for SPAs to provide a report on the implementation, in their respective countries, of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). The reports present the progress made in implementing the Protocol since the last Meeting of Focal Points, in Seville in June 2005.

The report form sent out by RAC/SPA to the Focal Points corresponds to the improved form adopted at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Catania, November 2003). Added to this standard form were tables concerning respectively the species in Annex 2 to the Protocol and the List of SPAs notified to RAC/SPA. These tables were sent to be checked and updated by the countries.

The reports focused on three main areas, i.e.

- Administrative and legislative measures adopted during the period between Meetings (2005-7)
- Information on the degree of the Protocol's implementation at technical level
- Problems and constraints encountered by the Parties in implementing the Protocol.

Eighteen countries sent their reports in to RAC/SPA before the present report was finalized: for one country, the report received did not cover the entire inter-Meeting period. This document is a summary of the information received through these national reports. It keeps the same structure as these and presents the activities carried out by the countries during the inter-Meeting period to implement the SPA/BD Protocol.

To make it more readable, some information is brought together by subject and put in the annexes (Annex 1 and 2), but the national reports should be consulted (Annex 3) for a precise description of these activities. Finally, information that was already mentioned in the report for the last biennium has usually not been included.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

General information shows that the reports were made by people from national institutions and bodies that are responsible for environment protection, and that few institutional changes were made at country level compared to 2005.

III. LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL

For the eighteen countries considered, several legal or administrative measures were taken according to the terms of Article 3,5 and 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol during the period between the Meetings (Annex 1). Most of the countries worked to improve their legal framework as regards protection of areas or species, with, in particular, measures concerning:

- Ratification of the SPA/BD Protocol
- Updating and making of laws on the environment and protection of natural areas and species
- Adoption of legal measures to designate new SPAs and extend existing SPAs or identify Special Conservation Areas of International importance, Special Conservation Areas of National importance, and Special Protection Areas
- Creation of a Mediterranean intercontinental Biosphere Reserve as part of bilateral cooperation, putting national sites into international networks (Ramsar), or ongoing steps.

Simultaneously, many countries report draft bills relating to protected areas or species and/or steps to list new sites, extend already listed sites, or set up an institutional structure responsible for SPAs.

As regards enhancing the implementation of other Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, measures introduced concern:

- Passing laws on emergency plans and compensatory measures in the case of damage caused to the marine environment by hydrocarbons and other dangerous substances, checking and preventing pollution managing waste, harm to the environment and setting up impact study procedures; supplementary information on impact study procedures appears in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/Inf.6
- Preparing an action plan to fight against the oil slick which affected one SPA in summer 2006
- Adopting a new shipping traffic separation system, adopted within the IMO framework, to ensure protection of protected areas
- Setting up checks or restrictions on the movement of ships in several marine or coastal areas
- Preparing a national strategy for the integrated management of the coastal area.

As regards planning, managing and monitoring SPAs (Article 7 of the SPA/ BD Protocol), five countries had crafted, or were in the process of crafting, management plans and two countries had started monitoring procedures. Two countries had also published planning documents that set a framework for protecting the environment and managing the coast, and anticipate an increase in SPA surface area (14% by 2011 for the first, and 10% by 2009 for the second). Lastly, one country had analysed studies carried out in its SPAs to bring its reference state up to date.

As regards protecting species (Article 11 of the SPA/BD Protocol), six countries had brought their lists of protected species up to date and two countries had adopted new measures to this end. Several regulatory measures concerning the hunting, fishing (duration, species) or use of species were also reported, as well as the enhancing of protection for birds' and turtles' egg-laying sites.

Five countries cited regulatory measures, either still in project stage or already carried out, aiming at better implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora Species (CITES).

As regards the introduction of non-native species (Article 13 of the SPA/BD Protocol), several countries stated that the introduction of non-native species is forbidden in SPAs. Mobilization about these species is done by inventorying actions, making sure regulations are respected, and even for one country eradication procedures. A more precise report of the actions undertaken appears in Document UNEP(DE PI)/MED WG.308/Inf 9).

Moreover, eight countries mentioned actions aimed at implementing the Cartagena Protocol, with bills on biosecurity and GMOs.

Regarding dispensations granted for protection measures (Article 12 and 18 of the SPA/BD Protocol), several countries did not complete this part. However, eight countries stated that no dispensation was granted during the biennial period, and one mentioned that no dispensation was granted inside a SPA. Only two countries cited dispensations, granted for development projects on which impact studies had previously been done or for the purposes of scientific research.

IV. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL

IV.1. List of Specially Protected Areas created according to the terms of Article 5:

During the period between the Meetings, three countries created new SPAs and two extended the surface area of some of their already existing SPAs. A European Community agreement to list five national sites within the Natura 2000 network is expected. Lastly, five countries have taken steps to list as SPAs several sites of biodiversity interest.

IV.2. Proposals made to include areas falling under national jurisdiction on the SPAMI List

No proposal for inclusion on the SPAMI List was made during the period between Meetings.

IV.3. SPAMI List

As a result of the Fourteenth Conference of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, 8-11 November 2005), the Habibas Islands, the Banc des Kabyles and the Portofino area were put on the List of SPAMIs.

Management plans for the International Sanctuary for Marine Mammals, the Cabrera archipelago, the Levant d'Almeria seabed, and the Isle of Alboran were adopted during the period between the Meetings. Updating procedures are ongoing in other SPAMIs.

IV.4. Modifying the legal system for protected species.

During the period between the Meetings, several countries revised their lists of protected species:

Albania: Regulation of 23 February 2005 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food with appended an updated list of strictly protected fauna species.

Algeria: Publication on 15 July 2006 of an Order on the protection of certain animal species threatened with disappearance

Croatia: Publication of the Order on the Proclamation of protected or strictly protected wild taxa (Official Journal no. 7/2006)

Egypt: Revision of the list of protected species

Israel: Revision of the list of protected species in 2005

Malta: Updating of the lists of protected species at the time of the appearance of the regulation on protection of fauna, flora and natural habitats (Legal opinion 311 of 2006)

Montenegro: Updating of a Decree protecting species of fauna and flora; 37 species considered by the SPA/BD Protocol are thus protected by national law Tunisia: Decree of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of 19 July 2006 determining the list of rare wild species of fauna and flora threatened with extinction.

IV.5. New data on non-native or genetically modified species likely to cause harm

Four countries did not answer this part. Seven cited an absence of data or at least new data on the period concerned. The arrival of new Lessepsian species was mentioned by three countries, and two appended to their reports a list of non-native species. Three countries cited studies aimed at inventorying non-native species, including a summary that classifies 128 species. These studies confirm that the source of introduction for these species is preferentially the Suez Canal, whereas the other straits (Gibraltar, Dardanelles) and aquaculture play a less important part.

IV.6. Inventories of elements on biological diversity

Six countries out of the eighteen stated that no inventory had been made during the period between the Meetings. Inventorying activity done by the other countries was as follows:

Albania: Publishing a red book on fauna and flora; monitoring of rare or threatened habitats (permanent process)

Algeria: Crafting a Geographical Information System on marine and coastal biodiversity

Croatia: Starting up a process of inventorying endangered species after a Life Project (2002-2005); making Red Books devoted to several taxa; many inventorying programmes in SPAs in partnership with national NGOs.

Cyprus: Updating (in 2004 and 2006) a database including species and habitats, developed between 1998 and 2000 as part of a Conservation Areas: Life project; updating inventories when the management plans for 3 sites were crafted

Italy: Ending a programme of inventorying (SDF) and monitoring central parts of the MPAs; preparing a handbook to describe and identify Mediterranean marine habitats (priority benthic habitats) and species in Annex 2 and 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol; updating lists of marine fauna and flora.

Lebanon: Making 2 inventories (SDF on Damour and Naqoura sites); monitoring birds in the Palm Islands Nature Reserve (permanent process); study on the marine turtle population and the conservation of egg-laying beaches in South Lebanon (2005)

Libya: Inventorying waterfowl species (January 2005, January 2006, February 2007); inventorying marine or coastal caves (Tolmitah to Susa May-June 2006) using the SDF in the context of inventorying meadows (Farwa, Aïn-Ghazala, May 2006) and marine turtles' egg-laying sites.

Malta: Now inventorying Habitats with mapping of important habitat types; now inventorying threatened endemic fauna (apart from birds and cetaceans) as part of a national action plan on biodiversity; preliminary inventorying of wetlands (to be completed); project to study marine biotopes (apart from *Posidonia* meadows) for 2007-8.

Montenegro: Inventorying endangered fauna and flora species (2006); setting up a database on areas of special interest.

Slovenia: inventorying a site using the SDF: publishing a book on endangered species and habitat types (2006)

Spain: Finalizing a national inventory of marine species and habitats; national inventory of *Patella ferruginea* in order to define a conservation strategy. Turkey: inventorying the Gokova SPA (December 2006).

IV.7. Dispensations granted for protection measures

Dispensations granted for protection measures are exceptional, only two countries having used this procedure.

IV.8. Implementing action plans adopted within the MAP framework

Seven action plans have been set up within the context of the SPA/BD Protocol context: these are:

- Action plan for managing the Mediterranean monk seal
- Action plan for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean
- Action plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean
- Action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean
- Action plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol
- Action plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean
- Action plan relating to the introduction of species and invasive species into the Mediterranean Sea.

Implementation of the various action plans varies greatly from one plan to the next and from one country to the next. It should be remembered that some action plans do not concern all the countries, by reason of the absence of the target species.

The action plans that inspired most activity during the period between Meetings were those for the conservation of marine turtles, for managing the monk seal, and for the conservation of marine vegetation. Only one country gave no data as to implementation of the action plans. The summary of the various reports also highlights the preponderant role of the national NGOs for the conservation of certain species (turtles and cetaceans) and for public awareness. Similarly, we notice that population and habitat monitoring activities are by preference carried out in existing SPAS, sometimes with scientists and managers working together. Finally, although no country crafted a national action plan over the inter-Meeting period, several are envisaging doing so.

Concerning the action plan to manage the monk seal, actions in seven countries concerned prospecting and mapping potential habitats. One country reported that it had carried on activities as identified in its National Monk Seal Protection Programme and was carrying on actions within its SPAS. An orphaned monk seal, saved by a care centre, was fitted with a satellite tag and released. Additionally, studies were done as part of a Life-Nature project on seal/fisheries interactions in seven zones. A guide with recommendations for helping wounded seals has been published and training for local actors is under way (Life-Nature project).

Concerning the action plan for the conservation of marine turtles, activities concerned monitoring and protecting egg-laying sites, monitoring populations counting the young, satellite monitoring of adults fitted with tags), setting up care centres, finding systems that keep turtles away from nets in order to reduce their being accidentally caught, participating in training courses in Cyprus, information and awareness for fishermen and the wider public (posters, guides, work groups, etc.). Eleven countries developed activities in this field, with the active participation of many NGOs on the problem. A more detailed report was provided by the countries as part of the assessment of the action plan (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.308/Inf.5).

Concerning the action plan for the conservation of cetaceans, activities focused on monitoring populations, studies on interaction with fishing activities with, in particular, acoustic systems aimed at limiting such interaction, gathering information from fishermen, and awareness activities. Several of these actions are being carried on in partnership with NGOs. One country started actions with a view to signing the ACCOBAMS Agreement and implementing activities to protect dolphins and cetaceans. Lastly, one country reminded us that it has provided logistical support for the regional database on strandings of Mediterranean cetaceans (MEDACES) for several years now.

Concerning the action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation, activities were: approaching the distribution of Posidonia meadows, mapping priority Habitats and setting up monitoring or follow-up systems (in particular in the SPAs). Several countries stressed their active participation in the Third Symposium on Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean (2007). One country reported producing information and awareness material and said it had participated in the *MedPosidonia* programme. Lastly, one country reported ongoing action regarding enhancing its laws on protecting *Posidonia* meadows against trawling.

Concerning the action plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol, actions mainly concerned listing birds (whether migratory or not) in the SPAs, participating in the Mediterranean Symposium on marine birds (2006), and producing information material. Even if the birds do not necessarily enjoy conservation status, two countries said they were protected in their SPAs. One country reported population conservation actions (eradicating rats on the islets, monitoring reproduction or wintering.) as part of the Life programme. Additional information appears in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 308/Inf.7).

Concerning the action plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes, many countries mentioned a lack of data. Two countries cited inventories of cartilaginous fishes in their waters; one of these mentioned that it had set up a programme to monitor and protect the area where observations of sharks had happened. One country is preparing a collection on cartilaginous fishes, in particular a scientific study on different shark species.

Concerning the action plan relating to the introduction of species and invasive species, the lack of data on the subject is selectively mentioned. Four countries have established or updated their lists of invasive species and/or started research programmes on them. One of these highlights the strengthening of regulatory checks and the creation of a network of experts. Activities specific to this subject appear in information Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/Inf.9).

IV.9. Implementing the other pertinent recommendations of the Contracting Parties

One country said that it had implemented recommendations about guidelines on bagging marine turtles; another stated how it had satisfied the recommendations made at the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Portoroz, 2005); a third said it had published a set of books on different types of habitat and their biodiversity.

V. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROTOCOL

Four countries did not provide information on this point, and one country stated that it had encountered no particular problems in the period between the Meetings. Eight countries mentioned the lack of human, technical and financial means as a constraint on implementing the Protocol. The national institutional and legal context was sometimes cited as a source of constraint by certain countries, especially when responsibility for marine environmental issues is split between several insufficiently coordinated national institutions, or the legal framework is not complete. One country mentioned the absence of a management plan and a monitoring system, and the lack of national taxonomists was raised by three countries. One country also mentioned problems due to political instability (oil slick in summer 2006).

VI. CONCLUSION

This period, falling between two Meetings, witnessed progress in implementing the SPA/BD Protocol.

Considering the legal or administrative measures introduced according to the terms of the Protocol over the period considered (April 2005-March 2007), it is important to stress the ratifying of the SPA/BD Protocol by one country in 2006. Three countries created new SPAs and five countries started the necessary steps towards future designations. Twelve countries focused on improving or setting up a legal framework likely to permit improved implementation of the Protocol. Seven countries brought their lists of protected species up to date. Actions also focused on setting up or improving management measures: carrying out or updating management plans for SPAMI and SPAS, and regulations about the exploitation of natural resources. Lastly, nine countries started or continued making regular inventories of their biodiversity.

This summary also shows that the European Union may be considered as a true motor especially for new member countries. Even if the EU imposes a fairly strict legal framework in environmental terms (Directive concerning assessment of the impacts of certain public and private projects on the environment, Habitat Directive, Framework Directive on water, Future Directive on marine strategy), it accompanies these measures with financial help designed to facilitate their adoption by the countries.

Considering the implementing of the various action plans, it seems that the Action Plan to

manage the Mediterranean monk seal, the Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean, and the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean give rise to the greatest number of activities. There are few elements available to explain this interest: however, for the first two plans, NGOs appear to be very dynamic as regards both monitoring populations and aspects of awareness for people who make their living from the sea and the wider public as well.

As to the other action plans, the lack of data is often mentioned, linked with the lack of means (human, technical and financial), as difficulties in the way of their implementation. The relatively recent date of adoption of the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the SAP/BD Protocol, the Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Action Plan on the introduction of species and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea, may also explain this state of affairs.

It is clear that despite the progress made, much still needs to be done to attain the objectives set by the international community for the deadline 2010-2012 with "at least 10% of each of the ecological regions of the planet effectively protected"¹. With regard to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development², the priority focus should be on marine and coastal areas, with 10% of the latter protected by 2010, and the implementation of an ecological representative network, by 2012³. The stakes are staying valuable, if we want to stop the erosion of the biodiversity, underlined during the Rio Summit.

¹ Report of the 6th Meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, The Hague, 2002

² Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2005

³ Report of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of its Eighth Meeting, Curitiba, 2006

VII. APPENDIX 1 : LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TAKEN UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL

ALBANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision of the Council of Minister's No. 682, dated 02.11.2005 "On the designation of Buna River and wetland areas around it as Protected Landscape" covering an area of 23027 ha of which 346 ha of wetland area - Decision of the Council of Minister's No. 684, date 02.11.2005 "On the designation of Shkodra Lake area – Managed Nature Reserve" covering an area of 26535 ha - Decision of the Council of Minister's no. 693, dated 10.11.2005 "On the designation of Butrinti as National Park with extended area" extending the NP area from 2509 ha to 8591,2 of which 2509 ha is sea area - Law "On biodiversity protection" no.9587, dated 20.07.2006 (introduction for the first time in the Albanian legislation of the Specially Protected Areas and species concept, regulation of the introduction of the species and regulation of scientific research activities) - Decision of the Council of Minister's No. 683, dated 02.11.2005 "On the designation of the wetland complex of Shkodra Lake and the territory of Buna river as a Specially Protected Area and its inclusion in the list of wetland of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat" covering an area of 49562 ha of which 15719 ha is water and 346 ha is wetland area - For the management of the coastal areas there is a big efforts made through the World Bank project for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management, concentrated mostly on the South of Albanian (Jonian coast) - Two management plans approved, ones for Narta wetland areas and the other for the National Park of Llogora and Karaburun. Efforts are made for the management plan of Butrinti National Park area and Kune-Vaini wetland system - 3 plans de gestion élaborés dont 2 approuvés (zone humide de Narta et Parc National de Llogora et Karaburun) ; efforts faits pour les plans de gestion du Parc National de Butrini et la zone humide de Kune-Vaini - Regulation of hunting and taking of animals – Regulation No. 1, dated 23.02.2005 "On the management, protection of wild fauna and hunting procedures" of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, provides detailed dispositions on both issues and it lists in its Annexes the updated list of Strictly Protected Fauna Species in Albania as well as prohibited methods of hunting - An official plan for the increasing the surface of protected areas in the period 2006-2011 is approved by the Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, identifying all new PA-s some of which are coastal areas such as the enlargement of Divjake-Karavasta National Park. The figure is expected to go up to 14 % in order to be compared with EU requirement. - The entering into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in May 2005 for Albania was followed by the implementation of the GEF Project for the elaboration of the National Biosafety Framework in Albania.
ALGERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft bill on protected areas (being discussed) - Law no. O5-03 (6 February 2005) on seeds, plants and the protection of plant supply - Executive Order no. 06-216 (18 June 2006) setting out classification conditions and modalities of authenticating seeds and plants - Executive Order no. 06-217 (18 June 2006) setting out conditions for storing, packaging and labelling seeds and plants - Order no. 06-05 (15 July 2006) on protecting and preserving certain animal species threatened with disappearance - Decree no. 06-405 (14 November 2006) ratifying the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, signed in Barcelona 10 June 1995 (OJ no. 74 of 22 November 2006) - Projects to extend several national parks being studied

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	- Pas de nouvelles mesures juridiques ou administratives prises pendant la période biennale
CROATIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette No. 70/2005) was enacted - Ordinance on Proclamation of Wild Taxa as Protected or Strictly Protected (Official Gazette No 7/2006) was enacted - Ordinance on Sorts of Habitat Types, Habitat Map, Endangered and Rare Habitat Types as well as Safeguard Measures for Conservation of Habitat Types (Official Gazette No 7/2006) - The Act on Genetically Modified Organisms (Official Gazette No 70/05) was enacted - The Act on the Proclamation of the Lastovo Archipelago Nature Park (Official Gazette No 111/06) - The Regulation on the Establishment of the Public Enterprise "Nature Park Lastovo Archipelago" (Official Gazette No 130/06) - Ordinance on Transboundary Movement and Trade in Protected Wild Taxa (Official Gazette No 34/2006) - Ordinance on the content and scope of the risk assessment of deliberate release into the environment of GMOs, the risk assessment methodology and the requirements to be met by the legal person carrying out the risk assessment (Official gazette No 136/06) - Ordinance on the content of the plan of measures to be applied in the event of uncontrolled spread of GMOs in the environment and the manner of implementation of planned measures (Official gazette No 5/07) - Publication of: The book National Ecological Network areas important for birds in Croatia (2005), Red Book of Croatian vascular flora (2005), Red Book of Croatian freshwater fish (2006), Red Book of Croatian mammals (2006), Red Book of Croatian amphibians (2006), Red Book of Croatian reptiles (2006), Red Book of Croatian marine fish (in press), Red List of Croatian corals (in press)
CYPRUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several management plans finalised/implemented - Five marine/coastal areas were proposed to the EC towards the end of 2004 as Natura 2000 sites - The protection of the Larnaca Salt Lake site from pollution is being looked at the present time through the Life project
EGYPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive regulations of Law 4 for protection of the Environment have been approved by the Prim Minister (revised list of protected species) - Management plans for the three protected areas along the Mediterranean coast are being implemented - Preliminary studies have been carried out in support of establishment of a marine protected area at Sallum - A final draft of the national legislation for biosafety was prepared - Updating the list of invasive species in Egypt - Establishment a core group for preparing an Egyptian programme and action plan for the invasive species
FRANCE	- No information received at the time the Report was published
GREECE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Messolonghi – Aetoliko lagoons, estuaries of Acheloos and Evinos and Echinades islands was designated according to the national legislation as National Park - The land, marine and wetland areas of Psalidi in Kos island were designated as Nature Protection Area - For the land and marine areas of western Milos island, measures for the protection of nature and landscape were taken in a Joint Ministerial Decision - The Administrative Councils of the Management Bodies of the National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades, of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos and of the National Park of Samaria have been officially renewed

<p>GREECE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Administrative Councils of the Management Bodies of 6 coastal Ramsar sites have also been renewed (Delta Evrou, Delta of Axios-Loudias –Aliakmon, Nestos Delta and Vistonis –Imaris lakes, Messolonghi- Aetolikon lagoons, Amvrakikos gulf wetlands, Kotychi – Strofylia forest and wetlands) - The Administrative Councils of the Management Bodies in 3 protected areas, which include marine and coastal elements, have also been renewed (Mt Parnon- Moustos wetland, the gorges and estuaries of rivers Kalamas and Acherontas, and the Aegean islands of Karpathos and Saria) - The Administrative Councils of the Management Bodies were financially supported through the third Community Support Framework - Two Wildlife Refugees with coastal / marine parts were designated and two existent were modified. In Wildlife Refuges, among other provisions, hunting is prohibited and collection of species is regulated - Presidential Decree has been issued for the regulation of fishing in the marine area of Kalymnos and Kos islands (P.D. 228/2006, OJ 229 A) - Presidential Decree has been issued for the regulation of fishing in the estuaries of Evinos and Acheloos rivers (P.D. 68/ 2006, OJ 71 A) - Through a Ministerial decision, restriction of the exploitation of the coralligenous formations in a restricted area and regulation of this exploitation was enforced for the period 2006-2010 (OJ B 801/2006) - Two Ministerial Decisions were issued in the frame of implementation of EC Regulation 1967/2007, concerning the regulation of fishing with beach seines and trawlers in the Greek territory (OJ 60 B 2007 and OJ 164 B 2007) - A draft Ministerial Decision for the enforcement of EC Regulation 1967/2006 for the protection of Posidonia meadows from trawlers is on the procedure of receiving the final signature - For Amvrakikos Gulf, the legislative text for its designation is at the stage of final signatures - For Vai aesthetic forest, the Specific Environmental Study (SES) for its designation according to L. 1650/86 is to be approved in the near future - For Samaria National Park, the SES for its designation according to L. 1650/86 is under elaboration - A vessel traffic system is present in selected marine areas (Kerkyra – Igoumenitsa, Patras – Antirrhion, Peiraias, Rafina and Lavrion), whereas a project for extension of the present system in big areas of the Aegean is at the stage of preparation for call of tenders - The national authorised committee established in 2002 for the regulation of the introduction of species for aquaculture, continued functioning during the reporting period - A project of monitoring of species and habitat types in the areas of Aloniso, Amvrakikos and Samaria, under the support of the 3rd Community Support Framework, is at the stage of preparation for call of tenders - Greece is participating also in the drafting of an EC Regulation for the use in aquacultures non indigenous species and locally absent species
<p>ISRAEL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the law "National Park Law", the list of protected assets within the Mediterranean Sea was updated to include fish and other organisms that deserve protection

ITALIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a database of research projects, results and products carried out in the Italian AMPs in order to bring up to date information on “health status” of coastal marine areas - The management plan for the “International Sanctuary for Marine Mammals”, has been formulated and approved during the meeting of Parties held in Elba Island (Sept. 2004 and adopted during the extraordinary meeting of Contracting Parties held in Genoa 6-7 December 2005). - Many proposals of SPA are in progress
LEBANNON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Management plan for Tyre Coast Nature Reserve was finalized in 2005 and prepared within the framework of the Regional MedWet Coast project - Elaboration of the technical, administrative and legal documents for the declaration of Naqoura Beach and Damour River Basin as specially protected areas - An action plan to assist authorities in Lebanon with the clean up of coastal oil pollution which reached the Specially Protected Area Palm Islands Nature Reserve during summer 2006 - A National Biosafety Framework has been developed - A draft law was prepared that defines the mechanism for regulating and control the introduction of genetically modified species
LIBYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several wetlands and important bird areas were subject to detailed survey 2005-2007 to rank its national importance to be SPA and /or Ramsar sites (wintering waterbird census 2005-2007) - In implementation to CITES convention on trade of endangered species, the draft law regulating this issue has been finalized; the final issue of this law is expected this summer - The establishment of Libyan sea turtle program LibSTP to protect marine turtles (Caretta caretta) nesting beaches in different sites - Several sites along the Libyan coast are under assessment and study to be declared as marine and/or coastal specially protected areas - Draft law on protected species and hunting law, where lists of protected species and hunting regulations will be detailed (the law is expected to be adopted by January 2008) - Under the framework of cartagena protocol implementation, Libya have started in January 2007 a national project to setup the biosafety framework - Few number of exemptions for developing projects were gave in the vicinity of Tripoli
MALTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations [Legal Notice 311 of 2006]: these regulations, published on the 7th December 2006, transpose and update national law in relation to the European Union nature acquis and relevant international treaties, contributing to the conservation of natural habitats, flora and fauna by affording legal protection to endemic and threatened flora and fauna, and by designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection (Declaration of Special Areas of Conservation & Special Protection Areas) Regulations [Government Notice 112 of 2007]: these regulations, published on the 9th February 2007, designate 32 areas as Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance, 7 Special Areas of Conservation of National Importance, and 12 Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

MALTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection (Declaration) Regulations [Government Notice 161 of 2007]: these regulations, published on the 27th February 2007, designate the marine area in the Dwejra area (along the western coast of the island of Gozo) as a Special Area of Conservation of National Importance - Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations [Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended]: these regulations, published on the 29th March 2006, repeal and replace the 1993 'Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations' [Legal Notice 146 of 1993 as amended]. By virtue of these regulations, legal protection is afforded to bird species in the Maltese Islands, with the ancillary measures related to hunting, trapping and related activities - Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations [Legal Notice 418 of 2005]: these regulations, published on the 30th December 2005, contribute to the integration of environmental and health considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development - Plans and Programmes (Public Participation) Regulations [Legal Notice 74 of 2006]: these regulations, published on the 30th December 2005, providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment - The EU-funded ERDF project aimed at assessing the marine area around the island of Filfla has been finalised - Project related to coastal and marine protected areas: EC Interreg IIIC MedPAN Project on a network of marine protected areas - Project related to coastal and marine protected areas: EC Interreg IIIC Parks Network Project on a network of terrestrial protected areas - Project related to coastal and marine protected areas: EC Transitional Funds Natura 2000 Twinning Project with Austria - Recent navigation restrictions function of SPA
MAROCCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of the organizational development process concerning the protected areas - Publication of annual orders regulating fishing in continental waters and defining fishing reserves - Publication of the annual rules on opening and closing the hunting season Revision of the law on hunting - Bill on trade in species under the CITES Convention - Bill on checking the use and spread of GMOs
MONACO	No information received at the time the Report was published
MONTENEGRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During 2006, National Strategy for sustainable development was prepared; priority tasks in area of biodiversity protection are: increase national protected areas of nature to 10% of the territory and protect minimum 10% of the coastal zone by 2009; establish an efficient system of management over protected natural areas; improve the legal framework for the protection of biodiversity - Preparation of the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (It is anticipated that this document will be endorsed by the end of 2007) - Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was adopted in 2005 - Law on Strategic Impact Assessment (SIA) was adopted in 2005 - Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) was adopted in 2005 - Law on Waste Management was adopted in 2005 - Law on Environmental Noise was adopted in 2005

MONTENEGRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme for Biodiversity Monitoring in Montenegro conducted by the Institute for the Protection of Nature (it is still in the starting phase) - Drafting new Law on nature protection according to Habitat Directive and Birds Directive and EU standards - Preparation of a new Law on sea, which will prescribe the dumping or discharge of wastes - Project "Establish Emerald Network in Montenegro": national team proposed areas of special interest (Emerald areas) and fill data base for proposed sites - Decision of control list for export, import and transit of goods (Official Gazette RM no.28/06) regulate issues of permit for export, import and transit of endangered species of plant and animals from CITES List - Updating a Decree on protection of certain plant and animals species (Official Gazette 76/06) and proclaim 417 plant species and 423 animal species
SLOVENIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A draft management plan was elaborated for the Sečovlje salina nature Park - Restoration works started in the area of the Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve
SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new legal or administrative measures mentioned in the report received, which only concerns the period 2004-2005
SYRIA	Aucune information disponible
TUNISIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of 19 July 2006 setting out a list of wild fauna and flora species that are rare and threatened with extinction - Law no. 2005-13 of 22 January 2005 modifying and completing the Forestry Code (new Articles 210, 216 and 219) - Draft bill on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas finalized; expected to be passed in 2007 - New arrangement for separating shipping traffic adopted by the IMO in 2006 regarding protection for the Zembra archipelago - Decree of 3 October 2005 ratifying the 1983 Gaborone amendment to the CITES Convention - Several national protected areas have management plans - A draft bill on GMOs is being approved
TURKEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The Law on protection of Nature and Biodiversity" was drafted - Law Pertaining to Principles of Emergency Response and Compensation for Damages in Pollution of Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances (Law No: 5312 / Official Gazette No: 25752 of March 11, 2005) - Regulation on implementation for Principles of Emergency Response and Compensation for Damages in Pollution of Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances - Regulation on procurement procedures for Principles of Emergency Response and Compensation for Damages in Pollution of Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances - Hunting prohibitions were determined by the Central Hunting Commission of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry every year - Council of Ministers' decision that Kekova Specially Protected Area, Göksu SPA and Fethiye-Göcek SPA have been extended (December 9, 2006) - Law on GMO's is on the way

VIII. APPENDIX 2 - SPECIES OF THE APPENDIX 2 OF THE SPA/BD PROTOCOL WITH LEGAL PROTECTION

National Protection (X) or subnational (x). Al : Albania ; Alg : Algeria ; Bo : Bosnia ; Cyp : Cyprus ; Cr : Croatia ; Eg : Egypt ; Fr : France ; Gr : Greece ; It : Italy ; Is : Israël ; Lb : Lebanon ; Lib : Libya ; Mal : Malta ; Mo : Monaco ; Mon : Montenegro ; Mor : Morocco ; Sl : Slovenia ; Sp : Spain ; Sy : Syria ; Tu : Tunisia ; Tur : Turkey

Species / Country	Al.*	Alg.*	Bo.*	Cyp.	Cr.*	Eg.*	Fr*	Gr.*	It.*	Is.	Lb.*	Lib.	Mal.*	Mo.	Mon.	Mor.	Sl.	Sp.	Sy.	Tu.	Tur.
Magnoliophyta																					
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	X			X	X		X	X	X				X		X		X	X			X
<i>Zostera marina</i>	X			X	X		X	X	X				X		X						
<i>Zostera noltii</i>				X	X		X	X	X				X		X			X			X
Chlorophyta																					
<i>Caulerpa ollivieri</i>	X						X		X				X								
Phaeophyta																					
<i>Cystoseira amentacea</i> (var. <i>stricta</i> & var. <i>spicata</i>)	X				X		X		X				X		X						
<i>Cystoseira mediterranea</i>	X				X		X		X				X		X						
<i>Cystoseira sedoides</i>	X						X		X				X								
<i>Cystoseira spinosa</i> (inclu <i>C. adriatica</i>)	X				X		X		X				X								
<i>Cystoseira zosteroides</i>	X				X		X		X				X								
<i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i>	X				X		X		X												
Rhodophyta																					
<i>Goniolithon byssoides</i>	X						X		X				X								
<i>Lithophyllum lichenoides</i>	X						X		X				X								
<i>Ptilophora mediterranea</i>	X						X		X												
<i>Schimmelmannia schousboei</i>	X						X		X												
Porifera																					
<i>Asbestopluma hypogea</i>							X		X												
<i>Aplysina sp. plur.</i>							X		X				X		X						
<i>Axinella cannabina</i>					X		X		X				X		X						
<i>Axinella polypoides</i>					X		X		X				X		X						
<i>Geodia cydonium</i>					X		X		X				X				X				
<i>Ircinia foetida</i>							X		X				X								
<i>Ircinia pipetta</i>							X		X				X								
<i>Petrobiona massiliana</i>							X		X				X								
<i>Tethya sp. plur.</i>					X		X		X				X		X						

Pisces	Al.*	Alg.*	Bo.*	Cyp.	Cr.*	Eg.*	Fr*	Gr.*	It.*	Is.	Lb.*	Lib.	Mal.*	Mo.	Mon.	Mor.	Sl.	Sp.	Sy.	Tu.	Tur.
<i>Acipenser naccarii</i>				X	X			X	X	X				X			X	X			X
<i>Acipenser sturio</i>				X	X			X	X	X				X			X	X			X
<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>				X	X			X	X	X				X				X			
<i>Aphanius iberus</i>				X				X		X				X				X			
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>					X			X	X	X				X			X	X			X
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>					X			X	X	X				X			X	X			
<i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i>					X			X	X	X				X			X	X			
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>					X			X	X	X				X			X	X			X
<i>Huso huso</i>					X			X	X	X				X			X				
<i>Lethenteron zanandreaei</i>					X			X		X				X				X			
<i>Mobula mobular</i>					X			X	X	X				X			X				
<i>Pomatoschistus canestrinii</i>				X	X			X		X				X				X			
<i>Pomatoschistus tortonesei</i>					X			X		X							X				
<i>Valencia hispanica</i>				X				X		X				X				X			
<i>Valencia letourneuxi</i>								X	X	X				X				X			
Reptiles																					
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	X			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	X			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	X			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X		X	
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>				X			X	X		X		X	X	X				X		X	
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>				X				X		X		X	X	X				X		X	
<i>Trionyx triunguis</i>				X	X			X		X		X	X							X	
Aves																					
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	X			X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	X			X	X			X	X	X			X	X				X		X	X
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X				X		X	X
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	X			X	X			X	X	X			X	X			X	X			X
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	X			X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X			X
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	X			X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X			X

**IX. APPENDIX 3 – NATIONAL REPORT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPA/BD
PROTOCOL**