



# MedMPAnet<sup>project</sup>

MedMPAnet PROJECT FINAL WORKSHOP  
TUNIS, TUNISIA, 17-18 NOVEMBER 2015

WORKSHOP REPORT



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## 1. SUMMARY AND CONTEXT

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The UNEP/MAP-GEF “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) project includes four components, one of which (Component 3) relates to the “Conservation of Biological Diversity: implementation of SAP BIO1 and related National Action Plans”. This component specifically addresses the decline of biodiversity and fisheries in the Mediterranean. Sub-Component 3.1 (“Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network”) is implemented through two complementary projects, the “MedMPAnet” project led by RAC/SPA and the “MedPAN South” (and later “SEA-Med”) project led by WWF MedPO.

The MedMPAnet Project (“Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of MPAs Creation and Management”) involves 12 eligible Mediterranean riparian countries that are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

It is a 5-year project that spanned from 2010 to 2015, aiming at enhancing the effective conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity features, through the creation of an ecologically coherent marine protected area (MPA) network in the Mediterranean region, as required by the Barcelona Convention’s Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).

The MedMPAnet project has implemented numerous activities along the following lines:

- Demonstration projects for MPA creation and planning, including local stakeholders participation and financial sustainability mechanism;
- Identification of national priorities and characterization of marine sites suitable to become MPAs;
- Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve new/existing MPA management;
- Communication and public awareness of key stakeholders on marine protected areas roles and values.

Over its five years of operation, 24 priority conservation areas have been identified and ecologically surveyed, 7 areas totalling a surface of 98,411 ha were declared or are in the process of declaration as MPAs, 4 management plans for new MPAs were elaborated in a participatory manner and 600 persons benefited of at least one training.

The main results of the MedMPAnet project, appearing in the the MedPartnership [summary activity](#) report 2009-2015 (in English), have been classified by activities topics, as follows:

- Roadmap to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean (p26),
- Ecological monitoring of marine protected areas practical training programme (p29),

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region

- Capacity building programme for MPA practitioners (p29),
- Supporting MPA management (p30),
- Supporting the network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) (p30),
- Capacity Building strategy for enhancing MPA management in the Mediterranean (p31),
- Country-specific trainings (p31),
- On-the-job trainings in planning MPAs (p31),
- MPA creation and management guidelines and teaching packages (p40),
- Guidelines on the actual needs of MPA planners and managers (p40),
- Guidebooks for MPA practitioners in the Mediterranean (p41),
- Sustainable financing of new MPAs (p41),
- Pilot activities in Albania (p45),
- Pilot activities in Algeria (p47),
- Pilot activities in Croatia (p50),
- Pilot activities in Egypt (p56),
- Pilot activities in Lebanon (p58),
- Pilot activities in Libya: p60),
- Pilot activities in Montenegro (p63),
- Pilot activities in Morocco (p65),
- Pilot activities in Tunisia (p70).

Most of the publications of the MedMPAnet project are available at [RAC/SPA website](#).

## 2. DETAILED PROGRAMME

Tuesday 17 November 2015	
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Opening of the Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome addresses <b>Mr Khalil ATTIA</b> – RAC/SPA Director <b>Mr Lorenzo GALBIATI</b> – MedPartnership Project Manager, UNEP/MAP <i>(To be confirmed)</i></li> <li>• Official opening <b>Mr Najib DARWICH</b> – Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Short film: “RAC/SPA: 30 Years at the Service of the Mediterranean”</li> <li>• Presentation of the workshop objectives, programme and expected results <b>Ms Souha EL ASMI</b> – MedMPAnet Project Manager, RAC/SPA</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 13:00	<p><b>The MedMPAnet project results and achievements at national level</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Mr Harun GÜÇLÜSOY</b>, Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology - Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey  Rapporteur: <b>Mr Mohamed Salah ROMDHANE</b>, National Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Tunisia - University of Carthage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albania <b>Ms Laura TRAGAJ</b> – Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration</li> <li>• Algeria <b>Mr Mouloud BENABDI</b> – ABYSS Consulting, <b>Mr Raouf HADJ AISSA</b> – Ministry of Water Resources and Environment</li> <li>• Croatia <b>Ms Katja JELIĆ</b> – Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature, <b>Ms Ana KOBAŠLIĆ</b> – Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, <b>Ms Sonja ŠIŠIĆ</b> – Public Institution "Priroda"</li> <li>• Egypt <b>Mr Mahmoud FOUAD</b> – Environics, <b>Mr Mohamed BESAR</b> – Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency</li> <li>• Lebanon <b>Ms Zeina HASSANE</b> – Ministry of Environment, <b>Mr Ghazi BITAR</b> – Faculty of Sciences - Lebanese University, <b>Mr Hany ELSHAER</b> – IUCN Regional Office for West Asia</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>

14:30 – 16:00	<p><b>The MedMPAnet project results and achievements at national level</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Ms Silvia REVENGA</b>, General Secretariat for Fisheries, Spain  Rapporteur: <b>Ms Christine PERGENT-MARTINI</b>, Faculty of Sciences of Corte, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libya  <b>Mr Elmaki ELAGIL, Mr Essam BOURAS, Mr Almokhtar SAIED</b> – Environment General Authority</li> <li>• Montenegro  <b>Ms Vesna MAČIĆ</b> – Institute of Marine Biology</li> <li>• Morocco  <b>Mr Mohamed EL KHALLOUFI, Mr Mohamed NEFAOUI</b> – High Commission for Water, Forestry and Desertification Control, <b>Mr Hocein BAZAIRI</b> – Faculty of Sciences - Mohammed V University of Rabat</li> <li>• Tunisia  <b>Ms Saba GUELLOUZ</b> – Costal Protection and Planning Agency</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:30 – 17:30	<p><b>The MedMPAnet project results and achievements at regional level</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Mr Chedly RAIS</b>, Okianos, Tunisia  Rapporteur: <b>Mr Imed JRIBI</b>, Faculty of Sciences of Sfax - University of Sfax, Tunisia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the MedMPAnet achievements at regional level  <b>Mr Atef LIMAM</b> – MedMPAnet Project Officer, RAC/SPA</li> </ul>
17:30	<b>End of the day</b>
19:30 – 22:00	<b>Dinner offered by RAC/SPA</b>

### Wednesday 18 November 2015

9:00 – 11:00	<p><b>Roundtable - Best practices and lessons learnt</b></p> <p>Animator: <b>Ms Imen MELIANE</b> - 7Seas, RAC/SPA consultant, Tunisia  Rapporteurs: <b>Mr Anis ZARROUK</b>, Costal Protection and Planning Agency, Tunisia; <b>Mr Yassine Ramzi SGHAIER</b> and <b>Ms Asma KHERIJI</b>, RAC/SPA</p> <p>Panellists:  <b>Mr Hocein BAZAIRI</b>, Faculty of Sciences - Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco  <b>Ms Silvia REVENGA</b>, General Secretariat for Fisheries, Spain  <b>Ms Saba GUELLOUZ</b>, Costal Protection and Planning Agency, Tunisia  <b>Mr Harun GÜÇLÜSOY</b>, Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology - Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>

11:30 – 12:45	<p><b>Follow-up and perspectives</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Mr Khalil ATTIA</b>, RAC/SPA Director  Rapporteur: <b>Mr Gérard PERGENT</b>, Faculty of Sciences of Corte, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the MedMPAnet project follow-up  <b>Ms Souha EL ASMI</b> – MedMPAnet Project Manager, RAC/SPA</li> </ul> <p>Short film: <i>“SPAMIs: protecting the Mediterranean natural heritage”</i></p> <p><b>Conclusions and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the recommendations of the workshop  <b>Mr Atef LIMAM</b> – MedMPAnet Project Officer, RAC/SPA</li> </ul> <p><b>Closure of the Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing address  <b>Mr Khalil ATTIA</b> – RAC/SPA Director</li> </ul>
12:45 – 14:15	<b>Lunch</b>
14:15 – 14:45	<b>Transfer by bus to L’Agora cultural centre</b>
14:45 – 15:30	<p><b>Premiere of the documentary film produced by RAC/SPA "Mediterranean, Men and Sea" – L’Agora Ciné</b></p> <p>Animator: <b>Ms Dorra MAAOUI</b> – MedMPAnet Project Communication Assistant, RAC/SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening of the film</li> <li>• Interaction with the director of the film</li> </ul>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Cultural snack (Goûter culturel) at L’Agora Café</b>
16:00	<b>End of the day</b>



### 3. SESSIONS PRESENTATIONS AND FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

#### Opening of the Workshop

The workshop started with welcome addresses by Mr Khalil Attia, RAC/SPA Director and Mr Lorenzo Galbiati, “MedPartnership” Project Manager.

The official opening of the workshop was then provided by Mr Najib Darwich, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia.

Following the official opening, a short film: “RAC/SPA: 30 Years at the Service of the Mediterranean” has been screened.



Then, Ms **Souha EL ASMI**, MedMPAnet Project Manager, has presented the workshop objectives, the detailed programme and the expected results by the end of the workshop.

#### Session 1: The MedMPAnet project results and achievements at national level

##### The MedMPAnet project results and achievements in [Albania](#)



The representative of Albania, Ms Laura TRAGAJ from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, introduced the pilot project in the country and justified the choice of Porto Palermo Bay site as future MPA. She recalled the process undertaken and mentioned the work and studies that have been done in porto Palermo Bay within the framework of the MedMPAnet project, such as (i) the ecological study, (ii) the socio-economic study (iii) the elaboration of a management plan that includes the zoning of the area and (iv) the elaboration of the future MPA business plan. At the end of the presentation, the speaker confirmed that the action plan will be implemented in 2016 right following the revision of the management plan by the Ministry of the Environment and the National Agency of Protected Areas.

##### MedMPAnet project results and achievements in [Algeria](#)



Mr Mouloud BENABDI, from Abyss Diving consulting firm, introduced the marine and costal natural park of Réghaia, study area in Algeria. He gave diverse information about its geography, terrestrial and marine biodiversity, practiced activities in the area (agriculture, tourism, fishing, aquaculture, etc), and challenges at ecological, socio-economic and politic levels. He presented the zoning and the governance structure as proposed in the management plan of the future MPA. Along with the conclusion,

the speaker shared his concerns about the sustainable funding of the MPA and the integration of this area in the network of MPAs in an efficient and effective way.

### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in Croatia**



Ms Katja JELIĆ from the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN), introduced the MedMPAnet Pilot Project in Croatia. She exposed the project management at national level, a glance at the project summary and the results and achievements. For the latter, she mentioned the (i) preparation of an ecological study, (ii) preparation of a fishery study, (iii) building capacity activities for inventory of marine biodiversity, (iv) habitat and species mapping and (v) development of two monitoring protocols (for *Posidonia* beds and coralligenous community).

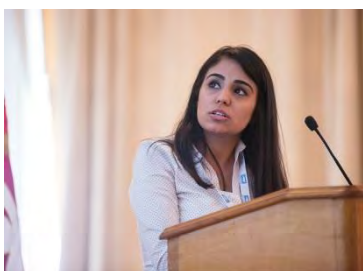
### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in Egypt**



Mr Mahmoud FOUAD, from Environics consulting firm, introduced the socio-economic study of the Sallum MPA in Egypt. He exposed the project framework, the area and the study that aims to provide guidance to MPA management and stakeholder engagement. He presented the activities carried out in the area, including among others, fishing, migrant birds hunting and other traditional activities. He stressed that the area is facing many tourism challenges due to the lack of communication and coordination and suffering also from the lack of infrastructure and cultural intimidation. At the end, he gave several recommendations to have a successful MPA, mainly with regards to the communication strategy, the operating MPA office, the livelihood enhancement for fishermen, etc.

### **The MedMPAnet project results and achievements in Lebanon**

#### **- MedMPAnet project results and achievements in Lebanon (part1)**



The representative of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Lebanon, Ms Zeina HASSANE, gave an introduction about the MPAs status in Lebanon (17 sites proposed as potential MPAs were identified) and the work that has been done within the MedMPAnet project along the Lebanese coast. She reported that based on the “Lebanon’s marine protected areas strategy” and the results of the field surveys carried out by RAC/SPA, the University of Alicante, the Lebanese University, the Lebanese National Centre for Marine Research (CNRS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), the MoE has prepared legal and technical documents for the declaration of 3 MPAs. Two among the three proposed MPAs are in the process of declaration as MPAs: Ras Al Chekaa and Nakoura.

- **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in [Lebanon \(part2\)](#)**



Mr. Ghazi BITAR from the Lebanese University, presented the main results of the two field surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013, that led to the ecological characterization of 6 sites of interest for conservation in Lebanon, namely Enfeh Peninsula, Ras Chekaa cliffs, Raoucheh, Saida, Tyre and Nakoura. This ecological characterization allowed: (i) the marine prospection of 106 stations, (ii) the running of 181 dives and (iii) the identification of 436 macro-organisms, 18 new species (that include 4 spp. of macroalgae, 10 spp. of invertebrates and 4 spp. of fishes), 11 habitats of interest according to the Barcelona Convention and the European Union and more than 23 protected species (according to the Barcelona Convention).

## Session 2: The MedMPAnet project results and achievements at national level

### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in [Libya](#)**



The first representative of Libya, Mr. Al-Mokhtar SAIED from the Environment General Authority (EGA), asserted the long cooperation between RAC/SPA and EGA. He presented the results of the first marine field survey in Ain Al-Ghazala (September 2010) focusing on the survey of the main marine habitats and species, on-job training for local experts and a preliminary socio-economic survey. On the other hand, the field surveys conducted on October 2010 in El-Kouf National Park allowed collecting data on the distribution of species, and elaboration of a photographic library. A socio-economic study of El Kouf coastal area has been conducted later on 2012.



The second representative of EGA, Mr Essam BURASS, has put forward and exposed the participatory approach that led to the elaboration of (i) the draft law on Protected Areas system in Libya, (ii) the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Strategy in Libya and (iii) the elaboration of the Protocol on the monitoring of the Mediterranean population of Lesser-Crested Tern in Libya.

### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in [Montenegro](#)**



Ms Vesna MAČIĆ, from the Institute for Marine Biology of Kotor (IBM), started her presentation by giving an overview on the Montenegrin coast (300Km, absence of MPAs). Then, she presented the main project results and achievements of the studies carried out inside the Boka Kotorska Bay in 2011 and 2012, showing diverse and healthy benthic assemblages, well preserved *Posidonia* beds, harmful fishing practices, etc. She also stressed that the mapping of sensitive areas and the

trainings on the ecological monitoring MPAs in Spain, organized within the framework of the MedMPAnet project, are very useful, important and helpful.

### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in Morocco**



Mr Mohammed Khalloufi from the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forets et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD) introduced the general framework of MPAs in Morocco, the Master Plan of MPAs and the law on MPAs (2010). He also gave a glance at the situation of the Moroccan MPAs in the Mediterranean side and stated that in the horizon of 2020, Morocco is aspiring a 'national network of protected areas managed in an integrated and sustainable way for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development'.



The second representative of Morocco, Mr Hocein BAZAIRI from the Faculty of Sciences of Rabat, presented the results of the two phases of the MedMPAnet project in Morocco. During the first phase (2012-2013), three activities focused on (i) the identification of stakeholders and potential partners for the creation of a network of MPAs, (ii) the characterization of marine sites deserve to be erected in AMP and (iii) the ecological characterization of the potential MPA "Cap des Trois Fourches". During the second phase (2014-2015), a Management Plan of the "Cap des Trois Fourches" future MPA has been elaborated in participatory approach, involving the main institutional and non-institutional stakeholders, in particular the representatives of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and local people.

### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements in Tunisia**



After introducing the national strategy for the development of MPAs in Tunisia, Ms Saba GUELLOUZ from the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL), presented the results of the MedMPAnet project in the Kuriat islands, especially with regards to (i) two field surveys for the characterization of habitats and species in 2010 and 2011; (ii) a socio-economic study (iii) a stakeholder mobilization strategy and (iv) a management plan with a zoning made in collaboration with all stakeholders of the area. The major impact of the project is the "Participatory Approach" and the mobilization of the stakeholders, as she particularly stressed.

Following each presentation of the project results and achievements in the beneficiary countries, a facilitated discussion took place between the speaker and the participants to the workshop. Most of the exchanges and comments dealt with and stressed the importance of:

- Improving inventories of habitats and species, especially for the eastern and southern parts of the Mediterranean,
- Identifying the under-represented ecosystems and other components of marine biodiversity,
- Integrating the socio-economic criteria in the selection of the potential areas to be declared as MPAs,
- Establishing and implementing national plans to designate and/or extend MPAs,

- Reviewing existing MPA governance systems and investigating innovative governance types,
- Building the capacities for the establishment of MPAs and more specifically for ensuring effectively managed MPAs,
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of MPAs, and
- Raising the awareness of the general public, the decision makers and sea users concerning the role and benefits of MPAs

### Session 3: The MedMPAnet project results and achievements at regional level

#### **MedMPAnet project results and achievements at regional level**



Mr Atef LIMAM (RAC/SPA) presented the MedMPAnet project results and achievements at regional level. He recalled the general framework and objectives of the Project, as well as the overview of the activities implemented at regional level, focusing mainly on achievements and related to:

- (i) The development and the elaboration of regional analyses, reports and strategies dealing with priority issues and future directions for marine protected areas in the Mediterranean,
- (ii) The development of MPA creation guidelines and teaching packages to create sustainable MPAs and make them available to managers and practitioners,
- (iii) The improving of MPA management, especially through the organization of Mediterranean MPA Regional Training Workshops for MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities, and
- (iv) The Development of communication and information tools and raising awareness of key stakeholders on MPAs values and benefits.

Following RAC/SPA presentation, many participants took the floor to:

- Commend the quality of the work accomplished under the Project and stress the importance of existing collaboration, partnerships and synergies at regional level, for the implementation of Project activities,
- Thank RAC/SPA in that connection for the support it had provided to boost the conservation of regionally important coastal marine biodiversity features through technical assistance and capacity-building activities,
- Recommend to continue providing technical assistance for capacity development and capacity-building through regional workshops, training sessions, on-job training, exchange visits, etc.),
- Recommend to give more importance to develop communication information tools, ensure sharing of guidelines and best practices and to enhance raising awareness of key stakeholders on MPAs role and benefits.

**A. Introductory presentation of the Moderator:**

The session is essentially based on some reflections on the achievements and future directions for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, as stated in the [provisional report](#) prepared by Ms. Imen Meliane, 7Seas, RAC/SPA consultant.



According to the [2012 Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean](#), 170 MPAs cover the total surface under legal protection of about 114,566 KM<sup>2</sup>, which means that only 4.56% of the Mediterranean is protected (including the Pelagos Sanctuary!).

As compared to the global trend in the period between 2008 and 2012, the Mediterranean is below the global increasing of the creation of MPAs.

The moderator wonders if we are in the right track, or if we should change this current track of the establishment of MPAs, which is the purpose of the roundtable discussions.

The following key elements or steps in establishing MPAs have been discussed: (i) *Selecting Sites*, (ii) *Engaging Stakeholders*, (iii) *Building Capacity* and (iv) *Financing Sustainably*. Some food for thought to Mediterranean countries and MPA stakeholders on future priorities will be provided through a "Looking Forward" reflection. Hereinafter the key points/elements raised:

**1. Selecting sites:**

- The MPAs are usually selected based on different biological and ecological criteria,
- The selection of a new area gives a major importance to its biological environment (landscape, seascape, threatened and endangered species, etc) and less importance to the socio-economic environment (the socio-economic component is even often neglected or absent),
- We should be also aware that there is a little attention to the ecological coherence of the designated MPAs, to their connectivity and the whole network design,
- We are still far from the equity and the participatory approach. We are, indeed, doing well but not enough!

**2. Engaging stakeholders:**

- There is a need to invest in understanding the initial perceptions and local dynamics and consultations in local language/dialect,
- A foreign language may hinder the dynamic of meetings with local populations,
- There is also a need for more systematic inclusion of principles of equity, power sharing, participation, and sharing of benefits,
- These needs will move us toward a shared and delegated management (building capacity of stakeholders).

### **3. Building capacity:**

- Building the capacity of stakeholders is an important link in the establishment of MPAs,
- The selection of participants to different and various trainings is an important and interesting element in the processes of engaging stakeholders,
- The follow up of the participants after the trainings has also the same degree of importance,
- Actually, there were around 250 capacity building initiatives in the Mediterranean that were delivered in between 2007 and 2012 by 51 national and international organizations, but ZERO impact evaluation.

The moderator wondered if we should build Competence, Capability or Capacity? Then, a definition of each one has been provided, as s:

<b>Competence</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
<i>Competence is the quality or state of being functionally adequate or having sufficient knowledge, strength and skill.</i>	<i>Capability is a feature, faculty or process that can be developed or improved.</i>	<i>Capacity is the power to hold, receive or accommodate.</i>

### **4. Financing sustainably:**

- The issue of financing sustainably MPAs is at its infancy in the Mediterranean,
- In connection with the issue, there is an urgent need to build competence and capacity, designing and revising supportive frameworks, etc.

### **5. Looking forward:**

- The Aichi Target 11 stipulate that “By 2020, at least [...] 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape”,
- Effectiveness and equitably management are considered as the major keywords/key issues,
- Should we have more MPAs although they are not effectively managed or should we work on the current already established MPAs?
- There is a real concern regarding the climate change, which is neither well mentioned nor well taken into consideration in the process of creating MPAs in the Mediterranean.

## **B. Facilitated discussion with panellists and questions:**

In this section, the moderator interacted with the panellists by asking a questions for each of them.



1. **With Mr Houssein BAZAIRI** (*Faculty of Sciences - Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco*)

Q: How did you do to include the socio-economic component/criteria in your plan for the establishment and creating of MPAs?

A: There were lots of discussions with the Moroccan administrations that led to the inclusion of socio-economic criteria (such as the acceptance of the creation of the new MPA by the local population, making sure that there will be/ exist income-generating activities, etc.) with the ecological and biological criteria. So, this is like a compromise to select MPAs. We have data that help us to identify and select potential MPAs. In addition, after discussion with the Moroccan administrations, RAC/SPA and several experts, we have chosen these socio-economic criteria: importance of the fishing and socio-economic component, possibility to create income-generating activities, acceptance of the area to become an MPA (this criterion could be low, medium or high), and the accessibility of the area. Thanks to these criteria, we have been able to draw a priority list of the potential MPA along the Mediterranean coast of Morocco.

2. **With Mr Sami BEN HAJ** (*Freelance Consultant, Cabinet Thetis, Tunisia*)

Q: What is the importance of stakeholders involvement in the creation of Kuriat islands MPA in Tunisia?

A: The panelist went through the governance of marine protected areas in Tunisia which used to exclude the local population and adopt the top-down approach. In Tunisia in particular, the Revolution of January 2010 is considered as an accelerating factor, which proved that there are different actors and stakeholders that should be considered while taking any decisions for creating and developing marine protected areas in particular. Thanks to this, there is a further awareness of the importance of each actor, so that we can make the management plans according to a participatory approach from the very beginning until the end of the process. The Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL), manager of the national strategy for MPAs development, has been a major actor for the process running. These conditions helped to elaborate a participatory zoning, and the establishment of a steering committee for the Kuriat islands MPA, in a participatory and consulted manner.

3. **With Ms. Silvia REVENGA** (*General Secretariat for Fisheries, Spain*)

Q: What can we learn from Spanish experience regarding the ecosystem services valuation, especially in connection with MPAs for fisheries?

A: While confirming that MPAs and fisheries production are actually an ecosystem service, the panelist started by informing the audience about the initial idea behind the creation of a 30 years old MPA in Nueva Tabarka, which took origin from a proposal from Professor Alfonso Ramos Esplá (Senior Marine Biologist, University of Alicante) since he has observed the negative impact of spear fishing in the area. In that time, there was not such a big scope for MPAs and ecosystems services. Then, she gave numbers on the production and its revenue in Nueva Tabarka before and after the creation of the MPA and insists on the importance of governance and alliances for such kinds of marine reserves for fisheries. In that sense, she also stated that there is always a lack in capacity building, which should be improved to improve governance. She also added that there is currently a monitoring for the climate change and highlighted that what is being done for the protection of the



Mediterranean is very important, despite the fact that it is still not enough and a lot of efforts have to be further deployed.

4. **With Mr Harun GUCLUSOY** (Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology - Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey)

Q: What can we learn from Turkey regarding the ecosystem services valuation and sustainable financing of MPAs?

A: The panellist declared that they did an ecosystem services valuation in Turkey. He compared the value of the Carbon sequestration and the tourism in an MPA and then concluded that the former is higher than the latter. He also recalled that the funds needed for the selection and the management of MPAs are essential but limited. Eventually, the panellist asked several questions for a common reflection like: should we reach the Aichi Target 11 or should we improve the management of the already declared MPAs? What is the contribution of the MPAs to the local population? Do we have a good instruments and legislation to create and particularly and effectively manage MPAs?

**C. Participants interventions and comments:**

- Mr Lorenzo GALBIATI (UNEP/MAP): Regarding the climate change, UNEP/MAP is preparing a document to be submitted in February 2016 about climate change, with a direct/indirect link to the conservation of biodiversity, including MPAs development and management,
- Mr Ali Aghnaj (Morocco):
  - (i) The analysis and the integration of socioeconomic criteria should be taken into consideration in order to maintain traditional and ancestral practices,
  - (ii) Trainings could be various and well developed, but they do not solve the problem of our MPAs.
  - (iii) Actually, giving guides and manuals to practitioners in their language could be really useful, and
  - (iv) Capacity building should be strengthened and balanced. In Morocco, for instance, we don't have enough experience to successfully manage MPAs.
- Mr Ghazi BITAR (Lebanon): One of the major problems in Lebanon and the eastern part of the Mediterranean is the lack of information and data regarding the introduction of lessepsian species and their impact in the Mediterranean. RAC/SPA should organize a conference on "exotic species and their impact in the Mediterranean".
- Ms. Saba GUELLOUZ (Tunisia): We should change the way how we are managing the capacity building. Hence, the project managers and donors should rub MPA managers to be more efficient and to identify their exact needs.
- Mr Gérard PERGENT (France): MPAs have a great role in the sequestration of the Carbon. Thus, they could be considered as a warning network. We must build on these MPAs to note the change in the Mediterranean and to react to any problem.

- Ms. Silvia REVENGA (Spain): Ecosystem services valuation is important and communication is also important to make our voices heard.
- Mr Sami BEN HAJ (Tunisia): Learning by doing is so important. We should lean on trainings in the field and non in 'saloons'.
- Mr Hocein BAZAIRI (Morocco): Communication is essential. Besides, we should communicate with our targets by their own language, like in Cap des Trois Fourches (Morocco) where the locals do not speak neither Arabic nor French, since they have their own dialect.
- Mr Skander BEN SALEM (Tunisia): Harmonization of approaches is important.
- Mr Hany EL SHAER (Jordan): Do we need more MPAs or well managed current ones?
- Mr Ibrahim BEN AMER (Libya): Could RAC/SPA help to make easier communicating the results in a simple language to the stakeholders?
- Ms. Christine MARTINI PERGENT (France): The selection of participants to attend trainings is a tricky task. RAC/SPA should ask its Focal Points to carefully select participants. Language barrier should be taken into consideration while selecting training participants and trainers.
- Mr Sami DHOUIB (Tunisia): WWF and APAL are working on Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MPA, together with their local population according to the Protected Area Benefit Assessment Tool (PABAT approach).
- Mr Mouloud BEN ABDI (Algeria): Supporting associations is appreciated, since they become trainers. RAC/SPA could have a second vis-à-vis (apart from RAC/SPA Focal Point) to designate participants to its trainings.
- Mr Anis ZARROUK (Tunisia): Information that we need are between the hands of local populations. Having a lot of funds does not essentially lead to improve MPAs. It is highly recommended to organize a conference/meeting to share and learn from our mistakes and bad experiences.

#### **D. Wrap-up of the panellists and the moderator:**

Mr Harun GUCLUSOY (Turkey): Firstly, the panellist unrecognized if the trainees are using and sharing and working with things that they have learnt in trainings. Furthermore, regarding MPAs management, he recommended having management and business plans for each MPA.

Mr Sami BEN HAJ (Tunisia): The panellist advocated a properly management for our MPAs.

Ms. Silvia REVENGA (Spain): The panellist recommended not being pessimists, continue creating new MPAs, having facilitators *in situ* that talk the same language as the locals, sharing experiences, and using simple technologies in our work. And finally, she insisted to take into consideration the environmental education for children!!

Mr Hocein BAZAIRI (Morocco): The panellist recommended acting nationally and locally if a sustainable management is desired, training people on the field (like rangers and managers) and including the civil society organisations.

Ms. Imen MELIANE (moderator) recommended staying on course on preserving the Mediterranean and putting, particularly, the issue of climate change into consideration.

## Session 5: Follow-up and perspectives

Right before the presentation of the MedMPAnet Project follow-up, a Short film: “*SPAMIs: protecting the Mediterranean natural heritage*” has been screened.

### Presentation of MedMPAnet project follow-up



The object of the presentation made by Ms Souha EL ASMI (MedMPAnet Project Manager, RAC/SPA) is to collect recommendations on future perspectives in the framework of the MedMPAnet project follow-up. The presenter has claimed that a 30-month new phase project will start early 2016, financed by the European Union, and concerns 5 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The project, to be co-executed by RAC/SPA, WWF MedPO and MedPAN, aims to contribute to achieving a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs in the Mediterranean. In general, the project has four specific objectives:

- Strengthening MPA regional coordination and networking in order to ensure long-term networking and capacity building of MPAs in the Mediterranean.

Under this very objective, an *Ad hoc* group of experts will be set up to focus on the Mediterranean MPAs, the regional database on MPAs “[MAPAMED](#)” will be upgraded and updated, the 2016 MPA Forum will be organized and held in Morocco (with MedPAN), and the roadmap for practitioners will be updated,

- The second objective aims to create new MPAs through the identification and characterization of 2 marine sites of interest for conservation in Lebanon, elaborate Management Plans for new MPAs (Sallum Bay in Egypt, Djebel Moussa in Morocco and NE Kerkennah islands in Tunisia),
- The third objective, which aims to improve the management of MPAs, will be co-executed by WWF and MedPAN, and
- The fourth objective will concern the Project management.

Through this project, several actions could also take place, such as access to sustainable financial resources, development and strengthening of an effective SPAMI management, etc.



After the presentation of the MedMPAnet project follow-up, the intervention of Mr Khalil ATTIA (Director of RAC/SPA) was firstly based on a reminder of the regulatory framework of RAC/SPA (its mission and intervention rules). He stated that the objective of this discussion is to elaborate recommendations to the different participants. He, thus, drew the participants' attention to the difficult geostrategic context in the

Mediterranean (e.g. fieldworks / South and East Mediterranean borders) and the limited funding to support countries. He recommended that the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention need to help RAC/SPA in defining the needed actions and their dissemination especially among donors. The Director raised two major issues to be addressed in the context of this debate:

- What are the new approaches to be followed taking into consideration the previous experiences and the effective political will (government, civil society, media, etc.),
- What are the actions to be implemented to accelerate the pace for 2020 since the results show that we are not really close to reach the Aichi Target 11.

### **Facilitated discussion**

Ms. Oula AMROUNI (Tunisia): Do multidisciplinary teams will be integrated to an ecosystem approach (geologists, climatologists, biologists, etc.) and for the strengthening of the national coordination will be established (like the exchange between partner)?

Mr Ali AGHNAJ (Morocco): Governance should be put forward. There are a lot of decisions taken at regional authorities' level, so it is much important to explain MPAs value and benefits and to strengthen the management of these MPAs.

Ms. Imen MELIANE (Tunisia): There is an increase in the MPA surfaces in the Mediterranean, but small number of these MPAs has a large surface. Socio-economic aspect should be taken into consideration as the conservation.

Mr Chedly RAIS (Tunisia): The Aichi objective will be achieved nowhere in the world for 2020 (10 % of well managed and interconnected MPAs). The important issue is the management of MPAs that should be improved, not the surface that should be increased. The panel of experts proposed will be very useful to tackle particular issues, such as monitoring the effects of underwater noise and regulating its input into the marine environment. On the other hand, since funding is available (there is often a remaining unspent balance), the capacity building should be reviewed and should focus, in addition to trainings, on institutional capacity to get and manage funds.

Mr Abdallah HATTOUR (Tunisia): There is a need to have a participatory approach with the States. The interest to create an MPA in areas where there is no respect of regulation should be raised and explained using national capacities.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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*The participants to the MedMPAnet project final workshop have:*

*Acknowledged* the significant contribution of the MedMPAnet project to improving MPA establishment and management in the Mediterranean by providing direct support

*Recognised* teamwork and collaboration spirit of the project that contributed to the success of the project activities.

The participants discussed the duality between increasing MPA surfaces (Aichi target 11) and improving their management.

*The participants recommended:*

- to follow on from project approach to a more sustainable approach, at national and/or regional levels, for establishing and managing MPAs.
- to shift into a more holistic and integrative approach in area based conservation, using tools such as ICZM, MSP, etc.
- to integrate socio-economic aspects, and in particular fisheries, in MPA planning.
- to involve stakeholders since the very early stages of MPA establishment process.
- to move from isolated MPAs to MPA systems or networks at national and regional levels.
- to integrate climate change aspects in the MPA establishment and management processes.
- to invite all the concerned regional and national stakeholders to elaborate an in-depth reflection on capacity building design and implementation approaches.

## 5. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

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The workshop was closed on Wednesday, 18 November 2015, at 1 p.m.

## **6. PREMIERE OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM PRODUCED BY RAC/SPA "MEDITERRANEAN, MEN AND SEA" – L'AGORA CINÉ**

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The documentary film "*The Mediterranean, Man and Sea*" produced by RAC/SPA was screened for the first time, on 18 November 2015, at 3 p.m. at L'Agora Ciné (La Marsa, Tunis).

The screening session was followed by a short debate with the Director of the film about the film production, the shooting techniques used in the countries covered by the film and the main messages driven by the film, especially with regards to the challenges of creating and managing new/existing MPAs in the Mediterranean.



## 7. PARTICIPANTS AND CONTACT LIST

N°	First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Country	e-mail
1.	Mohamed Said	ABDEL-WARITH	Marine Environmental Researcher / RAC/SPA Focal Point	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	Egypt	mohamed7j@hotmail.com
2.	Aida	ABDENNADHER	Member of the Scientific Committee	'Abyse Plongée' Association	Tunisia	a.abdennadher@gmail.com
3.	Abdulhafith	ABDULRAHMAN	RAC/SPA Focal Point	Environment General Authority (EGA)	Libya	boeda_5@yahoo.com
4.	Ali	AGHNAJ	Consultant / Manager	Ibis Consulting	Morocco	ibis.consulting.sarl@gmail.com
5.	Mehdi	AISSI	Consultant	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	mehdi.aissi@rac-spa.org
6.	Belal	ALHAYEK	Director	Ministry of State for Environment Affairs	Syria	blalhayek75@gmail.com
7.	Kaouther	ALOUI TLICH	General Director	Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	boc@apal.nat.tn
8.	Becher	AMAMI	Fisheries and Aquaculture Technician	Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (ATDEPA)	Tunisia	becher.amami@gmail.com
9.	Oula	AMROUNI	Lecturer-Researcher	National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM)	Tunisia	oula.amrouni@instm.nrnt.tn
10.	Khalil	ATTIA	Director	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	director@rac-spa.org
11.	Sarra	AYARI	Student	Association of Environmental Education for Future Generations (AEEFG)	Tunisia	ayarisarra@gmail.com
12.	Ali	BADREDDINE	PhD Student	National Centre for Marine Research	Lebanon	ali.badreddine@hotmail.com
13.	Hocein	BAZAIRI	Senior Lecturer-Researcher	Faculty of Sciences of Rabat	Morocco	hoceinbazairi@yahoo.fr
14.	Malek	BELGECEM	Fisheries and Environmental Engineer	Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (ATDEPA)	Tunisia	malek.belgacem@live.fr
15.	Asma	BEN ABDA	Head of the Fisheries and Aquaculture District, CRDA Tunis	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MAREP)	Tunisia	b.abda.asma@gmail.com
16.	Leila	BEN ABEDLADHIM	Principal Engineer	Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	l.benabdeladhim@apal.nat.tn
17.	Sofiane	BEN AISSA	President	'Abyse Plongée' Association	Tunisia	abyse.plongee@gmail.com
18.	Ibrahim	BEN AMER	Lecturer	University Omar Al-Mokhtar	Libya	benamer.ly@gmail.com
19.	Sami	BEN HAJ	Consultant	THETIS Conseil	Tunisia	sbh@thetis-conseil.com
20.	Mehdi	BEN HAJ	General Coordinator	Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	m.benhaj@apal.nat.tn

N°	First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Country	e-mail
21.	Bader Essalem	BEN LETAIEF	Head of Division	National Sanitation Office (ONAS)	Tunisia	dop.suiviprojet@onas.nat.tn
22.	Arafet	BEN MARZOU	Photograph	Freelance	Tunisia	benmarzou@gmail.com
23.	Habib	BEN MOUSSA	Director	National Agency of Environment Protection (ANPE)	Tunisia	h.benmoussa@anpe.nat.tn
24.	Naziha	BEN MOUSSA	Administrative Assistant	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	naziha.benmoussa@rac-spa.org
25.	Karim	BEN MUSTAPHA	Researcher	National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM)	Tunisia	karim.benmustapha@instm.rnrt.tn
26.	Lobna	BEN NAKHLA	Programme Officer – Species Conservation	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	Lobna.bennakhla@rac-spa.org
27.	Ines	BEN SALAH	Head of Service, OTEDD	National Agency of Environment Protection (ANPE)	Tunisia	ineshbs74@hotmail.com
28.	Skander	BEN SALEM	Researcher	National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM)	Tunisia	scander.bensalem@gmail.com
29.	Mohamed Ali	BEN TEMESSEK	Head of Service of Environments and Marine Reserves	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Tunisia	mtemessek@gmail.com
30.	Mouloud	BENABDI	Manager	ETS ABYSS	Algeria	benabdi@gmail.com
31.	Mohamed	BESAR	Sallum Bay MPA Manager	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	Egypt	besar1974@yahoo.com
32.	Ghazi	BITAR	Professor	Lebanese University	Lebanon	ghbitar@ul.edu.lb
33.	Kais	BLOUZA	General Director of Common interests	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Tunisia	Kais.blouza@mineat.gov.tn
34.	Samia	BOUFARES	Principal Technician	Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	boufaressamia@gmail.com
35.	Essam	BOURAS	Head of Protected Area and Biodiversity Section	Environment General Authority (EGA)	Libya	eaburass@yahoo.com
36.	Majdi	CALBOUSSI	Deputy President and Co-founder	Tunisia Ecotourism Network (TEN) Association	Tunisia	majdi.calboussi@gmail.com
37.	Daniel	CEBRIAN	Programme Officer – SAP BIO	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	daniel.cebrian@rac-spa.org
38.	Amina	CHENIK	President	Group for Scientific Study and Exploration (GEXS) Association	Tunisia	amina.c@gnet.tn
39.	Mahmoud	CHIHAOUI	Expert	Freelance	Tunisia	mahmoud.chihaoui@yahoo.fr
40.	Stefano	CORRADO	Environment and Energy Cooperation Attaché	European Union Delegation in Tunisia	Tunisia	stefano.corrado@eeas.europa.eu



N°	First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Country	e-mail
41.	Khaled	DAGHAR	Senior Technician	Higher Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Bizerte (ISPAB)	Tunisia	Dagharkhaled@yahoo.fr
42.	Nedra	DHIL	Student	Association of Environmental Education for Future Generations (AEEFG)	Tunisia	nedrabendhil@gmail.com
43.	Sami	DHOUIB	Programme Officer	WWF Mediterranean Programme (WWF MedPO) North Africa Office	Tunisia	sdhouib@wwfna.org
44.	Aslam Sami	DJELLOULI	Lecturer	Faculty of Sciences of Tunis (FST)	Tunisia	aslamd2001@yahoo.fr
45.	Mohamed	EISAWI	General Manager of Mediterranean MPAs in Egypt	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	Egypt	npaeg@yahoo.com
46.	Souha	EL ASMI	Programme Officer – SPAs MedMPAnet Project Manager	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	souha.asmi@rac-spa.org
47.	Zohra	EL ASMI-DJELLOULI	Lecturer	Higher Institute of Heritage Skills	Tunisia	zohde2002@yahoo.fr
48.	Mohamed	EL KHALLOUFI	Natural Resources Manager	High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (HCEFLCD)	Morocco	medkhallooufi@gmail.com
49.	Hany	EL SHAER	Programme Manager	International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA)	Jordan	hany.elshaer@iucn.org
50.	Elmaki	ELAGIL	Director of Nature Conservation Department	Environment General Authority (EGA)	Libya	makeeagalee@yahoo.com
51.	Morsi	FEKI	Senior Technician, APAL Regional Directorate of Sfax	Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	morsitn@yahoo.fr
52.	Mahmoud	FOUAD	Marine Ecologist and Nature Conservation Consultant	Environics	Egypt	mahmoud_ncs@yahoo.com
53.	Lorenzo	GALBIATI	MedPartnership and Climate Variability Project Manager	Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)	Greece	Lorenzo.Galbiati@unepmap.gr
54.	Mouafak	GHOULEM	President	Local Association for Integrated and Sustainable Development (ALDID), Dmaien, Cap Negro	Tunisia	alddid.dcpn@yahoo.fr
55.	Alexandre Roi	GONZÁLEZ ARANDA	Researcher	University of Seville	Spain	roi@us.es
56.	Harun	GÜÇLÜSOY	Associate Professor	Dokuz Eylül University / Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology	Turkey	harun.guclusoy@deu.edu.tr
57.	Saba	GUELLOUZ	Officer in charge of the Coastal Ecosystems Management Directorate	Protection and Coastal Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	s.guellouz@apal.nat.tn
58.	Dhia	GUEZGUEZ	Data Management and Computing Officer	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	dhia.guezguez@rac-spa.org
59.	Laurent	GAILLARDON	Editor	AUDIMAGE	Tunisia	laurentgaillardon@gmail.com

N°	First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Country	e-mail
60.	Linda	HAMMEMI	Technician	National Agency of Environment Protection (ANPE)	Tunisia	linda.chaambi@gmail.com
61.	Zeina	HASSANE	Environmental Specialist	Ministry of Environment	Lebanon	zeina-hassane@hotmail.com
62.	Abdallah	HATTOUR	Researcher	National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM)	Tunisia	abdallah.hattour@instm.nrnt.tn
63.	Jalel	HICHRI	Special Advisor of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Tunisia	jalelyes@gmail.com
64.	Katja	JELIĆ	Head of the Sea Section	Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN)	Croatia	katja.jelic@dzzp.hr
65.	Hsan	JMIL	Functionary	National Sanitation Office (ONAS)	Tunisia	-
66.	Imed	JRIBI	Associate Professor	Faculty of Sciences of Sfax (FSS)	Tunisia	imed.jribi@fss.rnu.tn
67.	Jamel	JRIJER	Director	'Notre Grand Bleu' Association	Tunisia	jrijer@gmail.com
68.	Samir	KAABI	Director of OTEDD	National Agency of Environment Protection (ANPE)	Tunisia	oted@anpe.nat.tn
69.	Imtinen	KEFI	Financial Officer	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	imtinen.kefi@rac-spa.org
70.	Cyrine	KHEMIRI	Reviewer of Environmental Impact Assessments	National Agency of Environment Protection (ANPE)	Tunisia	-
71.	Asma	KHERIJI	MedMPAnet Project Technical Assistant	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	asma.kheriji@rac-spa.org
72.	Ana	KOBAŠLIĆ	Head of Service for Strategic Affairs in Nature Protection	Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (MENP)	Croatia	ana.kobaslic@mzoip.hr
73.	Tarek	LACHHEB	MedMPAnet Project Administrative Assistant	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	tarek.lachheb@rac-spa.org
74.	Hedia	LAJNEF	Principal Engineer, CRDA Ben Arous	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MAREP)	Tunisia	lajnef.lajnef@yahoo.fr
75.	Habib	LANGAR	Senior Lecturer	Faculty of Sciences of Tunis (FST)	Tunisia	habib.langar@gmail.com
76.	Atef	LIMAM	MedMPAnet Project Officer	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	atef.limam@rac-spa.org
77.	Dorra	MAAOUI	MedMPAnet Project Communication Assistant	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	dorra.maaoui@rac-spa.org
78.	Vesna	MAČIĆ	Researcher	Institute for Marine Biology of Kotor (IBM)	Montenegro	vmacic@ibmk.org
79.	Zine El Abidine	MAHJOUB	Graphic designer	Freelance	Tunisia	Zinetoon@gmail.com

N°	First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Country	e-mail
80.	Rim	MATHLOUTHI	Film Director	AUDIMAGE	Tunisia	rim.mathlouti@gmail.com
81.	Imen	MELIANE	Director	7 Seas	Tunisia	imeliane@gmail.com
82.	Bruno	MEOLA	Database Officer	Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)	France	bruno.meola@medpan.org
83.	Hechmi	MISSAOUI	General Director	National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM)	Tunisia	Hechmi.Missaoui@instm.rnrt.tn
84.	Carlos	NAVARRO BARRANCO	PhD Student	University of Seville	Spain	carlosnavarro@us.es
85.	Mohamed	NEFAOUI	Provincial Director, HCEFLCD of Nador	High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (HCEFLCD)	Morocco	nefaoui@yahoo.fr
86.	Rafik	NOUALI	Principal Engineer at the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA)	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MAREP)	Tunisia	nouailirafik@yahoo.fr
87.	Atef	OUEGHI	Programme Officer – Ecosystems Conservation	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	atef.ouerghi@rac-spa.org
88.	Rafael	PANEDA	Cooperation Manager	Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID)	Tunisia	rafael.paneda2@aecid.es
89.	Christine	PERGENT-MARTINI	Senior Lecturer	Faculty of Sciences of Corte	France	pmartini@univ-corse.fr
90.	Gérard	PERGENT	Professor	Faculty of Sciences of Corte	France	pergent@univ-corse.fr
91.	Doreid	PETOSHATI	Local Expert	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Albania	Albania	dpetoshati87@yahoo.it
92.	Khaoula	RACHID	Communication Officer	'La Sirène de la Méditerranée' Association	Tunisia	Club.lasirene@gmail.com
93.	Chedly	RAIS	Senior Expert	Okianos S.A.	Tunisia	chedly.rais@okianos.org
94.	Silvia	REVENGA MARTÍNEZ DE PAZOS	Senior Officer, General Secretariat for Fisheries	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment	Spain	srevengea@magrama.es
95.	Jean Luc	RIVEILL	Communication Consultant	Freelance	Tunisia	riveilljeanluc@yahoo.fr
96.	Kahena	RIVEILL-ATTIA	Editor	-	Tunisia	-
97.	Jamel	ROMDHANE	Journalist	Tunis Afrique Presse Agency (TAP)	Tunisia	jmoule@yahoo.fr
98.	Mohamed Salah	ROMDHANE	Professor	National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (INAT)	Tunisia	ramadhanms@gmail.com
99.	Mayada	SAAD	Head of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Department / RAC/SPA Focal Point	Ministry of State for Environment Affairs	Syria	mayadasaad5@yahoo.com
100.	Marwa	SAHBANI	Student	Association of Environmental Education for Future Generations (AEEFG)	Tunisia	sahbanimarwa@gmail.com

N°	First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Country	e-mail
101.	Al-Mokhtar	SAIED	Head of Marine and Wildlife Section	Environment General Authority (EGA)	Libya	mok405@yahoo.com
102.	Omar	SFAYHI	Photographer	Mirada Production Global Media Production	Tunisia	jesus.rodriguezmartins@gmail.com
103.	Yassine Ramzi	SGHAIER	MedKeyHabitats Project Technical Assistant Officer	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	yassineramzi.sghaier@rac-spa.org
104.	Sonja	ŠIŠIĆ	Director	Public Institution "Priroda"	Croatia	sonja.sisic@ju-priroda.hr
105.	Safa	SOUIDI	Consultant	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Tunisia	safa.souidi@rac-spa.org
106.	Laura	TRAGAJ	Head of Unit	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	Albania	Laura.Tragaj@moe.gov.al
107.	Anis	ZARROUK	Principal Engineer	Protection and Coastal Planning Agency (APAL)	Tunisia	zarrouk.anis@apal.nat.tn