



**IUCN - World Commission on Protected Areas
Scoping Meeting to support Mediterranean
States to meet the 2012 WSSD target on
Networks of Mediterranean MPAs**

Livorno, 6-8 December 2004

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 6 and 8 December 2004 a meeting was organised in Livorno, Italy, by the WCPA Marine Mediterranean Group (WCPA MMED) in cooperation with the IUCN Mediterranean Office and the “*Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell’Ambiente della Toscana*” (ARPAT). The goal of the meeting was to stimulate the implementation of an expert process through the IUCN structures to support the Mediterranean coastal states in their commitment to reach by 2012 the target set in 2002 in Johannesburg, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, concerning marine protected area networks. The impetus for the workshop was provided by a perceived strong need for a regional programme with the widest possible participation of experts and stakeholders, to provide support to the Barcelona Convention in its assistance to the Mediterranean states to meet their commitment regarding marine protected areas. In the case of the Mediterranean, it was recognised that the challenge consists in implementing a region-wide system of ecologically and culturally representative networks, and in creating capacity to support existing networks, such as the SPAMIs and Natura 2000.

WCPA MMED declared its availability to undertake such an effort, and to provide its expert support. A number of challenges posed by this idea, including the legitimacy of the process, the consensus by all the concerned parties and stakeholders, and the complexity of the involved process, were identified during the meeting.

The envisaged process will involve several phases. In a preliminary phase, a thorough investigation should be made to identify all the institutions, organisations and individuals committed to the WSSD process and involved in the effort of designing, establishing and managing MPAs in the Mediterranean. The concern was also expressed that the process needed to be geographically balanced, with an active participation from the south and the east of the region as compared to the north and the west. Efforts were to be undertaken to promote the involvement, capacity building, and awareness homogeneously across the coastal states. IUCN MED offered to produce a paper within approximately one year containing a description and listing of all the players in the field, also including an updated list of MPAs, possibly to be made available through a web-based database.

The main phase of the process would address the ecological aspects of assisting in designing a representative system of MPA networks, setting up a region-wide effort to describe “*what is there in the Mediterranean that requires protection*”. This will include a description of their current status, with an updated review of MPAs in the Mediterranean, the definition of criteria and methods (including both Delphic tools and software) that could be adopted for selection of priority areas where MPAs should be established to protect all the different habitats (including transboundary areas and areas beyond national jurisdiction).

Once a draft scientific assessment has been completed, proposals for a representative network of MPAs in the Mediterranean will be communicated to relevant governments. The task will then be to assist willing governments to address the political, social, economic, administrative and legal aspects of establishing new MPAs where they should be but still don’t exist. To make progress in this phase, the feasibility of designating each individual site will have to be examined and remains firmly a nationally led issue. The final phase of the process thus envisages making available all the knowledge thus gained to the competent institutional framework. In the opinion of the meeting participants, WCPA MMED should continue to provide support to this effort, for example to promote effective management.

In summary the following steps were envisaged by the meeting: (a) release of Livorno meeting report; (b) preparation of a project document, containing name of project, work programme with deadlines, and budget and business plan; (c) involvement process; (d) identification of potential donors and fundraising.

The last item for discussion at the meeting concerned how to strengthen WCPA MMED and tune its activities with the task of facilitating the process of creating a system of MPA networks in the Mediterranean.

2. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The meeting took place in Livorno, Sala Conferenze LEM, located in Palazzo del Portuale, Piazza del Pamiglione. The meeting started on Monday 6 December 2004 and ended on the following Wednesday 8 Dec. The agenda of the meeting is provided in Appendix I. Participants are listed in Appendix II.

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, coordinator of the WCPA Marine Mediterranean Group (WCPA MMED), opened the meeting by welcoming participants and thanking the authorities and organisations that generously offered to sponsor and host the meeting, and to support its organisation. In particular, thanks were given to Regione Toscana, Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente della Toscana (ARPAT), Provincia di Livorno, and Comune di Livorno. Fabrizio Serena, from ARPAT, was instrumental in securing all the needed local support, funding and organisation. In addition, the support and encouragement of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of Malaga (IUCN MED) was gratefully acknowledged.

The group then proceeded to adopt the agenda (Appendix I) and to designate officers. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara was designated chair, and François Simard and Ameer Abdulla kindly agreed to act as rapporteurs.

A small number of experts who were invited to participate (e.g., Jon Day from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Fiorenza Micheli from the Stanford University, and representatives of the "Mediterranean marine and coastal Protected Areas Network" - MEDPAN organisation) sent their regrets and assured their interest in being involved in the future. The fundamental need of involving the UNEP MAP RAC/SPA early on in the process was recalled.

A large number of relevant documents was briefly reviewed. It was recommended to request to IUCN MED to post on its website the relevant documentation and bibliographic resources, to be available to future participants through remote, password-protected FTP accession.

3. VISION

Need Goal of this meeting is to stimulate the beginning of an expert process to support the Mediterranean coastal states in their commitment to reach by 2012 the target set in 2002 in Johannesburg, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, concerning marine protected area networks: "Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including ... *the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012 ...*"¹. The IUCN 5th World Park Congress (Sep. 2003, Durban) adopted WPC Recommendation 22 ("Building a global system of marine and coastal protected area networks") calling on the international community as a whole to "establish by 2012 a global system of effectively managed, representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas, consistent with international law and based on scientific information". The WSSD target was later adopted as well by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the 7th Conference of its Contracting Parties (Feb. 2004, Kuala Lumpur), which agreed to develop a strategy to meet this goal, including indicators of progress.

Several MPAs have been established in the Mediterranean Sea in recent decades, however they are not organised into networks. Even if they were, they would not be representative, because they were not established with a network concept in mind. A representative network won't happen by itself.

There is a strong need for a regional coordination programme with the widest possible participation of experts and stakeholders, to provide support to the Barcelona Convention and to assist the States to meet their commitment regarding marine protected areas.

¹ World Summit on Sustainable Development, Plan of implementation. 31(c).

WCPA MMED is available to undertake such an effort, and provide expert support by helping to define what can be done. A number of challenges posed by this idea were identified: legitimacy of the process, consensus by all the concerned parties and stakeholders, and complexity of the involved process.

Legitimacy. Clearly, the responsibility for implementing the WSSD objectives, and in particular the MPA networks target, rests solely on the states concerned and on the international organisations mandated by them to pursue these specific goals, specifically the Barcelona Convention. Coordinated efforts by the NGO and scientific communities, and in particular by IUCN and WCPA, to develop programmes leading to the design and possible establishment of representative networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean, are acceptable and legitimate only if offered to, and perceived by, the Mediterranean States as a spontaneous contribution. The role of creating a link between the WCPA MMED effort and the Convention could ideally be undertaken by IUCN MED.

Consensus . It was clear in the perception of all participants that the Livorno scoping meeting was not representative of the whole of the concerned scientific and NGO communities in the region. Rather, it was seen as an interim tool leading to the creation of a representative working group. A clear need was perceived to bring in all the organisations and individuals involved in the process of designing, establishing and managing MPAs in the Mediterranean. To guide the process, a thorough inventory of “who’s who” in the Mediterranean MPA science and practice will be necessary, as well as an in-depth assessment of the existing initiatives and commitments, within nations, and in international organisations in addition to the Convention and related system of SPAMIs, such as CBD, 5th WPC, HSMPA Strategy, CMS, ACCOBAMS, etc.

Complexity. The meeting agreed that the effort of planning a representative network or set of network of MPAs in the Mediterranean region is a most challenging endeavour under many respects, as it involves a clear understanding of the functions of MPAs as conservation tools in the wider context of marine conservation, a strategic intuition on how to modulate the MPA tool within the region, and a vision of the status of biodiversity in the whole Mediterranean, seen in a dynamic context to account for undergoing environmental change. For real effectiveness, other layers of networks will need to be superimposed to the MPA networks themselves, to create a multidimensional system, e.g., a network of MPA practitioners, and a communication network to exchange knowledge and methods and fill the current knowledge gaps on the status of biodiversity. It was suggested to make an effort to learn from successes and failures of past experiences, both outside the Mediterranean, and inside (e.g., the WWF gap analysis).

4. BACKGROUND

The Mediterranean is a place of paradox. Despite its image as vastly overpopulated and polluted, the Mediterranean is in actuality a thriving ecosystem upon which many cultures depend. From the shores of its north coast, through the vast archipelagos in its eastern reaches, to the productive coastal wetlands and beaches of its south coast, the environment of the Mediterranean is exceedingly diverse. Its open ocean areas also support a surprisingly rich variety of life – so much so that the Mediterranean Basin has been flagged as a top marine conservation priority. Yet the Mediterranean is severely threatened, and no local initiatives or even national efforts will save it. What is clearly needed is a radical departure from business as usual – a strategic, region-wide approach that harnesses what we know about this great sea’s ecology and protect what is absolutely most vital to it. The 21 countries surrounding the Mediterranean, supporting more than 100 million people, have everything to gain from such an approach.

The Mediterranean has witnessed numerous efforts to protect it. Through the Barcelona Convention, its nations have agreed to standards for pollutants and the need to establish new protected areas. The Convention’s network of specially protected areas is being assembled largely from existing marine parks, and omits many of the Mediterranean’s most crucial areas. Some countries have unilaterally embarked on establishing protected areas, however, the rationale behind choice of place is often obscure, and few such areas have management plans or adequate enforcement. A comprehensive

network of protected areas is urgently needed to secure this fragile marine environment in its full complexity and richness.

The Mediterranean has always been exemplary, being the first region in the world to put into operation a Regional Seas Programme. Now the Mediterranean is poised to lead the world towards effective conservation of large marine ecosystems, by being the first region to adopt a strategic plan for utilizing marine protected areas to safeguard the vital areas that keep the sea healthy and beneficial to coastal nations and communities.

The Mediterranean remains a symbol of both hope and despair. For many, the *Mare Nostrum* or “Our Sea” represents livelihood, while for the rest of us, the Mediterranean provides a sense of wonder. With so much interest in protecting the Mediterranean, hope is paramount – but only if that interest is kept alive and backed up by a strategic system of protected areas and meaningful international agreements.

The main features and state of the Mediterranean were briefly mentioned during the meeting, as well as the current legal status of its waters (e.g., EEZ vs. High Seas situation, the SPAMI System, existing MPAs, other conservation convention and agreements, etc.).

WCPA MMED was established in 2001 and Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara was asked to act as its coordinator. The group has had, since the beginning, the primary objective of supporting the creation of a representative network or networks of MPAs in the region, to contribute to the conservation and restoration of the ecological health, as well as the cultural integrity, of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, through the promotion of sustainable practices, and to ensure its future protection against anthropogenic degradation and loss. The challenge of supporting the Mediterranean states’ effort to meet the WSSD target provides now a clear focus to the Group’s work and an excellent opportunity for mustering WCPA’s resources and knowledge in support to Mediterranean marine conservation.

5. DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

Recognising the need for a common language from the start, the meeting agreed that precise definitions were needed of key concepts such as what is a marine protected area, what are networks of protected areas and systems of protected areas, and what is meant by representativeness, uniqueness, vulnerability, connectivity.

The group agreed that there are many definitions of marine protected areas, many of which are useful for the purposes of the current effort. The CBD (COP/7/21) defines MPAs as “(a) marine and coastal protected areas, where threats are managed for the purpose of biodiversity conservation and/or sustainable use and where extractive uses may be allowed; and (b) representative marine and coastal protected areas where extractive uses are excluded, and other significant human pressures are removed or minimized, to enable the integrity, structure and functioning of ecosystems to be maintained or recovered”. Recognising also that IUCN/WCPA has provided useful definitions of MPAs, a suggestion was made to adopt the CBD definition but taking into account the IUCN PA categories, also adapting them to the Mediterranean process. IUCN MED (Malaga) agreed to prepare a background document on this topic in the near future.

A discussion followed on what is meant by networks and systems. “Networks of MPAs are groupings of protected areas that are linked, either physically through the movement of organisms and/or water flow, or through common management institutions and personnel. Systems describe the conglomeration of individual MPAs or networks under a strategically planned, and harmoniously operated, multi-institutional framework. An MPA system can be composed of one or more MPA networks, or it can omit networks altogether.” (Agardy, in press).

In the case of the Mediterranean, it was recognised that the challenge at hand consists in. (a) the design of a region-wide system of ecologically and culturally representative networks, and (b) the creation of capacity to create such system, national and individual capacity building being an essential component

of the process. It was also recognised that existing networks, such as the SPAMIs and Natura 2000, should be considered as a starting point.

The following elements also emerged from the discussion:

- the need of incorporating and harmonising the concepts of “representativeness” and “uniqueness” in the design of the system. In particular, “representativeness” needs to be defined at the habitat level.
- the need of adopting homogeneous criteria for the design of the system throughout the Mediterranean region. The criteria listed in Annex I of the 1995 SPA Protocol to the Barcelona Convention provide a good basis for a start.
- MPAs should be considered one of several marine conservation tools, to be used in the region in conjunction with other tools, such as specific regulatory and management measures targeting different human activities (e.g., fisheries), to ensure sustainability and environmental conservation.

To conclude with preliminaries, it was suggested to look carefully and seek inspiration from other examples in the world where similar efforts are being undertaken. Various participants recalled, among others, the following examples: (a) Australia’s Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; (b) Canada’s Ecologically/Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) within the Pacific North Coast Integrated management Area; (c) the United States National System of MPAs (see www.mpa.gov); (d) the North American Marine Protected Area Network Project (NAMPAN); (e) the BWZee Project in Belgium; and (f) the UK Irish Sea Pilot.

6. DESIGN OF THE PROCESS

The envisaged process involves a preliminary phase, in which the “who’s who” of the Mediterranean MPAs is identified and involved, a main phase in which the ecological aspects of designing a representative system of MPA networks are addressed, and a final phase in which all the knowledge thus gained is made available to the appropriate institutional framework. Two other aspects, no less crucial to the success of the effort – research and capacity building – should be seen as transversal concerns to be undertaken throughout the process.

6.1. Institutional and geopolitical concerns

Participants to the meeting unanimously recommended that a thorough investigation be made to identify all the institutions, organisations and individuals committed to the WSSD process and involved in the effort of designing, establishing and managing MPAs in the Mediterranean, to ensure that the envisaged process will proceed in a fully participatory fashion. The concern was also expressed that the process needed to be geographically balanced, with an active participation from the south and the east of the region as compared to the north and the west; great efforts need to be undertaken to promote the involvement, capacity building, and awareness promotion homogeneously across the riparian States.

IUCN MED offered to produce a paper within approximately one year containing a description and listing of all the players in the field, also including an updated list of MPAs, possibly to be made available through a web-based database. The meeting welcomed such offer by IUCN MED, and further recommended that some key information of protected areas rarely included in the existing databases, such as the habitat types contained in each area (based on a list of marine and coastal habitats prepared by the RAC/SPA), the corresponding mapping, and an assessment of governance type and quality (management included) adopted in each area, be comprised in the database. An example of a searchable database, very similar to the one discussed, exists on the official U.S. MPA website (www.mpa.gov), and providing good insight in the preparation of the Mediterranean database.

6.2. Ecological aspects

6.2.1. Description of the state of the art

A review was presented of the existing Mediterranean MPAs, a few of which are inscribed in the List of SPAMIs. As mentioned before (6a), the meeting recommended that a database of Mediterranean MPAs be established in such a way as to allow an easy assessment of their representativeness at a bio-geographic level. Data to be included in the database would be extracted in an initial phase from existing sources, such as the scientific literature, WCPA publications, the WWF gap analysis, and unpublished reports in the files of individual MPA management bodies.

By highlighting membership of individual protected areas to networks such as the SPAMI List, the Emerald Network, Natura 2000, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere and World Heritage Site programmes, and ACCOBAMS, the database will serve as an optimal starting point for evaluating the presence and relative weight of different networks within the region.

Finally, the group recommended that a further information element to be included in the database should be a descriptor of the governance status of each individual MPA.

6.2.2. Priority setting

Once a solid knowledge of the Mediterranean MPA state of the art will be gained through the establishment of a database, the next task will be to define criteria and methods (including both Delphic tools and software) to be adopted for the selection of priority areas where MPAs should be established to protect benthic, pelagic, coastal, abyssal, hydrothermal, seamount and high-seas habitats and species, including transboundary areas and areas beyond national jurisdiction. To achieve this, it was recommended that an *ad hoc* workshop (**Workshop n. 1 - 2006**) be organised within one year tasked to define such criteria and methods, and how to characterise specific habitat areas, how to use proxies, and what level of detail of knowledge of Mediterranean ecosystems would be needed in order to choose the most appropriate methods and construct a sensible plan. As an aid to the workshop, a background paper should be prepared reviewing similar examples adopted elsewhere (e.g., SPAMIs, Natura 2000, Emerald Network).

6.2.3. Closing the data gap on habitat distribution

The first significant problem that will be encountered in pursuing the goal of designing a regional MPA system lies in the current knowledge of habitat and species distribution in the Mediterranean Sea, which is rather incomplete. If, on the one hand, most of the shallow coastal layer is reasonably well known to science, on the other hand biodiversity distribution is still uncharted in large portions of the region's water column and in the deep sea. To address this problem, the meeting recommended that a second workshop (**Workshop n. 2 - 2007**) be organised in two years tasked with setting up a region-wide effort to describe *'what is there in the Mediterranean that needs protection ?'*. The workshop should be an occasion for the Mediterranean marine science community to gather and work together to solve a common problem. The workshop should be composed of as many subgroups as major habitat types exist in the Mediterranean Sea, and should set the stage for a major effort, involving multi-year activities aiming at the cataloguing and mapping of the major Mediterranean habitat types, as well as setting the theoretical framework to link the different subsystems (e.g., coastal, pelagic, seamount, deep sea, hydrothermal, etc.) within the greater Mediterranean system.

The meeting suggested that to address this task a close cooperation should be sought with the wider Mediterranean community of marine scientists. To do this, it was suggested that the possibility be explored to engage in cooperative effort with the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (www.ciesm.org).

6.2.4. Gap analysis and identification of new areas

A gap analysis, generated by a comparison between the results of the activities generated by Workshop n. 2 and the information contained in the database, will allow to develop a scenario of

options for a system of networks of Mediterranean MPAs. The experience gathered in the performance of similar gap analyses (e.g., the WWF gap analysis in the Mediterranean, the GBRMP in Australia) can be used to improve the process. This task could be best performed by a working group of experts from the different habitat types and sub-regions, and validated after a thorough discussion to be organised during a workshop (**Workshop n. 3 – 2008**).

One of the tasks to be attributed to Workshop n. 3 should be to integrate the design of an ideal system of MPAs, to fill the gaps that have emerged in the analysis, with suggestions for the adoption of other marine conservation methods (e.g., management measures) to be used as alternatives to MPAs.

6.3. Political, social, economic, administrative and legal aspects

Once a blueprint is created of an ideal system of MPA networks in the Mediterranean, the next task will be to address the political, social, economic, administrative and legal aspects of establishing new MPAs where they should be but still don't exist. To make progress in this phase, the feasibility of designating each individual site will have to be examined.

In the opinion of the meeting participants, WCPA MMED should continue to provide support to this effort, however once that point is reached the process can continue only under the initiative of the Mediterranean coastal states, and of the organisations (e.g. the Mediterranean Action Plan, the GFCM, the Bern Convention) delegated by them to carry out this task.

There are many ways in which WCPA MMED may continue to provide support to such a process, and all of them will become rather evident in due course. These can be subdivided into: (i) feasibility studies to designate individual sites, and (ii) feasibility studies to create a functional system of MPA networks.

(i) feasibility studies to designate individual sites. WCPA MMED can help in:

- identification of the political and administrative processes leading to the creation of the needed new areas;
- assessment of capacity-building needs and development of programmes (= understand what is missing in institutional linkages);
- stakeholder identification and identification of the level of dependence from natural resources;
- identification of ways in which the establishment of MPAs meets the nation's priorities, e.g., poverty alleviation;
- identification of the risks involved by the continuation of illegal practices;
- identification of fundraising opportunities;
- involvement in the process of other appropriate IUCN bodies, e.g., Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP); Commission on Education and Communication (CEC); Commission on Environmental Law (CEL).

(ii) feasibility studies to create a functional system of MPA networks

- assessment of capacity-building needs and development of programmes;
- stakeholder identification;
- identification of fundraising opportunities.

The meeting felt that it was too early at this stage to judge whether it will be more useful to hold in 2009 a fourth workshop to discuss and organise WCPA MMED support to this phase of the process, or rather to advocate the organisation of a formal pan-Mediterranean Conference by the coastal states, with an active participation of WCPA MMED to the conference.

6.4. Research and monitoring activities

The collection of information on biodiversity richness and distribution in all Mediterranean marine habitats should be promoted throughout the entire process. In particular, coordinated research

activities as well as standardised monitoring systems, including the choice of indicators, should be designed and implemented to support management at all levels, including system and network levels. Research should address both ecological aspects (e.g., like in the Italian “Afrodite” programme) and socio-economic aspects. The system could then be seen also as an opportunity for promoting ecological knowledge concerning the Mediterranean as a whole as well as each of the networks’ nodes.

The meeting recommended that a concept paper be commissioned to an expert or group of experts, to be submitted for endorsement by relevant bodies.

6.5. Capacity building

Building of specific capacity was seen by the meeting as one of the major challenges of the entire scheme. The following subjects were seen as particularly important:

- MPAs and network design and planning.
- Research and monitoring:
 - environmental physical-chemical parameters;
 - ecosystem functioning, connectivity, and trophic relationships;
 - biodiversity at species, habitat and genetic levels. In particular, the meeting strongly recommended that the **Mediterranean Taxonomy Initiative** promoted by the RAC/SPA and adopted by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention be made to progress;
 - human use and impacts on the marine environment;
 - special techniques: GIS and habitat mapping, SCUBA diving, oceanographic sampling, fish visual census, etc.
- Management: ensure that managers of individual MPAs are capable of managing their MPA as part of a network.
- Institutional building.
- Legislation and enforcement (both in national waters and in the high seas).
- Public awareness, education and communication skills. Develop the concept of help centres to disseminate and make available information to the public.
- Fundraising.

Just like in the case of research and monitoring, the meeting recommended that a concept paper be commissioned to an expert or group of experts, to be submitted for endorsement by relevant bodies.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCESS

In discussing ways forward, the meeting agreed that the WCPA MMED contribution to the effort can only be limited to the provision of expert support to facilitate attainment of WSSD targets by the Mediterranean coastal states.

To achieve this objective, it was recommended that a WCPA MMED establish a tight link with UNEP MAP, and in particular with the RAC/SPA. This could be greatly facilitated through the Memorandum of Cooperation that was recently signed between IUCN and the Coordinating Unit of UNEP MAP, which envisages, among several areas of work, cooperation on the “identification, designation and management of protected areas in the Mediterranean region”. It was noted that the programme of work of the SAP BIO initiative, recently adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, explicitly mentions the promotion of networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean region. Finally, it was suggested to rely on the support of the IUCN MED office in Malaga to ensure that all the relevant offices within the greater IUCN “family” be involved as appropriate.

In parallel, a similar coordination and involvement effort was recommended with respect to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.

A second concern, previously emphasized in this report (in particular 6a), emphasized the need of ensuring that all the organisations and individuals having a stake in the Mediterranean MPA effort become involved in the process. The meeting felt that it was of paramount importance that the process, although triggered by a limited group of persons under an impetus provided by WCPA, be viewed by everyone as a truly collective effort. A large number of names of organisations were mentioned during the discussion, however these are not mentioned here to avoid involuntary partiality. Instead, it was recommended that the document to be prepared by IUCN MED (mentioned in 6a), containing a description and listing of all relevant organisations and individuals, be used as a starting point for programming the widest involvement.

In summary the following steps were envisaged by the meeting:

- distribution of the Livorno meeting report;
- preparation of a project document, containing:
 - name of project;
 - work programme with deadlines;
 - budget and business plan;
- involvement process;
- identification of potential donors and fundraising (possibly including a proposal to the next EU SMAP Programme).

8. STRENGTHENING OF THE WCPA MARINE MEDITERRANEAN GROUP (WCPA MMED)

The last item for discussion at the meeting concerned how to strengthen WCPA MMED and tune its activities with the task of facilitating the process of creating a system of MPA networks in the Mediterranean.

The meeting recommended that, at least as far as the immediate future is concerned, the main task of WCPA MMED should be to support the process envisaged here. It was recognised that the process may eventually involve a large number of people, and that not all of them will have to be necessarily included in the group, however the backbone of the process itself should be WCPA MMED, and its membership should be designed accordingly.

Ideally, members of WCPA MMED should be specialists of MPA design and management, coastal management, fisheries, priority-setting, sea governance, and law (in this latter respect a relationship with the Law of the Sea Specialist Group inside the Commission on Environmental Law was recommended).

Meeting participants volunteered to send suggestions of names to be included in the group in the immediate future. The meeting recommended that terms of reference for WCPA MMED be defined as soon as possible, as well as criteria for inclusion of members in the group, appropriate procedures for its formalisation and periodical revision.

APPENDIX I

Agenda of the Meeting

1. Introductory items
2. Vision
3. Background information.
4. Definitions (e.g., network vs. system, representativeness vs. uniqueness)
5. Identification of the process and potential participants/areas of expertise
 - a. Institutional and geopolitical concerns
 - b. Ecological aspects
 - i. what level of detail do we need of knowledge of Mediterranean ecosystems in order to make a sensible plan and choice of method (i.e., indicators vs. whole system ecology)
 - ii. review of the existing Mediterranean MPAs, with an analysis of their representativeness at a bio-geographical level. The review will be based on existing sources, for example the 1995 WCPA publication, the WWF gap analysis, existing shadow lists etc. The work will also involve an inventory of the existing networks of Mediterranean MPAs such as the SPAMI, Emerald, Natura 2000, UNESCO MAB and World Heritage Sites programmes, ACCOBAMS, etc.
 - iii. definition of criteria for the selection of priority areas for the establishment of benthic, pelagic, coastal, high-seas MPAs, including trans-boundary MPAs and areas beyond national jurisdiction.
 - iv. identify the form of a future representative network of MPAs in the Mediterranean, inclusive of the high-seas, sea mounts, deep sea habitats, transboundary areas, etc., designed in such a way as to be fully representative of the Mediterranean habitats to be preserved, and to incorporate the ecological and life-history needs of the marine species (e.g., nurseries, corridors, connections between sources and sinks). Different types of MPAs can be expected to address different problems and/or objectives within the greater goal of the creation of a network.
 - v. Gap analysis and identification of new areas; methods (e.g., software) and implementation
 - c. Assisting riparian States, when requested, in feasibility analysis from the political, social, economic and administrative standpoints, with a complete multi-year project proposal, inclusive of timetable and budget
 - d. Description of the process needed to implement the network on a case by case basis:
 - Identification of opportunities and partners committed to the WSSD process concerning MPAs;
 - Identification of the political and administrative processes leading to the creation of the needed new areas;
 - Assessment of capacity-building needs and development of programmes
 - Identification of fundraising opportunities;
 - e. Recommendations for research and monitoring programmes for the whole system
6. Proposal name, outline, writing, submission, communication
7. Discussion on the establishment of a WCPA Marine Mediterranean Group, the backbone of which may be the specialists called to implement the above programme. Criteria for the roles of the committee and for their selection to be defined. Names to be suggested, and the appropriate procedures for the formalisation of the Group to be examined.

APPENDIX II

List of Meeting Participants

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