Thirteenth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas

Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017

Agenda item 8   List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List)
**   8.3. Updating of the Format for the periodic review of SPAMIs**

Draft updated Format for the periodic review of SPAMIs

Note:
The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and UN Environment concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.

Draft updated Format for the periodic review of SPAMIs

Introduction and background

1. The SPAMI List was established in 2001 (Monaco Declaration) in accordance with 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. Furthermore, the areas included in the SPAMI List are intended to have a value of example and model for the protection of the natural heritage of the region.

2. During their COP 15 (Almeria, Spain, January 2008), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a procedure for the revision of the areas included in the SPAMI List and requested SPA/RAC to implement it (Decision IG.17/12).

3. The procedure aims to evaluate the SPAMI sites in order to examine whether they meet the SPA/BD Protocol's criteria. Such procedure provides for an ordinary review of SPAMIs to be held every six years, counting from the date of the inclusion of the site in the SPAMI List.

4. Based on a recurrent recommendation made by the technical advisory commissions (TACs) entrusted with the SPAMI ordinary reviews, the 12th Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Athens, Greece, 25-29 May 2015) recommended to SPA/RAC to revise the review format based on the experience gained so far.

5. Consequently, the first draft of a new format was elaborated after the meeting, presented at the SPAMI Conference (Tunis, Tunisia, 9-12 June 2015) and then circulated by e-mail to SPA Focal Points and relevant partner organisations, for comments and finalization in time for submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015).

6. By its Decision IG.22/14, COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) took note of the "Revised Format for the Periodic Review of SPAMIs" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.421/Inf.27) and requested SPA/RAC to test it (including by preparing an online version) and, on this basis, to further develop it in consultation with Focal Points of SPA/RAC for consideration by COP 20.

7. For that aim, the draft format was tested during the 2017 ordinary review of the three following SPAMIs: Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve, and Habibas Islands (Algeria), and Portofino Marine Protected Area (Italy).

8. The comments made by the SPAMI review TACs to improve the draft format where taken into account by SPA/RAC.

9. The resulting "online SPAMI Evaluation system" could be consulted through the following link: http://rac-spa.org/spami_eval/spami.php.

10. For the moment, the system only exists in English. A French version will be developed later.

Presentation of the "online SPAMI Evaluation system"

11. This online system is intended to keep records of the SPAMI presentation reports (using the Annotated Format[1]), the previous review reports and recommendations, and any other relevant official documentation.

12. The home page of the SPAMI Evaluation system:

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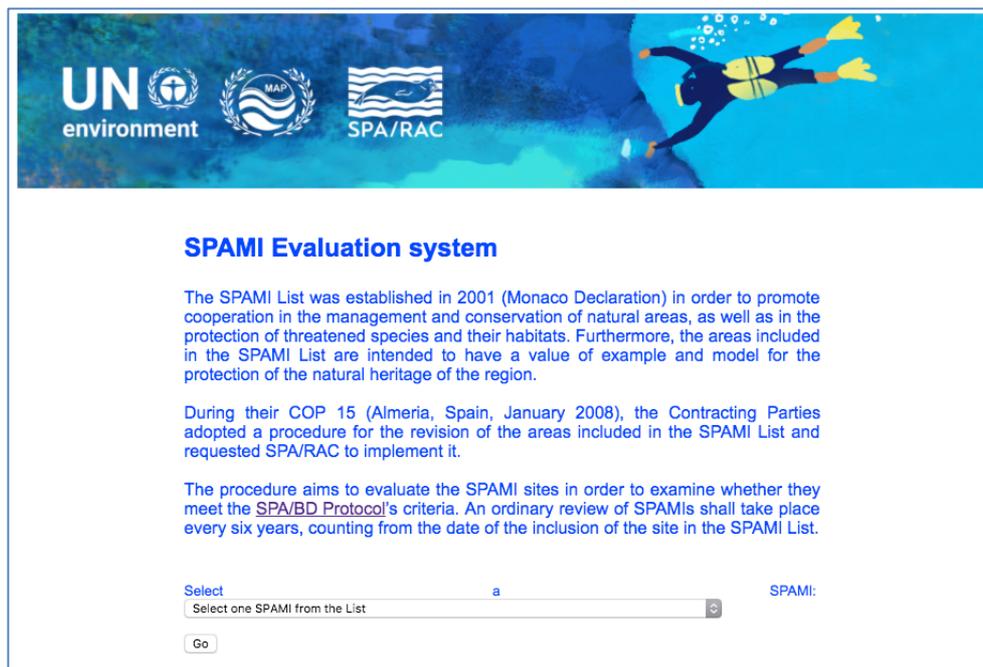
[1] The "Annotated Format for the Presentation Reports for the areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List" is format adopted in 2001 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and which objective is to guide the Contracting Parties in producing reports of comparable contents, including the information necessary for the adequate evaluation of the conformity of the proposed site with the criteria set out in the SPA/BD Protocol and in its Annex I ("Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List").

13. Select one SPAMI from the list and click on the "Go" button:

14. The first screen provides the "GRAND Total" received by the evaluated SPAMI and the scores by sub-section (1., 2., 3., etc.). It also shows the consolidated comments made by the TAC in each sub-section:
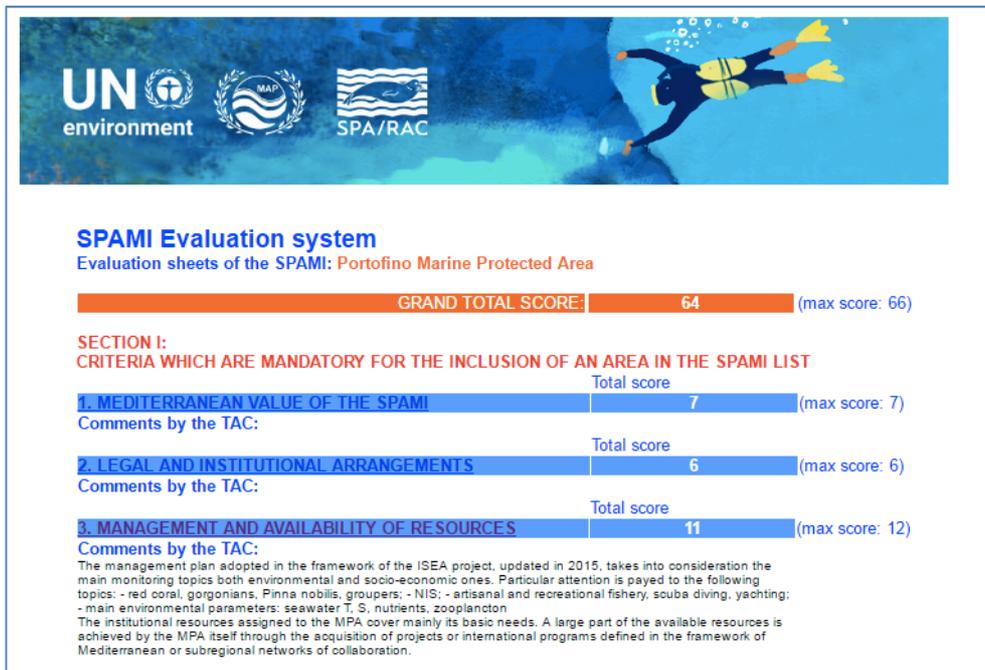
15. The new online format includes guidance on how to translate the results of the assessment into scores:

16. In each sub-section (1., 2., etc.), scoring could be made by choosing the appropriate answer in a drop-down menu:

17. Score justification should be entered in the dedicated field below. The information could be typed directly into the relevant box or pasted as text copied from a Word processor:

18. Running the mouse over an item needing further clarification, will produce a tooltip which displays the full text or definition of such item (e.g. Article 7 of the SPA/BD Protocol):

19. The "Save" button at the bottom left of each sub-section allows to save the entered information: