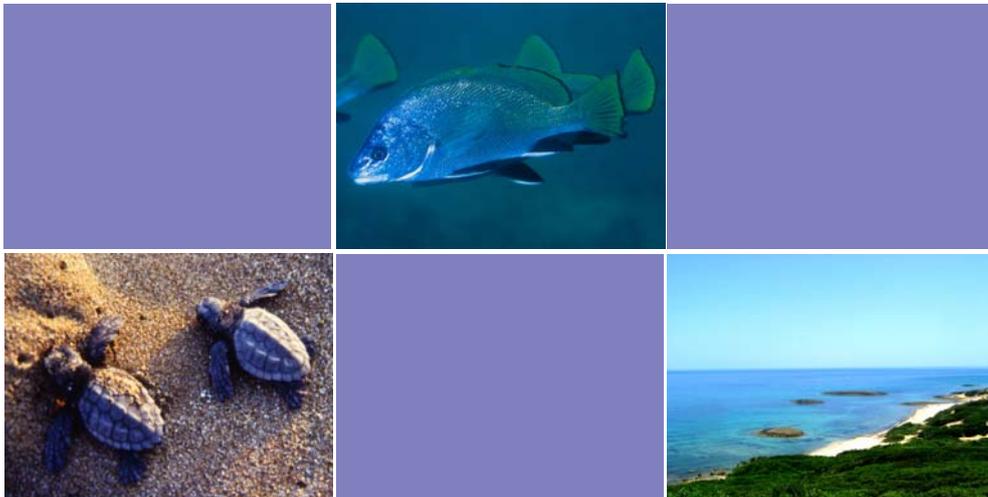




United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

FINAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (MedMPA)



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I. FOREWORD

This activity report aims at summarizing the MedMPA Project conducted under the aegis of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas – RAC/SPA – of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP).

The overall goal of this Project aims at promoting and improving the management of marine and coastal protected areas in 7 Mediterranean countries. Hence, strengthening the capacity building of these countries in terms of marine conservation, biodiversity and sustainable development. The countries concerned are, from West to East, the following: **Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Cyprus, Israel and Syria.**

Initially and in case the country disposed of a marine protected area on the Mediterranean coast, then the Project undertook actions in view of elaborating and initiating the implementation of a management plan. This was the case for Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Syria and Israel. On the contrary, the Project launched actions consisting in the identification of sites of conservation interest in view of elaborating a national plan for the development of protected areas. This was actually the case for Cyprus and Syria.

The MedMPA Project started on 1st February 2002 for an initial duration of 30 months. However, the Project could not be completed in time due to significant delays in the implementation of its activities in Morocco, Algeria and Israel. Following a 6 months extension granted by the European Commission, the Project has been carried out until its deadline on 31st January 2005.

Indeed, several problems arose in the above mentioned countries throughout the implementation process. Some of these were exogenous, such as the occurrence of an earthquake in Al Hoceima in Morocco in 2003 and the geopolitical situation prevailing in Israel. Some others were endogenous, such as in Algeria where the appointment of a national liaison co-ordinator to the MedMPA Project was considerably delayed.

The Project implementation was run by RAC/SPA with the support of the three following partners:

1. **ICRAM:** Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca scientifica e tecnologica Applicata al Mare . Rome, Italy
2. **UBM:** Unidad de Biología Marina . Instituto Universitario del Agua y de las Ciencias Alicante . University of Alicante . Alicante, Spain
3. **ATEN:** Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels . Montpellier, France.

The total eligible cost of the operation was estimated 2.191.169 Euros of which 1.748.374 Euros, representing 79.79 % of the initial figure, is financed by the European Commission (via the EuropAid Cooperation Office under the MEDA/SMAP programme) and 20.21 % is financed by RAC/SPA and its 3 above mentioned partners.

II. AIMS and OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve its goals and objectives, the MedMPA Project had to carry out a number of activities detailed below.

1. **Inventory of the Documentation available** on the marine biological diversity in the Mediterranean area. The data and information were indeed quite scarce before implementing this operation. However, an attempt was made in connexion with the studies actually available in the region at the very early stages of the Project.
2. **Activity 1 (MP) - Elaboration of Management Plans for specific Marine Areas** as follows:

The National Park of Al Hoceima, Morocco (MP1)
The Proposed Protected Area of Rdum Majiessa-Ras ir-Raheb, Malta (MP2)
The National Park of Zembra and Zembretta, Tunisia (MP3)
The Nature Reserve of Rosh Hanikra, Israel (MP4)
The Proposed Protected Area of Oum Toyour, Syria (MP5)
The National Park of El Kala, Algeria (MP6).

3. **Activity 2 (PP) - Identification of Sites of Conservation Interest with a view to elaborating National Plans for the Development of Protected Areas** in the identified sites as follows:

- Along the coast of Cyprus (PP1)
- Along the coast of Syria (PP2).

4. **Activity 3 (NW) - Organisation of National Training Workshops** as follows:

NW1 . National Training Workshop on the Development of Tourism in relation to Protected Areas (Morocco)

NW2 . National Training Workshop on the Development of Tourism in Relation to Protected Areas (Israel)

NW3 . National Training Workshop on the Management of Marine Protected Areas (Algeria)

NW4 . National Training Workshop on the Techniques for the Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas (Tunisia).

5. Activity 4 (RTS) - Regional Training Seminar on Marine Protected Areas Management Planning.

6. Activity 5 (G) - Elaboration of Guidelines and Technical Tools

- G1. Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Specially Protected Areas
- G2 . Practical Guide on Species in need of Special Care in the Mediterranean Coastal Zone (identification, population and habitat management, monitoring).

7. Activity 6 (D) - Dissemination through Internet of the Scientific and Technical Information collected during the Project.

This is a brief summary of the MedMPA Project achievements since its start in February 2002:

- **Number of preliminary missions: 7 (over a total of 7 countries)**
- **Number of field surveys: 19 (throughout the 7 countries)**
- **Number of coordination meetings: 4**
- **Number of consultation and/or information workshops: 14**
- **Number of national training workshops: 3**
- **Number of regional training seminar: 1.**

III. THE PROJECT STAFF

RAC/SPA and its 3 partners appointed a multidisciplinary team made up of national and international experts and consultants in order to run and carry out the activities of the MedMPA Project. The list of participants is included in Annex N°1.

IV. METHODOLOGY for the ELABORATION of MANAGEMENT PLANS and NATIONAL PLANS

The scientific research conducted in the framework of the MedMPA Project allowed RAC/SPA to involve both national and international experts, often specialists in various fields of marine biology.

Indeed, the whole spirit and philosophy of the Project - and of the SMAP programme as a whole - was to promote a pilot action throughout the Mediterranean countries and generate sustainable achievements in terms of management and conservation policy. Hence strengthening national capacities whilst consolidating and developing the network of marine protected areas in the region through the North-South and particularly South-South reinforcement of exchange of information, experience and skills.

Actually, the involvement of national consultants proved to be truly effective. Their collaboration with the international experts appointed by RAC/ASPA was often fruitful which in return allowed the local authorities to provide easy access to the areas identified. The Project was indeed driven and sustained by a team spirit, hence paving the way for an efficient, stringent and hopefully long-lasting collaboration.

1. COORDINATION MEETINGS

4 MedMPA coordination meetings took place in order to launch the Project and ensure a proper follow-up of its activities:

- 1st Coordination Meeting in Tunis from 26th to 29th March 2002
- 2nd Coordination Meeting with the Israeli vis-à-vis in Cyprus from 5th to 7th July 2002
- 3rd Coordination Meeting in Roma from 29th to 30th January 2003
- 4th Coordination Meeting in Athens on 11th December 2003.

2. DATA COLLECTION

Objective

The objective of this action was to take stock of the available data with regards to the marine areas covered by the MedMPA Project and make it available to all teams involved in this mission.

Activities carried out during the 1st year of the Project

Since the Project started in February 2002, an inventory was set up in connexion with the relevant documentation existing. To that effect, a computerized database was started and made available to the Project teams.

Activities carried out during the 2nd year of the Project

During the various tasks and assignments throughout the 7 countries of the Project, documentation was collected in order to strengthen the database. The latter was thus updated using a new information sheet on each newly identified and/or obtained document.

Problems encountered while implementing this action

The Project team noticed that there were some problems obtaining the identified documents.

Follow-up action

A version of all relevant documents will be included on RAC/SPA's website under the MedMPA Project heading. A new version of the Project for the Internet is on track.

3. ELABORATION of MANAGEMENT PLANS

In order to elaborate the management plans for each of the areas identified, a field survey was undertaken with clear and straightforward objectives: **determine the ecological interest, natural value and heritage of the area in question through the production of an inventory of the existing biotopes and main species**. When possible, a map of their distribution and abundance was established.

In addition to the scientific information, relevant socio-economic data was also collected in and around the marine protected areas in an attempt to grasp and quantify such essential aspects as fisheries, tourism, diving and boating.

As a matter of fact, the data obtained concerning the marine species and biocenosis as well as the economic environment was a basic and fundamental necessity prior to any proper zoning and management propositions.

Hence, this study was conducted on the basis of a so-called preliminary mission on a local and national level (Duration: 2 to 3 days) and a field

survey at sea (Duration: an average of 2 weeks). The exact duration of each mission depended mainly on the specific features of each marine protected area (i.e. area coverage, accessibility, heterogeneity of assemblages, so on ...) and varied from one area to the other as a result of these specificities.

a. The Preliminary Mission aimed at bringing together the main actors who took part in the elaboration of the management plan. This enabled them to assess the situation of the marine protected area as a whole, gather the available information, identify potential problems that could arise in the course of this action and finalize a detailed roadmap for the field survey itself.

b. The Field Mission was carried out using a number of techniques as follows:

- Visual Inventory of benthic species and assemblages by transect or quadrant sampling
- Mapping of main assemblages
- Inventory of sources of disturbance and threats for the marine biotopes
- Updating of bathymetric data in the available maps
- Morphological description of the shoreline.

In addition to these techniques, particular attention was paid to certain species and assemblages such as:

- Species of Mediterranean importance, particularly those appearing in Annex I to the SPA Protocol
- Marine phanerogam meadows
- Posidonia* barrier reefs and other surface organogenic formations.

Finally, a geo-referenced database was compiled on the basis of digitised maps for each of the marine protected areas under study.

c. The Socio-economic Study was generally confided to a national consultant with a thorough knowledge of the socio-economic environment in connexion with the protected area. For this purpose, the expert gathered relevant data on the local and national economic activities in and around the studied area with an emphasis on the sector-based development plans for fishing, tourism and basic infrastructure (roads, ports and marinas, etc...).

d. The Drafting of a Provisional Management Plan was elaborated by a team of experts on the basis of the preliminary mission, the field

survey and the socio-economic study. Hence paying a specific attention to the following aspects:

Zoning plan with an accurate definition of potential and authorized activities for each zone including the buffer zone.

Staff requirements

Equipment requirements

Facilities to be provided

Management board

Involvement of local people into management

Scientific monitoring programme

Monitoring and patrolling organisation

Public access management, control and promotion

Evaluation and revision rules for the various sections of the management plan.

e. The Consultation Process was a vital and significant step in the elaboration of the management plan. Indeed, the latter had been submitted to all the stakeholders in order to gain their unfailing back up. Thus ensuring that the local authorities, the fishing and tourism departments, the associations and NGOs as well as the fishermen's groups will actually assist the board once the management plan is being implemented. The Project actually provided for a two-stage consultation. Hence a first stage which consists in producing a preliminary document drafted jointly with the authority responsible for the marine protected area and sent to all the stakeholders. And a second stage resulting in a meeting during which the management plan was discussed and obviously improved and adopted.

f. The Initiation of the Implementation of the Management Plan was mainly intended to ensure a pilot and demonstrative action. The first and most important measure concerned the marking out of borders of the marine protected area as defined by the zoning plan.

4. ELABORATION OF NATIONAL PLANS

In order to elaborate the national plans, the identification of sites of conservation interest was made prior to the field surveys in order to confirm or invalidate the choices made.

Again, for each of the areas identified, a field survey was undertaken. Its main objective was: **determine the ecological interest, natural value and heritage of the area in question through the production of an inventory of the existing biotopes and main species.** When possible, a map of their distribution and abundance was established.

In addition to the scientific information, relevant socio-economic data was also collected in and around the identified sites in an attempt to grasp and quantify such essential aspects as fisheries, tourism, diving and boating.

The sites identified for conservation were inventoried using the Standard Data-Entry Form for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest (SDF) adopted within the MAP framework. Actually, the sites were identified with the support of the local administrations on the basis of the available data, in particular with regards to habitats included on the reference list of marine habitats adopted within the MAP framework. In Syria, potential marine turtle nesting sites were notably considered in order to conduct the field surveys. This was also the case for Cyprus in connexion with potential monk seals habitats.

V. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CONDUCTED

The following table summarizes the field surveys undertaken in the framework of the management plans and also in view of elaborating national plans for the development of marine protected areas:

<u>1a. FIELD SURVEYS</u>	Area	Date
Elaboration of Management Plans		
1 st Marine Prospection Mission	Al Hoceima (MOROCCO)	3-21 Sept 2002
Complementary Survey Monk Seal		1-10 Sept 2003
Complementary Survey Marine Biotopes		7-12 July 2003
Bathymetric Survey		1-6 July 2003
1 st Marine Prospection Mission	Zembra and Zembretta (TUNISIA)	11-19 Oct 2002
2 nd Marine Prospection Mission		19-25 June 2003
Complementary Marine Survey		20-25 Oct 2003
Marine Prospection Mission	Oum Toyour (SYRIA)	1-11 August 2003
1 st Marine Prospection Mission	El Kala (ALGERIA)	16-23 Dec 2003
2 nd Marine Prospection Mission		7-17 July 2004
3 rd Marine Complementary Survey		31 Jul-4 Aug 2004
1 st Marine Prospection Mission	Rosh Hanikra (ISRAEL)	11-15 July 2003
2 nd Marine Prospection Mission		28 Feb-8 Mar 2004
3 rd Marine Prospection Mission		16-23 Oct 2004

REMARKS: A total of 13 field surveys conducted throughout 6 Mediterranean countries, from October 2002 to October 2004, enabled RAC/SPA teams to gather the necessary biological and ecological information in order to assess the value of the areas studied. This challenge was made possible thanks to the commitment of the national authorities and the involvement of the national consultants and experts. This figure is fairly high if one considers the lack of data and information on Mediterranean marine biotopes which was prevailing before undertaking the MedMPA programme.

1b. FIELD SURVEYS

	Area	Date
Elaboration of National Plans		
1 st Marine Prospection Mission	Cyprus	16 Nov-1Dec 2002
2 nd Marine Prospection Mission		28 Oct-4 Nov 2003
3 rd Complementary Survey		15- 19 May 2004
1 st Marine Prospection Mission	Syria	1-4 October 2002
2 nd Marine Prospection Mission		8-15 Nov 2002
3 rd marine Prospection Mission		1-18 August 2003

REMARKS: A total of 6 field surveys undertaken in the identified sites of Cyprus and Syria enabled RAC/SPA teams to make a fairly proper assessment of the biological value of the coastlines of these two countries. This led to a series of proposals and recommendations in connexion with the elaboration of national plans. These field surveys were mostly completed in 2002 and 2003 although a complementary survey was ordered and conducted in Cyprus in 2004 considering the importance of the Akamas peninsula and the necessity to improve our knowledge of the area.

2. NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

3 (out of an initial number of 4) National Training Workshops were held in the following countries:

Morocco (Rabat) – NTW on “the development of tourism in relation to protected areas” from 25 to 28 June 2003

Algeria (El Kala) – NTW on “the management of marine protected areas” from 4 to 7 July 2004

Tunisia (Tunis) – NTW on “the techniques of monitoring of marine protected areas” from 23 to 26 June 2003.

3. REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR

South of France and Catalonia, Spain – RTS on “marine protected area management planning” from 19 to 29 January 2004.

4. GUIDELINES AND TECHNICAL TOOLS

Guidelines for the establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas

Practical Guide on species in need of special care in the Mediterranean coastal zone (identification, population and habitat management, monitoring).

5. OTHER PRODUCTS

A collector box including the following:

- TV documentary film with a view to producing a DVD and to ensure TV broadcasting and promotion
- Multimedia application and the production of a CD-Rom
- Booklet summarizing the information provided by the DVD and the CD-Rom.

As a matter of fact, the initial Project document did not make provision for a proper advertising action. Despite a brilliant conception both from a scientific and structural point of views, the makers of the MedMPA Project failed to envisage or consider the elaboration of a proper promotion and awareness campaign.

In September 2004, more than 2 years after the Project started, RAC/SPA decided to launch the "MedMPA Documentary" action, intended to fill the gap in the Center's obvious lack of audiovisual material. This awareness action was mainly intended to improve the understanding of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.

This diagnosis led to the identification of 3 main elements:

- The improvement of the quality of information is largely bound to the level of importance of the Project
- The access to information can be reinforced through the use of media of various nature and proper information aimed at target public and partners
- The lack of communication and information material is patently obvious considering the importance of the Project.

The production of this particular tool will not only allow to develop the institutional communication of the MedMPA Project as such, but it will also constitute an essential relay mechanism for training, awareness raising and teaching.

Hence, the main objective of the "MedMPA Documentary" was: Inform, promote and/or improve awareness, train all actors and partners of the Project in order to reinforce the access and the quality of information.

This led RAC/SPA to identify the following target groups:

- Partners of the MedMPA project
- Scientists and consultants
- Associations and NGO's
- Pupils and students
- Teachers, school and college directors.

In order to achieve this objective, RAC/SPA launched in October 2004 a tendering procedure (restricted international tender), in accordance with the European Commission procurement procedures, for the appointment of a film production company.

The CD-Rom conception and production was run bearing in mind the same objectives: content, target and strategic orientations. This medium enhanced technologies such as 3D animation, videos, databases directory in connexion with the management material (cards, photos, species inventory) as well as all ergonomic means allowing a user-friendly and intuitive consultation. Annex N°2 includes the composition of the MedMPA documentary steering committee and crew.

Editorial Line of the MedMPA Documentary Film: The scenario and the content of the documentary emphasized a strong editorial frame, hence enlightening the elements which constituted the core of this medium:

Great coastal and marine landscapes from East to West of the Mediterranean Sea, spreading over thousands of acres (Example: the Rosh Hanikra Reserve in Israël) or vast stretches of coastline reaching up to hundreds of kilometres (Example: Syria, Cyprus) such as islands, cliffs, sandy beaches, rocky shoreline, coastal and underwater caves, underwater meadows, coralligenous biocenosis, slopes, rocky grounds and substrata, etc...

The Atlantic influences (such as in Al Hoceima), the typically Mediterranean influences (such as in Tunisia and Malta) and the Red Sea influences (such as in the Oriental part of the Mediterranean, notably Syria and Cyprus)

Great marine and costal biodiversity, outstanding natural features bearing diverse marine ecosystems and interesting species with significant ecological interest. Strictly Mediterranean species identified and described (*Posidonia*, *Cystoseira*, Diadem Urchin, Monk Seal, etc...) . Unknown underwater sites brought to light (Example : Syria, Algeria, Cyprus)

Men and natural areas. Imprint and history of Mediterranean men and civilizations

Teams in action in the living and management of Marine Protected Areas

A project shared by institutions, scientists, managers and the public
Significant actions of implementation of the existing MPAs (such as in Al Hoceima, Zembra and Zembretta, Rosh Hanikra, Majjiessa-Ras Raheb) and the development of new MPAs (such as in Syria, Algeria and Cyprus)

Field missions undertaken as a fundamental basis to the MedMPA Project. A spirit of adventure which allowed a multi-partner approach and a concrete and efficient North-South exchange of experience and skills.

VI. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

The MedMPA Project results and achievements could be summarized as follows:

1- A well organized and coordinated programme under the aegis of RAC/SPA's team, national coordination for each and every activity, follow-up indicators.

2- A fairly good implication of concerned institutions in each country (ministries of environment and agriculture, coastal and maritime authorities, etc...) in addition to marine protected areas directorates and administrations, and also the scientists and experts. Examples: Tunisia, Cyprus.

3- A wide partnership and an efficient North-South collaboration concerning the scientific aspects, the planning of activities, the training workshops implying countries such as France, Spain and Italy towards all 7 countries of the Project, international experts intervening and playing their part together and in close consultation with their national counterparts. Examples: Israel, Algeria.

4- A complementary insight into the socio-economic aspects, hence taking into account the Mediterranean context of human activities: professional fishermen, national and/or international tourism, urbanization, etc... Thus ending up with a Project which aims at enhancing species conservation and biodiversity and, in the same time, promote efficiently the vital notion of sustainable development.

5- A successful implication of local actors into the implementation of the management plans (local elected representatives, local communities, socio-professional groups, NGO's and other associations). Examples: Malta, Morocco.

6- A variety of actions with regards to both marine and coastal biodiversity and human activities in and around the areas identified. Thus launching concrete field missions:

Underwater biological and ecological inventories (all 7 sites concerned)

Socio-economic studies (all 7 sites concerned)

First actions in the initiation of the implementation of management plans (Malta: signposting and buoy marking).

7- A scientific approach combining up to date methods, tools and techniques such as satellite pictures rendering and interpretation, GPS positioning, underwater photography and classical methods such as underwater transects, coastal inspections, etc...).

8- A Project aiming at setting up strategic actions such as the identification of marine sites with a view to elaborating national plans for the development of protected areas. Examples: Syria, Cyprus.

9- A massive participation (nearly 150 persons) from experts, consultants and technical crews, on a national and international level. Dozens of experiences and exchanges developed thanks to the workshops organized in the framework of the Project.

10- A honourable assessment of the field surveys which bring forward the following:

Identification of habitats, species and associations of great Mediterranean importance such as *Posidonia* meadows (the deepest were identified in El Kala National in Algeria), multi-facies sites (identified in Al Hoceima in Morocco), outstanding underwater sceneries (identified in the area of Rdum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb in Malta and El Kala in Algeria), fish abundant sites (Zembra and Zembretta in Tunisia and El Kala in Algeria), original sites (lesseptian species in the eastern Mediterranean area in Israel, Cyprus and Syria), potential sites for the Monk Seal (Al Hoceima in Morocco, El Kala in Algeria, Ras El Bassit in Syria), marine turtle sites (Lara Protected Area and Akamas Peninsula in Cyprus, El Kala in Algeria and Oum Toyour in Syria), species included in Annex II of the SPA Protocol amongst which *Cystoseiras*, marine phanerogams, echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, fish, birds, reptiles and marine mammals.

The vital necessity to create Marine Protected Areas where there are none (El Kala in Algeria, Oum Toyour-Ras El Bassit in Syria, Moulia Rocks, Cape Greko and the Akamas Peninsula in Cyprus).

The reinforcement of the existing MPAs management through the initiation of the implementation of management plans (all 7 countries concerned).

The need to go ahead with the application of the management plans and their full acceptance by local actors.

The urgent necessity for a proper and long-lasting communication plan in order to share the results of the Project, develop the acquisitions in terms of scientific methods and MPA's management (all 7 countries concerned).

The follow-up and pursuit of the MedMPA Project enabling it to extend to other Mediterranean countries.

VII. SUMMARY of RESULTS per COUNTRY

MOROCCO

Activity MP1. The Management Plan of the marine area of the Al Hoceima National Park : Elaborating & Initiating its implementation

Calendar of Activities

MP1a. Preliminary Mission	27 May - 2 June 2002
MP1b. Field Mission 1	3-21 September 2002
Field Mission 2	28 June - 12 July 2003
MP1c. Drafting of the Management Plan	December 2003 Reviewed May 2004
MP1d. Presentation & Concertation Meeting	14 July 2004

Results

The Presentation and Consultation meeting on the management of the marine area of the Al Hoceima National Park took place in Al Hoceima on 14th July 2004.

The management plan for the marine part of the Al Hoceima National Park which was finalized in October 2004 in association with SHORELINE, an Italian firm selected through a tendering procedure launched in 2004 (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/04) in consultation with the European Commission. (Final version of the Management Plan included in Annex N° 3-1).

The elaboration of documents for visitors and public access promotion: notably posters and leaflets. A second tendering procedure was launched by RAC/SPA in May 2004 (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/04) in view of elaborating programmes for promoting public access, information and education for the Al Hoceima National Park. The implementation of this action was also entrusted to the Italian firm SHORELINE. The tender procedure and the choice of the firm that appeared most qualified to undertake the action in question was done in concertation with the European Commission. In addition to the elaboration of the management plan, SHORELINE produced a leaflet and posters for the studied marine protected area of Al Hoceima. (Documents included in Annex N° 3-2).

The publication of all the documents that were produced by the Project: scientific and socio-economic reports (Documents included in Annex N° 3-3).

The purchase of equipment: a computer and a printer in addition to scuba-diving equipment to the benefit of the National Park administration.

MALTA

Activity MP2. The Management Plan of the marine area of Rđum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb: Elaborating & initiating its Implementation)

Activities Calendar

MP2a . Preliminary Mission	16- 20 June 2002
MP2b . Drafting of the Management Plan	July 2003 Reviewed 21-22 Oct 2003
MP2c . Presentation & Concertation Meeting	16-17 March 2004

Results

The Presentation and Consultation Meeting on the management of the marine area of Rđum Majjiesa-Ras ir-Raheb was held in Malta on 16th and 17th of March 2004.

The Management Plan of the marine area of Rđum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb which was finalized in October 2004 in association with MEPA (Malta Environment and Planning Authority) (Final version of the Management Plan included in Annex N° 4-1).

The elaboration of the educational material (leaflet, video film) in association with MEPA (Documents included in Annex N° 4-2).

The financing of the sign-posting material as part of the initiation of the implementation of the management plan.

TUNISIA

Activity MP3. The Management Plan of the marine area of the Zembra & Zembretta National Park: Elaborating & initiating its implementation

Activities Calendar

MP3a . Preliminary Mission	10-15 June 2002
MP3b . Field Mission 1	11-20 October 2002
Field Mission 2	19-26 June 2003
MP3c . Drafting the Management Plan	February 2004
MP3d . Presentation & Concertation Meeting	30 March 2004
NW4 . National Training Workshop on the Techniques for the monitoring of marine Protected areas	23-26 June 2003

Results

The presentation and consultation meeting which was held in Tunis on 30 March 2004. Prior to this meeting, RAC/SPA submitted the draft

management plan to the Tunisian authorities. The outcomes of the consultation meeting were used to finalise the management plan.

The management plan of the marine area of the Zembra & Zembretta National Park was finalized in September 2004 following a restricted tender procedure (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/03) launched in close consultation with the European Commission, the consortium made of two Spanish firms (PANGEA and EGMASA) was entrusted with the elaboration of the management plan. (Final version of the Management Plan included in Annex N° 5-1).

The elaboration of documents for visitors and public access promotion: posters and leaflets. A second tendering procedure was launched by RAC/SPA in June 2004 (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/04) in view of elaborating programmes for promoting public access, information and education for the Zembra & Zembretta National Park. The implementation of this action was also entrusted to the Italian firm SHORELINE. The tender procedure and the choice of the firm that appeared most qualified to undertake the action in question was done in consultation with the European Commission. SHORELINE produced a leaflet and posters for the studied marine protected area of Zembra & Zembretta (Documents included in Annex N° 5-2).

The elaboration of all documents produced by the Project: scientific and socio-economic reports (Documents included in Annex N° 5-3). The purchase of scuba diving equipment to the benefit of the National Park administration (4 full diving gear, 1 air compressor, 1 dinghy + 1 outboard engine).

ISRAEL

Activity MP4 . The management Plan of the marine area of the Rosh Hanikra Nature Reserve: Elaborating and initiating its implementation

Activities Calendar

MP4a . Preliminary Mission	11-15 July 2003
MP4b . Field Mission 1	28 Feb- 8 Mar 2004
Field Mission 2	16- 23 October 2004
MP4c . Drafting the Management Plan	November 2004
MP4d . Presentation & Consultation Meeting	December 2004

Results

The Presentation and Consultation Meeting on the management of the marine area of Rosh Hanikra Nature Reserve was held in Israel on December 2004.

The management plan of the marine area of the Rosh Hanikra Nature Reserve was finalized in December 2004 in association with PANGEA-EGMASA, a Spanish consortium selected through a tendering procedure (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/04) (Document included in Annex 6-1).

The elaboration of documents for visitors and public access promotion: posters and leaflets by PANGEA-EGMASA. (Leaflet and posters – included in Annex 6-2).

The elaboration of all documents produced by the Project: scientific and socio-economic reports (Documents included in Annex 6-3).

It was not possible however to organize the National Training Workshop on the development of tourism in relation to protected areas (activity NW2) as RAC/SPA focused essentially on the finalization of the Rosh Hanikra field missions and the presentation and consultation meeting that followed, hence catching up with the calendar. Israel was indeed far behind the 6 other countries of the Project due to the political situation prevailing in the region.

SYRIA

Activity MP5 . The Management Plan of the marine area of the Oum Toyour-Ras El Bassit National Park: Elaborating and initiating its implementation

Activity PP2 . Identification of sites of conservation interest with a view to elaborating a national plan for the development of marine protected areas along the Syrian coast

Activity Calendar

MP5a . Field Mission	1-11 August 2003
MP5b . Drafting the Management Plan	December 2004
MP5c . Presentation & Consultation Meeting	Still to come
PP2a . Preliminary Mission	9-13 September 2002
PP2b . Field Mission 1	1- 4 October 2002
Field Mission 2	8- 15 November 2002
Field Mission 3	1- 18 August 2003
PP2c . Drafting the National Plan	December 2004

Results

The management plan of the marine area of the Oum Toyour-Ras El Bassit National Park in association with NAUTILUS, an Italian firm selected through a tender procedure (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/01/03) (Document included in Annex N° 7-1).

The National Plan for the development of marine protected areas in Syria in association with ATEN, one of the 3 partners of the Project (Document included in Annex N° 7-2).

The elaboration of documents: scientific and socio-economic reports (Document included in Annex N° 7-3).

The purchase of scuba-diving equipment: 4 tanks, 4 full diving gear, 1 air compressor and also computer equipment.

REMARKS concerning the DELAYS and PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Following the meeting of concertation in connexion with the drafting of the National Plan held from 23 to 30 April 2004, the decision was taken in collaboration with Mr Akram Issa DARWICH to elaborate a one and only report including both the recommendations for the management of the marine protected area of Oum Toyour-Ras El Bassit and a 20 pages appendix concerning the National Plan for the development of MPAs along the Syrian coast. This task was entrusted to ATEN, one of the 3 partners of the MedMPA Project.

Furthermore, 5 national experts were selected in order to prepare the scientific and socio-economic reports. Professor Amir IBRAHIM acted as planner, hence synthesizing the different reports for the Oum Toyour- Ras El Bassit marine protected area. The scientific reports were confided to both Dr Adib SAAD and Dr Issam KROUMA. Dr KROUMA was hired first of all because of his expertise on Syrian protected areas but also because of his responsibilities within the Ministry of Agriculture. The idea being for RAC/SPA to counter balance the role of the Ministry of Environment, hence readjusting the contribution of the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr Izdihar AMMAR and Oussama NOURI acted as socio-economists.

Despite Mr DARWICH's diplomatic and efficient method, these reports were handed over to RAC/SPA late in the year, including the drafting of the management plan. This left ATEN, our French partner of the Project with very little time to process the results and elaborate their recommendations.

However, thanks to the commitment of the experts involved, RAC/SPA ended up with the final document previously planned in April 2004 in Damascus. These delays often occur when facing the different administrations and the role of the national focal point was fortunately decisive in order to make thing actually happen.

This, in turn, did not allow RAC/SPA to organize the way it should have done the consultation meeting which was supposed to take place in December. Indeed, these delays as well as the very long procedure for obtaining the Syrian visas with regards to the French experts of ATEN made it impossible to maintain our initial calendar. **We suggested the National Focal Point to hold the meeting as an internal process, whenever this consultation is possible under the aegis of the Biodiversity Directorate.** RAC/SPA is absolutely convinced about the political commitment of the Syrian authorities and their constant and renewed support to this action. The drafting of the National Plan for the development of marine protected areas in Syria

The National Plan for the development of marine protected areas in Syria enabled to provide a comprehensive programme for the creation and management of protected areas in the most valuable sectors identified, considering in particular the following:

The region presents symptoms of overfishing and high debris pollution (mainly plastic).

Arwad Island shows the strongest tropicalization characteristics, which together with sound human pressure and shipping pollution makes it an important spot for pilot studies on climate change and habitat humanisation in the Mediterranean. In the same context, the nearby shallow reef plateau associated to the islets area of Lebhas, offshore Tartus, deserves a specific study.

Syria seems to be a promising area for the conservation of the green turtle in the Mediterranean. Conservation activities should be promoted. Main actions to be implemented should be: a survey for nesting beaches, since breeding seems a fact in several spots; evaluation of bycatch and plastic debris effects, linked to fishermen awareness; and tagging of juveniles, easy to be captured in the port of Ras El Bassit, to understand their connection to breeding colonies.

ALGERIA

Activity MP6 . The Management Plan of the marine area of the El Kala National Park: Elaborating and Initiating its implementation

Activity Calendar

MP6a . Preliminary Mission	6- 12 October 2003
MP6b . Field Mission 1	19- 22 December 2003
Field Mission 2	8- 18 July 2004
Field Mission 3	31 July- 4 August 2004
NW3 . National Training Workshop on the Management of marine protected Areas	4- 7 July 2004
MP6c . Drafting the Management Plan	November 2004

Results

The elaboration of documents: the scientific and economic reports (Documents included in Annex 8-1).

The elaboration of documents for visitors and public access promotion: leaflets and posters in association with the Spanish firm PANGEA-EGMASA selected through a tendering procedure (RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/04) (Documents included in Annex 8-2).

The purchase of scuba-diving equipment: 4 tanks, 4 full diving gear, 1 air compressor.

REMARKS concerning the DELAYS and PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The collaboration between RAC/SPA and the Algerian authorities was boosted in July 2004. During the first field mission in December 2003, the El Kala National Park did not allow ATEN experts to proceed to the underwater survey, thus signing the project away. Moreover, the local authorities did not agree with the choice of ATEN as a partner to the project and insisted on appointing national experts to carry out the field missions, elaborate the scientific report and the management plan.

This problem was solved upstream from the organization of the National Training Workshop on the Management of marine protected areas held in El Kala on 4 July 2004.

This workshop was also an excellent opportunity for Mr Moncef BENDJEDID, director of the El Kala National Park and Mr Nidhal CHATTA, MedMPA coordinator, to smooth out the obstacles and misunderstandings and pave the way for a revival of the programme. Following this, a proper field mission took place from 8 to 18 July 2004 implying both ATEN scientific divers and national experts Rachid SEMROUD and Saïd BELBACHA. A month later, these two experts piled up again, ensuring a complementary field mission from 31 July to 4 August 2004.

A consultant, Mr Omar BOUAZOUNI, fellow researcher at the CREAD (Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement) in Algiers was appointed to conduct the socio-economic study. This choice was Mr Moncef BENDJEDID's and proved to be effective. Mr BOUAZOUNI conducted his work in close collaboration with the Spanish firm PANGEA-EGMASA in charge of the elaboration of the management plan.

RAC/SPA invited Mr Ammar BOUMEZBEUR and Mr Moncef BENDJEDID on 13 and 14 September 2004 in order to take stock of the situation and assess the work in progress.

Although a detailed calendar was set up between RAC/SPA and the Algerian authorities for the concertation process (planned on 20 November 2004) and the submission of the final version of the management plan (planned on 30 November 2004), the director of the National Park judged it was worth, at this stage, appointing a national expert to review and improve the drafting of the provisional management plan submitted by PANGEA-EGMASA which he considered to leave out some serious aspects of the park reality. A consultant, Mr Samir GRIMES, expert in marine biology from ISMAL (Institut des Sciences Marines et du Littoral), was consequently appointed in order to review the provisional management plan and elaborate a final version that could agree the Algerian authorities. This action is being carried out at the moment and should be submitted to RAC/SPA in the forthcoming days, no later than the 20th of April 2005.

CYPRUS

Activity PP1 . Identification of sites of conservation interest with a view to elaborating national plans for the development of protected areas in Cyprus

Activity Calendar

PP1a . Preliminary Mission	2- 7 July 2002
PP1b . Field Mission 1	16 Nov- 1Dec 2002
Field Mission 2	26 Oct- 2 Nov 2003
Field Mission 3	15- 19 May 2004
PP1c . Drafting the National Plan	December 2004

Results

The National Plan for the development of marine protected areas in Cyprus in association with UBM, one of the 3 partners of the Project (Document included in Annex 9-1).

The elaboration of documents: scientific and socio-economic reports (Documents included in Annex 9-2).

REMARKS

A national consultant, Mr Andreas DEMETROPOULOS was hired in May 2004, during the mission of Mr Nidhal CHATTA in Cyprus, in order to undertake a socio-economic study in connexion with the national plan and the 3 areas identified: Cavo Greko, Moullia Rocks and the Akamas Peninsula. The choice of Mr DEMETROPOULOS was

confirmed by Mr Gabriel GABRIELIDES, national focal point and director of the DFMR (Direction of Fisheries and Marine Research) who gave RAC/SPA' s representative his full backing.

The UBM leader, Mr Alfonso RAMOS, was in charge of finalizing the scientific study as the last and complementary field mission took place from 15 to 19 May 2004. Actually, Mr RAMOS worked in close collaboration with Mr DEMETROPOULOS who has indeed a thorough knowledge of both scientific and socio-economic aspects of the Cypriot waters and coastline.

A presentation meeting was organized in Tunis, under RAC/SPA' s aegis, from 4 to 6 October 2004 in order to finalize the elaboration of the National Plan for the Development of Marine Protected Areas in Cyprus. Mr RAMOS, Mr DEMETROPOULOS, Mrs Marina ARGYROU and Mrs Myroula HADJICHRISTOPHOROU took part to this meeting which allowed a fairly good assessment of the MedMPA Project in Cyprus and put the National Plan on the right track.

The final version of the National Plan was submitted to RAC/SPA in December 2004.

The drafting of the National Plan for the development of marine protected areas in Cyprus

In consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) of Cyprus, it was decided to focus the national plan on the three areas covered by the field surveys undertaken by the Project. Already, two of these areas were proposed as marine protected areas. The national plan thus provided a strategy for the management of the three areas taking into account the high fishing and tourism pressure. The national plan was drafted by the experts of UBM in close collaboration with the executives of DFMR and Mr DEMETROPOULOS who assisted the UBM and DFMR teams, hence collecting data on the local and national economic activities of relevance to the areas of Cavo Greko, Mouilla and Akamas. Attention was paid specially to the sector-based development plans for fishing and tourism and for basic infrastructure (projects for roads/motorways, ports, marinas, etc.). Mr DEMETROPOULOS, who has a thorough knowledge of the Cypriot coastline, also supplemented the available data by surveys of the local population, fishermen, and tourist operators.

VIII. SPECIES & BIODIVERSITY EVALUATION

The main objective of this evaluation is the assessment of the biological interest of the marine protected areas studied in the MedMPA Project in terms of animal and plant diversity, ecological and physical resources. This evaluation was possible thanks to the existing international conventions regarding marine biodiversity and the different texts which allow the labelling, description and qualification of sites of natural interest.

For a clear thinking, these results are compiled in a tabular form (table or chart below) and also using graph analysis.

RAC/SPA referred to the following international conventions and texts:

Annex II et Annex III referring to the specially protected areas and biological diversity protocol of the Barcelona Convention (1995). Annex II concerns more precisely endangered and threatened species and Annex III concerns species which exploitation is regulated

Habitats Directive referring to the European Habitats Directive (1992) which applies to EU state members – i.e. Cyprus and Malta in the framework of this project – and remains overall a fairly good reference basis. Annex IV (strictly protected species) and Annex V (species which exploitation is controlled)

Bern Convention referring to the convention on protection of wild fauna and flora (1996). Annex II (strictly protected fauna species) and Annex III (protected fauna species)

The Vuignier Red Book referring to flora, populations and threatened Mediterranean marine assemblages (UNEP/ MAP/ SPA -1990)

IUCN List referring to species included in the red list of threatened or endangered species.

Global Species Evaluation in MedMPA Sites							
	Annex II	Annex III	Total Annexes	Marine Flora	Marine Assemblages	Threatened Landscapes	Fishes Annexes I + II
AL HOCEIMA	6	2	8	0	2	0	1
RAS RAHEB	8	1	9	4	4	2	1
ZEMBRA/ ZEMBRETTEA	16	7	23	6	7	0	2
ROSH HANIKRA	14	6	20	1	5	1	3
OUM TOYOUR	9	3	12	1	1	0	1
EL KALA	16	9	25	7	5	3	3
CYPRUS	19	2	21	5	7	1	2
SYRIA	12	2	12	7	3	1	1
Total Sites/Total Lists	37/107	13/28	48/135	15/47	8/11	4/6	4/29

SUMMARY of NUMBER of SPECIES in the MedMPA SITES

Compared to the total number of species per reference

	Nb/Site	Total Nb/Reference	Percent
Species in Annex II	36	107	34 %
Species in Annex III	13	28	46 %
Total Annexes II & III	47	135	35 %
Pisces Annexes II & III	4	29	14 %

References Annexes II & III

Barcelona Convention

SPA Protocol

Threatened Marine Flora	15	47	32 %
Threatened Marine Assemblages	8	11	73 %
Threatened Marine Landscapes	4	6	67 %

References Vuignier Red Book (1990)

These tables and charts indicate the occurrence of the following:

More than one third of the species included in Annexes II & III of the Barcelona Convention

Three quarters of the threatened populations included in the Vuignier Red Book

Two thirds of the marine habitats included in the Vuignier Red Book.

Hence, the selected areas of the MedMPA Programme are indeed representative of Mediterranean areas in need of protection.

MedMPA AREAS EVALUATION

With regards to the EU Habitats Directive, the Bern Convention and the IUCN List

	EU	BERN	IUCN	TOTAL
AL HOCEIMA	2	6	0	8
RAS RAHEB	3	7	0	10
ZEMBRA/ZEMBRETTA	5	19	0	24
ROSH HANIKRA	5	17	2	24
OUM TOYOUR	3	6	2	11
EL KALA	7	11	3	21
CYPRUS	3	15	2	20
SYRIA	4	8	3	15

Thus, all of the areas of the MedMPA Project are important with regards to the Bern Convention and the annexes of the EU Habitats Directive.

The Maltese and the Tunisian protected areas show the highest figures in terms of number of species, i.e. 24.

Amongst the species included in the annexes of the EU Habitat Directive (except for the Cetaceans), *Corallium rubrum*, *Lithophaga lithophaga*, *Patella ferruginea*, *Pinna nobilis*, *Scyllarides latus*, *Centrostephanus longispinus* in addition to the turtles *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*, it is indeed the El Kala area which shows the higher figure in terms of number of species, i.e. 7. Cyprus and Ras Raheb in Malta, included in the European zone, show respectively 3 and 5 species.

The IUCN List being more restrictive – *Corallium rubrum*, *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Dermochelys coriacea* – it is again the El Kala area which shows the highest figure in terms of number of species, i.e. 3, along with the Syrian coast.

All of the 7 countries include species in Annex II of the SPA protocol. Hence, the marine protected areas of Cyprus and El Kala show the highest figures in terms of number of species i.e. respectively 16 and 19, while the areas of Al Hoceima and Ras Raheb show the lowest figures i.e. respectively 6 and 8 species.

Four species are only present in one area of the MedMPA Project : *Thethya sp. Plur* in Rosh Hanikra, *Hippocampus hippocampus* in Cyprus, *Grampus griseus* in El Kala, and *Aplysina sp. Plur* in Ras Raheb.

The most common species appear to be: *Pinna nobilis* (7 sites out of 8), *Lithophaga lithophaga* (6 sites out of 8), *Ophidiaster ophidianus* (5 sites out of 8), *Dendropoma petraeum* (5 sites out of 8), *Posidonia oceanica* (4 sites out of 8), *Cystoseira spinosa* (4 sites out of 8), *Axinella cannabina* (4 sites out of 8), *Caretta caretta* (4 sites out of 8), *Chelonia mydas* (4 sites out of 8).

The highest number of species occur on the El Kala site, i.e. 9, and also on the Zembra and Zembretta site, i.e. 7.

One species actually occurs on all 8 sites of the MedMPA programme : *Epinephelus marginatus*. This latter is followed by *Paracentrotus lividus* which occurs on 7 sites out of 8.

On another hand, many species occur in one site such as *Hippospongia communis* and *Spongia officinalis* (Zembra and Zembretta), *Antipathes sp plu*, *Corallium rubrum* and *Palinurus elephas* (El Kala), *Scyllarides pygmaeus* (Rosh Hanikra). The El Kala site shelters 2 coral species and the site of Zembra and Zembretta 3 species of sponges.

The highest number of species occurs in the El Kala site, followed by the Zembra and Zembretta site and the 3 marine protected areas of Cyprus.

The highest number of threatened marine flora occurs in El Kala, i.e. 7, divided into 3 algae groups, one species of phanerogam, 6 species of cystoseires of which *Cystoseira elegans*. The latter is not mentioned in the Vuignier Red Book. It is interesting to note that *Caulerpa racemosa* which occurs in 5 sites is nowadays considered to be an invasive species.

The Syrian sites appear to include the highest number of *Caulerpa species*, i.e. 3, of which 2 are proper to this particular area. The algae species *Penicillus capitatus* was found in huge quantities in Syria down to 40 metres deep (this was not mentioned in any existing scientific literature).

The two species that occur most are *Cystoseira spinosa*, i.e. 4 sites, and *Posidonia oceanica*, i.e. 4 sites.

Furthermore, the occidental coasts of Cyprus and of the site of Zembra and Zembretta in Tunisia are the richest in terms of threatened assemblages(7 types) together with the coasts of El Kala in Algeria and Rosh Hanikra in Israel (5 types).

Amongst the 11 types of marine threatened assemblages listed in the Vuignier Red Book, the *Zostera marina* meadows, the free red and brown algae assemblages and also the *Laminaria rodriguezii* assemblages were not found in the marine protected areas of the MedMPA programme.

It is the El Kala site which contains the highest number of threatened marine landscapes, i.e. 3. It is also the only area where *Dictyopteris membranacea* forests and the fairly rare *Posidonia oceanica* barrier reefs were found.

The most encountered landscape is the one of *Corallina elongata* formations, sometimes scarce as in Ras ir-Raheb in Malta, sometimes well represented as in El Kala in Algeria.

On another hand, three marine protected areas do not include any threatened marine landscapes i.e. Al Hoceima in Morocco, Zembra and Zembretta in Tunisia, Oum Toyour in Syria.

In none of the areas studied did we identify the *Lithophylum lichenoides* corbelled formations (though the species as such was seen) nor the very rare tigre-like *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.

One can note that El Kala and Zembra and Zembretta include the highest figures in terms of number of fish species listed in Annexes II and III, i.e. 3. However, it is needed to say that those fish species are the most poorly represented of the annexes in question i.e. 14 %.

Hippocampus hippocampus is the only fish species listed in Annex II which occurs in the MedMPA areas (Cyprus).

In Annex III, the brown grouper, *Epinephelus marginatus*, occurs in all areas of the programme, followed by *Sciaenops ocellatus* and *Umbrina cirrosa* which occur in 2 or 3 sites.

The site that presents the highest number of species of invertebrates is the El Kala marine protected area, i.e. 5 species including 4 molluscs and crustaceans. *Pinna nobilis* is the more frequent species, occurring in 7 sites, and *Lithophaga lithophaga*, occurring in 6 sites. The red coral, *Corallium rubrum*, was only encountered in El Kala.

Zembra and Zembretta show the highest number of species in Annexes II and III of the Bern Convention, i.e. 19 species of which only 2 fish species. *Gibbula nivosus* is an endemic species occurring in Malta, more precisely in the marine protected area of Ras Raheb. *Scyllarus pygmaeus* as well. *Tonna galea* occurs only in Oum Toyour and *Hippocampus hippocampus* only in Cyprus.

The most frequent species of the Bern Convention are: the brown grouper *Epinephelus marginatus*, the great mother-of-pearl *Pinna nobilis*, the sea date *Lithophaga lithophaga* and the sea urchin *Paracentrotus lividus*.

IX. FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

The total budget of the MedMPA operation was estimated EUR 2. 191. 169 of which the European Commission granted the sum of EUR 1. 748. 374 equivalent to 79. 79 % of the total eligible cost. Hence, RAC/SPA funded the project up to EUR 442 795 (MTF funding + ICRAM-UBM-ATEN fundings) equivalent to 20. 21 % of the total eligible cost.

The European Commission acted through its EuropeAid Co-operation Office (Southern Mediterranean, Middle East/ Unit B3: Regional Integration, Institutional Support).

To this effect, RAC/SPA signed a contract with the European Commission on 21 December 2001, identified as contract ME8/AIDCO/2001/0132/SMAP-2.

The auditor of the MedMPA Project is Mr Lotfi DAMMAK who carried out the independent audits as agreed by RAC/SPA in the project document and the grant contract.

The European Commission payment was made available to RAC/SPA as follows :

* Advance (80 % of the forecast budget for the first 12 months of implementation)	EUR 605. 743
* First intermediate annual payment (2003)	EUR 463. 901
* Second intermediate annual payment (2004)	EUR 463. 902

The forecast final payment – EUR 214. 837 - was not required due to the deadline of 31st January 2005 which did not allow RAC/SPA to complete all of the project activities. Nevertheless, nearly 80 % of the MedMPA programme was successfully carried out despite the difficulties and obstacles detailed in the foreword chapter of this activity report.

Meanwhile, RAC/SPA reshuffled the MedMPA budget in June 2004, while at the same time requesting a 6 months extension of the initial execution calendar. This was absolutely necessary taking into account the delays recorded in the implementation of the Project in Israël, Morocco and Algeria.

The state of financial commitments and expenses for the third year of the Project, by 31st January 2005, amounts in final to the sum of **EUR 324. 534, 55 of which EUR 285. 777, 27 constitute the subtotal direct costs and EUR 38. 757, 28 constitute the administrative costs.** This means that the second intermediate payment was not totally spent. **The remaining sum which will have to be repaid to the European Commission amounts to EUR 139. 367, 45.**

In other words, **RAC/SPA only used an amount of EUR 1. 394. 178, 55 – i.e. nearly 80 % - out of a total of EUR 1. 748. 374** corresponding to the EU initial

financial contribution to the MedMPA Project. Actually, this is a fairly good figure considering the rate of the Euro currency compared to local currencies, especially in southern Mediterranean countries. Indeed the value of the Euro rose during the 3 years of the MedMPA Project which led in return to an increasing exchange rate in favour of the European currency. This partly explains the relatively low cost of a number of actions conducted in some of the countries. Hence a discrepancy the initial estimated budget for this operation and the actual expenses occurring.

On the other hand, RAC/SPA's initial contribution, amounting to EUR 442. 795, was totally mobilized and spent thanks to the 3 MedMPA partners. Hence, ICRAM contributed with an amount of EUR 99. 225, UBM contributed with an amount of EUR 94. 526, 25 and ATEN contributed with an amount of EUR 65. 750, which, added to RAC/SPA contribution, that is to say EUR 180. 187, 79, sums up to EUR 439. 689, 04.

According to the different agreements signed between RAC/SPA and the 7 countries of the Project, **a cumulative sum of EUR 680. 033, 60 was spent by 31st January 2005**, in order to finance a number of activities and acquisitions.

Breakdown of this amount is as follows:

ALGERIA	EUR 119. 219, 93
CYPRUS	EUR 49. 815, 72
ISRAEL	EUR 83. 766, 89
MALTA	EUR 30. 138, 19
MOROCCO	EUR 162. 841, 71
SYRIA	EUR 113. 986, 75
TUNISIA	EUR 120. 264, 41

These expenses included notably the cost of field surveys, national workshops, preliminary missions, presentation and consultation meetings, contracts with national and international experts, partners fees, consultants , office computer and scuba-diving equipment purchase, duplication of management plans, brochures, satellite photos and other miscellaneous expenses.

Actually, the budget was reshuffled again when RAC/SPA undertook the production of the MedMPA documentary in September 2004. Indeed, there was no budget line as such in order to carry out the kind of action intended roughly estimated at EUR 180. 000.

Hence, budget line 131 (abroad project staff) contributed with an amount of EUR 8. 000 especially to cover the cost of travel, transport, food and accommodation of the shooting teams. Budget line 211 (consultants and experts) contributed with an amount of EUR 12. 000, budget line 512 (printing of brochures) contributed with an amount of EUR 54. 000, budget line 514 (web site) contributed with an amount of EUR 3. 000, while budget line 515 (advertising, dissemination and press releases) contributed with an amount of EUR 105. 000.

However, it is important to stress the fact that some of the countries, through their national focal points, vis-à-vis and marine biology and socio-economic experts, greatly contributed to the making and the success of the documentary film. In Malta, food and accommodation of the shooting crew were paid for by MEPA and so was the case in Algeria under the aegis of the El Kala National Park. In Cyprus, DFMR (Direction of Fisheries and Marine Research) allowed RAC/SPA to use its scientific vessel in order to ensure the underwater shooting. While Mr DEMETROPOULOS, Cypriote consultant to the MedMPA documentary, benefited RAC/SPA with special rates for hotels, transport, scuba-diving equipment and boat rentals. In Syria, the logistics and the interviews with national experts were organized by the Biodiversity Directorate of the Ministry of Environment. These contributions allowed RAC/SPA to save nearly EUR 15. 000 and keep the tender procedure launched for the production of the documentary under the EUR 200. 000 mark.

Another remark concerns the problems encountered to undertake the marking out of the marine protected area borders, namely the setting of delimitation buoys, which is an integral part of the implementation of the management plans. Indeed, the cost of one of these buoys amounts to nearly EUR 30. 000. Now, according to budget line 324 (marking out of the marine area limits/ equipment and installation), the amount available for this action in 5 out of 7 MedMPA countries was EUR 85. 000. Obviously, it was not possible to implement this action given these limitations. An attempt was made with MEPA in Malta and ICRAM – one of our 3 partners - subsequently helped RAC/SPA to obtain the necessary quotes. Finally, this option was abandoned following the assessment that RAC/SPA could only proceed to the installation of one buoy. Moreover, the depth of the protected marine area did not allow such an installation. This was also the case for Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

Finally MEPA decided upon the strengthening of its educational material (available brochure and video film) amounting to EUR 2343 and its signposting installation amounting to EUR 1634. 06. This was achieved in the framework of the Memorandum of understanding concluded between MEPA and RAC/SPA.

Finally, 3 international consultants were appointed in order to elaborate the management plans and their content in terms of zoning, education and public awareness.

The tendering procedure led to the selection of the following firms:

Lot n° 1/ Lot n° 2 : PANGEA-EGMASA, a Spanish consultant who was awarded the contract for elaborating and initiating the implementation of the management plan for the marine area of the El Kala National Park (Algeria) amounting to EUR 37. 450 and the contract for elaborating and initiating the implementation of the management plan for the marine area of the Rosh Hanikra Nature Reserve (Israel) amounting to EUR 40. 950.

Lot n° 3: SHORELINE, an Italian consultant who was awarded the contract for the elaboration of programmes for promoting public access, information and education for the protected marine areas of the Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia) and the Al Hoceima National Park amounting to EUR 17. 525, 450.

Lot n° 4: TEMI, an Italian consultant who was awarded the contract for the follow-up of the MedMPA Project activities (Al Hoceima, Morocco/ Zembra & Zembretta, Tunisia/ Rosh Hanikra, Israel/ Oum Toyour, Syria/ El Kala, Algeria) amounting to EUR 16. 245, 280.

The terms of reference of these lots appear in Annex 10-1 of this report.

Other tendering procedures carried out in the framework of the MedMPA Project, notably in year 2003, appear in Annex 10-2 of this report.

X. A few words for a CONCLUSION

Previous to the MedMPA Project, Mediterranean marine ecosystems were poorly understood and scarcely studied. The different field missions undertaken under the aegis of RAC/SPA allowed to grasp and capture the range of relevant impacts on natural systems. Indeed, biodiversity appears to have a hierarchical structure, ranging from the ecosystem and landscape level to the community level, and down to the population and genetic level.

A management strategy based on sustainable utilisation of ecosystems must, as a matter of fact, maintain ecosystem integrity in its structure and function and therefore seek to protect large-scale ecological processes in the context of relevant ecological and socio-economic driving forces.

The MedMPA project was therefore successful as a pilot demonstrative project, thus enabling other countries in the Mediterranean to launch and promote conservation policies in the future through the management of marine protected areas.

This programme helped the 7 countries involved in this action to identify the areas nature conservation objectives, describe the physical, biological and ecological resources it shelters, understand the key ecological processes, monitor data for the different components of the area in question and assess the socio-economic impacts and the existing threats with regards to species and habitats.

Annex N°1

THE PROJECT STAFF

The MedMPA STAFF

RAC/SPA

- Chedly RAIS (Technical Director of the Project)
- Nidhal CHATTA (Technical Director of the Project as from 1st April 2004)
- Souha EL ASMI (Assistant to the Technical Director of the Project)
- Atef LIMAM (Assistant to the Technical Director of the Project)
- Salem TROUDI (Administrative Assistant)
- Daniel CEBRIAN (Marine Biology Expert appointed for activities PP1, PP2, MP5)
- Atef OUERGHI (Marine Biology Expert appointed for activity MP6)
- Habib LITIM, Laid HAFSI, Mohamed JENDOUBI (RAC/SPA staff members who backed up the MedMPA project team)
- Samia KHANFIR, administrative and financial assistant
- Ines ZMERLI, evaluation and follow-up assistant
- Wafa MABROUK, awareness and communication assistant

ICRAM

- Leonardo TUNESI (Coordination Officer for activities MP1, MP2)
- Maria Elena PICCIONE (GIS work for activities MP1, MP2)
- Giulia MO (Aspects related to protected species for activities MP2 and prospecting for monk seals sites for activities MP1, MP2)
- Eva SALVATI (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activity MP1)
- Andrea MOLINARI (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activity MP1)
- Taira DI NORA (Socio-economist for activities MP1, MP2)
- Sabrina AGNESI (GIS analysis and work for activity MP1, questions related to fishing for activity MP2)
- Marta MANCA ZEICHEN (Remote sensing work for activity MP1)

UBM

- Alfonso RAMOS ESPLA (Coordination Officer for activities MP3, MP4, PP1)
- José Luis SANCHEZ (Activity PP1)
- Just BAYLE SEMPERE (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activities MP3, PP1)
- Pablo SANCHEZ JEREZ (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activities MP3, PP1)
- Carlos VALLE PEREZ (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activities MP3, MP4, PP1)

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- Emmanuel THEVENIN (Coordination Officer for activities NW, RTS, MP6)
- Naik FAUCON (Coordinating activities NW, RTS)
- Renaud DUPUY DE LA GRANDRIVE (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activities MP6, PP1, NW – training activities)
- Mathieu FOULQUIE (Prospecting for marine biotopes for activities MP6, PP1, NW – training activities)
- Jean-Marie PETIT (Training activities NW)

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Annex N°2

STAFF FOR THE
MedMPA DOCUMENTARY

STAFF FOR THE MEDMPA DOCUMENTARY

This tendering procedure (referenced RAC/SPA/MedMPA/03/04) led to the selection of the following firm:

CINEMA TELEVISION VIDEO SERVICES (TUNISIA). This company was awarded the contract for the production of the 3 above mentioned items. The shooting of the documentary took place in the MedMPA countries throughout the month of November 2004 for a total duration of 4 weeks.

The postproduction phase lasted 10 weeks due to the fact that an Arab version of the film, on top of the 2 original versions in English and in French, was undertaken and offered by the producer to RAC/SPA. Not less than 3 shooting crews (cameraman/director of photography, sound engineer, underwater cameraman, director, production manager) actually worked on the documentary film.

The scenario of the documentary was entrusted to Dr Claudine RABAA, a scriptwriter and ecologist, who analysed thoroughly the Project objectives and strategic orientations as well as the target public. She also worked on adapting the various aspects of the MedMPA project into scientific popularization.

The monitoring of the action of communication as a whole was ensured by an expert consultant, Mr Nabil BEN SAAD.

Underwater photography was confided to Mr Rick PRICE, a British photographer, who acted for many years as camera operator and director with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The composition of the Steering Committee for the MedMPA Documentary was:

NIDHAL CHATTA: Project Leader
SOUHA EL ASMI: Project Director
WAFA MABROUK: Project Assistant
NABIL BEN SAAD: Communication Consultant
CLAUDINE RABAA: Scriptwriter/ Script adviser
RENAUD DUPUY DE LA GRANDRIVE: Scientific Consultant

Annex N°3-1

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE MARINE PART
OF THE AL HOCEIMA
NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°3-2

DOCUMENTS FOR VISITORS
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROMOTION
IN AL HOCEIMA NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°3-3

SCIENTIFIC AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORTS
ON THE AL HOCEIMA NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°4-1

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE MARINE PART OF RDUM
MAJJIESA AND RAS IR-RAHEB

Annex N°4-2

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL
(LEAFLET, VIDEO FILM)
CONCERNING RDUM MAJJIESA
AND RAS IR-RAHEB AREA

Annex N°5-1

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE MARINE PART OF
THE ZEMBRA AND ZEMBRETТА
NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°5-2

DOCUMENTS FOR VISITORS
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROMOTION
IN THE ZEMBRA AND ZEMBRETТА
NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°5-3

SCIENTIFIC AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORTS
ON THE ZEMBRA AND ZEMBRETTA
NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°6-1

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE MARINE PART OF
THE ROSH HANIKRA
NATURE RESERVE

Annex N°6-2

DOCUMENTS FOR VISITORS
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROMOTION
IN THE ROSH HANIKRA
NATURE RESERVE

Annex N°6-3

SCIENTIFIC AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORTS
ON THE ROSH HANIKRA
NATURE RESERVE

Annex N°7-1

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE MARINE PART OF
OUM TOYOUR-RAS EL BASSIT
PROTECTED AREA

Annex N°7-2

THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE
PROTECTED AREAS IN SYRIA

Annex N°7-3

SCIENTIFIC AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORTS
ON THE SYRIAN COASTS

Annex N°8-1

SCIENTIFIC AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORTS
ON THE EL KALA NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°8-2

DOCUMENTS FOR VISITORS
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROMOTION
IN THE EL KALA NATIONAL PARK

Annex N°9-1

THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE
PROTECTED AREAS IN CYPRUS

Annex N°9-2

SCIENTIFIC AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORTS
ON THE CYPRIOT COASTS

Annex N°10-1

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF TENDER RAC/SPA/MedMPA/02/04

Annex N°10-2

OTHER MedMPA TENDER
PROCEDURES
