

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SYMPOSIA ON THE CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN MARINE KEY HABITATS

Portorož, Slovenia, 27-31 October 2014

**5th Mediterranean
Symposium on Marine
vegetation**

(27-28 October 2014)

**2nd Mediterranean
Symposium on the
conservation of
Coralligenous and
other calcareous
bio-concretions**

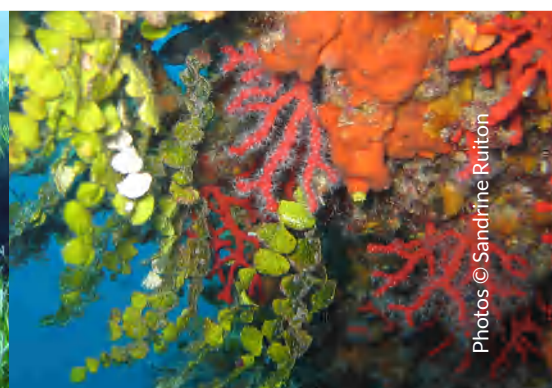
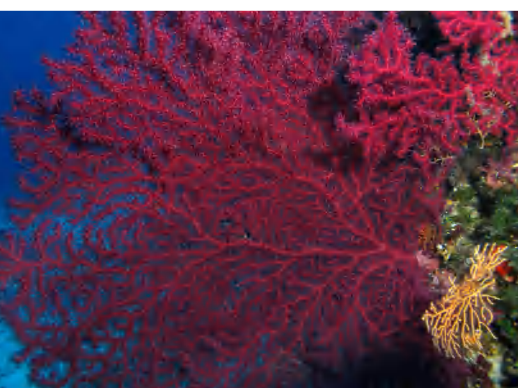
(29-30 October 2014)

**1st Mediterranean
Symposium on the
conservation of the
dark habitats**

(31 October 2014)



INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
FOR NATURE CONSERVATION



VENUE:

Symposia will be held from the 27 to 31 October 2014, in Portorož (Slovenia). The exact venue will be specified at a later stage (in the Second Announcement).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mediterranean Symposia are organised within the framework of the implementation of Action Plans adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

- The Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, adopted in 1999.
- The Action plan for the protection of the coralligenous and others calcareous bio-concretion in the Mediterranean, adopted in 2008.
- The Action Plan for the conservation of Habitats and Species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic engineering benthic invertebrates and chemo-synthetic phenomena, in the Mediterranean Sea (Dark Habitats Action Plan) adopted in 2013

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of Symposia is to gather of available knowledge on these habitats. These symposia are also intended to provide an opportunity for Mediterranean scientists to exchange information and experience.

Symposia of 2014 are therefore expected to gather specialists from all over the Mediterranean region to discuss current knowledge of the state of Mediterranean species and key assemblages and to present the most recent data regarding their conservation work and aspects of their latest research.

MAIN TOPICS:

Symposia will be dealing with the main following topics:

- Marine vegetation, coralligenous and others calcareous bio-concretion
 - Population, biology, ecology and dynamics (including inventory of species)
 - Mapping and monitoring (associated organisms included)
 - Impacts and disturbance on key assemblages (including global changes)
 - Conservation, management and restoration.
- Dark habitats
 - Current state of the art
 - Methods to study
 - Management

SYMPOSIA WILL INCLUDE:

- Oral presentation sessions (for papers)
- Poster sessions
- Roundtables / Workshops.

The detailed program of Symposia will be prepared taking into account the number of accepted papers and posters and will be available by the end of September 2014.

PAPERS AND POSTERS:

Participants may contribute with papers and posters according to the main topics of Symposia and the instructions attached to this announcement. For each accepted paper, a 10-minute oral presentation will be given. A poster room will be available for accepted posters.

WORKING LANGUAGES:

Symposia working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available during plenary sessions.

REGISTRATION:

Pre-registration for symposia is required and can be done by filling out the attached form and sending it by e-mail or fax until the deadline (31 May 2014). A Pre-registration notification will be sent by e-mail. The final registration procedure will be completed on-site before the opening session.

REGISTRATION FEES:

A registration fee of 280 EUR for non-students and 140 EUR for students will apply. The registration fee grants access to the exhibition area, workshops, plenary sessions and catering facilities. The registration fee also covers morning and afternoon coffee breaks; lunches on Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31; a symposium bag; and access to gala dinner on Thursday night, Oct. 30 (under the condition, that prior confirmation is given upon registration).

Please transfer registration fees to the following RAC/SPA bank account:

Beneficiary: Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (CAR/ASP)

Bank: Société Tunisienne de Banque (STB)

Bank address: Avenue Hédi Nouria, 1002 Tunis - Tunisia

Account Number: 10 404 100 8903047 978 52

IBAN: TN59 10 404 100 8903047 978 52

SWIFT code: STBKTTT

Or you can pay cash on the first day of the Symposium during the registration session.

FELLOWSHIPS:

A limited number of fellowships will be made available by the organisers. Eligibility criteria include: (1) the acceptance of an abstract; and either (2a) residence in a developing country or country whose economy is in transition (for non-students participants) or (2b) full-time student status.

HOTEL RESERVATION:

Detailed information about accommodation will be sent to pre-registered participants. To ensure a smooth organization and facilitate your stay during the symposia, we will arrange a special rate with a chosen Hotel. Please indicate in the registration form if you want to benefit from this offer.

IMPORTANT DATES:

15 February 2014: First announcement of Symposia

15 April 2014: Second announcement of Symposia

31 May 2014: Deadline for pre-registration (by e-mail or fax, using the attached form) and abstract submission for papers and posters

30 June 2014: Notification of acceptance of abstracts

15 August 2014: Deadline for submission of papers and poster papers in "camera-ready" format (using the attached «Instructions for papers and posters»)

1st September 2014: Notification of final acceptance of papers and posters

27-31 October 2014: Symposia on the conservation of Key habitats (5th MSMV, 2nd MSC&CBC, 1st MSDH)

EXHIBITIONS:

A limited exhibition space will be available. For further details please contact the organisers.

SIDE EVENTS:

To propose a side event, please contact the organizers on the following e-mail address: assistant2@rac-spa.org.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Ricardo AGUILAR

Yelda AKTAN

Enrique BALLESTEROS

Hoceine BAZAIRI

Carlo Nike BIANCHI

Pierre CHEVALDONNE

Vasilis GEROVASILEIOU

Habib LANGAR

Atef OUERGHI

Gérard PERGENT

Christine PERGENT-MARTINI

Leonardo TUNESI

ORGANISING AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE:(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Souad BEN AOUICHA
Naziha BEN MOUSSA
Kais BLOUZA
Cyrine BOUAFIF

Tina CENTRIH
Habib LANGAR
Atef OUERGHI
Robert TURK

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Naziha BEN MOUSSA, email : naziha.benmoussa@rac-spa.org
Cyrine BOUAFIF, e-mail: assistant2@rac-spa.org
Habib LANGAR, e-mail: assistant3@rac-spa.org



The symposiums
serving the
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Medkeyhabitats
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MAVA