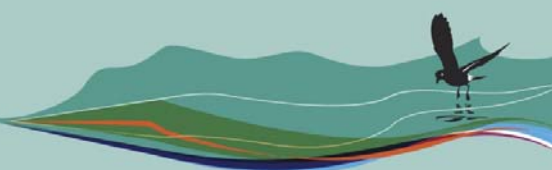


PROTECTING SEABIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: ADVANCING THE MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

23RD – 25TH NOVEMBER 2015



Workshop Agenda / 23rd-25th November / Hotel Ta'Cenc & Spa, Gozo

Day 1 – 23rd November	Seabirds of Malta- Identifying Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) and their future protection	
09:30-10:00	Registration	
Session 1	Session Chair: Nicholas Barbara	
10:00-10:10	Introductory speech by Executive Director of BirdLife Malta	Mark Sultana (BirdLife Malta)
10:10-10:20	Video message by EU Commissioner for Environment	Commissioner Karmenu Vella (DG Environment/DG Mare). Introduced by Vedran Nikolic (European Commission)
10:20-10:30	Introduction from Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Malta	Joseph F. Caruana (Ministry of Environment, Malta)
10:30-11:00	Introduction to BirdLife's marine IBA Programme: progress around the world, next steps & context for this workshop	Ben Lascelles (BirdLife International)
11:00-11:20	Coffee break	
Session 2	Session Chair: Mark Sultana	
11:20-11:45	Current situation of Maltese marine protected areas – past, present & future	Stephen Saliba & Darrin Stevens (MEPA)
11:45-12:15	Introduction to LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project	Nicholas Barbara (BirdLife Malta)
12:15-12:45	Presentation of Marine IBAs in national waters as resulting from LIFE+ project	Benjamin Metzger (BirdLife Malta)
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break	
Session 3	Session Chair: Joe Sultana	
14:00-14:15	Seabirds in Malta: history and discovery	Joe Sultana (BirdLife Malta)
14:15-14:40	Land IBA designations and initial field trials with LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater project (2006 – 2010)	John J. Borg (BirdLife Malta)
14:30-14:50	Fieldwork methodology used and respective results: Boat based observations, Telemetry, Land based observations	Benjamin Metzger (BirdLife Malta) & Ana Meirinho (SPEA)
14:50-15:10	Modelling methodology used	Steffen Oppel (RSPB) & Maria Dias (BirdLife International)
15:10- 16:00	Coffee break & group photo	
Session 4	Session Chair: Elizabeth Ball	
16:00-16:30	Detailed look at each proposed Maltese marine IBA and SPA proposals	Benjamin Metzger (BirdLife Malta) & Marguerite Tarzia (BirdLife International)
16:30-16:50	Q&A Discussion	
16:50-17:15	Next steps for national designation of SPAs, and future management and monitoring of marine Natura 2000.	Stephen Saliba & Darrin Stevens (Malta Environment and Planning Authority)
17:15-17:30	Summary of the day/brief communication about next days	Marguerite Tarzia & Ben Lascelles (BirdLife International)
17:30	End of Day 1 session	Medmaravis Board Meeting

Day 2 – 24 th November	Existing frameworks & initiatives for seabird conservation & current gaps	
Session 1	Session Chair: Ben Lascelles	
9:00 – 9:20	Global commitments of relevance to seabirds and MPAs	Carolina Hazin (BirdLife International)
9.20 – 9:40	Overview of the Barcelona Convention, progress with SPAMI designations and its role for seabird conservation	Lobna Ben Nakhla (RAC/SPA)
9:40 – 10:00	Building MPA networks in European seas: the contribution of Natura 2000	Vedran Nikolic (European Commission)
10:00 – 10:15	Marine IBA and MPA progress across the Mediterranean (Natura 2000, SPAs, SPAMIs, EBSAs) – presented via Story Map	Marguerite Tarzia (BirdLife International)
10:15-10:20	Introduce Poster session	Ben Lascelles (BirdLife International)
10:20-10:50	Coffee break + Poster session	
Session 2	Session Chair: Marguerite Tarzia	
10:50-11:30	Northern Mediterranean. Which seabird sites are priorities for protection & what are the main blockages to achieving this?	
	1) Spain	Pep Arcos (SEO/BirdLife)
	2) Italy	Giorgia Gaibani/Jacopo Cecere (LIPU & ISPRA)
	3) France	Thierry Micol (LPO)
	4) Slovenia	Urša Koce (DOPPS)
	5) Croatia	Sven Kapelj (BIOM)
	6) Black Sea	Anna Staneva (BSPB)
11:30-12:15	Seabird research and extent of protection in the Southern Mediterranean. What are priority knowledge gaps to fill and which sites are priorities for protection?	
	1) Morocco	Sidi Imad Cherkaoui (GREPOM)
	2) Tunisia	Claudia Feltrup-Azafzaf (AAO)
	3) Lebanon	Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi (SPNL)
	4) Libya	Abdulmaula A. Hamza (University of Malaysia)
	5) Syria	Dr. Nabegh Ghaszal (Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife)
12:15-12:35	Q&A on previous talks	
12:35-13:20	Examples of threats affecting seabirds at sites in the Mediterranean	
	1) Seabird bycatch in Spain	Albert Cama (SEO/BirdLIFE)
	2) Seabird bycatch in Greece	Giorgios Karris (Technological Educational Institution of Ionian Islands)
	3) Invasive species in Italy	Francesca Giannini (Tuscan Archipelago National Park)
	4) Coastal development in Greece	Danae Portalou (HOS)
	5) Light pollution in Malta	Paulo Lago Barreiro (BL Malta)
13:20-14:30	Lunch break + Poster session	
Session 3	Session Chair: Ivan Ramirez	
14:30-14:45	Group discussion on site priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize additional work & threats not covered by presentations. What sites need to be prioritized across the 	Group discussion

	<p>region, including for multi-taxa groups. How can we better capture threat information in marine IBAs/MPAs to inform future management options?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What research is needed to better understand the nature and impact of threats? 	
14:45- 15:30	<p>Species priorities: Which species are being protected across the Mediterranean MPA network, which are not? Presentation of maps for each species including IBAs, SPAs, MPAs, tracking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Balearic Shearwater 2) Yelkouan Shearwater (Species Action Plan project) 3) Scopoli's Shearwater 4) Audouin's Gull 5) European Shag <p>BirdLife prioritization exercise shared &- open discussion on Mediterranean priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which species should be prioritised for MPAs & other management activities? What frameworks and projects already exist for each of the Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species that will help site based conservation? 	<p>Maria Dias (BirdLife International) & Marguerite Tarzia</p> <p>Group discussion- Lead Ivan Ramirez</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
Session 4	Session Chair: Ivan Ramirez	
16:00 – 16:45	<p>Group discussion: Summary of key priorities- species and MPA network gaps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the national priorities for future seabird site conservation (MPA designation) in the region? How does this relate to important areas for other taxonomic groups- do you prefer to see proposals to multi-taxa groups or single groups. Round table discussions from Governments & all participants 	<p>Ivan Ramirez to introduce</p> <p>Panel discussion with National Government representatives (Croatia: Vlatka Dumbović Mazal; France: Emilie Savaroc, Mathieu Thévenet, Boris Daniel; Italy: Nicola Baccetti; Libya: Ali Berbash; Tunisia: Jamel Tahri)</p>
16:45	End of Day 2 sessions	<p><i>Medmaravis session (2 hours)</i></p> <p><i>To be organized by Medmaravis</i></p>
19:30	Get-together Dinner at Palazzo Palina, Ta' Cenc Hotel	

Day 3 – 25th November		Protection of marine IBAs in the Mediterranean, case studies and lessons learnt
<i>Session 1</i>	<i>Session Chair: Lobna Ben Nakhla/ Daniel Cebrian</i>	
9:00 – 9:20	Transboundary sites for seabirds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of seabird tracking database as a resource for transboundary site identification. Explanation of ‘transboundary marine IBAs/MPAs Outline of day 	Ben Lascelles (BirdLife International)
9:10 – 9:15	Maltese seabirds make use of High Seas areas and other countries waters	Benjamin Metzger (BirdLife Malta)
9.15 – 9:20	Spanish seabirds feeding off the coast of Morocco	Pep Arcos (SEO/BirdLife) /Imad Cherouki (GREPOM
9:20-9:25	Yelkouan Shearwater visiting waters of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey	Anna Staneva (BSPB)
9:25-9:30	Seabirds sharing sites between France and Italy	Thierry Micol (LPO)/Giorgia Gaibani (LIPU)
9:50 – 10:00	Possible transboundary sites in the Gulf of Trieste, shared by Slovenia, Italy, Croatia	Ursa Koce (DOPPS)/Giorgia Gaibani (LIPU)/Sven Kapelj (BIOM))
<i>Session 2</i>	<i>Chair: Ben Lascelles</i>	
10:00-10:45	Group discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which other areas should be prioritized for transboundary site identification? What new projects are planned & needed to inform transboundary designations? How can we store and share data regarding transboundary sites more effectively? Potential BirdLife tools & ideas on other mechanisms for collaborative identification of sites 	Group discussion
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
<i>Session 3</i>	<i>Chair: Carolina Hazin</i>	
11:15– 11:40	RAC/SPA Med Open Seas project- designation of EBSAs as SPAMIs & ways forward for collaboration in high seas med	Daniel Cebrian//Lobna Ben Nakhla (RAC/SPA)
11:40-12:00	The Pelagos Sanctuary: existing experience of designating & managing a transboundary MPA Q&A	Fannie Dubois (Pelagos Sanctuary) by skype
12:00-13:30	Regional breakout groups: To discuss & design possible projects for Mediterranean ‘high seas’ MPA identification, what are the priority species, priority countries and how can we work together (Facilitated by BL). Develop templates/outlines of proposals (data available, data gaps, government linkages required etc)	Breakout groups (Discussion facilitated by BirdLife) Adriatic South-Eastern Mediterranean Central Mediterranean Western Mediterranean
13:30– 14:30	Lunch break	
<i>Session 4</i>	<i>Chair: Carolina Hazin</i>	
14:30-15:30	Complete regional breakout groups & reporting back to plenary	Various
15:30– 16:00	Coffee break	
<i>Session 5</i>	<i>Chair: Ivan Ramirez</i>	
16:00-16:45	Concluding plenary- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of priority data gaps and sites in need of protection Outline of potential new projects & collaborations Medmaravis- next steps and implications for their work priorities Discussion on how these projects could become viable & useful for Regional Convention processes 	Ben Lascelles & Marguerite Tarzia (BirdLife International) Antonio Torre & Fabrizio Borghesi Daniel Cebrian/Lobna Ben Nakhla & group discussion
16:45	Conference closure	Mark Sultana (BirdLife Malta)