



MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPA/BD PROTOCOL*

" Entered into force in 1999 "



CONTEXT

A Protected Area is "An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means" (IUCN, 1994).

Conscious of the profound impact of human activities on the state of the marine environment and the littoral in the Mediterranean

Stressing the importance of protecting and, as appropriate, improving the state of the Mediterranean natural and cultural heritage, in particular through the establishment of specially protected areas and also by the protection and conservation of threatened species

* The Mediterranean countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, adopted in 1995 the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD)

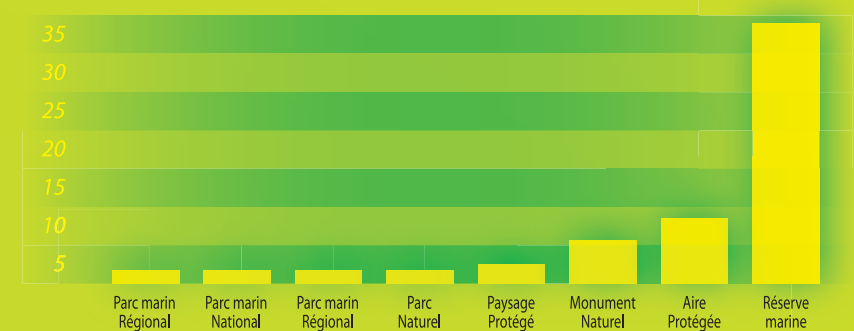


MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: TO SAFEGUARD A COMMON HERITAGE

156 protected areas are, currently, declared in the Mediterranean coastal area by the riparian countries.



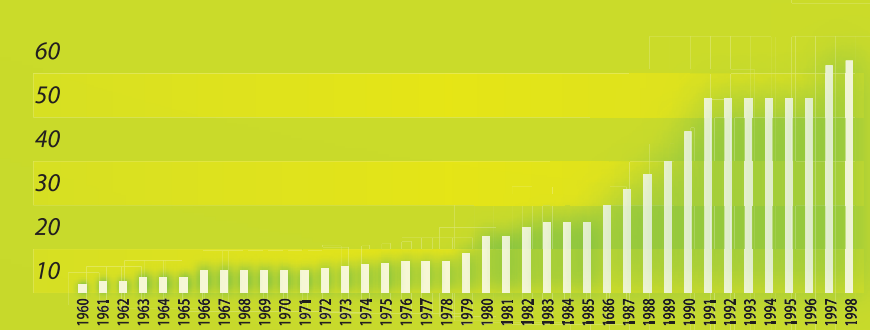
Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas



Different categories of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean (Rais, 2004)

Among the 57 marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, 23 are exclusively marine, the others cover at the same time marine and terrestrial environments.

Most of Mediterranean countries have national legislations specifying the national categories of protected areas and the modalities of their establishment



Development of the number of MPAs in the Mediterranean since 1960

SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE (SPAMIs): A REGIONAL NOVELTY

Criteria for the choice of SPAMIs

To be included in the SPAMI List, sites should:

- be of importance for conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean;
- contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species;
- be of special interest of the scientific, aesthetic cultural or educational levels.

SPAMI List (November 2005)

Algeria

1. Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve
2. Habibas Islands

France

3. Port-Cros National Park
4. Marine Protected Area of Portofino

Italy

5. Alboran Island
6. Natural Park of Cabo De Gata-Nijar
7. Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria
8. Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs

9. Natural Park of Cap de Creus

10. Medes Islands
11. Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast
12. Columbretes Islands
13. Archipelago of Cabrera National Park
14. La Galite Archipelago
15. Kneiss Islands
16. Zembra and Zembretta National Park
17. Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals



SPAMIs list (2005)



REFERENCES

- IUCN, 1994 - Guidelines for Protected Areas Management Categories, Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland, pp. 1-261.
RAIS C.2004 - Review of existing Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (Analysis of their representativeness). Report presented at the WCPA Scoping Meeting to support mediterranean States to meet the 2012 WSSD target on Networks of Mediterranean MPAs (Livorno, Italy - 6-8 December 2004).