



# Overview of Barcelona Convention, seabird conservation and SPAMIs

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Protecting seabirds in the Mediterranean : advancing the marine protected area  
Network,  
International workshop  
23-25 November 2015



## Historical overview

1995

- Adoption of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean: **SPA/BD Protocol**

1996

- Adoption of Annexes (I, II & III) to the SPA/BD Protocol
  - Annex I: Common Criteria for the choice of protected marine areas that could be included in the SPAMI List
  - Annex II: List of endangered or threatened species
  - Annex III: List of species whose exploitation is regulated

1999

- **Entry into force** of the SPA/BD Protocol

2001

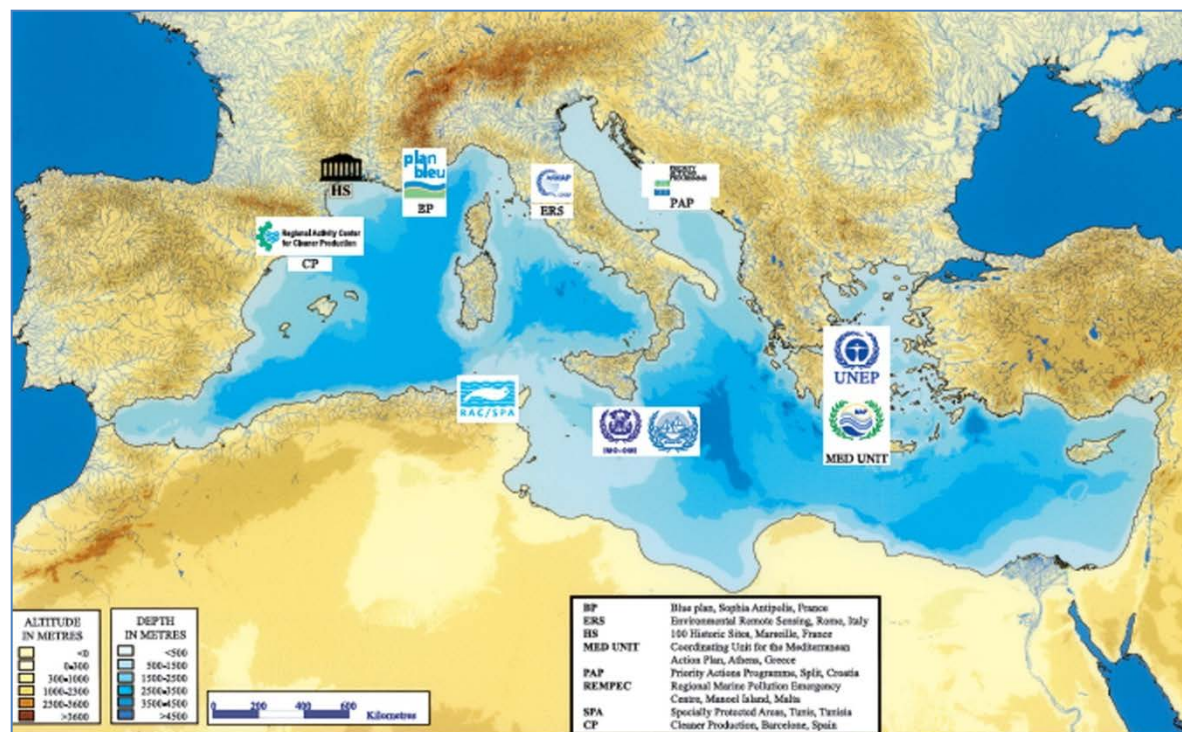
- **Setting-up of the SPAMI List** (Monaco Declaration)

# Implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol under the auspices of the Barcelona Convention

## RAC/SPA

A MAP Component

Created: 1985  
Lieu : Tunis  
Host country  
agreement : 1991



## 21 Contracting Parties + EC



The National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas serve, for their respective countries, as liaison with the RAC/SPA on the technical and scientific aspects of the implementation of the Protocol

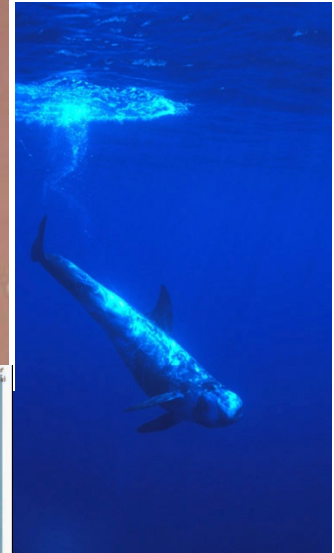
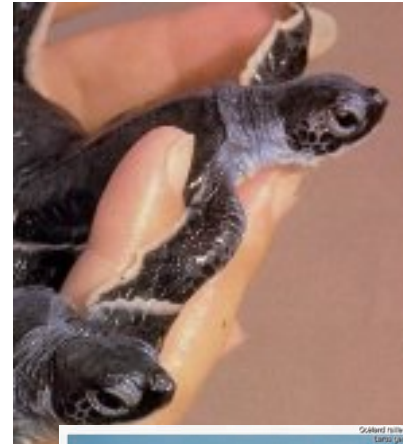
# Main Role of RAC/SPA

Assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement the SPA/BD Protocol

## Creation of Marine Protected Areas



## Conservation of threatened species

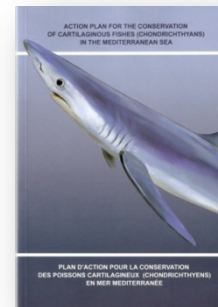
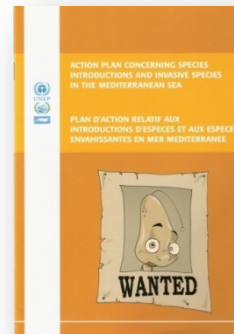
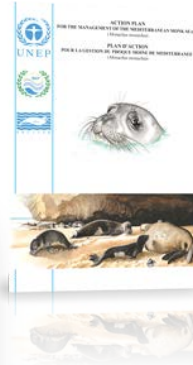




# Action Plans adopted under Barcelona Convention



2003



# The Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in annex II to the SP/BD Protocol

## Objective:

**The main purpose of the Action Plan is to maintain and/or restore the population levels of bird species in the SPA Protocol's Annex II to a favourable conservation status and to ensure their long-term conservation.**



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# List of Endangered or threatened species (Annex 2)

## Aves (15)

*Pandion haliaetus*

*Calonectris diomedea*

*Falco eleonora*

*Hydrobates pelagicus*

*Larus audouinii*

*Numenius tenuirostris*

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

*Pelecanus crispus*

*Phoenicopterus ruber*

*Puffinus yelkouan*

*Sterna albifrons*

*Sterna bengalensis*

*Sterna sandvicensis*



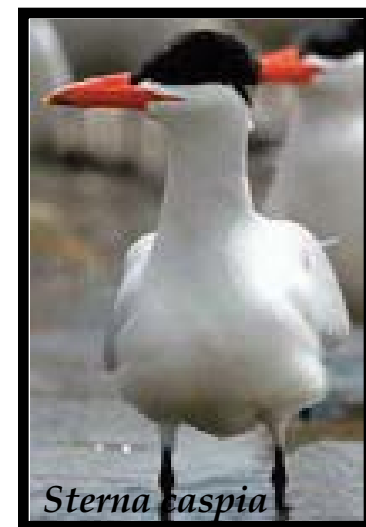
RAC / SPA



# BIRD SPECIES ADDED TO ANNEX II OF THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTOCOL



*Sterna nilotica*



2009



# Main Achievements

Within its assistance to the Mediterranean countries RAC/SPA supported:

- The water birds winter census in **Libya, Egypt and Tunisia**
- The census and ringing of Ghara Island (Libya) colony of the Lesser Crested terns. (2006-2010)
- The preparation of the National Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal birds in **Syria**.
- The elaboration of the report on the status of Pelicans in **Montenegro**.
- The elaboration of the Atlas of wintering waterbirds of Libya.



# Main Achievements

The organisation of:

- First symposium on marine and coastal bird species in the Mediterranean (Villanova, November 2005)
- Training session on the identification and census methodologies of waterbird species, (Benghazi, December 2008)
- Second Symposium on the conservation of marine and coastal birds in the Mediterranean (Hammamet, 20-22 February 2015)

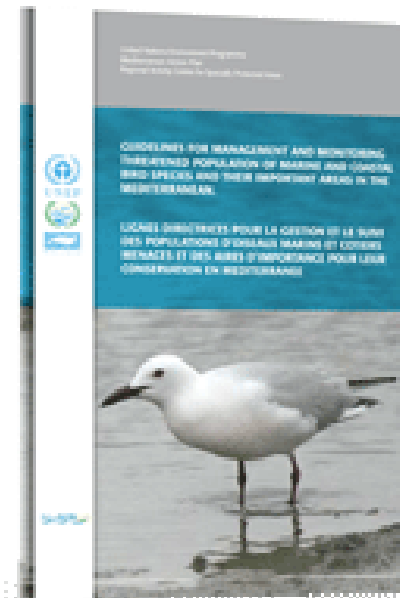


-The Slender-billed Curlew Initiative” which is coordinated by Birdlife International, AEWA and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

# Guidelines

## Guidelines for Management and Monitoring Threatened Population of Marine and Coastal Bird Species and their Important Areas in the Mediterranean

Example of Management Plan Format  
Example of Annual colony register



# Guidelines for reinforcing laws and regulations on the conservation and management of bird species listed in Annex II & III of the SPA/BD Protocol

These Guidelines contains general recommendations as well as specific recommendations that deal with four main fields:

- Conserving, managing and restoring **bird species**
- Conserving, managing and restoring **the habitats** of bird species
- Measures of **information** and **awareness** for the various actors
- Integrating measures for the conservation of bird species and habitats within **coastal and marine planning processes**.



## Guidelines for reducing by catch of seabirds in the Mediterranean region

*Mediterranean States are called to assess their fisheries and to identify whether they have a seabird bycatch problem*  
Observer programmes are fundamental to obtain data on species composition and temporal-spatial occurrence of bycatch

## Mitigation measures



# Monitoring Mediterranean Lesser Crested Terns

The aim is providing a tool which will allow a coherent and safe approach to a population of extremely high conservation value, which is potentially vulnerable to many sources of threat, not least monitoring itself.



# Identification of possible SPAMIs in the Mediterranean areas beyond national jurisdiction *Project*



## Geo-referenced compilation on bird important areas in the Mediterranean Open Seas •

Pelagic distribution of Mediterranean seabirds of conservation

### Endemic & near-endemic taxa:

*Calonectris diomedea diomedea*  
*Puffinus yelkouan*  
*Puffinus mauretanicus*  
*Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis*  
*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*  
*Larus melanocephalus*  
*Larus audouinii*

### Taxa additionally in decline (from BirdLife International 2009):

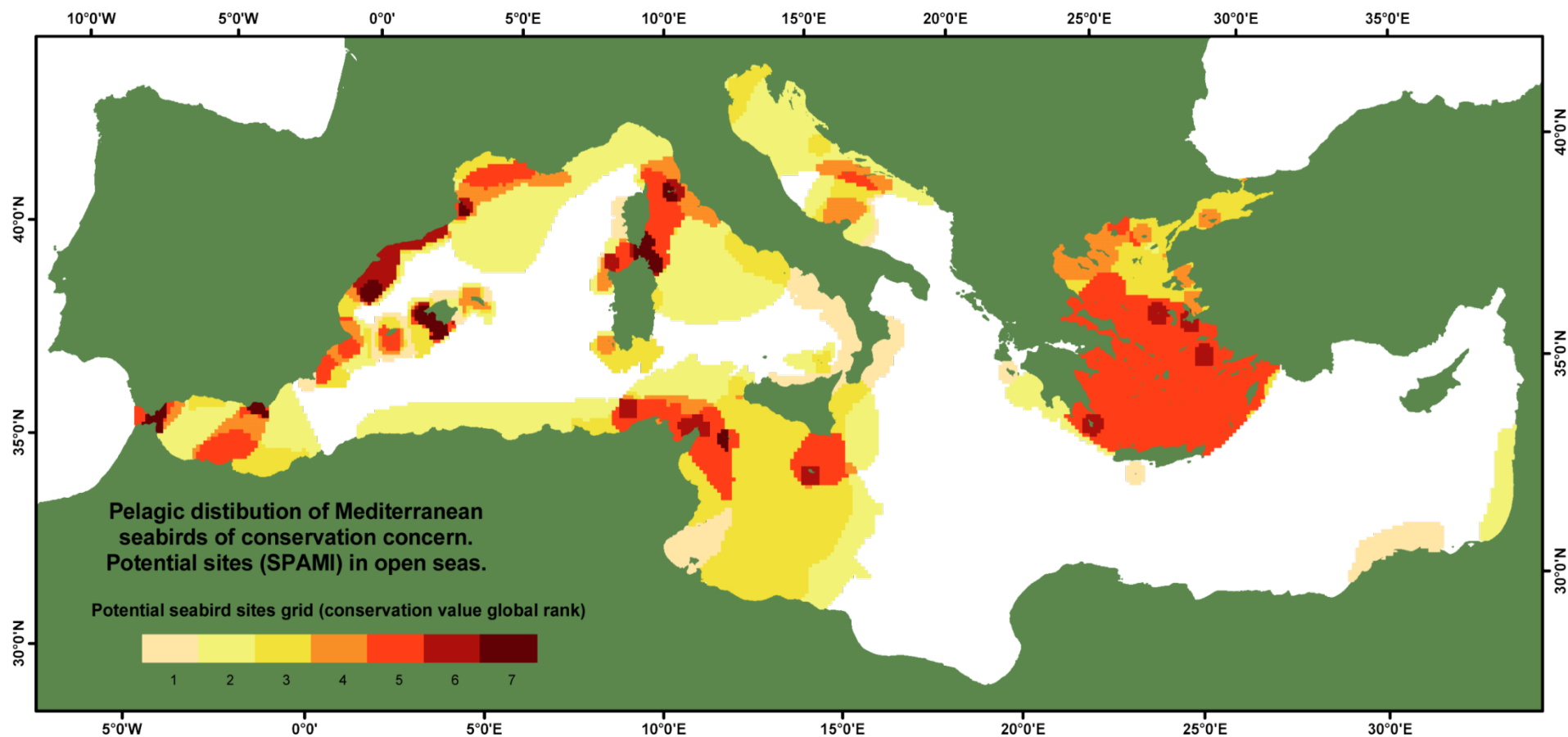
*Calonectris diomedea diomedea*  
*Puffinus yelkouan*  
*Puffinus mauretanicus*



UNEP



RAC / SPA



## Pelagic distribution of Mediterranean seabirds of conservation concern Potential sites (SPAMIs) in open sea

UNEP-RAC/SPA European commission



## **Progress on the implementation of the Action Plan for conservation of bird species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD protocol:**

**2007 / 2013**

Based on a questionnaire sent to all NFPs and to some partner organisations with the aim to collect further information on the implementation of the AP.

### **A New Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)**

- Produce and publish an updated version of the Action Plan including all 25 target species
- Optimize synergies with international agreements and organizations dedicated to bird conservation.
- Organise specific training courses and workshops in coordination/synergy with international and/or national NGOs

# The Ecosystem Approach process of the Barcelona Convention

An indicative list of species was adopted to be considered for monitoring and assessment programme for GES in the Mediterranean in relation to EO 1 related to biodiversity.

## **Seabirds:**

<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	European shag	Cormoran huppé
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic shearwater	Puffin des Baléares
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	Levantine shearwater	Puffin yelkouan
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	Audouin's gull	Goéland d'Audouin
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little tern	Sterne naine
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-billed tern	Sterne hansel
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich tern	Sterne caugek

## What is the SPAMI List ?

The SPAMI List is drawn up by the Parties to the SPA/BD Protocol in order to “promote **cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas**, as well as in **the protection of threatened species and their habitats**”.



## What is a SPAMI ?

The SPAMI List may include **sites** which:



Are 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**



Are of special interest at the **scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational** levels



## Position of a SPAMI vis-à-vis States' jurisdiction

### DIFFERENT SCENARIOS AS TO THE POSITION OF A SPAMI VIS-À-VIS STATES' JURISDICTION



SPAMIs could be established not only in the marine and coastal zones subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Parties ( 1 , 2 & 3 ), but also in zones partly ( 4 & 5 ) or wholly on the high sea ( 6 ).

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

**2001**

- ES1 Alboran Island\*
- ES2 Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park\*
- ES3 Cap de Creus Natural Park\*
- ES4 Columbretes Islands\*
- ES5 Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast\*
- ES6 Medes Islands\*
- ES7 Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almería\*
- FR1 Port-Cros National Park\*
- Int1 Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals\*
- TN1 Kneiss Islands\*
- TN2 La Galite Archipelago\*
- TN3 Zembra and Zembretta National Park\*

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

**2003**

- ES8 Archipelago of Cabrera National Park\*
- ES9 Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs\*

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

**2005**

- DZ1 Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve\*
- DZ2 Habibas Islands\*
- IT1 Portofino National Marine Protected Area\*

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

**2008**

- IT2 Tavolara–Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Protected Area\*
- IT3 The Miramare Marine Protected Area\*
- IT4 The Plemmirio Marine Protected Area\*
- IT5 Torre Guaceto Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve\*

## Inclusion of sites in the SPAMI List

Proposal ➡ FPs for SPAs ➡ Decision by Parties (COPs)

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

**2009**

- FR2 Natural Reserve of Bouches de Bonifacio\*
- IT6 Marine Protected Area Capo Caccia-Isola Piana\*
- IT7 Marine Protected Area Punta Campanella\*
- MA1 Al-Hoceima National Park\*

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

**2012**

- FR3 The Blue Coast Marine Park
- FR4 The Embiez Archipelago - Six Fours
- IT8 Capo Carbonara Marine Protected Area
- IT9 Penisola del Sinis - Isola di Mal di Ventre Marine Protected Area
- IT10 Porto Ceseo Marine Protected Area
- LB1 Palm Islands Nature Reserve
- LB2 Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

Date of inclusion  
in the SPAMI List

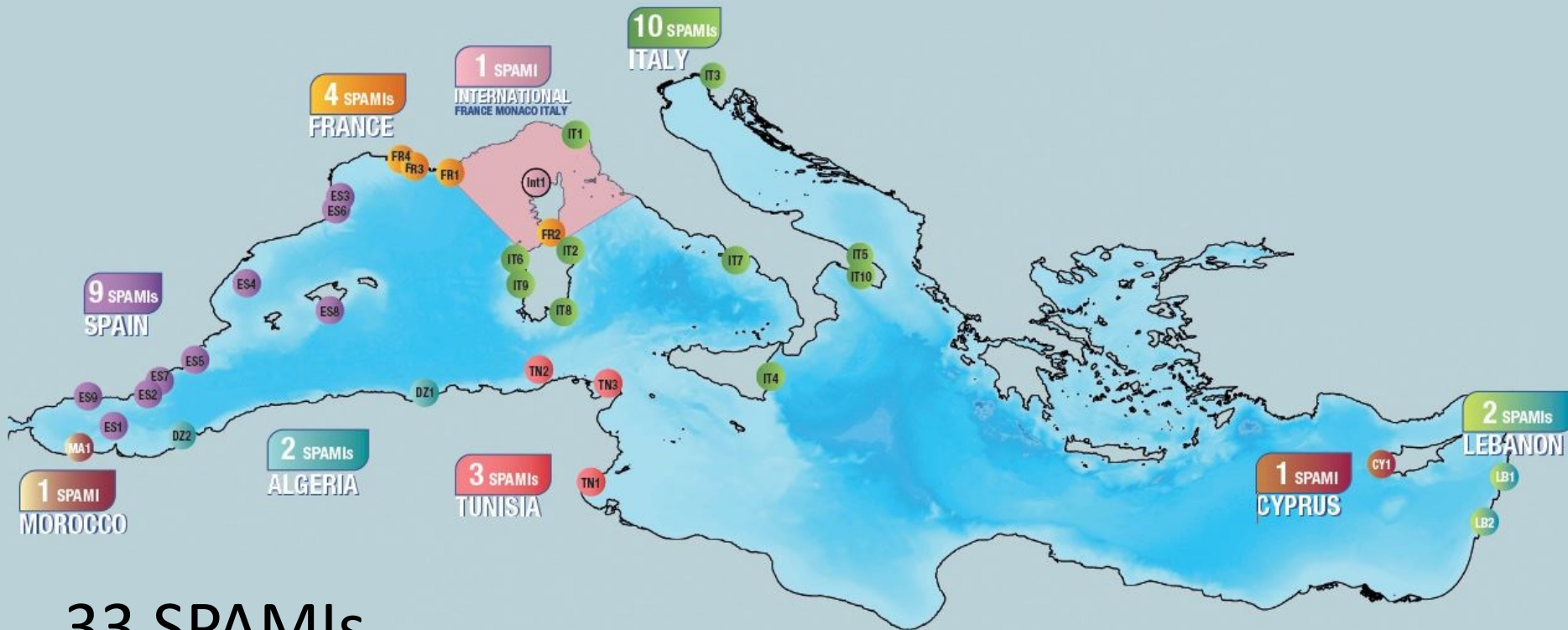
**2013**

- CY1 The Lara – Toxeftra Turtle Reserve

\* Periodic Review:

SPAMI was subject to an ordinary periodic review. Ordinary periodic reviews take place every six years, counting from the date of the inclusion of the site in the SPAMI List.

## Status of the SPAMI List



Last update: COP 18 (Istanbul, December 2013)



**Zembra and Zembretta** the site is a reproduction area for the Audouin's gull, the mediterranean shag and cory's shearwaters.

**Kneiss islands:** 70% of Tunisia birds winter in this area, and there may be more than 10 000 of them.

**Port Cros:** the coastal cliffs shelter colonies of Balearic shearwater and the cory's shearwater.

**Mar Menor:** is an important area for the very important colony in the world of *Larus audouinii*

**Alboran island:** is a nesting area for Audouin's seagull.

**Levante de Almeria:** nesting area for *Calonectris diomedea*, *Hydrobates pelagicus* and feeding/resting areas for *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

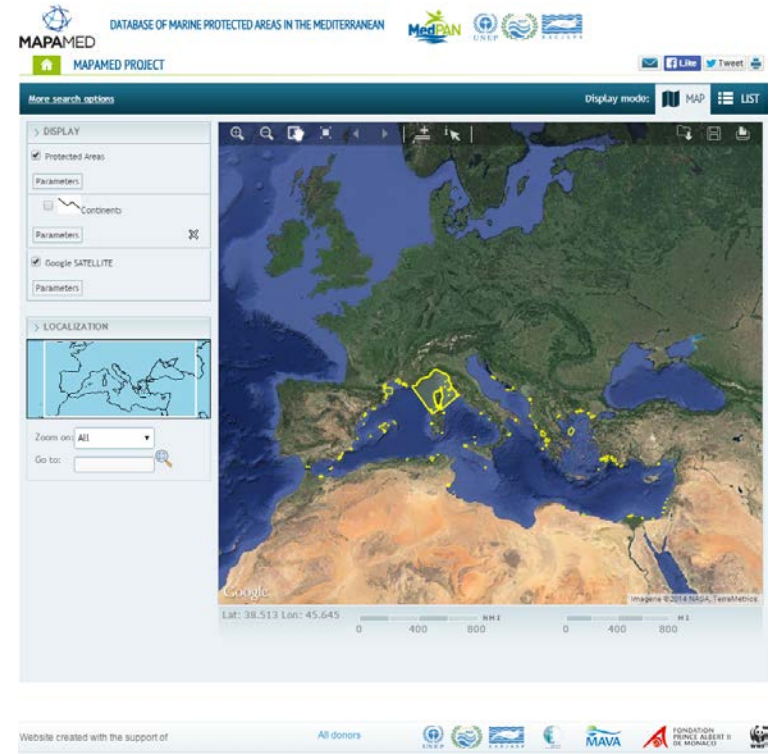


**Tavolara-Punta coda Cavallo:** nesting area for most important colonies of the mediterranean shearwaters.





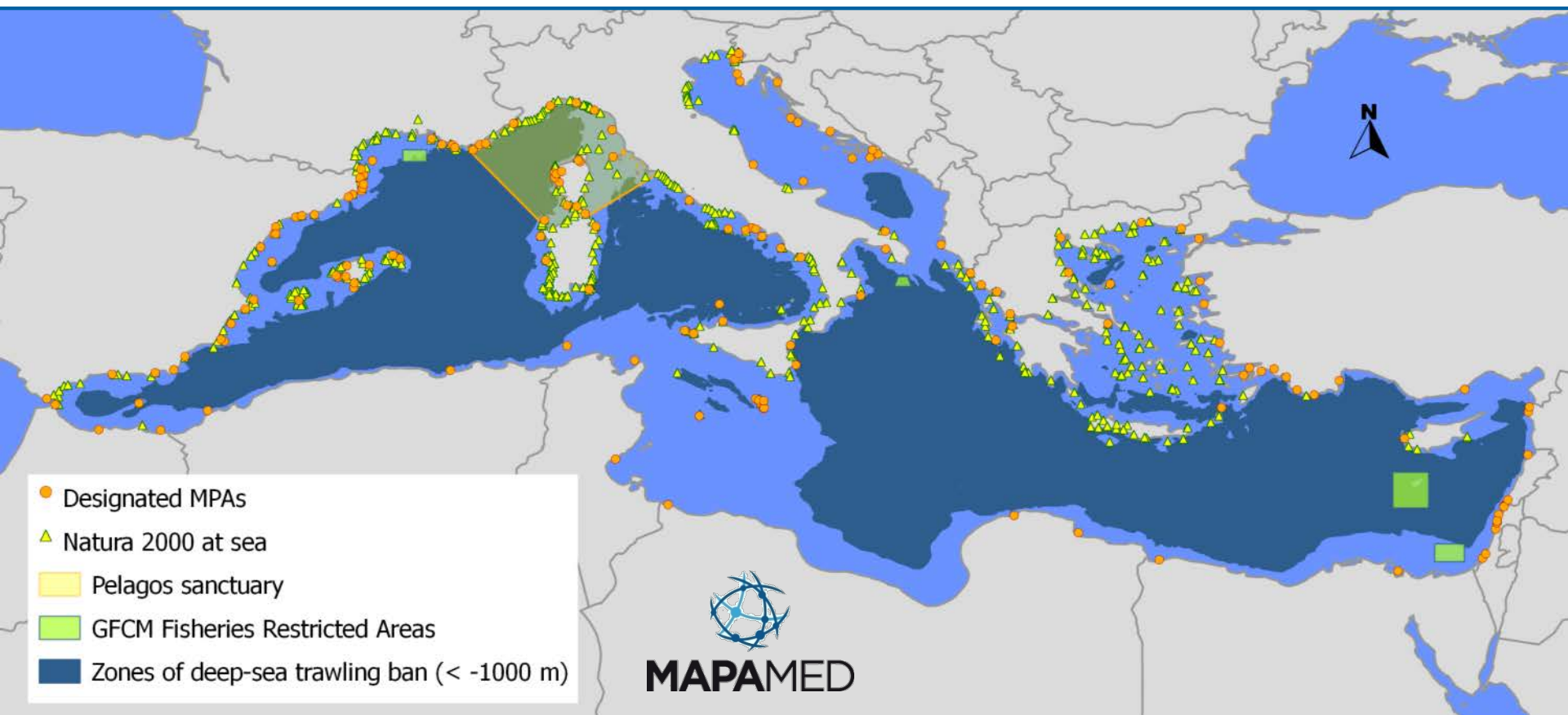
- The setting-up of an online Database of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, established and managed by MedPAN in collaboration with RAC/SPA
- Update the **WDPA** (non-EU Med.)



<http://www.mapamed.org/>

# MPAs, where do we stand in the Med?

- 170 designated MPAs
  - 507 Natura 2000 sites
  - 4 Fisheries Restricted Areas (GFCM)
  - Zones of deep-sea trawling ban
- 4.56% of the Mediterranean sea total area  
(1.08% without Pelagos sanctuary)
- 5,26% in Total.....**



# *THANK YOU*

## Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected areas

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