

State of progress of the joint action with the EC to promote establishing SPAMIs in open seas, including deep seas, and third phase steps

UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA



GFCM Working Group on MPAs

Bar, Montenegro, February 3rd 2014

Project implemented with financial support from the European Commission



### 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 phases

- First-phase (2008-2009)
- Second-phase (2010-2012)
- Third-phase (2013-2015)



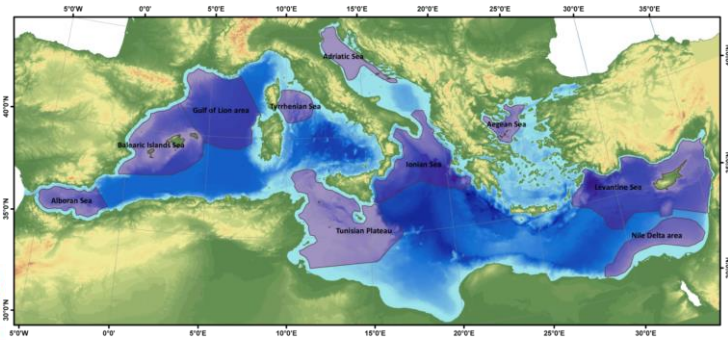
➔ Under the guidance of a **Steering Committee**, made of international and regional institutions



Funded by **European Commission** and the Mediterranean Trust Fund

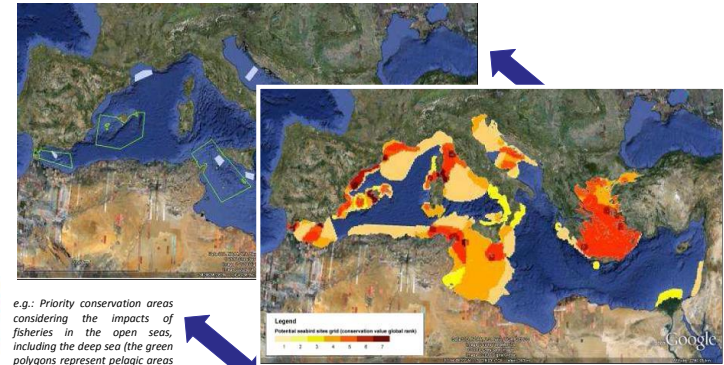


## Identification of marine Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas in the Mediterranean



## Identifying sites for future SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep sea

Identification of priority conservation areas: merging of data



*e.g.: Priority conservation areas considering the impacts of fisheries in the open seas, including the deep sea (the green polygons represent pelagic areas and the white ones demersal areas)*

*e.g.: priority conservation areas for the conservation of sea birds. The degree of priority for conservation is represented on a scale from 1 (the lightest shade) to 7 (the darkest)*





## Further activities carried out during the Project's first phase

- Compilation of all the data in a Geographical Information System developed for Mediterranean open sea
- Definition of operational criteria for the site selection process, based on the SPAMI selection criteria
- 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*

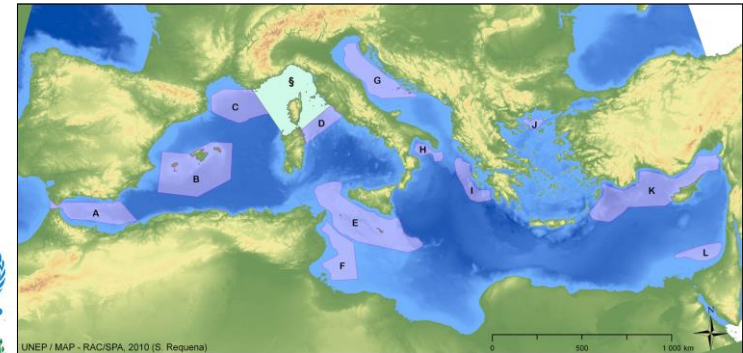


**Extraordinary Meeting of the Focal Points for SPAs**

*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)



### Aims of the Project's further phases

- To facilitate the process of designating as SPAMIs sites included in the priority conservation areas identified during the first phase

#### 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
- by the neighbouring Parties concerned in areas where the limits of national jurisdiction have not yet been defined”

“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



### Methodology as agreed during 2010 Extraordinary Meeting of the Focal Points for SPAs (Istanbul)



Set up *ad hoc* working groups made of representatives from the concerned neighbouring countries

The operational aims of these working groups are:

- To ensure coordination and follow-up of the activities to be carried out in order to prepare the SPAMI presentation reports
- To initiate sustainable consultation dynamics between the concerned neighbouring Parties
- To facilitate national consultation processes
- To develop pilot experiences in the Mediterranean that can be replicated in other priority conservation areas that lie in the open seas and have been identified during the first phase





### Activities carried out – Supporting the national consultation processes

- ❖ Official contact with national authorities
- ❖ Consultation meetings



For the neighbouring countries of the **Alboran Sea area**: meeting organized inviting representatives of Algeria, Morocco and Spain on March 2011 and December 2013



For the neighbouring countries of the **Gulf of Lions area**: meeting organized with representatives of France and Spain on March 2011 and on December 2011



For the neighbouring countries of the **Adriatic area**: contacts to organize a meeting in a further phase

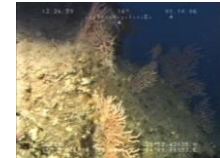


### Activities carried out – Improving the state of knowledge

- ❖ Alboran Sea area



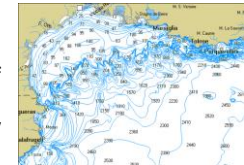
Facilitating a joint project with IUCN-Med and Oceana for an oceanographic survey around the Xauen and Tofino banks area (field implementation not achieved, owed to logistic issues)



- ❖ Gulf of Lions area



Description of the ecology of the Gulf of Lions shelf and slope area and identification of the areas that may deserve to be protected





### Activities carried out – Legal and institutional analysis

❖ Preparation of the draft approach to facilitate the preparation of joint proposals for inclusion in the SPAMI List in accordance with Article 9 of the SPA/BD Protocol



Legal analysis (*Note on the establishment of marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction or in areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined in the Mediterranean Sea*)



Proposal to add in the SPAMI presentation report the possibility for preliminary declaration of SPAMI proposals



### Third phase orientations and activities

➤ Development of the third phase of the project around two strategic orientations:



Contributing to improve the state of knowledge on open sea and deep sea ecosystems and their uses



Contributing to build a framework with the countries and competent organizations to facilitate the joint establishment of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas





### Contributing to improve the state of knowledge on open sea and deep sea ecosystems and their uses

- Organization of scientific workshops on the biodiversity of the Mediterranean pelagic ecosystems and deep-sea habitats
- Catalyzing the organization of oceanographic campaigns
- Review of the formats on the marine Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) submitted to the CBD repository system
- Development of a joint socio-economic evaluation with GFCM of the fishing activities carried out in pelagic ecosystems and deep benthic habitats
- Support to the sub-regional working groups for collecting and compiling existing data and for preparing SPAMI proposals\*

\*EC funding support granted



### Contributing to build a framework with the countries and competent organizations to facilitate the joint establishment of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas

- Identification of good practices for elaborating, adopting and implementing management plans in the case of those joint SPAMIs in the open seas\*
- National and sub-regional consultation processes facilitation for SPAMIs in areas embracing open seas and engaging countries showing interest, both on-going (Alboran Sea) and starting (Adriatic Sea, Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau), in order to support the preparation of joint SPAMI proposals\*
- Gulf of Lions: process should continue, but no 3rd phase funding

\*EC funding support granted





Contributing to build a framework with the countries and competent organizations to facilitate the joint establishment of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas

- Development of a joint strategy with ACCOBAMS, IUCN and GFCM, on how to address the issues of common interest in Alboran Sea, Adriatic Sea and Strait of Sicily, including promotion and fund raising for oceanographic surveys\*

\*EC funding support granted



Contributing to build a framework with the countries and competent organizations to facilitate the joint establishment of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas

- Cooperation with GFCM Secretariat along 2014-15 is expected to commonly set the best approach on synergy for the declaration of FRAs and SPAMIs, including procedures, in a way that both institutions contribute and benefit through common work.
- A MoU signed between GFCM and UNEP/MAP Secretariats provides a legal frame to facilitate the tasks. Existing criteria maybe also discussed and compared to aid reinforcing spatial management frameworks for conservation supported by both Secretariats works.



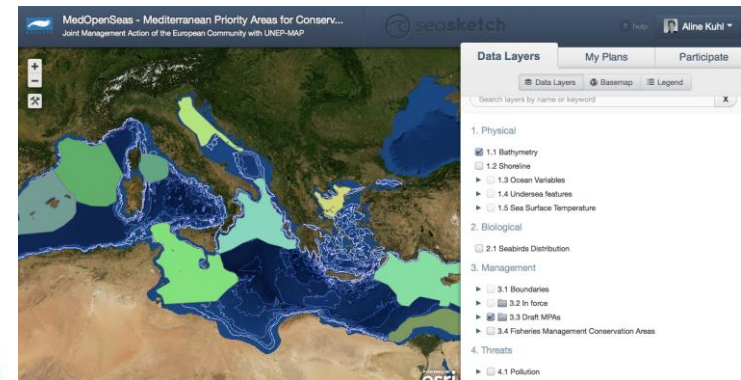




## Foreseen outputs for each priority area



## SeaSketch Internet IMAP platform



An internet IMAP platform has been activated by RAC/SPA on February 2013 to assist real-time information exchange among key stakeholders on geo-referenced maps

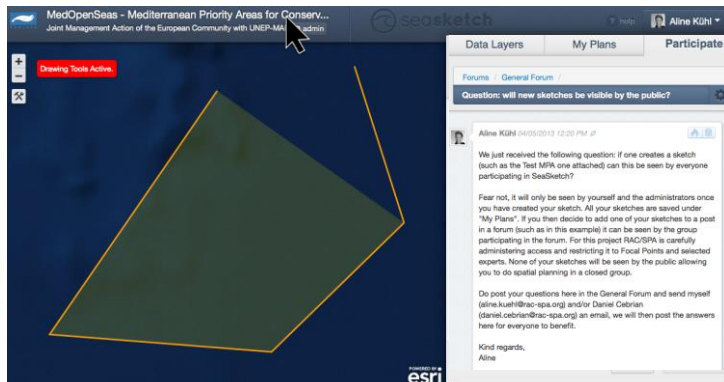


## Sketching and discussion forum



Official launch: February 2013

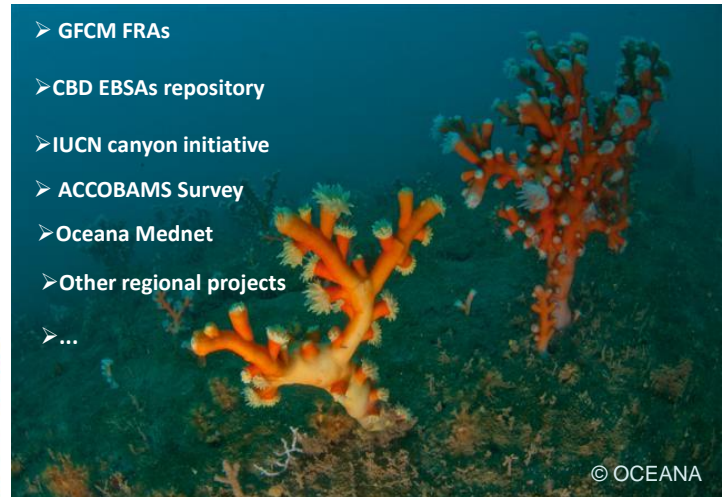
Users: 143 (SPA Focal Points: 9 out of 35 active)



## Synergies with partners



- GFCM FRAs
- CBD EBSAs repository
- IUCN canyon initiative
- ACCOBAMS Survey
- Oceana Mednet
- Other regional projects
- ...



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**Supporting the establishment of SPAMIs  
in the open seas, including the deep seas**



Thanks for your attention

