

Decision IG.22/14

List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List)

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as “the Barcelona Convention”,

Recalling Article 8 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the “SPA/BD Protocol”, on the establishment of the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List) and its Annex I related to the Common Criteria for the Choice of Protected Marine and Coastal Areas that Could be Included in the SPAMI List;

Considering the proposal made by Albania, pursuant to Article 9, paragraph 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol, to include a new area in the SPAMI List;

Having considered the report of the 12th Meeting of Focal Points of SPA/RAC (Athens, Greece, May 2015) regarding the evaluation of its conformity with the criteria provided for in Article 16 of the SPA/BD Protocol;

Recalling Decision IG.17/12 of COP 15 (Almeria, Spain, January 2008) on the Procedure for the Revision of the Areas Included in the SPAMI List, stating that for each SPAMI, a Periodic Review should be carried out every six years by a mixed national/independent Technical Advisory Commission;

1. *Decides* to include the Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park (Albania) in the SPAMI List;
2. *Requests* the concerned Party to take the necessary protection and conservation measures specified in its SPAMI proposal in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3 and Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat in cooperation with SPA/RAC to inform the competent international organizations of the new SPAMI including the measures taken in that SPAMI, as provided for in Article 9, paragraph 5 of the SPA/BD Protocol;
4. *Takes note* of the “Revised Format for the Periodic Review of SPAMIs” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.421/Inf.27) prepared by SPA/RAC in consultation with the Focal Points of SPA/RAC;
5. *Requests* SPA/RAC to test it and, on this basis, to further develop it in consultation with Focal Points of SPA/RAC for consideration by COP 20, by:
 - Preparing an online version of the Revised Format and using it on a trial basis for the evaluation of SPAMIs of 2017, along with the old version of the Evaluation Format;
 - Investigating options to further adapt the Evaluation Format to the case of transboundary SPAMIs or SPAMIs covering ANBJ zones;
 - Preparing guidelines for evaluators, aiming to provide them with information and guidance on the methodology, assessment criteria and scoring system; and
 - Exploring the possibility of harmonization of the SPAMI Review Format with relevant tools used in similar contexts of other regional seas, e.g. OSPAR, and other relevant regulatory initiatives;
6. *Requests* SPA/RAC to work with the relevant authorities in Algeria and Italy to carry out during 2017 the Ordinary Periodic Review for the following three SPAMIs, according to the procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties, and while using the online version of the Revised Format on a trial basis, along with the old version of the Evaluation Format:
 - Banc des Kabyles Nature Reserve (Algeria);
 - Habibas Islands (Algeria); and
 - Portofino Marine Protected Area (Italy).

