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Thirteenth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas

Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017

**Agenda item 12: Adoption of the report**

**Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs)**

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**Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs)  
(Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017)**

**Introduction**

1. In accordance with the Decision of the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols on the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Programme of Work and Budget for the 2016–2017 biennium (Decision IG. 22/20), Thematic Focal Points Meetings under MAP were to be held in 2017.

2. The meeting of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) focal points, was held in Alexandria, Egypt, from 9 to 12 May 2017 at the Four Seasons San Stefano Hotel (399, El Geish Road, Alexandria, Egypt).

**Participation**

3. All the focal points for SPAs had been invited to attend the meeting or to designate their representatives. The following Contracting Parties were represented at the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey. France and Spain participated through teleconferences.

4. The following institutions and organisations were represented by observers: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) and Oceana.

5. SPA/RAC acted as the Secretariat for the meeting.

6. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

**Agenda item 1            **Opening of the meeting****

7. The meeting was opened on Tuesday, 9 May 2017, at 9:30 by the representatives of the host country, the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC).

8. Mr. Khalil Attia, Director of SPA/RAC, welcomed the participants and thanked the Egyptian authorities for hosting the meeting. He said that the biennium had been prosperous in terms of activities undertaken; however, Mediterranean biodiversity was facing major challenges, and the coming years would be crucial at many levels. The impact of climate change on the region and its environment was increasing steadily, and it was becoming a reality for some objectives at regional and global levels. The Director welcomed the creation of the Mediterranean marine protected areas (MPAs) Trust Fund, a regional initiative led by France, Monaco and Tunisia. He also welcomed

existing and future collaboration with many partner organisations, which would help in achieving common regional objectives by joining efforts and avoiding overlap and duplication. All those aspects would be tackled during the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-term Strategy for the period 2016–2021.

9. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, recalled some of the achievements of the MAP system of the Barcelona Convention, such as the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and mobilisation of resources. He commended the support of the Contracting Parties and seized the opportunity to thank MAP donors such as the European Commission, the MAVA Foundation for Nature and the Global Environment Fund (GEF). The Coordinator acknowledged that the situation in the region was challenging but said relevant steps towards a common ambitious goal would maintain the good environmental status of the Mediterranean.

10. He noted the many partnerships formed during the past biennium, such as with the Convention on Biodiversity and its Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). In that context, the 2016 MPA Forum had been a success due to strong partnerships with the various MPA stakeholders. The Coordinator noted that, at global level, 2017 was a year of increasing attention to the oceans. COP 20 (in December 2017 in Tirana, Albania) would continue the strategic processes started by the Contracting Parties. He invited the SPA focal points to encourage their Ministers to attend the various global fora and to highlight the regional seas conventions as regulatory and implementation mechanisms to increase collaboration and the delivery of work.

11. Dr. Mona Mohamed Kamel, CEO, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, welcomed the participants. She expressed the interest of Egypt in conservation of the marine environment, especially in the Mediterranean Sea, by sharing some of the history of the establishment of institutions and agencies for marine research and conservation. She said that, in spite of all efforts, marine biodiversity had suffered from various source of pressure. A greater response was needed, such as implementation of national and regional action plans. Egypt had elaborated its national action plans on marine biodiversity monitoring, marine mammals, turtles, non-indigenous species and management of marine protected areas. She added that a first survey of marine mammals had been carried out, and Egypt would be happy to share the results of its work to protect the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea.

12. His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Sultan, Governor of Alexandria, welcomed the participants. He expressed his pleasure at participating in the important meeting and invited the participants to discover

the hosting city. He recognised that environmental issues were important and called for hard, collaborative work to save the environment.

**Agenda item 2**      **Organisational matters**

**2.1. Rules of procedure**

13. The internal rules adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present meeting.

**2.2. Election of officers**

14. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr. Mostafa Fouda (Egypt)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Robert Turk (Slovenia)
	Ms. Saida Laouar (Algeria)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Milena Bataković (Montenegro)

**2.3. Adoption of the agenda**

15. The Secretariat introduced the provisional agenda, which had been distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/1 Rev.1, and the annotated version in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/2 Rev.2.

16. After reviewing the two documents, the meeting approved the Agenda and the proposed timetable. The Agenda of the meeting appears as Annex 2 to this report.

**2.4. Organisation of work**

17. The Secretariat proposed that the meeting be held in daily sessions from 9:00 to 13:00 and from 14:30 to 18:00, subject to adjustments as necessary.

18. The working languages of the meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available for all the plenary sessions.

**Agenda item 3**      **Status of implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean**

19. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/3 entitled Synthetic note on the status of implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). The document contained a synthesis of the

information provided by the Contracting Parties (six official submissions and seven working drafts) on implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol through the online reporting system of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The reporting period covered the previous biennium, starting in January 2014 and ending in December 2015.

20. The Secretariat indicated that at the time of the 19th ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties, the SPAMI list had included 33 sites in areas under the jurisdiction of 10 countries and one MPA that covered areas both under and beyond national jurisdictions (the Pelagos sanctuary). During the reporting period, only one area was added to the SPAMI list (Karaburun Sazan National Park, in Albania).

21. With regard to the conservation of endangered or threatened species, the Secretariat reported that most Mediterranean countries had indicated they had collected information about the species and their habitats, enacted regulations to protect them and organised training sessions.

22. With regard to action plans for endangered species and habitats, the Secretariat reported that:

- Only marine turtle nesting beaches were protected and managed. Important awareness-raising and monitoring programmes had been organised, with the contribution of NGOs.
- Obligations under the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea were fulfilled mainly by implementation of the ACCOBAMS; however, most countries had not prepared national action plans. Many gaps in knowledge about these species were reported.
- Reports on the Mediterranean action plans on cartilaginous fish species and birds showed that those species were protected by law, and protected areas had been established to conserve bird populations and their habitats.
- Most Parties reported that they had enacted legislation to control the introduction of non-indigenous marine species. Mechanisms to monitor the arrival of alien marine species were in place in some countries, and most activities in the action plan on species introduction and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea were conducted with the assistance of regional organisations and some personal initiatives of scientists.

23. The Secretariat mentioned that the main difficulties reported in the conservation of species were associated with lack of financial resources and of technical and scientific capacity.

24. The Secretariat recalled that two action plans (on coralligenous and dark habitats) were not covered by the reporting system and informed participants that SPA/RAC proposed to include those two action plans in the reporting system at the time of its next amendment.

25. After the presentation, some participants congratulated the Secretariat for the quality of the report. As only a few Parties reported using the online reporting system, it was suggested that the

system be opened for reporting by any Party, even if it had not reported in previous biennia. It was also proposed that the reporting system provide separate sections that could be filled in and submitted by different national users.

26. The representative of Albania mentioned that his country was collecting extensive information about the Mediterranean monk seal and said that new records confirmed the presence and probable breeding of the species in the area of Karaburuni. He requested more assistance from SPA/RAC to undertake field surveys in the area in particular and to assist the marine turtles rescue centres in Albania.

27. The representative of Egypt described three activities conducted in collaboration with SPA/RAC: socio-economic studies, monitoring programmes and elaboration of national action plans on marine turtles and on non-indigenous species. He requested SPA/RAC to continue its support.

28. The Secretariat took note of the various suggestions and indicated that the comments on the online reporting system would be forwarded to the MAP Coordinating Unit for consideration during updating of the system.

**Agenda item 4            Progress report on activities carried out by SPA/RAC since the twelfth meeting of Focal Points for SPAs**

29. The Director of SPA/RAC introduced the progress report contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/4 and explained that the report was structured to follow the sequence themes, strategic outcomes and key outputs as defined in the MAP Mid-term Strategy (2016–2021). He gave a comprehensive but synthetic presentation of the most important activities carried out during the reporting period.

30. The Chairperson encouraged participants to foster new interactions in order to capture all trends, including information on climate change, to attract new donors. He welcomed the guiding document on indicators of climate change for SPAMIs as a basis for future responses to that challenge in the region, which was an interesting approach for developing collaboration with NGOs.

31. The representatives of Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey commended the work carried out by SPA/RAC and informed the meeting about the main activities carried out in their countries to implement the Protocol and the various action plans for the conservation of species and habitats.

32. The Chair also gave the floor to representatives of the partner organisations to inform the meeting about their collaboration with SPA/RAC regarding programme implementation.

33. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS highlighted the excellent cooperation her Organisation had had with SPA/RAC over the past 20 years in the conservation of cetaceans in a number of areas: improving knowledge on the status of cetacean conservation, reducing

human pressures on cetaceans, the development of two candidate indicators for Ecological Objective 11 of EcAp, improving capacity-building and identification of Critical Cetacean Habitats in the ACCOBAMS area and of appropriate management measures (management of dangers or spatial management).

34. The representative of MedPAN congratulated the common work conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding 2014-2019, described successful collaboration in updating the database of Mediterranean MPAs (MAPAMED), organising the second Mediterranean MPA Forum in Tangier (2016), capacity-building for MPA managers and organising a joint Mediterranean side event during the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in 2016 in the Ocean Pavilion. A common report of the Mediterranean MPA Status up to the end of 2016 would be finalised very soon.

35. The representative of Oceana thanked SPA/RAC team for fruitful collaboration during the period, not only within the Deep-sea Lebanon project with IUCN but also in other activities as Partner of the Dark Habitats Action Plan, which included collaboration in elaborating the Habitats Reference List and the Guidelines for inventorying and monitoring of dark habitats in the Mediterranean Sea. She encouraged Parties to establish partnerships similar to that in Lebanon, with the clear objective of improving protection of the Mediterranean Sea and reaching Aichi Target 11.

36. The Coordinator of MAP welcomed the positive feedback from the representatives of countries and partner organisations. He explained that during the past few years, a special effort had been made to promote coordination and collaboration between the MAP Secretariat and other organisations. He added that many activities were funded by the contributions of external donors; he stressed the heavy international competition for funds and urged countries to help in mobilising resources.

37. Under the Agenda item, the meeting approved a request from the Tunisian NGO “Notre Grand Bleu” to become a partner in the action plan for the conservation of marine turtles.

38. Referring to the relevant sections of documents UNEP (DEPI)MED WG.431/4 and UNEP (DEPI) MED WG.431/Inf.17, the Secretariat indicated that, in the context of the development of the Mediterranean Clearing-house Mechanism on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, SPA/RAC had initiated the establishment of a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) within the framework of the MedKeyHabitats project. The name given to the SDI was the Mediterranean Platform on Marine Biodiversity (MPB).

39. The representative of the Secretariat noted the excellent collaboration with Info/RAC in elaborating the terms of reference for the platform and also with MedPAN in relation to MAPAMED.

40. He said that the platform was based on open-source software and conformed to the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards. He indicated that the visible part of the MPB was the geoportal, which was accessible via the Internet at <http://data.medchm.net>.

41. The geoportal offered three main services: (i) display of thematic maps in various themes, such as Mediterranean MPA and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean importance; (ii) the possibility of creating user's maps by selecting data to be displayed from a catalogue; and (iii) the catalogue, containing the metadata of the 150 layers already included in the platform, organised in three topics, biodiversity, physical–chemical features and responses.

42. The participants commended the efforts made to elaborate the platform and stressed the importance of the tool for scientists, managers and decision-makers. They urged SPA/RAC to continue to include data in the MPB and recommended that it be fully integrated with other relevant databases and information systems.

**Agenda item 5**                    **Updating of the Action Plan concerning Marine and Coastal Birds listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol and proposals for amendment to Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol**

**5.1. Updating of the Action Plan concerning Marine and Coastal Birds listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol**

43. The Secretariat recalled the main decisions taken since adoption of the action plan on marine and coastal birds in 2003 and introduced working document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.431/5 on updating the action plan, as requested in Decision IG.22/12. Several sections would have to be updated in order to include information and comments on the 10 new species to be added: “The general overview of the Mediterranean avifauna”, “Background information on the action plan”, “Overview of threats”, “Ecology and status of the species” and “Geographical scope of the action plan”. The timetable for the action plan had been updated to cover the period 2018–2023, and proposals had been prepared for specific plans for the 25 species.

44. The representative of Israel informed the meeting that a national action plan on the white pelican had been fully implemented by his Government to assist the 70 000 white pelicans that migrated through Israel twice a year for feeding in order to reach their wintering grounds in Africa. He called on all Contracting Parties to protect the species, not just on their breeding grounds but also during migration outside the breeding areas.

45. The representative of the European Union informed the meeting that the European Action Plan for the Yelkouan Shearwater was being prepared within the LIFE project, EuroSAP, which would also provide a tracking tool to help monitor and assess progress in implementation of the action plans for bird species.

46. The Chairperson recommended that maps be prepared of the distribution of the bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol.

47. The meeting reviewed the draft updated action plan and invited SPA/RAC to submit it for adoption by the Contracting Parties. The draft updated action plan, as amended at the meeting, appears as Annex III to this report.

## **5.2. Proposals for amendment to Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol**

48. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/13 Rev.1, with a briefing on the procedure cited in Decision IG 17/14, “Common criteria for proposing amendments to annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean”, adopted by the Contracting Parties (Almeria, Spain, 2008).

49. The representative of Spain, speaking by teleconference, presented the data required for inclusion in Annex II of four Anthozoa species: *Isidella elongata*, *Dendrophyllia cornigera*, *Dendrophyllia ramea* and *Desmophyllum dianthus*. She noted that the first was on the IUCN Red List as “critically endangered”, the second as “endangered”, the third as “vulnerable” and the fourth as “endangered”.

50. The meeting was invited to consider the proposal and to make recommendations for following it up.

51. Several participants expressed their support for the amendments proposed by Spain. The representative of Croatia informed the meeting that she would provide the Secretariat with a national reference list of such species.

52. The representative of IUCN thanked Spain for the proposals and recalled that she had presented a side event at the previous meeting of SPA focal points (Athens, 2015) on the assessment of Anthozoa. She invited the countries to consider future inclusion of other species (anthozoans, rays and sharks), currently listed as “Endangered” on the IUCN Mediterranean Red list.

53. The representative of Oceana welcomed the Spanish proposal to amend Annex II by including the four new species. Oceana considered that the species proposed well deserved inclusion in Annex II, not only because of the multiple threats they faced and population decline, but also because of the solid scientific background provided. She stressed that it was a matter of urgency to include species that had also been assessed as threatened and were on the IUCN Red List, such as *Funiculina quadrangularis* and other species of Pennatulacea. She pointed out the limited protection of deep-sea species in the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol and reiterated the importance of declaring “new MPAs in the open sea, including the deep sea” as stated in the Tangier Declaration. The inclusion of deep-sea species would offer tools for improving the protection of those areas.

54. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research had provided a written statement expressing its support for the proposed amendments.

55. The Chairperson commented that inclusion of the four species in Annex II should encourage countries of the south and eastern Mediterranean to further study similar species.

56. The meeting approved the inclusion of the four species in Annex II.

57. The representative of Spain thanked the meeting for approving the proposals for amendments and informed the meeting that his country was preparing new proposals, to be submitted to next meetings of focal points for SPAs.

**Agenda item 6                    Updating of the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Selection of Sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the Mediterranean**

58. Referring to documents UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.431/6 and UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.431/Inf.17, the Secretariat introduced the agenda item and recalled decision IG. 22/12 of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which requested SPA/RAC to revise the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean for consideration by COP 20, according to the MAP Ecological Objectives related to Biodiversity, the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and the Good Environmental Status targets.

59. The Secretariat pointed out that, although the mandate in decision IG.22/12 was to update the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types, updating of that list required a revision of the classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1998. The Secretariat highlighted the elements considered in the revision and the eight criteria to be met for inclusion in the Reference List.

60. The Secretariat informed the meeting that, following the posting of the documents on the SPA/RAC website, some SPA focal points had suggested that the proposed classification of benthic marine habitat types be reviewed in more detail.

61. During the discussion on the agenda item, several participants recommended that the changes made to the lists be clearly indicated and that further consideration be given to the degree of detail in the classification, taking into account the objectives of the lists.

62. Following a substantive debate among the participants, the meeting agreed to inform the Contracting Parties at COP 20 that (i) further consultation was needed of the classification and the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types, and (ii) a meeting of experts representing the Contracting

Parties should be convened to review and finalise the classification and the Reference List before their submission for adoption by COP 21.

63. As implementation of IMAP in relation to some common biodiversity indicators requires selection of reference habitats, the meeting suggested that, at COP 20, the Contracting Parties take note of the draft Reference List of Marine Habitat Types contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/6 and recommend that it be used, where necessary, as a first basis for identifying reference habitats to be monitored at national level under IMAP.

64. The Director of SPA/RAC emphasised that organisation of the proposed expert meeting would have budget implications and expressed the hope that a Contracting Party would offer to host it and cover the necessary organisational costs.

**Agenda item 7                    Implementation of the “Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea” supported by the “Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean”**

65. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/7 Rev.1, “Draft report on the evaluation of the implementation of the ‘Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea’ supported by the ‘Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean’”, informing participants that it had been prepared as a follow-up to Decision IG.22/13 of COP 19.

66. The evaluation addressed in particular the following 10 points:

- national legal and institutional aspects (1 and 2);
- national strategies and action plans for MPAs (3);
- national and international MPA categories (4);
- status of declaration of MPAs at national level (5 and 6);
- other effective area-based conservation measures (7);
- participation mechanisms and socio-economic aspects (8);
- MPA management (9); and
- MPA financing (10).

67. The Secretariat also informed the meeting that nine countries had already provided their comments and suggestions for amendment of a version of the document that had been circulated before the meeting.

68. Participants were invited to comment on implementation of the regional programme of work and to provide information on any activities being conducted in their countries or by their

organisations. Comments and amendments provided both before and during the meeting would be incorporated into the final report and transmitted to the meeting of MAP focal points and to COP 20 for information.

69. While recognising the quality of the work conducted by the Secretariat in a highly complex area and the clear, exhaustive documentation that had been provided, many participants proposed changes to the document to better reflect the situations in their countries.

70. The Secretariat, responding to a question, said that the source used for the document had been the database on sites of interest for conservation of the marine environment in the Mediterranean (MAPAMED), which covered several types of MPA and various approaches to conservation. He explained that some sites had been designated in several different categories, which did not necessarily cover the same surface area.

71. The Secretariat read out a written comment on the document from France, in which the focal point asked for more information on the method used to compare the results of the evaluation with national data. Certain participants requested that the evaluation procedure and the criteria used to include MPAs be included in the final report.

72. The Chairperson underlined the importance of the document and invited participants to propose the revisions necessary to give COP 20 an accurate view of the work carried out in the Mediterranean to achieve Aichi target 11.

73. During the discussion on the item, the meeting agreed that the Secretariat should circulate a revised version of the report by 15 May 2017 at the latest and that the focal points that wished to propose changes send them to SPA/RAC by 22 May 2017. A new version of the report could thus be prepared in time for the next meeting of the MAP focal points (12–15 September 2017) and for COP 20 for information.

74. The Secretariat introduced the draft terms of reference for the Ad hoc Group of Experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean, recalling that the document had been prepared to implement one of the provisions of Decision IG.22/20 related to the MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016–2017 under Key Output 3.1.1, which was to set up an ad hoc group of experts on MPA issues under the SPA/BD Protocol.

75. To follow up on the provision, SPA/RAC, with the support of the MAP Coordinating Unit, had contacted the European Union to mobilise the required external funds to set up the ad hoc group and make it operational. The funds were now available through the MedMPA Network project “Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas”.

76. The Secretariat briefed the meeting about the proposed modalities for membership of the ad hoc group, its composition, its functioning and how it would interact with other scientific advisory groups set up by relevant agreements and organisations.

77. Some participants remarked that the added value of such a group was not obvious and asked the Secretariat whether it had assessed its overlap with existing bodies and the budgetary implications of the functioning of the group.

78. In response to a question from the Chairperson, the representative of MedPAN expressed the support of her organisation for the initiative, given that the mandate of the ad hoc group, focusing on the objectives of the Roadmap, was broader than that of the MedPAN Scientific Committee. She suggested that a discipline related to MPA financing be added to those to be considered for designation of the group's experts.

79. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS welcomed the initiative and expressed the willingness of her organisation to collaborate and contribute to the ad hoc group through the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS.

80. The Secretariat confirmed that the ad hoc group of experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean would be established in accordance with the Programme of Work adopted by the Contracting Parties, and explained that the objective was to fill the need for a multidisciplinary "think tank" to provide advice and timely orientation to the Secretariat for addressing existing and future challenges and on a wide range of topics of relevance to MPA governance, planning and management in the Mediterranean context and that terms of reference should be revised accordingly. It confirmed also that the members of the group would be selected among countries and partner organisations, stressing, however, that they would contribute to the group in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their countries or organisations.

81. At the end of the debate on the agenda item and on the basis of a suggestion by the Secretariat, the meeting agreed that an ad hoc group be established on a trial basis during the coming intersession, with the funds mobilised under the European Union-funded MedMPA Network project, which would be completed by December 2018. The meeting requested SPA/RAC to evaluate the functioning of the group and its activities during the trial period and to submit a report to the next meeting of SPA focal points in mid-2019. During their 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the focal points for SPAs would assess the added value of the ad hoc group's outputs and deliverables and make a recommendation to the Contracting Parties on whether the group should be continued, adjusted or terminated.

**Agenda item 8            List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List)**

**8.1. Ordinary Periodic Review of SPAMIs**

82.     The Secretariat briefly reminded the meeting of the procedure for revision of the SPAMI list, as adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2008, and introduced the ordinary periodic review of SPAMIs undertaken in 2017 in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/10.

83.     The 2017 ordinary review was conducted for the following three SPAMIs:

- Banc des Kabyles Nature Reserve (Algeria);
- Habibas Islands (Algeria); and
- Portofino Marine Protected Area (Italy).

84.     The Secretariat thanked all the members of the technical advisory commissions to which the evaluations had been entrusted and informed the meeting that the review had concluded that the three SPAMIs evaluated should be part of the ordinary review process, which meant maintaining them on the SPAMI List.

85.     The meeting approved the results of the ordinary review.

86.     The Secretariat informed the meeting of the ordinary reviews to be conducted in 2018 and 2019. They would concern the seven SPAMIs on the list in 2012 and the 12 SPAMIs on the list in 2001, respectively.

87.     The SPAMIs to be reviewed in 2018 were:

- the Blue Coast Marine Park (France);
- the Embiez Archipelago –Six Fours (France);
- Porto Cesareo Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Capo Carbonara Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- The Marine Protected Area of Penisola del Sinis – Isola di Mal di Ventre (Italy);
- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon); and
- Palm Islands Nature Reserve (Lebanon).

88.     The SPAMIs to be reviewed in 2019 were:

- Port-Cros (France);
- the Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (France, Italy and Monaco);
- Alboran Island (Spain);
- the Natural Park of Cabo de Gata-Nijar (Spain);
- the Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (Spain);
- the Natural Park of Cap de Creus (Spain);

- Medes Islands (Spain);
- Mar Menor and the Oriental Mediterranean zone of the region of Murcia coast (Spain);
- Columbretes Islands (Spain);
- La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia);
- Kneiss Islands (Tunisia); and
- Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia)

## **8.2. Inclusion of areas on the SPAMI List**

89. The Secretariat informed the meeting of the two proposals received for inclusion of areas on the SPAMI List: the Calanques National Park and the Cetaceans migration corridor in the Mediterranean, proposed by France and Spain, respectively. The Secretariat recalled that, according to the procedure, SPA/RAC had no role to play in evaluating the proposals, except to submit them to the meeting of SPA focal points for their consideration.

90. The representative of France, speaking to the meeting via teleconference, presented the Calanques National Park and its natural heritage, objectives, boundaries, management plan, governance mode and the threats it faced.

91. The meeting agreed to submit the French proposal to COP 20 for inclusion on the SPAMI List.

92. The representative of Spain, also speaking by teleconference, presented the proposed Cetaceans migration corridor in the Mediterranean, including its importance for the Mediterranean, its general features and the proposed protection regime. He emphasised that the Act that would establish the area as a protected area was in the process of approval; however, according to Spanish legislation, natural areas that were formally designated by international conventions to which Spain was Party would automatically be considered protected areas by national law.

93. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS informed the participants that the work of the Scientific Committee on updating the mapping of Critical Habitats for Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area confirmed that the corridor corresponded to an important area for cetaceans. She stated that the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS supported rapid, concrete management measures in the area of interest for cetaceans.

94. While most of the participants recognised and confirmed the regional value of the area and the sound scientific basis provided in the presentation report, several delegates, referring to paragraph 2, section C (Legal status) of Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol, noted that the area does not fulfil some of the required criteria and particularly a protected status recognised at national level.

95. At the end of the debate on the SPAMI proposal of Spain, the meeting encouraged Spain to submit it to the next MAP focal points meeting once it is confirmed as MPA at national level. It requested that the Secretariat prepare an analysis of the legal status of the candidate SPAMI in relation to paragraph 2, section C (Legal status) of Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol and other eligibility elements in the report proposal.

### **8.3. Updating of the format for the periodic review of SPAMIs**

96. The Secretariat briefed the meeting about the background that had led to updating the format for periodic review of SPAMIs, as recommended in Decision IG.22/14 of COP 19.

97. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the updated online SPAMI evaluation system had been tested during the 2017 ordinary review of three coastal national SPAMIs and had been further improved following comments made by the relevant technical advisory commissions.

98. The Secretariat demonstrated the online evaluation system (available in English at [http://rac-spa.org/spami\\_eval/spami.php](http://rac-spa.org/spami_eval/spami.php)) and informed the meeting that the French version would be developed later.

99. The participants who had had the opportunity to use and test the online system reported that the new format facilitated review of SPAMIs.

100. The representative of Algeria suggested, however, that a section be added in which technical advisory commissions could make recommendations for future evaluations.

101. In answer to a question from the representative of Italy, the Secretariat said that the final draft of a review could be transformed into a pdf file that could be printed, signed by the technical advisory commissions and forwarded to SPA/RAC as an official submission.

102. The meeting recommended that SPA/RAC continue to use the online SPAMI evaluation system for coastal national SPAMIs and finalise its testing for transboundary high-sea SPAMIs, such as the Pelagos Sanctuary, which would be the subject of an ordinary review in 2019.

### **Agenda item 9 Assistance in the implementation of the first phase of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) on biodiversity and non-indigenous species in the framework of the EcAp roadmap**

103. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/12, “Draft factsheets for the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) related to the Ecological Objectives 1 (EO1, Biodiversity) and 2 (EO2, Non-Indigenous Species (NIS)) under the Ecosystem Approach process (EcAp) of the Barcelona Convention.

104. The document contained guidance and assessment factsheets for common indicators relevant to the biodiversity component, which had first been examined and discussed during the meeting of the

Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON), Biodiversity and Fisheries (28 February–1 March 2017, Madrid, Spain) and then during the workshop on the Science Policy Interface and the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Joint Meeting on IMAP Scale of Assessment and QSR (27–28 April 2017, Nice, France).

105. The Secretariat added that, subsequent to the two meetings, an online working group had been created to review and update the document. The Secretariat invited interested participants to join the group and submit their comments until 26 May 2017.

106. The Secretariat recalled that the final version of the document would first be presented at the meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group, then at the MAP focal points meeting and finally at COP 20.

107. The Chairperson commented that the document was extremely important, in both length and the quality of the information collected to draw up an exhaustive, detailed list of factsheets on common indicators for achieving the objectives of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean. He invited the meeting to review the presented factsheets.

108. Most participants commended the work done in preparing the common indicator factsheets and thanked SPA/RAC for the high-quality document, which took into consideration the remarks and comments made during the CORMON meeting. Some participants informed the meeting that they might provide further comments through the online consultation group by 26 May 2017.

109. The representative of ACCOBAMS drew attention to the regional ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) on cetaceans, which was based on coherent and harmonised surveys at regional scale.

110. The representative of Egypt thanked SPA/RAC for the support provided during the current phase of the IMAP implementation and urged further assistance during the next phase of implementation of monitoring and assessment of the common indicators related to the biodiversity and NIS.

111. The Chairperson again commended the quality of the analytical work, which had involved various disciplines and good will.

#### **Agenda item 10      Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2018-2019**

112. The MAP Coordinator explained that programmes of work were elaborated by each RAC in a similar manner and then harmonised by the Coordinating Unit. The draft programme for the second biennium of the Mid-term Strategy 2016–2021 built on previous Programme of Work. Each action was linked to agreed outputs in the Mid-term Strategy, so that the proposals were as consistent and coherent with the key outputs as possible.

113. The resources required and the operational costs increased every year; however, the available resources remained the same as in the previous biennium. The MAP Coordinator invited the focal points to contribute in resource mobilisation.

114. He recalled that one of the objectives was ratification of the Protocol by countries that had not yet done so.

115. Referring to Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.431/14, the Director of SPA/RAC introduced the draft programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2018–2019 in a presentation that included a description of the structure of the Programme and the main focuses and activities proposed for the biennium. It was guided by the strategic framework of the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention Mid-term Strategy 2016–2021 and organised mainly under the biodiversity and ecosystems core themes, with strategic objectives, strategic outcomes and their corresponding key outputs. For each key output, the main activities, means of implementation and expected deliverables were defined, including activities under the “Governance” overarching theme and the “Climate Change Adaptation” cross-cutting theme.

116. The proposed programme of work 2018–2019 took into consideration lessons learnt from the biennium 2016–2017, to ensure:

- better integration and aggregation of activities, where appropriate;
- result-based activities with a focus on deliverables; and
- collaboration with other MAP components and interaction with cross-cutting themes.

117. He emphasised the importance of continuing to enhance collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other regional, national and local stakeholders to improve synergy and avoid duplication of activities.

118. He recalled that the financial resources requested under the Mediterranean Trust Fund would not ensure adequate coverage of activities, and SPA/RAC was making continuous efforts to mobilise external resources, with the support of, and in collaboration with, the MAP Secretariat. Thus, SPA/RAC would carry out the key activities in the draft programme of work and the Mid-term Strategy in externally funded projects, such as the MedMPA Network; EcAp-MED II; three projects to be funded by MAVA and implemented with regional partners for turtle conservation, habitat mapping and incidental catch of threatened species; and a project named ODYSSEA for a Mediterranean observatory network, with full support from the European Commission.

119. The representative of MedPAN said that the MedPAN network of MPA managers would support implementation of the SPA/RAC biennial programme of work through the Memorandum of Cooperation 2014–2019 between the two organisations and the on-going joint project for the MedMPA Network funded by the European Commission and coordinated by UNEP/MAP, through the

MAVA Foundation three-year projects on fisheries and on marine turtles. The collaboration could focus on improving understanding of the ecological and socio-economic aspects of MPAs, capacity-building and experience-sharing between MPAs, communication (at Mediterranean but also at international level), pilot implementation of integrated coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning and support for the development of financing mechanisms, including the Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs. MedPAN would continue its collaboration in updating and improving the MAPAMED database to produce the 2019 Mediterranean MPA status report and would renew its partnership in organising the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum, which would address objectives for the Mediterranean beyond 2020.

120. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS congratulated SPA/RAC on its draft programme of work and looked forward to continuing collaboration in all the activities included in the Memorandum of Collaboration between the two organisations. She commended the exemplary nature of the project to reduce accidental captures that was being developed within the new strategy of the MAVA Foundation, with a strong collaborative framework, involving both intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations.

121. The representative of IUCN also congratulated SPA/RAC on the draft programme of work and expressed its willingness to continue collaboration with the Secretariat and the Parties in implementation of the activities of the programme. She invited SPA/RAC to participate as an adviser in the European Union Interregional Mediterranean project, MPA-Adapt, the aim of which was to adapt MPAs to climate change and exploit synergies with the activities proposed by SPA/RAC at SPAMI sites.

122. Several focal points congratulated the Secretariat on the quality of the document and thanked SPA/RAC for its support for research activities, conservation and training in their countries.

123. The representative of Libya requested the support of SPA/RAC for the elaboration of three national action plans, on marine vegetation, sea turtles and non-indigenous species, and also for capacity-building. He requested further logistical and technical support to facilitate implementation of the plans

124. The representative of Croatia thanked SPA/RAC for the comprehensive draft programme of work but called attention to the limited expected budget for those important tasks.

125. The representative of Montenegro welcomed the provision of methods and EcAp factsheets and asked for assistance to her country in optimising their adaptation to national needs. She stressed the need to mobilise additional funds for implementation of the planned activities within the work programme.

126. The representative of Tunisia expressed her country's satisfaction with several aspects of the draft programme, such as mapping of key habitats. Much important work had been done in the previous biennium on MPAs in the Mediterranean including the high seas. Institutional support was essential for the creation of MPAs in Tunisia. She highlighted the support planned to the operational system for the Kuriat islands, which encouraged co-management with the local population and civil society in general, and requested further SPA/RAC support for use of the approach.

127. The representative of Slovenia congratulated SPA/RAC and the Coordinating Unit on achieving the difficult task of coordinating the Mid-term strategy with the proposed programme of work. He drew attention to the importance of including MPAs in the maritime spatial planning.

128. The representative of Morocco expressed her full satisfaction with her country's collaboration with SPA/RAC, currently focusing on the elaboration of the management plan for the Jebel Moussa marine area, which would be a future MPA located at the heart of the intercontinental biosphere reserve.

129. The representative of Cyprus expressed her satisfaction with the quality of the regional training recently provided in Kuriat. She encouraged the SPA/RAC to pursue the organisation of such training activities.

130. The representative of Algeria commended the work of SPA/RAC on her country's behalf and asked for further support to continue the creation of new MPAs.

131. The representative of the European Union also commended the quality of the draft programme of work, which was very detailed and clear, covering a wide range of activities, all relevant to EU objectives in marine nature conservation. The SPA/RAC programme of work could contribute significantly to achieving those objectives in the Mediterranean context. He described several important actions, on-going or planned, under EU nature and marine legislation, especially under the recently adopted by the Commission Action Plan on better implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives<sup>1</sup>, that could support the SPA/RAC programme of work. They included activities for completion of the marine Natura 2000 network, preparation and implementation of fishery management measures for MPAs, efficient use of financing opportunities under EU funds and establishment of management plans and conservation measures for all Natura 2000 sites. Exchanges of practices and approaches for those issues took place at regional biogeographical fora, including for the marine Mediterranean biogeographical region; for example, on 10-12 October 2017, the Commission would organise in cooperation with Croatian authorities a workshop on defining fishery measures for Natura 2000 MPAs in the Mediterranean. In view of the implementation challenges in the Mediterranean and the restricted resources, it was essential to ensure synergy and complementarity

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/action\\_plan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/index_en.htm)

between the programme of work and relevant EU activities in the region through closer cooperation with SPA/RAC.

132. The representative of Egypt commended the long, fruitful collaboration with SPA/RAC and looked forward to its continuation in future activities such as: preparing the management plan for the Sallum MPA; preparing the Egyptian Marine Vegetation Action Plan; national workshops with relevant national agencies, authorities and stakeholders to adopt the prepared monitoring programmes and action plans; revising and implementing the national action plan for conservation of cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean; preparing the Egyptian strategic action plan for Mediterranean MPAs; and preparing the stranding monitoring network for cetaceans and turtles.

133. During the discussion under the agenda Item, the need to give further consideration to unfreezing the post of Scientific Director at SPA/RAC was raised, which would be necessary for implementation of the programme of work.

134. The Chairperson again stressed the inadequacy of the budget allocated for the proposed programme of work.

135. The MAP Coordinator thanked SPA/RAC for the quality of its work and the participants, Parties and partners for their positive feedback. He encouraged the SPA focal points to communicate with the MAP focal points in their countries to inform them about the achievements and results of their collaboration with SPA/RAC.

#### **Agenda item 11      Any other matters**

136. The representative of the EU informed the meeting about the forthcoming fourth high-level “Our Ocean” conference that would take place in Malta on 5-6 October 2017 and would be hosted by the EU in cooperation with Maltese authorities. The conference would focus on four key themes, MPAs, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution and climate-related impact on oceans, and would be an excellent opportunity for Mediterranean countries to present progress on those issues and in particular on current and planned efforts to establish and manage MPAs effectively.

#### **Agenda item 12      Adoption of the report**

137. The Meeting reviewed the draft report prepared by the Secretariat, modified it and adopted the present report.

#### **Agenda item 13      Closure of the meeting**

138. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was closed on Friday, 12 May 2017, at 5.35 p.m.

## **Annexes**

- Annex I: List of participants
- Annex II: Agenda of the meeting
- Annex III: Draft updated Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- Annex IX: Draft Amendement of Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol - List of endangered or threatened species



## **Annex I**

### **List of participants**



## **List of Participants / Liste des Participants**

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**Annex II**

**Agenda of the meeting**



## **Agenda of the meeting**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
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| <b>Agenda item 3</b>  | <b>Status of implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean</b>  |
| <b>Agenda item 4</b>  | <b>Progress report on activities carried out by SPA/RAC since the twelfth meeting of Focal Points for SPAs</b>  |
| <b>Agenda item 5</b>  | <b>Updating of the Action Plan concerning Marine and Coastal Birds listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol and proposals for amendment of Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol</b>   |
| <b>Agenda item 6</b>  | <b>Updating of the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Selection of Sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the Mediterranean</b>  |
| <b>Agenda item 7</b>  | <b>Implementation of the ‘Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea’ supported by the ‘Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean’</b> |
| <b>Agenda item 8</b>  | <b>List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List)</b>   |
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### **Annex III**

**Draft updated Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean**



## **Foreword**

In 1995, the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) adopted a new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol) in the Mediterranean. Annex II of this new protocol lists endangered or threatened species found in the Mediterranean. Subsequently a series of nine Action Plans were also adopted by the Parties to the Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean. These Action Plans, including the Action Plan (AP) for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol, identify and lay out priorities and activities that need to be undertaken to attain their specific objectives. They also urge and encourage co-ordination and co-operation amongst Mediterranean states to work towards the achievement of conservation of a species or a group of species within this region. Following the request made for SPA/RAC during the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28; Decision IG.22/12), the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species drafted in 2003 is updated during the biennium 2016-2017.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. General overview of the avifauna of the Mediterranean

Birds have always fascinated and captivated people's imagination. Their beauty and their song, as well as their power of flight, have inspired humankind throughout the millennia. Their aesthetic, recreational, social and economic values are recognized worldwide. Birds know no boundaries and they play an important part in nature's ecosystems. They are also good indicators of the health of the environment. In spite of all this it has been the anthropogenic pressure that throughout the years has threatened the existence of several species, not only in the Mediterranean region.

The ornithological calendar of the Mediterranean is dominated by the seasonal migrations of birds from Europe to Africa in autumn and vice versa in spring, and several species which breed in Europe over-winter in the Mediterranean basin. Nonetheless, the Mediterranean is the home of several hundred bird species, some of which occur exclusively in this climatic zone. The seabirds found along the crowded coastal zone and the islands of this almost land-locked sea are quite resilient, including the comparatively rare and localised Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*.

Pelagic bird species in the Mediterranean are relatively few, but several fine breeding colonies of Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*, Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, and the subspecies of the European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* may be found along sea-cliffs or on small isolated rocky islands and islets.

Coastal seabirds, including the subspecies *emigratus* of the Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* with its breeding area restricted to Libya, are found in river deltas and inland saltwater lagoons. Many other coastal species, however, are found breeding in sub-optimal and man-modified habitats such as salinas, while others rely on municipal waste dumps and discards from fishing boats for their food.

The ten new species added to Annex II, include the critically endangered (CE) Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* and the near threatened (NE) Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*. The trend of both their populations has been assessed by IUCN as decreasing. Although the rest of the new species are regarded from a global point of view as least concern (LC), their breeding range in the Mediterranean is restricted to a few countries, particularly eastern ones. Furthermore, the population trend of some of them (e.g. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, the Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*, the Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* and the Common Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*) has also been assessed as decreasing globally.

Background information of the Action Plan for the conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II

In 1995 the Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a new protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. After a lengthy process of consultation and consent among international organisations, NGOs and experts throughout the Mediterranean, the draft action plan was discussed at the sixth meeting of the National Focal Points

for SPAs in Marseilles in June 2003 and then approved and adopted by the XIII Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at Catania, Sicily, in November 2003.

During their meeting in Monaco in November 2001 the Contracting Parties had asked SPA/RAC to draw up a draft action plan for the bird species appearing in Annex II, which listed 15 endangered or threatened bird species.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, in 2003, the Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted an Action Plan for the conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II. The main purpose of the Action Plan was to maintain and/or restore their population levels to a favourable conservation status and to ensure their long-term conservation. The Action Plan also aimed to contribute to the sharing of knowledge and expertise between the Mediterranean countries and to co-ordinate efforts among the countries and other relevant initiatives and agreements. It also inspired a synergic approach among the Mediterranean countries in the protection of these bird species and their habitats and encouraged research to fill the many gaps in our knowledge concerning coastal and pelagic birds in the Mediterranean, particularly seabirds' distribution and their movements, as well as their feeding, moulting and wintering areas at sea.

The development of the Action Plan for the conservation of these species followed various initiatives taken by other organisations, such as BirdLife International partners in Mediterranean countries, WWF, IUCN, Medmaravis, and Tour du Valat, on the conservation of birds and their important sites and habitats. Various actions have been taken at national level by the competent authorities and at species level by several non-governmental organisations (particularly BirdLife International partners) in their respective countries, to counteract some of the threats, which were being faced by a number of the species covered by the Action Plan.

In 2005, the first Mediterranean Symposium on the ecology and conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II, was held in Villanova I la Geltrú (Spain) with the participation of 31 ornithologists and experts from 16 Mediterranean countries. The participants made several recommendations to SPA/RAC, including the addition of 10 new marine and coastal bird species to the list of Annex II.<sup>2</sup> In November 2009, the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Marrakech (Morocco), adopted the addition of the 10 species of marine and coastal birds in Annex II, bringing up the total number of bird species to 25. Ten years after the Villanova Mediterranean Symposium it was appropriate to hold another symposium; (a) to update the knowledge on the status of marine and coastal birds; (b) to assess the effect of new regulations, conventions and research tools; and (c) to call for a closer cooperation among the countries that adopted the list of 25 bird species of Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol. Hence SPA/RAC, in partnership with the Tunisian NGO Les Amis des Oiseaux (AAO/BirdLife Tunisia), Medmaravis,

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<sup>1</sup> The original number of species was 15, but two subspecies (*Puffinus yelkouan yelkouan* and *Puffinus yelkouan mauretanicus*) of one of the species (Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*), were given species status by taxonomists, namely Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* and Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*. The latter is one of the 10 added bird species to Annex II in 2009.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/MAP- RAC/SPA. 2006. *Proceedings of the first symposium on the Mediterranean action plan for the conservation of marine and coastal birds*. Vilanova i la Geltrú, (Spain), 17-19 November 2005, (Ed. Aransay, N.) RAC/SPA, Tunis.

Tour du Valat Biological Station and the Conservatoire du Littoral, organised the 2nd Symposium on Marine and Coastal Birds in the Mediterranean in Hammamet, Tunisia, in February 2015.<sup>3</sup> Subsequently, the 19th Conference of Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was held in February 2016 in Athens, asked SPA/RAC, to update the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol to include the new added species (Decision IG22/12).

Bird Species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol: List of Endangered or Threatened Species

The sequence and nomenclature follows del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2014). HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Non-passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcellona.

<b>English Name</b>	<b>French Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
<b>Greater Flamingo</b>	Flamant rose	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
<b>European Storm-petrel</b>	Océanite tempête	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> ssp. <i>melitensis</i>
<b>Scopoli's Shearwater</b>	Puffin de Scopoli	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
<b>Yelkouan Shearwater</b>	Puffin yelkouan	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>
<b>Balearic Shearwater</b>	Puffin des Baléares	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>
<b>Pygmy Cormorant</b>	Cormoran pygmée	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>
<b>European Shag</b>	Cormoran huppé	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ssp. <i>desmarestii</i>
<b>Dalmatian Pelican</b>	Pélican frisé	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
<b>Great White Pelican</b>	Pélican blanc	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
<b>Kentish Plover</b>	Pluvier à collier interrompu	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
<b>Greater Sand Plover</b>	Pluvier de Leschenault	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> ssp. <i>columbinus</i>
<b>Slender-billed Curlew</b>	Courlis à bec grêle	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>
<b>Slender-billed Gull</b>	Goéland railleur	<i>Larus genei</i>
<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>	Mouette mélanocéphale	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
<b>Audouin's Gull</b>	Goéland d'Audouin	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
<b>Armenian Gull</b>	Goéland d'Arménie	<i>Larus armenicus</i>
<b>Little Tern</b>	Sterne naine	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
<b>Common Gull-billed Tern</b>	Sterne hansel	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	Sterne caspienne	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
<b>Lesser Crested Tern</b>	Sterne voyageuse	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	Sterne caugé	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
<b>Osprey</b>	Balbuzard pêcheur	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
<b>Pied Kingfisher</b>	Martin-pêcheur pie	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
<b>White-breasted Kingfisher</b>	Martin-chasseur de Smyrne	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
<b>Eleonora's Falcon</b>	Facoun d'Éléonore	<i>Falco eleonora</i>

<sup>3</sup> Yesou, P., Sultana, J., Walmsley, J. & Azafzaf, H. (Eds.) 2016. *Conservation of Marine and Coastal Birds in the Mediterranean*. Proceedings of the UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA Symposium, Hammamet 20-22 February 2015, Tunisia.

## **1.2. Overview of threats**

In general birds are threatened by habitat loss and disturbance and also from contamination by oil pollutants. Fish farms and wind farms close to seabird colonies, as well as intensive deep water fishing may constitute serious threats to some bird species.

Among the 25 species listed in Annex II as endangered or threatened one finds those:

- which are globally threatened;
- which are endemic to the region and have an unfavourable conservation status;
- whose populations are not concentrated in the Mediterranean but which have an unfavourable conservation status and/or a restricted range in the region;
- whose populations are not concentrated in the Mediterranean, have a healthy conservation status but are regarded as flagship species.

However, they all have something in common. They are all endangered by a number of threats, including:

- Contamination by oil pollutants
- Direct and indirect depletion of food resources
- Non-sustainable forms of tourism
- Disturbance
- Direct persecution including illegal hunting and the use of poison
- Mortality from bycatch
- Wind farms
- Loss of habitats
- Degradation of habitat, particularly wetlands and small islands of high biological importance
- Introduction of and predation by alien species
- Climate change

## **1.3. Ecology and status of the species**

The biology, ecology, distribution and conservation status of the fifteen bird species in the original Action Plan (2003) had been presented in an information document entitled “List of Threatened Bird Species as Adopted by the Barcelona Convention”. It was composed of an annotated List compiled by Medmaravis and edited by J. Criado, J. Walmsley and R. Zotier (April 1996) and gave the status, population size and trends, ecology, threats and conservation measures for each species. This was complemented by other national, regional and global contributions, particularly by BirdLife International.

The additional 10 species, which were originally proposed in 2005 during the first Mediterranean Symposium on the ecology and conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II, held in Villanova I la Geltrú (Spain), were presented by Xavier Monbailliu on behalf of Medmaravis,

using a scientific criteria to screen possible candidate species. They are species of particular importance for coastal habitats in the Mediterranean. Their biology, ecology, distribution and conservation status was based on BirdLife International's publication *Birds in Europe: Population estimates, Trends and Conservation status* (2004). Their status in the Mediterranean has also been complemented by national experts' input in response to a questionnaire sent out by SPA/RAC to its National Focal Points. The questionnaire was sent out in October 2016, after a roundtable discussion on the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II, was organized at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Congress for Conservation Biology held in September 2016 at El Jadida, Morocco.

Several ornithological studies have been carried out in the Mediterranean in the last twenty to thirty years, as can be noted particularly in the proceedings of various symposia including those organised by SPA/RAC, Medmaravis, Conservatoire du Littoral, Tour du Valat, and national NGOs in the Mediterranean countries. Despite all these studies, there are still many gaps in the knowledge of coastal and pelagic birds and their habitats in the Mediterranean, particularly seabird movements and their distribution at sea. There is an urgent need for mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic birds in the whole region.

#### **1.4. Geographical scope of the Action Plan**

The geographical scope of the action plan is the entire semi-closed sea and the Mediterranean bio-climate parts of its bordering countries. Some of the species, such as Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* and Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, have a restricted breeding range in the Mediterranean. Others, such as Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*, have migration routes and/or wintering areas outside the Mediterranean. Other species, such as White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* and Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, are widespread elsewhere, but have a limited range and/or a small population in the Mediterranean. For Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*, which is a globally Critically Endangered species, the Mediterranean used to be part of its wintering range, but now its population is estimated less than 50 according to BirdLife International species factsheet (2016) and there have been no recent confirmed records in the Mediterranean. Apart from the Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*, which is Near Threatened, and the Balearic Shearwater, which is Critically Endangered, the other newly added species to Annex II are of Least Concern, according to BirdLife International. However their breeding population and/or range in the Mediterranean are quite restricted.

## **2. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**

### **2.1. The main objective**

The main purpose of the Action Plan is to maintain and/or restore the population levels of bird species listed in the Annex II of SPA/BD Protocol to a favourable conservation status and to ensure their long-term conservation.

### **2.2. Other objectives**

- To share information, knowledge and expertise between Mediterranean countries and organisations dealing with the bird species listed in Annex II.
- To co-ordinate efforts among Mediterranean countries and other relevant organisations, initiatives and agreements, so as to ensure the implementation of this Action Plan.
- To encourage a synergetic approach among Mediterranean countries in the protection of the 25 listed bird species and their habitats.
- To encourage research to fill the many gaps which still exist in knowledge of coastal and pelagic birds in the Mediterranean, particularly of seabird distribution and movements, and of their feeding, moulting and wintering areas at sea.

## **3. STRATEGIC APPROACH**

In the implementation of this Action Plan there are three levels of priority:

### **At Species level**

- To implement this Action Plan for all species in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol.
- To consider the conservation of globally threatened species as one of the main priorities of the present Action Plan.
- To give priority to the conservation of other species, which have an unfavourable conservation status at regional level.

### **At National level**

- To map the distribution of the species on land as well as at sea.
- To identify sea and coastal important bird areas, particularly for feeding and breeding.
- To identify and control threats for birds and their habitats.
- To protect and monitor Important Bird Areas (IBAs).
- To carry out proper Environment Impact Assessments for all proposed development where any of the species occur.
- To develop and implement appropriate legislation for the protection of birds and their habitats.
- To pursue the principles and adhere to the requirements of Agreements and Conventions related to bird conservation.

### **At Mediterranean level**

- To strengthen co-operation and exchange of information and experience in research.
- To disseminate information.
- To promote and support the identification of coastal and sea areas which are important for birds.
- To promote the creation and monitoring of protected areas of coastal and marine important birds areas.
- To prevent and/or control the expansion of invasive species, particularly on small islands of high biological importance for birds.
- To identify and monitor migratory hotspots.
- To seek, whenever appropriate, collaboration at a broader international level with relevant Conventions/Agreements such as the Berne Convention, the Bonn Convention, and in particular with the Afro-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

## **4. ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN**

### **4.1. Protected areas**

- Important bird marine areas should be identified and given legal protection status.
- Breeding sites of all threatened species should be legally established as protected areas with an adequate management plan.
- Coastal and marine protected important bird areas should be continuously monitored and properly managed.

### **4.2. Legislation**

- Throughout the Mediterranean, species should be afforded legal protection by the Contracting Parties in countries where they breed, winter or occur during migration, as per the guidelines provided by SPA/RAC (see para. 5).
- Legislation should include dissuasive penalties.
- Assessment of environmental impact on these species and their habitats by any type of development should be legally obligatory.

### **4.3. Research**

- In view of the existing gaps in knowledge of coastal and pelagic birds and their habitats in the Mediterranean, especially of their movements and distribution at sea, priority must be given to the mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of the species concerned.
- Resources should be made available for researchers to fill the gaps in knowledge, such as for the establishment of a Mediterranean seabirds' atlas, and for monitoring population size and breeding success of less well-known species.

#### **4.4. Monitoring Activities**

In view of the adoption of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP),

- Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with the support of the SPA/RAC Secretariat, should update their national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements of IMAP and report regularly quality assured data.
- Contracting Parties, with the help of national, regional or international organisations, should undertake, when appropriate, joint monitoring initiatives on a pilot basis, with the aim to share and exchange best practices, using harmonized methodologies, and ensuring cost efficiency.
- Contracting Parties should support and take part in regional initiatives and projects led by competent partner organizations that will contribute to the implementation of the initial phase of the IMAP in order to strengthen strategic and operational regional synergies.
- The SPA/RAC Secretariat should work further and create more opportunities with relevant partner organizations, in order to strengthen technical support that countries might need to implement the IMAP.

#### **4.5. Awareness, Education & Training**

- Contracting Parties should promulgate legislation concerning endangered bird species.
- Contracting Parties should seek and/or provide the training of personnel for monitoring, conserving and managing protected important bird areas.
- The organisation of ornithological training courses *in situ* for trainers, important bird areas staff and relevant personnel should be supported by SPA/RAC and the partners of the Action Plan.
- Public awareness and education programmes and campaigns highlighting the vulnerability of threatened species, directed particularly at stakeholders and decision makers, should be planned and implemented in co-operation with non-governmental organisations.

#### **4.6. National Action Plans**

- Contracting Parties should formulate National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.
- National Action Plans should take into consideration the implementation of the specific actions relevant to the particular countries proposed in this Action Plan.
- New and updated National Action Plans should address the current factors causing loss or decline of the bird species in Annex II; suggest appropriate subjects for legislation; give priority to the protection and management of sites; and ensure continued research and monitoring of populations and sites.

- Contracting Parties should apply and implement their Action Plans.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1. Regional co-ordination structure**

Regional co-ordination of the implementation of the present Action Plan will be guaranteed by the Mediterranean Action Plan's (MAP) secretariat through the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

The main functions of the co-ordinating structure shall consist in:

- Promoting co-operation among Contracting Parties in those actions executed in trans-boundary areas and at sea in national waters and beyond.
- Promoting the development of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of threatened Mediterranean bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations.
- Supporting and collaborating with Contracting Parties in the establishment of important bird areas at sea.
- Providing detailed guidelines to assist countries in their efforts to afford adequate legislative protection to endangered species.
- Elaborating guidelines for monitoring and management plans in collaboration with experts and other interested organisations.
- Urging and supporting the Contracting Parties to create and/or update their national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements of IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria) and report regularly quality assured data.
- Assisting countries in the monitoring and conservation of the species listed in Annex II according to the proposed actions by this Action Plan.
- Organising meetings of experts on specific subjects relating to the ecology and conservation of the bird species found in Annex II.
- Preparing progress reports on the implementation of this Action Plan.
- Encouraging complementary work, done by other international organisations with the same objectives, and promoting co-ordination to avoid possible duplication of effort, such as the CMS Secretariat<sup>4</sup>, the Secretariat of AEWA, the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit, the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) and Birdlife International.

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<sup>4</sup> including the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) convened by the CMS Secretariat in conjunction with the Secretariat of AEWA, the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit and the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) Working Group.

## **5.2. Participation**

Any interested international, regional and/or national organisation is invited to participate in actions necessary for the implementation of this Action Plan, while links with other bodies responsible for Action Plans dealing with one or more bird species listed in Annex II should be made, to strengthen co-operation and avoid duplication of work.

## **5.3. “Action Plan Partners”**

To encourage and reward contributions to the work of applying the Action Plan, the Contracting Parties may at their ordinary meetings grant the title of “Action Plan Partner” to any organisation (governmental, nongovernmental, economic, etc.) that has to its credit concrete actions likely to help the conservation of birds in Annex II of the Protocol. Conditions for the awarding of the Partner title shall be adopted by the Contracting Parties following advice given by the meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs. The co-ordination structure shall set up a mechanism for regular dialogue between the participating organisations and where necessary, organise meetings to this effect. However any dialogue could also be done by mail/email and webinars (on line conferences).

## **5.4. Assessment and revision**

National Focal Points for SPAs, in collaboration with national experts, will be expected to:

- Assess progress in implementing the Action Plan during their meetings.
- Suggest recommendations to be submitted to the Contracting Parties.
- Suggest adjustments to the implementation timetable.

## **5.5. Timing**

The actions advocated by the present Action Plan have to be carried out over a three-year period, starting from when the Action Plan is adopted by the Contracting Parties. At the end of this period, SPA/RAC will prepare a report on the progress made so far in implementing the advocated actions, and will submit this to the National Focal Points for SPA, who will make follow-up suggestions to the Parties.

## 5.6. Timetable

Action	Deadline	By whom
1. Organisation of the third Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species in Annex II.	By beginning of the year 2023	SPA/RAC & Partners
2. Protect legally all bird species in Annex II	1 year after adoption	Contracting Parties
3. Establishment/support of research and monitoring programmes to fill gaps in knowledge of threatened species in partnership with other organisations.	From 2018 to 2020	Contracting Parties, SPA/RAC, AP Partners, AEWA, BirdLife International
4. Revision of the directory of organisations and experts concerned with the threatened and endangered bird species in the Mediterranean.	By end of year 2020	SPA/RAC
5. Creation/update and implementation of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean.	From 2018 to 2020	Contracting Parties & SPA/RAC
6. Application and implementation of any Action Plans/monitoring activities already in existence for the conservation and monitoring the bird species listed in Annex II.	From 2018 to 2020	SPA/RAC & Contracting Parties
7. Participation in promotion of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations.	From 2018 to 2023	SPA/RAC , AP Partners, AEWA, BirdLife International
8. Legal establishment of protected areas important for bird species with adequate management plans at breeding sites.	By end of year 2020	Contracting Parties
9. Support Contracting Parties and Partners to produce and publish relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation action taken on the Annex II species.	From 2018 to 2020	SPA/RAC, AP Partners, AEWA, BirdLife International, ICCAT, GFCM
10. Identification of areas important for birds on land and at sea (mapping of breeding, feeding, molting and wintering areas.	From 2018 to 2023	Contracting Parties, AP Partners, AEWA, Birdlife International
11. Mapping of breeding, feeding, moulting and wintering areas of pelagic species.	From 2018 to 2023	Contracting Parties
12. Produce the third progress reports in the implementation of the Action Plan.	By end of year 2023	SPA/RAC
13. Organize specific training courses and workshops in coordination/synergy with international and/or national NGOs	From 2018 to 2023	SPA/RAC, Partners & Contracting Parties
14. Optimize synergies with international agreements and organisations dedicated to bird conservation	From 2018 to 2023	Contracting Parties
15. Target and lobby decision-making organisations and government bodies to stimulate the implementation of the Action Plan	From 2018 to 2023	Contracting Parties, SPA/RAC, AP Partner, ICCAT, GFCM

## **6. PROPOSED SPECIFIC PLANS**

The hereafter listed Specific Action Plans for the 25 bird species listed in the Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol should be implemented in all Mediterranean states where the species breed, winter or occur on migration. They should be reviewed and updated every three years. If sudden major environmental changes happen which may affect any of the species' populations in the Mediterranean, an emergency review should be immediately undertaken. The current status given below covers the countries that have a Mediterranean coast. Proposed actions, which apply to all species, should include *inter alia* the initiation of public awareness campaigns on the status of these species and the preparation of National Action Plans. Other on-going Action Plans, which have been developed by other institutions, and which cover some of the species, are listed below, and should be taken in consideration and implemented where these species occur.

### **6.1. Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)**

#### **Current status**

In the Mediterranean, it breeds in localised sites in suitable wetlands, mainly in Spain, France Turkey, Italy as well as in Algeria. Breeding colonies are established at sites free from human disturbance and secure from terrestrial predators. Breeding is irregular with numbers fluctuating from one season to another. Substantial numbers also occur in Tunisia, Greece and Cyprus but breed rarely. Mediterranean population seems to be separated from Asiatic populations, with minimal exchange and overlap in Libya and Egypt.

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Urban development; habitat loss for tourism development; disturbance; and hunting.

#### **Status under international instruments**

Class A - African Convention on the Conservation and Natural Resources (1968).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWPA Action Plan (Column B Category 2a)

#### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain healthy breeding populations, and maintain wetlands where the species overwinter.

### **Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies.
- Monitor and warden breeding colonies.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Restore wetlands where the species used to breed.
- Maintain wetlands where the species overwinter.

## **6.2. European Storm-petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus ssp. Melitensis*)**

### **Current status**

This pelagic colonial species breeds in small to very large colonies mainly on islets and in caves along the coast. Subspecies *melitensis* is endemic to the Mediterranean. Important breeding colonies are found in Malta, Sardinia and Sicily. Breeding surveys are totally lacking for the Adriatic and eastern Mediterranean. A general decline has been recorded.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Loss of habitat; disturbance; predation by *Rattus* sp. and Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*; possibly contamination by oil pollutants of the sea.

### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).  
DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To halt the decline and maintain healthy breeding colonies.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, particularly in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies.
- Monitor and warden colonies under threat.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes, which may result in loss of habitat and the introduction and/or spread of invasive species, particularly mammals and Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*.
- Control and/or eradicate species that have become invasive.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Identify areas at sea important for the species.

### **6.3.Scopoli's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)**

#### **Current status**

This pelagic, colonial species is restricted to the Mediterranean, nesting in sea-cliffs, on rocky islands and islets. Breeds in Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia where the breeding population has been recently estimated at 140,000 pairs. The majority of the population spends the non-breeding season in the Atlantic. Its recent conservation status according to IUCN is of Least Concern (LC) but its population is thought to be in slow decline overall, although more research is required particularly in the eastern part of the Mediterranean and in the Adriatic.

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Introduced mammals, such as *Rattus* sp., which affect breeding success; illegal hunting; taking of eggs and/or chicks; mortality from bycatch (longlines); development close to colonies and disturbance, and possibly oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.

#### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).  
European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To halt the decline of the population and maintain healthy colonies.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, particularly in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies, including the taking of eggs and young.
- Monitor and warden colonies under threat of disturbance.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Monitor levels of mercury and chlorinated hydrocarbons in populations.
- Develop and implement management projects targeting the conservation of the breeding habitat and strict control of introduced mammals, as well as preventing the introduction of alien predatory species.
- Identify important bird areas at sea for the species.
- Develop an Action Plan to reduce mortality at sea especially from bycatch.

#### **6.4. Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*)**

### **Current status**

This pelagic colonial species breeds on rocky islands and islets. Population estimated at less than 33,000 pairs, with 95% of the population breeding along the Mediterranean shores of South European countries, with main breeding colonies in Greece Italy and Malta. Some pairs breed along the North African coast. Breeding surveys in the eastern Mediterranean are lacking and for a number of countries the population is very poorly known.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Lack of food resources; lack of protection of breeding colonies; predation by Rats *Rattus* sp, Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus cachinnans*, and possibly feral cats and dogs; disturbance; some mortality from bycatch (nets); and possibly contamination by oil pollutants at sea.

### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

EU European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

### **Current Action Plans**

National action plan is in place and is being implemented in France.

A European Action Plan for the Yelkouan Shearwater is being prepared by BirdLife International partners under a LIFE project EuroSPA. (<http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/project/life-eurosap>)

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To halt the decline of the species, to restore its numbers to former status and to increase the knowledge about its biology.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies.
- Monitor the population dynamics of the species and warden colonies.
- Control and if possible eradicate rats in breeding colonies.
- Ensure the protection of the breeding habitat and create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Promote adequate fishing practices, which take into account the conservation of the species.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Undertake surveys of colonies and research on the conservation biology of the species.
- Identify areas at sea important for the species.
- Develop an Action Plan to reduce mortality at sea especially from bycatch.

## **6.5. Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)**

### **Current status**

This pelagic, colonial species is restricted to the Balearic Islands; breeding on rocky islands and islets. It is the most threatened species in Europe. Current official population is estimated at 1989-2883 breeding pairs, but recent research at sea shows a much larger population of individual birds.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Predation by introduced carnivores (Genet, Pine Marten and feral cats); bycatch; and possibly oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.

### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).  
European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

### **Current Action Plans**

International species action plan for the Balearic shearwater, *Puffinus mauretanicus* prepared by SEO/BirdLife & BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (Mars, 2011)

A national Action Plan is in place and is being implemented in Spain

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To halt the decline of the species and restore its numbers to former status.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies.
- Monitor the population dynamics of the species and warden colonies.
- Control and if possible eradicate rats and predators in the colonies and prevent any introduction of terrestrial mammals in breeding colonies.
- Ensure the protection of the breeding habitat and create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.

- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Promote adequate fishing practices, which take into account the conservation of the species.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Undertake surveys of colonies and research on the conservation biology of the species.
- Identify the marine important areas for the species.
- Develop an Action Plan to reduce mortality at sea especially from bycatch.

## **6.6. Pygmy Cormorant** *Microcarbo pygmaeus*

### **Current status**

The main breeding populations in the Mediterranean of this globally threatened species are found in Montenegro, Serbia, Greece, and Turkey, with some pairs in Albania, Bosnia, Israel and Italy. It is restricted to lowland freshwater and brackish habitats, and in winter frequents coastal lagoons, deltas, rivers and riparian forests. The whole population of the Mediterranean countries probably numbers 11,000-13,000 breeding pairs.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Degradation and loss of wetland habitat; disturbance and hunting; destruction of breeding colonies.

### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWA Action Plan (Column B Category 1)

### **Current Action Plans**

Action Plan for the Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Europe prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (February 1996).

Globally threatened birds in Europe Action Plans. Council of Europe – BirdLife International – EU Life-Nature (1996).

Italy has a national Action Plan.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain the recent increase of the species' population size and distribution.

### **Proposed action**

- Afford strict protection to the species and its habitat, particularly from hunting, disturbance and development.
- Manage wintering and breeding sites in order to meet the species' requirements.
- Monitor breeding and wintering populations.
- Monitor water levels and quality at breeding sites.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Research its feeding and dispersal ecology.
- Develop education campaigns for hunters.
- Restore degraded wetlands used by the species.

## **6.7. European Shag**      *Phalacrocorax aristotelis ssp. desmarestii*

### **Current status**

This Mediterranean endemic subspecies of the European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* is present in the western Mediterranean (Balearic Islands, Corsica and Sardinia), and the Adriatic, Aegean and Black Seas, breeding along the coast on rocky islands and islets. The Mediterranean population numbers less than 9,000 pairs.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Human disturbance; oil pollution; habitat loss; mortality from bycatch; Seine net fishing and long-line hauling close to colonies and moulting areas.

### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (79/409/EEC/1979).

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

### **Current Action Plans**

No national action plans, but a Species Action Plan for the Mediterranean Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* in Europe was prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (final draft December 1999).

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To ensure the survival of Mediterranean populations.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbances to the breeding colonies.
- Carry out rat-eradication programmes at breeding colonies.
- Monitor populations.
- Create SPAs where the species breeds, and encourage buffer zones surrounding breeding areas including adjacent sea area.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to breeding sites.
- Take measures to influence fishing policies in order to avoid negative effects on food stocks and food availability, and to avoid mortality from bycatch.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Identify important bird areas at sea for the species.

## **6.8. Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus***

### **Current status**

This species is vulnerable and globally threatened. In the Mediterranean, small populations (totalling 2500-2700 breeding pairs) are found mainly in Albania, Montenegro, Greece and Turkey. Breeds on inland and coastal wetlands and nests on floating islands of reeds and on bare ground on islands, isolated from mainland to be safe from mammalian predators. Up to about 3000 birds winter in Albania, Greece, Syria and Turkey.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Wetland drainage resulting in a sharp decline of available breeding sites; collisions with electric wires; persecution due to competition with commercial fisheries; and disturbance.

### **Status under international instruments**

Class A - African Convention on Conservation and Natural Resources (1968).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix I & II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

Appendix I - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973). European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWA Action Plan (Column A Category 1a/1c).

### **Current action plans**

Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (April 1996).

Globally threatened birds in Europe Action Plans. Council of Europe – BirdLife International – EU Life-Nature (1996).

A new Species Action Plan is under development through EU funded LIFE Euro SAP Project 2014-2018.

Albania has a NAP, but it is only partly implemented, while a NAP is in preparation in Turkey.

### **Action plan objectives and target**

To prevent any declines and to increase the population size to a level at which it can be regarded as safe.

### **Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species and its habitats during breeding and wintering periods in all range states.
- Establish supervised buffer zones around breeding colonies.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Manage in a sustainable way or restore where necessary all wetlands where the species occurs.
- Replace overhead electricity wires by thick cables or lay them underground.
- Monitor continually the breeding and wintering populations.
- Develop education campaigns for local fishermen and hunters, and decision-makers.

## **6.9. Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

### **Current status**

In the Mediterranean this species breeds in Turkey and Greece. Numbers have declined in the last thirty years, and now the breeding population in the Mediterranean is down to less than 1000 pairs (810-940bp). It nests on the ground in large reedbeds, bare earth or rocky islands, in isolation from the mainland to be safe from mammalian predators. The species was also recorded during its migration in other countries such as Israel and Egypt. The available data indicates that more than 75,000 white pelican have been observed in Israel.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Habitat loss and destruction; depletion of fish stocks; persecution and disturbance; pollution; flooding; disease; and collision with electric power lines.

### **Status under international instruments**

Class A - African Convention on Conservation and Natural Resources.

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix I (Pal.) II (Western Pal.) - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Current Action Plans (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWa Action Plan (Column A Category 1a/3c).

### **Current Action Plans**

National action plan is in place and is being implemented in Israel.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To reverse the decline of the breeding populations in the Mediterranean.

### **Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies and their habitat.

- Prohibit all types of disturbance to feeding areas during the species migration
- Monitor and supervise breeding colonies.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of (a) coastal development and infrastructure that impacts and/or fragments habitats; (b) pollution; and (c) overexploitation of fish stocks.
- Develop education campaigns aimed at local fishermen.
- Restore degraded wetlands used by the species.
- Create artificial nesting sites close to foraging sites.

#### **6.10. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***

##### **Current status**

This predominantly coastal small wader species has an extremely large global range and hence is evaluated by IUCN as of Least Concern. However the overall population trend is decreasing. It prefers sparsely vegetated, sandy or dry mud areas when breeding. While some populations of this species are sedentary or only disperse short distances, most inland and northern coastal populations have distinct separate breeding and wintering ranges. Small breeding populations breed in most Mediterranean countries with some 5000 pairs in Tunisia, up to nearly 2000 pairs in Spain, Greece, and Italy, and ‘several thousands’ in Morocco.

##### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Disturbance of coastal habitats; degradation and loss of wetland habitat; land reclamation; declining river flows; urbanisation and predation by foxes, feral cats and dogs.

##### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

##### **Current Action Plans**

National action plan is in place and is being implemented in Slovenia.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To reverse the decline of the breeding populations and of the number of migrant birds in the Mediterranean.

### **Proposed action**

- Control of recreation activities and human disturbance at breeding sites.
- Reverse the abandonment of salt pans.
- Stop pollution of wetland habitats, land reclamation, and infrastructure development at breeding sites.

### **6.11. Greater Sand Plover**      *Charadrius leschenaultii ssp. columbinus*

#### **Current status**

This species has an extremely large global range and population size. According to IUCN criteria it is of Least Concern. However in the Mediterranean the subspecies *columbinus* is known to breed only in Turkey (probably 800-1200bp) and Syria (400-1000bp). As a migrant it is fairly common in Israel, and very scarce or vagrant in some other eastern Mediterranean countries. During the breeding season this species is predominantly found in open, dry, treeless areas and rocky plains. In Turkey the species frequents heavily grazed saline steppe and usually breeds near water but exceptionally also some kilometres away from it.

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Hunting & disturbance.

#### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

#### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To ensure the safeguarding and to prompt an increase of the present few breeding populations in the Mediterranean, as well as to provide it with safe passage and wintering grounds where it occurs in other Mediterranean countries.

### **Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species and on its “lookalike” species, where it occurs on passage and during winter.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding areas and their surroundings.
- Monitor, warden and afford appropriate protection and management of all breeding, passage and wintering grounds.
- Instruct wardens, ornithologists and hunters in the identification of the species.
- Increase public awareness of the species’ rare status in the Mediterranean.

### **6.12. Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris***

#### **Current status**

This is a globally threatened species, which is possibly extinct. Once described as common in the Mediterranean region, it is now one of the rarest and least known species in the Western Palearctic. Used to migrate from Siberia across eastern and southern Europe to winter in North Africa. On passage, occurs in a wide range of habitats: salt marshes, saltpans, brackish lagoons, dry fishponds, steppe and freshwater marshes. Last confirmed documented record in the Mediterranean was in Greece in 1999

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Habitat loss at migrating and wintering areas. Other factors unknown.

#### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix I - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

Appendix I - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew under the Bonn Convention (CMS) (1994).

Listed in the AEWPA Action Plan (Column B Category 1a/1b/1c).

### **Current Action Plans**

International Action Plan for the Slender-billed Curlew prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (February 1996).

Globally threatened birds in Europe Action Plans. Council of Europe – BirdLife International – EU Life-Nature (1996).

Italy has a national action plan.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To provide safe passage and wintering grounds in the Mediterranean.

### **Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species and on its “lookalike” species, where it occurs on passage and during winter.
- Monitor and warden wintering sites
- Afford appropriate protection and management of all passage and wintering grounds.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of development near wintering sites.
- Train wardens, ornithologists and hunters in the identification of the species.
- Increase public awareness of the species’ critically threatened status amongst politicians, decision-makers and hunters.
- Ratify the AEWA Agreement by those countries which have not yet done so.

### **6.13. Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei***

#### **Current status**

This gull is both resident and/or migratory in the Mediterranean. It breeds colonially on sandy islands in saltpans at the coastal zone but also (as in Tunisia) in inland wetlands including salt lakes. It is found breeding at widely isolated scattered localities in some countries. It is presently known to breed in Spain (1650-1950bp), France (ca.1000bp), Italy (3000-5000bp), Greece (100-130bp) and Turkey (2000-3000bp). In Tunisia, up to 4000bp have been recorded breeding in Thyna salt-pans, and 10,560bp have been recorded breeding in the Golfe of Bou Grara, apart from other scattered sites. It also breeds in Egypt but numbers are unknown; formerly bred in Morocco; and there is no evidence of breeding in Algeria. The European population seems to be decreasing.

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Disturbance of coastal habitats; degradation and loss of wetland habitats; human disturbance; predation by feral dogs; eggs and chicks of this species are preyed upon by other gull species

especially where colonies are frequently disturbed by humans; subsistence egg collecting by local people; pollution and flooding.

### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species and listed under the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

### **Current Action Plans**

None. Regional management plans for seabirds including this species are in place and implemented in Spain.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain and increase a healthy breeding population and increase the number of its colonies.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, particularly in the North African Mediterranean countries.
- Increase management in breeding areas.
- prevent disturbance from tourism and recreational activities.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies, including the taking of eggs and young.
- Monitor and supervise colonies under threat.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Control or eradicate invasive competitive species and terrestrial mammals at colonies.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Identify marine important areas for the species.
- Develop an Action Plan to reduce mortality at sea especially from bycatch.

**6.14. Mediterranean Gull**      *Larus melanocephalus*

**Current status**

This gull breeds in dense colonies at lagoons, estuaries, coastal as well as inland saltmarshes, and on large steppe lakes and marshes in open lowland areas. It breeds mainly on the Black Sea coast of Ukraine and at scattered localities throughout Europe. In the Mediterranean it breeds in Spain, southern France, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. The Mediterranean also hosts in winter a substantial number of the European population. The Mediterranean breeding population is estimated to be 9400-15,700 pairs

**Current factors causing loss or decline**

Tourist disturbance at breeding colonies; habitat loss resulting from development; possibly contamination by oil spill and chemical discharges at sea; bycatch from long-line fishing; and the taking of adults and eggs by fishermen.

**Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species and listed under the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

**Current Action Plans**

None

**Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain and increase a healthy breeding population; increase the number of its colonies; and give total protection to the wintering population

**Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies.
- Identify site based threats and necessary management actions of protected areas.
- Increase existing management in breeding areas.
- Prevent disturbance from tourism and recreational activities.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies, including the taking of eggs and young.

- Monitor and supervise colonies under threat.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Create where possible artificially constructed nesting sites in coastal locations.

#### **6.15. Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii*

##### **Current status**

This is an endemic Mediterranean species, with its main breeding populations occurring in the western Mediterranean in coastal and island sites; an average of 16,800 breeding birds in Spain in the years 2004-2016 being the largest. Other colonies occur in other parts of the Mediterranean including Greece, Turkey, Tunisia and Sardinia. It was close to extinction in the 1970s, but better enforcement of protection measures has resulted in an increase in the breeding population.

##### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Habitat alterations at breeding sites; changes in fishing practices; competition mainly with the Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*; egg collection; rat predation; human persecution and disturbance; and possibly depletion of food resources and contamination by oil pollutants.

##### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix I & II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWPA Action Plan (Column A Category 1a/3a).

##### **Current Action Plans**

International Action Plan for Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (March 1996).

Globally threatened birds in Europe Action Plans. Council of Europe – BirdLife International –EU Life-Nature (1996).

Action Plan to restore the Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii* by Government Committee of Palm Islands Nature Reserve in Lebanon.

Official Working Group in Spain (Ministry of Environment) to review status and propose conservation actions for *Larus audouinii*.

A national action plan is in place and implemented in Italy; another is in preparation in Turkey and regional implemented management plans are on-going for a number of colonies in Spain.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain a healthy breeding population and increase the number of colonies.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, particularly in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies, particularly the taking of eggs and young.
- Monitor and supervise colonies under threat.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Control or eradicate invasive competitive species and terrestrial mammals at colonies.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Identify marine important areas for the species.
- Develop an Action Plan to reduce mortality at sea especially from bycatch.

### **6.16. Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus***

#### **Current status**

This species nests colonially in huge aggregations. Its European population has declined rapidly and is listed by IUCN as Near Threatened. In the Mediterranean it breeds in western Turkey where it is resident, with a breeding population of 8000-10,000 pairs. In the Mediterranean it winters in the eastern part but numbers are not known. It is a common winter visitor and passage migrant to Israel where numbers have also decreased drastically. The species inhabits both coastal and inland waters, frequenting lakes, reservoirs, ponds and rivers. It breeds along the stony and grassy shores of mountain lakes, nesting and foraging in reed-beds and on beaches. In its winter range the species may also forage in agricultural fields and on fish-ponds.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Persecution (due to the damage it inflicted to fisheries); egg harvesting; and loss of habitat quality.

### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species and is covered by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To halt the decline of the species and maintain a healthy breeding population.

### **Proposed action**

- Identification and designation of important sites for this species.
- Education programmes to fishers to reduce persecution.
- Carry out studies to understand its ecology, including its diet and population trends.
- Compile an inventory of breeding sites and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies, including the taking of eggs and young.
- Monitor and supervise colonies under threat.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Develop an Action Plan to halt the decline of the species and maintain a healthy breeding population.

## **6.17. Little Tern**      *Sternula albifrons*

### **Current status**

This coastal seabird is a strongly migratory species which usually fishes in very shallow water. It has the most inshore distribution of all terns. It breeds in solitary pairs or in very small groups sometimes amidst colonies of other terns. Its European breeding population is estimated at 36,000-53,000 pairs. However the breeding population in all the Mediterranean countries is estimated at 11,000-14,500 breeding pairs with the highest populations in Turkey (3000-5000bp), Spain 2641-2691bp), Italy

(2000-3500bp), Greece (1500-2000bp), France (700bp), Albania (200-500bp), and Israel (300bp).  
The overall global population trend is decreasing.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Habitat loss and destruction of breeding sites; human disturbance; and predation (feral cats and dogs and foxes).

### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWA Action Plan (Column A Category 3/a).

### **Current Action Plans**

None; but national implemented action plans exist in Israel & Slovenia.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain healthy breeding colonies and to fill the gaps of knowledge in quantitative data of breeding populations in a number of countries.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, particularly in the eastern Adriatic and eastern Mediterranean countries where quantitative data are lacking.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies.
- Eliminate predation.
- Monitor and warden colonies under threat of disturbance.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known colonies.
- Establish population size and trends.
- Restore wetlands where the species is known to breed.

## **6.18. Common Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica***

### **Current status**

This species has an extremely large global range, but its breeding population in the Mediterranean is only 5800-7150 pairs: Spain (3185-3435bp), Turkey (1000-2000bp), France (873bp), Italy (550bp), Greece (180-280bp), Tunisia (150-350bp) and Libya (12bp). It breeds in a variety of locations not only in coastal areas, but also at inland lakes, rivers, marshes and swamps.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Deterioration and loss of habitat, e.g. through wetland drainage, agricultural intensification, pesticide pollution and fluctuating water levels; Development close to breeding and/or at foraging sites; and human disturbance at breeding colonies.

### **Status under international instruments**

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II -Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To safeguard the breeding areas; maintain a healthy breeding population and possibly increase it.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory and map critical habitats supporting the colonies.
- Ensure breeding sites protection from disturbance, development and modification.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Eliminate predation.
- Monitor and warden colonies under threat of disturbance.
- Prevent erosion of islet complexes,
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.

**6.19. Caspian Tern**     *Hydroprogne caspia*

**Current status**

This species has an extremely large cosmopolitan but scattered distribution. Some populations are sedentary while others are strongly migratory. It prefers nesting on sandy, shell-strewn or shingle beaches, sand-dunes, flat rock-surfaces, sheltered reefs or islands. In the Mediterranean the breeding population is less than 500 breeding pairs, and is restricted to a few countries in the eastern part: Turkey (150-300bp), Syria (100-200bp), Greece (up to 10bp). It is said that it breeds in Egypt, but no numbers are given.

**Current factors causing loss or decline**

Loss and deterioration of breeding habitat, human disturbance at nesting colonies, contamination by oil spills and marine pollution and bycatch in fishing gears.

**Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

**Current Action Plans**

None, but it is listed in the AEWA Action Plan (Column A Category 1a/3a).

**Action Plan objectives and target**

To strictly protect the small breeding population and possibly to increase it.

**Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory and map critical habitats supporting the colonies.
- Ensure breeding sites protection from disturbance, development and modification.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Eliminate predation.
- Monitor and warden colonies under threat of disturbance.
- Prevent erosion of islet complexes,
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.

**6.20. Lesser Crested Tern**      *Thalasseus bengalensis ssp. emigratus*

**Current status**

This Mediterranean endemic subspecies is currently confined to Libya, at 4 colonies: Garah Island (2000 pairs), Ftiha Island (12 pairs) Ulbah Island (16 pairs) and Sabkhat Julyanah (70 pairs). Occasional breeding was recorded in former years in France, Greece, Italy and Spain.

(Garah island, Sabkhat Jeliana in  
Benghazi and Ulbah/F  Gulf of Bumbah

(Garah island, Sabkhat Jeliana in  
Benghazi and Ulbah/F  ha islands in the Gulf of Bumbah

All known colony sites (Garah island, Sabkhat Jeliana in  
Benghazi and Ulbah/F  ha islands in the Gulf of Bumbah),

**Current factors causing loss or decline**

Occasional disturbance by fishermen; probably predation by Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*; and possibly contamination by oil pollutants and toxic chemicals.

**Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - (African pops.) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

Listed in the AEWPA Action Plan (Column A Category 1/c).

**Current Action Plans**

None. However a national action plan is in place in Libya but it is not yet implemented.

Protocol on Monitoring Mediterranean lesser crested terns *Thalasseus bengalensis emigrates* is elaborated by SPA/RAC in 2012 within the implementation of MedMPAnet Project.

**Action Plan objectives and target**

To safeguard the breeding areas; maintain a healthy population; and possibly increase its population.

**Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to breeding colonies, including the taking of eggs and young.

- Monitor and supervise colonies regularly.
- Create SPAs where the species' breeding colonies exist and prohibit access to known sites except for scientific purposes.
- Investigate whether local fisheries impact on breeding success.
- Prevent oil spills and chemical pollution of the sea.
- Establish population size and trends.
- Provide small artificial islands at Sabkhat Julyanah to encourage an increase of the colony size in the lake.

#### **6.21. Sandwich Tern**     *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

##### **Current status**

This species can be found in Europe, Africa, western Asia, and the southern Americas. Whilst the European population is estimated at 79,900-148,000 pairs, the breeding population in the Mediterranean is estimated to be 6300-8800 pairs, nesting in colonies mainly in river deltas, on sandbanks and in salinas. Also migrates from elsewhere into the Mediterranean for wintering.

##### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Degradation and loss of habitat mainly due to coastal development; disturbance by humans, animals predation and hunting; and possibly reduction of small pelagic fish abundance.

##### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

Listed in the AEWa Action Plan (Column A Category 3a/3c).

##### **Current Action Plans**

None

##### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To maintain healthy breeding colonies and stop the loss of habitat.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory and map critical habitats supporting the colonies, particularly in the eastern part of the Mediterranean, where breeding surveys are lacking.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies.
- Monitor and supervise colonies under threat of disturbance.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development that impact on wetlands and other breeding habitats.
- Restore wetlands where the species breeds.

### **6.22. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

#### **Current status**

This is a cosmopolitan species, which is vulnerable in several regions. Whilst the European population is estimated at 8,400-12,300 pairs, less than 120 pairs breed in the Mediterranean (mainly Balearic Islands, Corsica, Morocco and Algeria). Some local small populations have disappeared from other islands (e.g. Ibiza, Sicily & Sardinia). The 5 pairs breeding presently in Italy have been introduced.

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Habitat destruction and disturbance at breeding sites related to tourism. Mortality also occurs from illegal poaching and electrocution.

#### **Status under international instruments**

Class B - African Convention on Conservation and Natural Resources (1968).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Union Regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (1626/94 (EC) 1994).

#### **Current Action Plans**

None; but a regional species action plan is in place in Spain.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

Reverse the decline of the breeding population in the Mediterranean.

### **Proposed action**

- Make an inventory and map critical habitats supporting the remaining breeding pairs.
- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit the destruction of its habitat, disturbance, and the taking or trade of the species.
- Use area-based measures to protect and restore its habitats.
- Create SPAs where it breeds.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes of coastal and infrastructure development near to known breeding sites.
- Research the causes of the decline of the species.

### **6.23. Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

#### **Current status**

This species has an extremely large range. However in the Mediterranean it is restricted to a few countries and is only known to breed in Israel (2500bp), Turkey (100-200bp) and in Syria and Egypt where breeding numbers are unknown. Decreases in populations have been noted in Syria, Israel, and Egypt. It inhabits small and large lakes, large rivers, estuaries, coastal lagoons and sandy and rocky coasts, dams and reservoirs with either fresh or brackish water with available waterside perches. It is generally sedentary with some local movements due to changes in the supply of food.

#### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Use of poisons and pesticides; water storage developments; and bioaccumulation of pollution and toxins in the fish they eat.

#### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II -Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

#### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

Reverse the decline and maintain a healthy breeding population in the Mediterranean.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of the breeding areas and populations.
- Protect legally the species and all its key breeding sites.
- Carry out research on the species' range, ecology, habitat requirements and movements, to be used for the necessary conservation measures.
- Assess the potential threats and their impacts in order to develop appropriate response.
- Develop Regional Action Plans for the protection and management of the species' key sites.

## **6.24. White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis***

### **Current status**

This kingfisher has a very large global range. However, in the Mediterranean it is restricted to a few countries, and is only known to breed in Israel (15,000bp), Turkey (170-250bp) and Egypt (> 10,000bp, but no proper estimates). It inhabits various habitats ranging from water bodies to farmland and palm plantations.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Use of pesticides; habitat degradation from various factors; gaps in knowledge of the species' ecology and behaviour and of the threats facing this species.

### **Status under international instruments**

Appendix II -Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

### **Current Action Plans**

None

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

Reverse the decline and maintain a healthy breeding population in the Mediterranean.

### **Proposed action**

- Compile an inventory of breeding areas and populations.
- All breeding sites should be strictly protected and supervised.
- Prohibit any development that would degrade the species' breeding sites.
- Carry out research on species ecology and habitat needs for future conservation measures.
- Assess the potential threats and their impacts in order to develop appropriate responses.
- Develop Regional Action Plans for the protection and management of the species' key sites.

## **6.25. Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora***

### **Current status**

This falcon breeds in colonies along the coast of the mainland or on rocky islands, which are often uninhabited. In Europe, which covers >95% of the breeding range, the population has been estimated recently at 14,300-14,500 pairs – the largest number of breeding pairs are found in Greece (12,360), followed by Italy (638-704), Spain (655), Cyprus (90-145) and Turkey (35-50). The North African population has been estimated at approximately 250 pairs (ca.72% of which are found in Tunisia). The current population trend is increasing. Almost all the entire population breeds on rocky Mediterranean islands.

### **Current factors causing loss or decline**

Predation by cats and rats; human disturbance in colonies; habitat degradation; taking of eggs and young; hunting; and accidental poisoning from pest control methods.

### **Status under international instruments**

Class B - African Convention on Conservation and Natural Resources (1968).

Appendix II - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).

Appendix II - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973).

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

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### **Current Action Plans**

International Species Action Plan Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the European Commission (final draft December 1999).

A regional implemented species action plan for the Balearics, which host most of the breeding population in Spain, is in place.

A National Action Plan is in place and implemented in Italy.

### **Action Plan objectives and target**

To safeguard the present colonies and encourage the increasing trend, through preserving the breeding sites particularly the uninhabited islands and eliminating any negative impacts on the species.

**Proposed action**

- Confer strictly protected status on the species.
- Prohibit all types of disturbance to the breeding colonies, including the taking of eggs and young.
- Monitor and warden colonies under threat.
- Create SPAs where breeding colonies exist.
- Plan, regulate and/or manage activities and processes, which may result in loss of habitat and the introduction/spread of invasive species.
- Control and/or eradicate species that have become invasive.
- Carry out breeding surveys in eastern Mediterranean countries.
- Prevent poisoning through awareness campaigns and cooperation with farmers.



**Annex IV**

**Draft Amendment of Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol**

**List of endangered or threatened species**



**Draft Amendment of Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol -  
List of endangered or threatened species**

<b>Magnoliophyta</b>
<i>Cymodocea nodosa</i> (Ucria) Ascherson <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> (Linnaeus) Delile <i>Zostera marina</i> Linnaeus <i>Zostera noltii</i> Hornemann
<b>Chlorophyta</b>
<i>Caulerpa ollivieri</i> Dostál
<b>Heterokontophyta</b>
Cystoseira genus (except <i>Cystoseira compressa</i> ) <i>Fucus virsoides</i> J. Agardh <i>Kallymenia spathulata</i> (J. Agardh) P.G. Parkinson <i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i> Bornet <i>Sargassum acinarium</i> (Linnaeus) Setchell <i>Sargassum flavifolium</i> Kützting <i>Sargassum hornschurchii</i> C. Agardh <i>Sargassum trichocarpum</i> J. Agardh
<b>Rhodophyta</b>
<i>Fucus virsoides</i> J. Agardh <i>Gymnogongrus crenulatus</i> (Turner) J. Agardh <i>Kallymenia spathulata</i> (J. Agardh) P.G. Parkinson <i>Lithophyllum byssoides</i> (Lamarck) Foslie (Synon. <i>Lithophyllum lichenoides</i> ) <i>Ptilophora mediterranea</i> (H. Huvé) R.E. Norris <i>Schimmelmannia schousboei</i> (J. Agardh) J. Agardh <i>Sphaerococcus rhizophylloides</i> J.J. Rodríguez <i>Tenarea tortuosa</i> (Esper) Lemoine <i>Titanoderma ramosissimum</i> (Heydrich) Bressan & Cabioch (Synon. <i>Goniolithon byssoides</i> ) <i>Titanoderma trochanter</i> (Bory) Benhissoune <i>et al.</i>
<b>Porifera</b>
<i>Aplysina sp. plur.</i> <i>Asbestopluma hypogea</i> Vacelet & Boury-Esnault, 1995 <i>Axinella cannabina</i> (Esper, 1794) <i>Axinella polypoides</i> Schmidt, 1862 <i>Geodia hydronium</i> (Jameson, 1811) <i>Petrobiona massiliana</i> (Vacelet & Lévi, 1958) <i>Sarcotragus foetidus</i> Schmidt, 1862* (synon. <i>Ircina foetida</i> ) <i>Sarcotragus pipetta</i> (Schmidt, 1868)* (synon. <i>Ircinia pipetta</i> ) <i>Tethya sp. plur.</i>
<b>Cnidaria</b>
<i>Antipathella subpinnata</i> (Ellis & Solander, 1786) <i>Antipathes dichotoma</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Antipathes fragilis</i> (Gravier, 1918) <i>Astroides calycularis</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Callogorgia verticillata</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Cladocora caespitosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Cladocora debilis</i> (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1849) <i>Dendrophyllia cornigera</i> (Lamarck, 1816) <i>Dendrophyllia ramea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i> (Esper, 1794) <i>Ellisella paraplexauroides</i> (Stiasny, 1936) <i>Errina aspera</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Isidella elongata</i> (Esper, 1788) <i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i> (Esper, 1792) <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Madrepora oculata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Parantipathes larix</i> (Esper, 1790) <i>Savalia savaglia</i> Nardo, 1844 (synon. <i>Gerardia savaglia</i> )
<b>Bryozoa</b>
<i>Hornera lichenoides</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

<b>Mollusca</b>
<p><i>Charonia lampas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>Ch. Rubicunda</i> = <i>Ch. Nodifera</i>)  <i>Charonia tritonis variegata</i> (Lamarck, 1816) (= <i>Ch. Seguenziae</i>)  <i>Dendropoma petraeum</i> (Monterosato, 1884)  <i>Erosaria spurca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Gibbula nivosa</i> (Adams, 1851)  <i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Luria lurida</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>Cypraea lurida</i>)  <i>Mitra zonata</i> (Marryat, 1818)  <i>Patella ferruginea</i> (Gmelin, 1791)  <i>Patella nigra</i> (Da Costa, 1771)  <i>Pholas dactylus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Pinna nobilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Pinna rudis</i> (= <i>P. pernula</i>) (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Ranella olearia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Schilderia achatidea</i> (Gray in G.B. Sowerby II, 1837)  <i>Tonna galea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Zonaria pyrum</i> (Gmelin, 1791)</p>
<b>Crustacea</b>
<p><i>Ocypode cursor</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Pachylasma giganteum</i> (Philippi, 1836)</p>
<b>Echinodermata</b>
<p><i>Asterina pancerii</i> (Gasco, 1870)  <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> (Philippi, 1845)  <i>Ophidiaster ophidianus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)</p>
<b>Pisces</b>
<p><i>Acipenser naccarii</i> (Bonaparte, 1836)  <i>Acipenser sturio</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1821)  <i>Aphanius iberus</i> (Valenciennes, 1846)  <i>Carcharias taurus</i> (Rafinesque, 1810)  <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> (Gunnerus, 1765)  <i>Dipturus batis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Gymnura altavela</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> (Cuvier, 1829) (synon. <i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i>)  <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Huso huso</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> (Rafinesque, 1810)  <i>Lamna nasus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788)  <i>Lethenteron zanandreae</i> (Vladykov, 1955)  <i>Leucoraja circularis</i> (Couch, 1838)  <i>Leucoraja melitensis</i> (Clark, 1926)  <i>Mobula mobular</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788)  <i>Odontaspis ferox</i> (Risso, 1810)  <i>Oxynotus centrina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Pomatoschistus canestrini</i> (Ninni, 1883)  <i>Pomatoschistus tortonesei</i> (Miller, 1969)  <i>Pristis pectinata</i> (Latham, 1794)  <i>Pristis pristis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i> (E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1817)  <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Rostroraja alba</i> (Lacépède, 1803)  <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> (Griffith &amp; Smith, 1834)  <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> (Rüppell, 1837)  <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Squatina aculeata</i> (Dumeril, in Cuvier, 1817)</p>

<p><i>Squatina oculata</i> (Bonaparte, 1840)  <i>Squatina squatina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Valencia hispanica</i> (Valenciennes, 1846)  <i>Valencia letourneuxi</i> (Sauvage, 1880)</p>
<b>Reptiles</b>
<p><i>Caretta caretta</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (Vandelli, 1761)  <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)  <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> (Garman, 1880)  <i>Trionyx triunguis</i> (Forskål, 1775)</p>
<b>Aves</b>
<p><i>Calonectris diomedea</i> (Scopoli, 1769)  <i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i> (Lesson, 1826)  <i>Falco eleonorae</i> (Géné, 1834)  <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)  <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <del><i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)</del>  <i>Hydrobates pelagicus ssp. Melitensis</i> (Schembri, 1843)  <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> (Pallas, 1770)  <i>Larus armenicus</i> (Buturlin, 1934)  <i>Larus audouinii</i> (Payraudeau, 1826)  <i>Larus genei</i> (Breme, 1839)  <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Temminck, 1820)  <i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i> (Pallas, 1773)  <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> (Viellot, 1817)  <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (Bruch, 1832)  <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis ssp. desmarestii</i> (Payraudeau, 1826)  <del><i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)</del>  <del><i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i> (Pallas, 1773)</del>  <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> (Pallas, 1811)  <del><i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)</del>  <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> (Lowe, PR, 1921)  <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> (Brünnich, 1764)  <del><i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Pallas, 1764)</del>  <del><i>Sterna bengalensis</i> (Lesson, 1831)</del>  <del><i>Sterna caspia</i> (Pallas, 1770)</del>  <del><i>Sterna nilotica</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)</del>  <del><i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Latham, 1878)</del>  <i>Sternula albifrons</i> (Pallas, 1764)  <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i> (Lesson, 1831)  <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> (Latham, 1878)</p>
<b>Mammalia</b>
<p><i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> (Lacépède, 1804)  <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> (Lesson, 1828)  <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> (Müller, 1776)  <i>Globicephala melas</i> (Trail, 1809)  <i>Grampus griseus</i> (Cuvier G., 1812)  <i>Kogia simus</i> (Owen, 1866)  <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (Borowski, 1781)  <i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i> (de Blainville, 1817)  <i>Monachus monachus</i> (Hermann, 1779)  <i>Orcinus orca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)  <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> (Owen, 1846)  <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> (Meyen, 1833)  <i>Steno bredanensis</i> (Cuvier in Lesson, 1828)  <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Montagu, 1821)  <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> (Cuvier G., 1832)</p>