

Decision IG.21/5

Identification and Conservation of sites of particular ecological interest in the Mediterranean

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling the Paris Declaration adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Paris, 8-10 February 2012) according to which the States declared that they are resolved to take all the necessary measures to make the Mediterranean a clean, healthy and productive sea with conserved biodiversity and ecosystems by developing, a coherent, well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean and implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular to meet the target of 10 percent of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean by 2020,

Noting the outcomes of the third international congress on marine protected areas (IMPAC3) held in Marseille (21-25 October 2013) and Ajaccio Ministerial declaration,

Recalling Article 8 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the SPA/BD Protocol, on the establishment of the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List),

Having regard to Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol, related to the Common Criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List,

Considering the proposals made by Cyprus, pursuant to Article 9 paragraph 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol, to include a new area in the SPAMI List and the conclusions of the Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (Rabat, 2-5 July 2013), regarding the evaluation of its conformity with the criteria provided for in Article 16 of the SPA/BD Protocol,

Recalling Decision 17/12 adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, 15-18 January 2008) on the procedure for the revision of the areas included in the SPAMI List, stating that for each SPAMI, a Periodic Review should be carried out every six years by a mixed national/independent Technical Advisory Commission,

Recalling that based on decision IG20/7 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris 8-10 February 2012) the Secretariat presented the work carried out in the Mediterranean regarding Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and that, Decision 17 of the Contracting Parties to the CBD adopted at CoP XI in October 2012 noted this submission and requested the Executive Secretary of CBD to include the summary reports on the descriptions of areas that meet the EBSAs criteria in the repository and to submit them to the General Assembly and other Organizations while taking note of the particular need for a regional workshop in the Mediterranean, in order to finalize the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, before CBD CoP XII in October 2014,

Decides to:

Request the Secretariat to prepare with all relevant MAP components and in close cooperation with Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders a draft roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs to achieve Aichi 11 target in the Mediterranean for consideration by COP19 with a view to its adoption;

Encourage all Parties to accelerate efforts in taking necessary measures to develop a coherent and well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean while increasing the number of those areas in the SPAMI list;

Include the Lara-Toxeftra Turtle Reserve (Cyprus) in the SPAMI List;

Request the concerned Party to take the necessary protection and conservation measures specified in its SPAMI proposal in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3 and Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol;

Request the Secretariat in cooperation with SPA/RAC to inform the competent international organizations of the newly adopted SPAMI including the measures taken in that SPAMI, as provided for in Article 9, paragraph 5 of the SPA/BD Protocol;

Request SPA/RAC to work with the relevant authorities in France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, to carry out during the 2014-2015 biennium the Ordinary Periodic Review for the following twenty-two SPAMIs, according to the procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties:

- Bouches de Bonifacio Natural Reserve (France);
- Port-Cros National Park (France);
- Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (France, Italy, Monaco);
- Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto (Italy);
- Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (Italy);
- Marine Protected Area of Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo (Italy);
- Miramare Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Plemmirio Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Punta Campanella Marine Protected Area (Italy);
- Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco);
- Alboran Island (Spain);
- Archipelago of Cabrera National Park (Spain);
- Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park (Spain);
- Cap de Creus Natural Park (Spain);
- Columbretes Islands (Spain);
- Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast (Spain);
- Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (Spain);
- Medes Islands (Spain);
- Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (Spain);
- Kneiss Islands (Tunisia);
- La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia); and
- Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia).

Request the Secretariat with the support of the SPA/RAC to improve the visibility of the SPAMI List and cooperation and networking among the SPAMI areas;

Request the Secretariat with the assistance of SPA/RAC to cooperate with the CBD Secretariat in organizing during 2014 a regional workshop in the Mediterranean on EBSAs, in time for its report to be considered by the 18th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (June 2014) prior to the twelfth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties.

