



## General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean



Scientific Advisory Committee

11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)

Malta, 29 November – 2 December



### Developing a network of SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas, having regard of fisheries conservation needs

Célia LE RAVALLEC  
United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)  
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)  
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat | B.P. 337 - 1080 Tunis Cedex - TUNISIA



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Mediterranean Action Plan

- The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (**Barcelona Convention**) was adopted in 1976
- The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (**SPA/BD Protocol**)



Establishment of a **List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)**



To promote cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas, and in the protection of threatened species and their habitats



To constitute the core of a network aiming at the effective conservation of the Mediterranean cultural heritage



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Presentation of the project

- ➔ To assist the Contracting Parties to promote through the SPAMI system the setting up of a representative network of protected areas in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas
- ➔ A process developed in **two phases**
  - First-phase (2008-2009)
  - Second-phase (2010-2011)
- ➔ Under the guidance of a **Steering Committee**, made of international and regional institutions
- ➔ Funded by **European Commission** and the Mediterranean Trust Fund



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Activities carried out during the Project's first phase

- Collecting the existing information on ecosystems of Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas

Using existing databases and expert opinions

- ➔ Assessment of sub-regions within the Mediterranean basin
- ➔ Identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Activities carried out during the Project's first phase

- Study on fisheries conservation management and vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas
  - **Geological features of the seabed** (seamounts, mud volcanoes, dries, canyons, hydrothermal vents)
  - **Oceanographic features** such as fronts and upwellings
  - **Ecological features of certain vulnerable habitats** (coralligenous facies, white coral communities)
  - **Biogeographic features** of commercial pelagic species and species subject to incidental capture or by-catch (spawning and nursery areas)



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

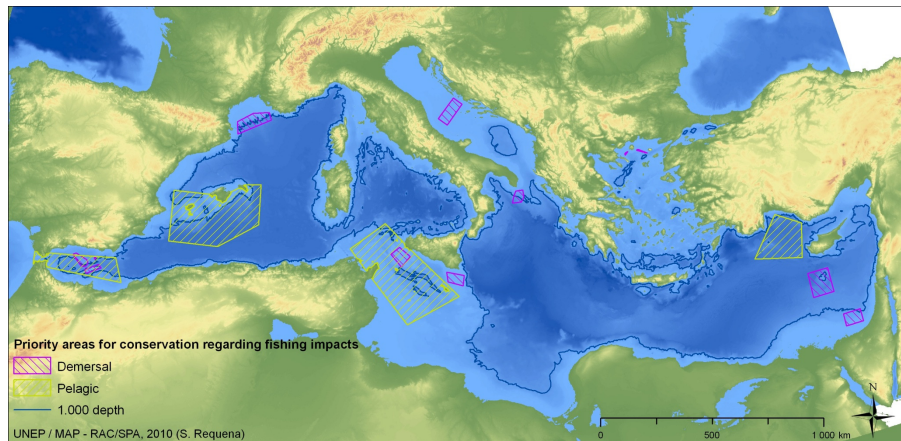
### Activities carried out during the Project's first phase

- Study on fisheries conservation management and vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas
  - Identification of vulnerable ecosystems (Sensitive Habitats and Essential Fish Habitats)
  - Identification of 13 priority areas for conservation regarding fishing impacts (both demersal and pelagic areas)



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Priority areas for conservation regarding fishing impacts



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Activities carried out during the Project's first phase

- Definition of operational criteria for the site selection process, based on the SPAMI selection criteria
- Compilation of data on bird important areas in the Mediterranean open seas
- Compilation of all the data in a Geographical Information System developed for Mediterranean open sea
- Study on legal issues concerning the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean region



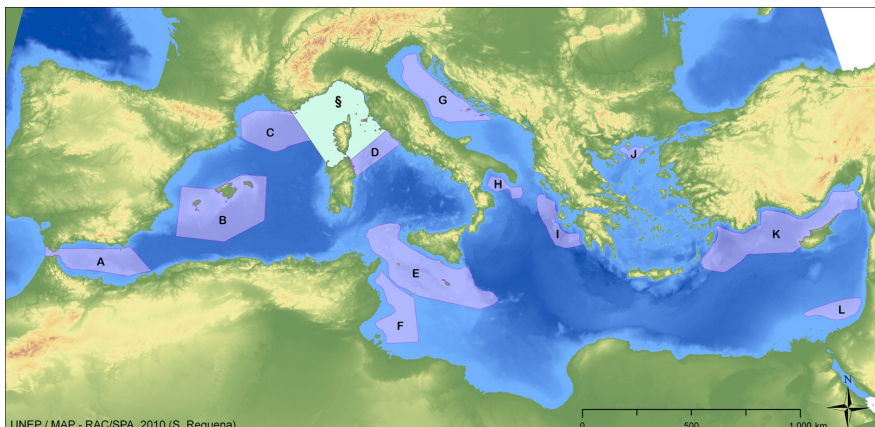
**Second Meeting of the Project Steering Committee**  
*Genoa, Italy, 18-19 November 2009*



**Extraordinary Meeting of the Focal Points for SPAs**  
*Istanbul, Turkey, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010*



## Priority conservation areas in the open seas, including the deep seas, likely to contain sites that could be candidates for the SPAMI List



UNEP / MAP - RAC/SPA, 2010 (S. Requena)

A: Alborán Seamounts; B: Southern Balearic; C: Gulf of Lions shelf and slope; D: Central Tyrrhenian; E: Northern Strait of Sicily (including Adventure and nearby banks); F: Southern Strait of Sicily; G: Northern and Central Adriatic; H: Santa Maria di Leuca; I: Northeastern Ionian; J: Thracian Sea; K: Northeastern Levantine Sea and Rhodes Gyre; L: Nile Delta Region (§: Pelagos Sanctuary declared as SPAMI in 2001)



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Aims of the Project's second phase

- To facilitate the process of designating as SPAMIs sites included in the priority conservation areas identified during the 1<sup>st</sup> phase
- To assist Parties to prepare presentation reports for the concerned areas

### Article 9 – SPA/BD Protocol

“Proposal for inclusion in the List may be submitted by **two or more neighbouring Parties concerned** if the area is situated, partly or wholly, on the high seas”

“The neighbouring Parties concerned shall consult each other with a view to ensuring the consistency of the proposed protection and management measures, as well as the means for their implementation”



Set up a process of coordination and consultation between neighbouring countries



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Proposed methodology for the concerned areas

 Set up *ad hoc* work groups

It is suggested that the work groups be made up of:

- representatives from the public ministries and/or agencies of the area's neighbouring Parties that have responsibility for implementing the SPA/BD Protocol (the SPA Focal Point or his/her representative)
- representatives from research bodies, in the case where campaigns have been or will be carried on in the concerned area
- representatives from civil society
- representatives from the competent international organisations
- all the representatives that the Focal Points deem it necessary to include.



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Proposed methodology for the concerned areas

The operational aims of these work groups are:

- **ensuring coordination and monitoring of the activities** to be carried on between the concerned Parties, in order to prepare the presentation report
- **facilitating the national consultation process** that must be done at country scale, by circulating information at the level of the Focal Point or his/her representative on how the process is advancing
- **initiating sustainable consultation dynamics** between the neighbouring Parties concerned; the dynamics must continue after the project is over, especially as regards implementing the measures to manage the area
- **developing a pilot experience** in the Mediterranean that can be replicated in other priority conservation areas that lie in the open seas and were identified during the first phase of the initiative.



## Project for supporting the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas

### Proposed methodology for the concerned areas

The work groups will be supported by various experts:

- A **legal expert** → To analyze the legal status of the area

- An **expert in Mediterranean marine ecology**

- A **socio-economist**

To assist the preparation of the presentation reports  
(definition of the limits of the site, collection of data on the site – geographic location, physical, hydrological and ecological features, socio-economic data)



## Developing a network of SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas, having regard to fisheries conservation needs

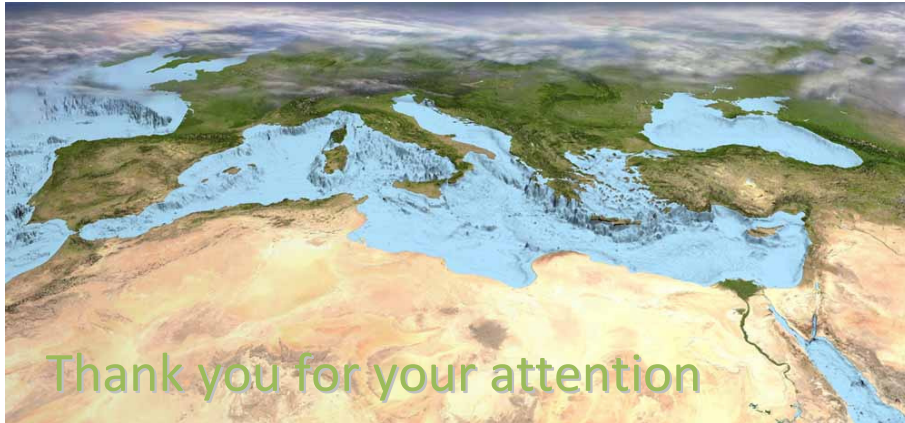
*The Conference of the Parties Encourages Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to cooperate, as appropriate, collectively or on a regional or subregional basis, to identify and protect ecologically or biologically significant areas in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats in need of protection, including by establishing representative networks of marine protected areas in accordance with international law and based on scientific information.*

CBD COP 10, Nagoya





**Developing a network of SPAMIs in the  
Mediterranean open seas, including the  
deep seas, having regard of fisheries  
conservation needs**



Thank you for your attention