



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2014/3/2
5 April 2014

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO
FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF
ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Málaga, 7-11 April 2014

COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO DESCRIBE AREAS MEETING THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR EBSAs IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith a compilation of scientific information in support of the Mediterranean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, being convened by the Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan, with logistical and technical support provided by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) and the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas, from 7 to 11 April 2014 with the financial support of the Government of Spain, the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan, the European Commission and the Government of Monaco.
2. This compilation consists of a list of submissions made by workshop participants from Parties and organizations in response to notification SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JA/JMQ/83100 (2014-016), dated 31 January 2014. The original submissions are available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2014-03>.
3. These submissions are being circulated in the form and language in which they were received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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In order to minimize the environmental impacts of the Secretariat's processes, and to contribute to the Secretary-General's initiative for a C-Neutral UN, this document is printed in limited numbers. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Table 1. Scientific Information submitted in support of the workshop objectives using the EBSA template

Party/ Org. of submitter	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Admir Aladžuz Biologist UNEP-MAP Office for Bosnia and Herzegovina Bosnia and Herzegovina Email: admir.aladzuz@heis.com.ba	Mali Ston Bay-South Western Coastline of the Klek Peninsula in Bosnia and Herzegovina	The coastal area of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a total length of 25.6 km. This area is the only way out to the sea of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Neum-Klek Bay and Mali Ston Bay seem as a natural breeding place for certain types of fish species. The seabed of the coastal area of Bosnia and Herzegovina is generally dominated by small mud particles. Since part of the Mali Ston Bay in Bosnia and Herzegovina represents almost intact area, it would be wise to consider this part of the bay to be under the list as a potential area meeting EBSA criteria. Several researches were conducted regarding the register of important and sensitive habitats, presence of 176 fish species and presence of several invertebrate species. There are also some land habitats recognized as valuable to be included into the NATURA 2000 network. The site may possibly be ideal for protection because of its naturalness and the potential for life development.
Israel	Ruthy Yahel Marine Ecologist Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Jerusalem, Israel Email: ruthy@npa.org.il Guy Ayalon Director of the Northern District Israel Nature and Parks Authority Jerusalem, Israel Email: guy@npa.org.il	Mesophotic sponge ground	A sponge ground habitat at 100 m depth, located on a submerged sandstone ridge, off the coast of Israel. The environmental engineering species on this sponge ground that form the complex three-dimensional habitat are the erect Axinellid, the massive Irciniid, and the Agelasid and Haplosclerid sponges. The complex habitat formed by the sponge attracts fish and other invertebrates, establishing a reef-like structure. We sampled five sponge species using ROV. The sponges were identified using morphological and molecular tools. The sponge assemblage observed at this site differs from that documented in shallow waters of the Levant, and include srecords of three new species to the Israeli coast: Calyx nicaeensis, Ircinia cf. oros and Spongia nitens. Although these species have been documented from shallow waters in the Western Mediterranean, we did not find them along the Israeli coast between 0-30 m depth. It is possible that the Eastern-Mediterranean mesophotic sponge ground described here forms a refuge for certain sponge species. This potential refuge is subjected to strong anthropogenic pressure.

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			Specifically, exploratory drilling for oil is carried out ca.5 km north of its location. The lack of data on this habitat and its surroundings, together with the precautionary principle, should guide decision-makers to designate this area as a Marine Protected Area in order to safeguard the existence and further development of such a marine oasis.
Monaco	Patrick Van Klaveren Permanent representative to scientific, environmental and humanitarian International Bodies Ministère d'Etat Monaco, Monaco Email: pvanklaveren@gouv.mc	Pelagos Sanctuary	The Pelagos Agreement establishing the Sanctuary for marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea, is an international governmental agreement between France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco signed in 1999 and entered into force in 2002, to insure a favourable conservation status of marine mammals by protecting them and their habitat from direct and indirect negative impacts of human activities, in compliance with a management plan. With about 87,500 sq. km, most of which lie in high Seas, the Pelagos Sanctuary is registered as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI).
Spain	José Luis Rueda Senior Scientist Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga, Spain Email: jose.rueda@ma.ieo.es	Iberian Mediterranean Seas	The Iberian Mediterranean Seas includes the Strait of Gibraltar, Alboran Sea, Balearic and Catalan seas and contains parts of 3 previously proposed SPAMIs (Alboran seamounts, southern Balearic and Gulf of Lion). The complex hydrology due to the confluence of Atlantic and Mediterranean waters and the diverse seafloor geomorphology, with abundant seamounts, submarine canyons and mound structures caused by fluid venting promote a wide diversity of habitats and species, including a large proportion of endangered/vulnerable habitats and threatened species. Due to its geographical location, this biodiversity hotspot resulting from the confluence of typical Atlantic (European and northAfrican) and Mediterranean species also contain several endemic species of invertebrates (Strait of Gibraltar and Alboran Sea), fishes (Balearic Sea), and marine-birds (Alboran and Catalano-Balearic Seas). Moreover, it represents the obligatory pathway and an important and strategic biologically and ecologically significant area for spawning and feeding of several threatened large pelagic species coming from the Atlantic Ocean and returning to this basin such as Blue fin tuna, sea-turtles, cetaceans and marine-birds.

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CSIC	Adolfo Marco Doñana Biological Station, CSIC Sevilla, Spain Email: amarco@ebd.csic.es	The Strait of Gibraltar	<p>The southwestern Mediterranean hosts a very important and diverse feeding ground of endangered sea turtles. Recent genetic studies confirm that most of green and loggerhead sea turtles in the western Mediterranean breed in the eastern American and western African coasts. Furthermore, leatherback, hawksbill and Kemp's ridley turtles observed within the western Mediterranean have also an atlantic origin.</p> <p>Thus, these endangered sea turtles and many other marine species such as cetaceans, seals and blue tuna arrive to the western Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar, a very narrow obligated corridor with a very intense human activity that suppose a severe threat for the migration, presence and diversity of sea turtles (and other marine megafauna) in the western Mediterranean. The Strait of Gibraltar is a critical habitat for all these migratory species that require specific measures to decrease threats to biodiversity.</p>
Greenpeace International	Sofia Tsenikli Senior Political Advisor, Greenpeace International Email: sofia.tsenikli@greenpeace.org	Balearic Islands Area	<p>The Balearic Archipelago is one of the richest European regions in terms of marine animal species diversity and is characterized by a wide range of ecosystem types (e.g. maërl beds, Leptometra beds, soft red algae communities, Posidonia meadows, etc). Some of these communities are considered rare on a European scale. The area's complex oceanography results in high levels of productivity, reflected by its importance as a feeding ground for a wide range of species, including fin and sperm whales, loggerhead turtles and as a crucial spawning ground for threatened Bluefin tuna. The area is also an important breeding ground for the endemic Balearic shearwater.</p>
		Sicilian Channel	<p>The Sicilian Chanel joins the west and east Mediterranean basins and hosts many species from both areas. It is highly productive and considered a biodiversity hotspot within the Mediterranean. Seamounts and deep-sea corals are found close to Sicily, including mounds of white corals known locally as "cannelleri", which are vulnerable species in their own right and provide valuable habitat for many more. The complex oceanographic conditions in this area lead to high productivity and result</p>

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			in good conditions for fish spawning – the Sicilian Channel is an important spawning ground for a number of commercially important fish species, including Bluefin tuna, swordfish and anchovy, as well as a number of demersal species. This is also thought to be an important nursery area for the endangered white shark. The Sicilian Channel is thought to be the last important habitat for the critically endangered Maltese Skate.

Table 2. Other scientific information submitted in support of the workshop objectives

Party/ org. of submitter	Author(s)/Contributor	Title/Contents of submission
ACCOBAMS	<p>Florence Descroix-Comanducci Executive Secretary Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) Monaco, Monaco Email: fcdescroix@accobams.net</p>	<p>Activities related to the areas of interest for cetaceans conservation in the ACCOBAMS Area. This document was prepared based on the ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.15 on Marine Protected Areas of importance for cetaceans conservation and thanks to formal ACCOBAMS documents drafted by Chedly Rais, Erich Hoyt and Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara.</p>
Albania	<p>Elvana Ramaj Senior Biodiversity Expert Biodiversity Directorate Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration Tirana, Albania Email: Elvana.Ramaj@moe.gov.al</p>	<p>Information on EBSAs in Albania: The document includes descriptions of the following areas that could be described as meeting EBSA criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bay of Porto Palermo; • The area from Vjosa river mouth to Sazan and Karaburun; • The area from Cape Rodoni to Patoku lagoon; • The area from Buna river mouth to Viluni lagoon; • The marine area of the National Marine Park Karaburun Sazan; and • The marine area of the National Park Butrinti
BirdLife	<p>Ben Lascelles Senior Marine Officer BirdLife International Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Email: ben.lascelles@birdlife.org, blascelles@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Marine important bird areas, priority sites for the conservation of biodiversity</p>
		<p>Seabird Data for Describing Marine Conservation Areas</p>
		<p>BirdLife International in the Mediterranean: Seabird data submitted to the CBD EBSA workshop, April 2014</p>
EEA	<p>Ronan Uhel Head of Programme, Natural Systems and Vulnerability European Environment Agency</p>	<p>Guidelines for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the marine environment: Application of the Habitats and Birds Directives</p>

Party/ org. of submitter	Author(s)/Contributor	Title/Contents of submission
	Email: ronan.uhel@eea.europa.eu	Additional guidelines for assessing sufficiency of Natura 2000 proposals (SCIs) for marine habitats and species Criteria for assessing national lists of pSCI at Biogeographical level
FAO-COPEMED	Juan A Camiñas FAO-CopeMed II Project Coordinator Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division (FIR) Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch Email: JuanAntonio.Caminas@fao.org	FAO Mediterranean Projects Products: This document provides a list of the publications and other informative material issued by the FAO Mediterranean Projects since 1999.
GOBI	Vikki Gunn GOBI Email: vikki.gunn@seascapeconsultants.co.uk	HERMES publications for the Mediterranean HERMIONE publications for the Mediterranean
IUCN	Allain Jeudy de Grissac Marine Programme Director IUCN - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation Malaga, Spain Email: alainjeudyde@hotmail.com , alain.jeudy@iucn.org	Las praderas de Magnoliofitas marinas del mar Mediterráneo: resiliencia y contribución a la mitigación del cambio climático (Mediterranean Seagrass Meadows: Resilience and Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation) Mediterranean Submarine Canyons: Ecology and Governance Propuesta de una red representativa de áreas marinas protegidas en el mar de Alborán Towards a Representative Network of Marine Protected Areas in

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		<p>Libya</p> <p>Towards a Mediterranean Canyon Inventory: The PROMETEOS Project (PROtection of the MEdiTERRanean Open Seas: Contributing to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas over offshore seamounts and submarine canyons).</p> <p>Mediterranean Seamount List and General Map: This draft document contains the list of known seamounts of the Mediterranean Sea and their general distribution map, which are part of the Mediterranean Seamount Atlas (IUCN-Med PROMETEOS project).</p>
Lebanon	<p>Hany El Shaer, Ph.D, Project coordinator, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation / Global Marine Programme helshaer@hotmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Lara Samaha, Head of Department Ecosystems, Service of Nature Resources, Ministry of Environment l.samaha@moe.gov.lb</p> <p>Ghassan Jaradi , Ph.D, Professor of Ecology and Zoology, Faculty of Sciences, Lebanese University rjaradi@cyberia.net.lb</p>	<p>Lebanon's Marine Protected Area Strategy: In Lebanon, there are two legally declared marine protected areas: the Palm Islands Nature Reserve in North Lebanon and the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in South Lebanon. Presently, the MoE and IUCN are implementing with OAPN, AECID and MAVA funding the project "Supporting Management of Important Marine Habitats and Species in Lebanon" (2010-2012) to support the development of a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and an associated monitoring program to evaluate their management effectiveness. So far, the project has assessed the feasibility of declaring three marine protected areas (Ras El Chekaa cliff, Batroun site and the Medfoun site), and carried out detailed biodiversity assessment and inventories in those sites and produced related GIS maps.</p>
	<p>Manal Nader. Project manager Environmental Resources Monitoring in Lebanon (ERML) Email: manal.nader@balamand.edu.lb</p>	<p>Environmental Resources Monitoring in Lebanon - ERML Component A (i): Improved Understanding, Management and Monitoring in the Coastal Zone: Marine Resources Component A (i) of the ERML has an overall objective "the assessment of the status of Coastal Sensitive Areas of interest in Lebanon in terms of ecological systems, in addition to the identification of the main threats with the focus on land-based</p>

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		sources of pollution especially river discharges in the coastal and marine environments". Accordingly, sites were given a priority ranking from the most to the least sensitive. Applying the Analytic Hierarchy Process, the relative importance of each evaluation criterion was derived using pairwise comparisons. This was followed by priority ranking of the natural and cultural sites using multi-criteria analysis.
Malta	Christophe Cousin Environment Protection Officer Malta Environment and Planning Authority Floriana, Malta Email: christophercousin@gmail.com	Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for special areas of conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zona fil-Bahar Bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb
		Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for special areas of conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zona fil-Bahar fl-Inhawi ta' Ghar Lapsi u ta' Filfla
		Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for special areas of conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zona fil-Bahar fl-Inhawi tad-Dwejra (Ghawdex)
		Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for special areas of conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zona fil-Bahar fl-Inhawi ta' Mgarr ix-Xini (Ghawdex)
		Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for special areas of conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zona fil-Bahar fil-Grigal ta' Malta
MedPAN	Maria Purificacio Canals Ventin President Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the M Hyères, France E-Mail: pcanals@tinet.org , pcanals@depana.org	The Status of Marine Protected Ares in the Mediterranean Sea 2012
		Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas by 2020
Oceana	Ricardo Aguilar Research Director OCEANA in Europe	In this report, 37 marine sites are described to contribute on the identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in the Mediterranean Sea in order to follow requirements

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	<p>Madrid, Spain Email: raguilar@oceana.org</p> <p>Pilar Marin Marine Scientist and MedNet Project Coordinator OCEANA Protecting the World's Oceans Madrid, Spain Email: pmarin@oceana.org</p>	<p>under the Barcelona Convention (decision IG.21/5) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision X/29). Oceana has identified these sites mainly because of the occurrence of species listed as protected (under several international Conventions or Reference Lists) or due to the presence of sensitive and/or essential habitats. When scientific information is either scarce or not available, several features are included due to its affection by the main circulation (mesoscale) patterns to ensure the connectivity within marine subregions in a potential MPA network.</p>
Plan Bleu	<p>Didier Sauzade Programme écosystèmes marins / Marine ecosystems Plan Bleu Centre d'activités régionales / Regional Activity Centre Marseille – France Email: dsauzade@planbleu.org</p>	<p>Marine Ecosystems. Economic study of the impacts of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean</p>
RAC-SPA	<p>Daniel Cebrian Menchero Expert Marine Biologist UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Conv Tunis, Tunisia Email: daniel.cebrian@rac-spa.org.tn, car-asp@rac-spa.org</p>	<p><i>Regional Submission</i> Mediterranean Pelagic Habitat: Oceanographic and Biological Processes, An Overview</p>
		<p><i>Regional Submission</i> Developing a Marine Protected Area network in Mediterranean open sea areas, including deep sea areas</p>
		<p><i>Regional Submission</i> Sea turtles in the Mediterranean: Distribution, threats and conservation priorities</p>
		<p><i>Regional Submission</i> Overview of scientific findings and criteria relevant to identifying SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas</p>
		<p><i>Regional Submission</i></p>

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		Technical report on the Geographical Information System developed for the Mediterranean open seas
		<i>Regional Submission</i> Fisheries conservation and vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas
		<i>Regional Submission</i> Report presenting a georeferenced compilation on bird important areas in the Mediterranean open seas
		<i>Regional Submission</i> Notes on the establishment of Marine Protected Areas beyond national jurisdiction or in areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined in the Mediterranean Sea
		<i>Regional Submission</i> International legal instruments applied to the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean region and actors responsible for their implementation and enforcement
		<i>Regional Submission</i> List of reports made available by UNEP/MAP RAC/SPA to CBD Technical team at Duke University for use in the preparation of the: CBD Mediterranean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, Malaga, Spain, 7-11 April 2014
		<i>SPAMI Submission</i> Map of specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance (SPAMIs)
		<i>SPAMI Submission</i> List of SPAMIs
		<i>SPAMI Submission</i> Operational criteria for identifying SPAMIs in areas of open seas, including the deep seas

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		<p><i>SPAMI Submission</i> Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean</p>
		<p><i>SPAMI Submission</i> SPAMI brochure</p>
		<p><i>SPAMI Submission</i> Specially protected areas of Mediterranean Importance Assessment and Perspectives</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Status and Conservation of Cetaceans in the Adriatic Sea</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Status and Conservation of fisheries in the Adriatic</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Seabirds status and conservation in the Adriatic Sea</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Alboran Sea Cetaceans</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Ecology and Human activities in the Alboran Sea</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Status of the open sea fisheries in the Alboran Sea</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Status of Seabirds in the Alboran Sea</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Important areas for the conservation of cetaceans in the Gulf of Lions shelf and slope area: Synthesis of existing data on cetaceans and threats</p>
		<p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Description of the ecology of the Gulf of Lions shelf and slope area</p>

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		<p>in the identification of the areas that may deserve to be protected</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Fisheries in the Gulf of Lions</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Seabirds in the Gulf of Lions shelf and slope area</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Toward the identification of EBSAs in the Adriatic Sea: Hotspots of Megafauna</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Satellite telemetry applied to fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau: Status of Cetaceans</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Status and conservation of fisheries in the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau</p> <hr/> <p><i>Sub-regional Submission</i> Seabird status and conservation in the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau</p>
Slovenia	<p>United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) Tunis, Tunisia E-mail: car-asp@rac-spa.org</p> <p>Robert Turk Senior Nature Conservation Consultant Piran Regional Unit</p>	<p>Overview of scientific findings and criteria relevant to identifying SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas</p>

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	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment Piran, Slovenia Email: robert.turk@zrsvn.si	
Swansea University	Gail Schofield Swansea University Graeme C. Hays ¹ , Sabrina Fossette ¹ , Kostas A. Katselidis, Patrizio Mariani and Gail Schofield	<u>Ontogenetic development of migration: Lagrangian drift trajectories suggest a new paradigm for sea turtles</u>
