

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Birds in the Mediterranean**

### *Second announcement*

Hammamet (Tunisia), Hôtel Vincci Taj Sultan,  
20-22 February 2015

The first Symposium on the Conservation of coastal and marine bird species of Annex II of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol), under the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention, took place in Vilanova I la Geltru (Spain) in November 2005 and was co-organized by Medmaravis (see [http://rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_birds/sympo.pdf](http://rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_birds/sympo.pdf)). One of the main recommendations arisen, regarded the inclusion of 10 new bird species to the list of endangered and threatened species in the annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol, then adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention in November 2009 in Marrakech (Morocco).

Ten years after the Vilanova event, it's time have a closer look on status of marine and coastal birds . In particular, it's time to define again the knowledge gaps of the populations, to assess the effect of new regulations, conventions and research tools, and call to new cooperation efforts among all the countries adopted the 25 bird species of the Annex II.

### **SUBJECTS AND TARGET:**

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Birds in the Mediterranean that will be held in Hammamet (Tunisia) on 20-22nd February 2015, in partnership with "Les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO, BirdLife Partner in Tunisia), MEDMARAVIS and two French organizations: the Tour du Valat Biological Station and Conservatoire du Littoral. The main objective of the second Symposium is to review the current knowledge of the 25 bird taxa included in the SPA/BD Protocol and to discuss the most recent results of research and conservation work on these species. Particular interest will be paid at conservation issues, the current project implemented in the Mediterranean, and innovative proposition to limit the threats impacting these populations. This symposium is also intended to provide an opportunity for Mediterranean ornithologists to exchange information and experience and to provide Medmaravis members the first meeting opportunity since Alghero, 2010. Therefore, this meeting will be the opportunity to discuss about the future of Medmaravis, how this organization could be the network facilitator of Mediterranean ornithologists.

### **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:**

Hichem AZAFZAF (AAO, Tunisia)  
Nicola BACCETTI (ISPRA, Italy)  
Abdulmaula HAMZA (UMT, Malaysia)  
Xaver MONBAILLIU (Medmaravis, France)

Daniel ORO (IMEDEA, Spain)  
Danae PORTOLOU (BirdLife, Greece)  
Joe SULTANA (BirdLife, Malta)  
Mathieu THEVENET (Conservatoire du Littoral, France)  
Sophie VERAN (Tour du Valat, France)

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Souad BEN AOUICHA (RAC/SPA, Tunisia)  
Sami BEN HAJ (Consultant/ Conservatoire du littoral)  
Lobna BEN NAKHLA (RAC-SPA, Tunisia)  
Fabrizio BORGHESI (Medmaravis, Italy)  
Claudia FELTRUP-AZAFZAF (AAO, Tunisia)

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Thursday, Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	19:00 Registration and ice-breaking event
Friday, Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	09:00 Introduction to the Symposium and welcome addresses 10:00 Vilanova, ten years after (L. Ben Nakhla, X. Monbailliu) 11:00-12:30 Invited speaker on research and conservation of Mediterranean seabirds and discussion on new perspectives in Mediterranean marine ornithology since 2005 14:30-18:30 Oral presentations on key Mediterranean seabird species
Saturday, Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	09:00-12:30 Not only seabirds: oral presentations on other Barcelona AP species and invited speaker on the Greater Flamingo project in the Mediterranean 14:30-16:30 Seabirds and conservation in the two tidal sectors of the Mediterranean: the gulfs of Gabés and Venice (H. Azafzaf, N. Baccetti, M. Smart), and oral presentations from SPAMIs and other protected areas 17:00-19:00 Medmaravis general assembly, nomination of new board/council members and general discussion on the future of Medmaravis
Sunday, Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	09:00-12:30 Round Table: The most relevant conservation issues of Mediterranean seabirds 14:30-16:30 Round Table: Bird monitoring for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive: a future role for Mediterranean ornithologists? 17:00-18:00 Reporting on the CdL-Medmaravis Contamination review 18:00-18:30 Conclusions

**Informal POSTER SESSIONS will be held daily at the coffee break location**

## PRE-REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION:

The **Registration form** for this symposium is [here](#) available for download (Microsoft Word document). Registration and submission of presentations is open until **Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>**. There is no registration fee to be paid. Room reservation will be done by the organizers upon receipt of the filled registration form. The lodging cost is 55 TND (c. 25 €) per day, inclusive of meals Hammamet can be reached in c.1 hour driving from Tunis: a coach link will be arranged from Tunis Carthage airport in the afternoon of Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and for the way back in the morning of Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> (precise details will be communicated after the registration).

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**Don't hesitate to share this announcement with interested colleagues and networks!**