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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Tenth meeting of the Focal Points for SPAs

Marseille, France, 17-20 May 2011

### Report of the periodic ordinary review of the areas included in the SPAMI List in 2003

*In the framework of a sustainable development approach, this document will be available only  
in electronic format during the meeting*

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## 1. Reminder of the procedure

In 2007, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the procedure for the revision of the areas included in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (the SPAMI List) and requested the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to implement the adopted procedure.

The procedure to be followed for the ordinary periodic review is detailed in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 (Decision IG 17/12) and reproduced *in extenso* below:

*“2. A regular in depth review of the SPAMIs shall take place every six years, counting from the date of the inclusion of the site in the SPAMI List. Following the Format proposed ahead, this Periodic Review will assess the degree of conformity with the criteria defined in the Protocol. The Format concerns the existing threats, regulations, management, protection measures, resources, means, knowledge, cooperation and networking. Stakeholders should agree to the proposed sub-questions in the format before they are used in the evaluation.*

*The Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) / evaluation team should receive the completed Format for Periodic Review and supporting documentation prior to the site visit.*

3. *The Periodic Review would be entrusted to a mixed TAC integrated by:*

- *The NFP/SPA concerned and/or the person responsible for the SPAMI management;*
- *A national expert on the particular biology and ecology of the area;*
- *Two independent experts, who would have all the necessary qualifications among scientific rigor, regional experience in protected area management, independence and impartiality, and should not be national of the country in which the review is carried out.*

*At least one member of the evaluation team involved in the country visit must have a working knowledge of the language of that country (should not assume the PA staff can speak English, although this would be desirable).*

*The evaluation team should receive key SPAMI documents and prescriptive list of threats prior to the field site visit.*

*The evaluation team should make a preliminary assessment of SPAMI compliance based on the documents prior to the site visit.*

4. *To cover the costs of such Technical Advisory Commission a SPAMI Fund could be established, possibly allocating resources from the ordinary MAP budget, plus voluntary contributions from the States or other donor agencies. Expenses incurred by the experts during this visit shall be met by this Fund, as to ensure the appraisal is completely objective.*

5. *The Periodic Review will be based in an official format, for which a proposal is presented at the end of this document. The PA manager completes the Format for Periodic Review prior to the site visit by the evaluation team and that his/her responses to the subquestions are crossed reference to supporting documentation. The completed format should be endorsed by signature from all the members of the Technical Advisory Commission. However, the format includes a final field in which each member can add his /her own comments, if deemed necessary.*

6. *The results of the review shall be forwarded to the Centre, to be surveyed and presented in the next NFP/SPA biannual Meeting for endorsement. In the case of a negative recommendation (see Format) the NFP/SPA will recommend the Meeting of the Parties to include the SPAMI in a period of provisional nature.”*

In addition, the procedure specifies that:

*“26. At the end of the format, the Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) will draw a Conclusion of consensus, signed by all of its members, including, if necessary, recommendations for improvement.*

*27. This Conclusion shall be forwarded through the SPA/RAC to the NFPs ordinary Meetings. The Meeting will decide whether the SPAMI remains in the ordinary review process or is considered for incorporation into the extraordinary review procedure.”*

## **2. Review of the SPAMIs included in the SPAMI List in 2003**

In the framework of the 2010-2011 biennium, the two Spanish areas included in the SPAMI List in 2003 by the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Catania, Italy, 11-14 November 2003) were subject to the ordinary periodic review. According to the Catania meeting report (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/11), the two areas are:

- Parque nacional marítimo terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera,
- Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo.

In accordance with the procedure, Technical Advisory Commissions were set up by the Spanish authorities. The National Focal Point for Specially Protected Areas or its representatives, national experts in charge of the management of the protected areas, as well as two international non-Spanish experts, Ms. Tundi Agardy and Mr. Gerald Hau, were entrusted to conduct this periodic review.

According to the periodic review procedure, RAC/SPA allocated resources from the ordinary MAP budget to cover the costs for hiring international experts.

In addition, and in accordance with the procedure, the Spanish authorities organized site visits with the independent experts and the managers, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. The periodic review formats were filled in for both areas, then endorsed by signature from all the members of the Technical Advisory Commission and lastly sent to RAC/SPA.

Finally, in accordance with the adopted procedure, the conclusions of the Technical Advisory Commissions are forwarded to the Tenth meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs. *The Meeting will decide whether the SPAMI remains in the ordinary review process or is considered for incorporation into the extraordinary review procedure.*

A synthesis of the results, as well as the completed and signed formats are appended to the present document.

### **3. Conclusions of the reviews**

#### 3.1 Parque nacional marítimo terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera

The Technical Advisory Commission has evaluated the SPAMI status of Cabrera National Park looking through three different lenses: 1) the past, and whether the design of the protected area and its management plan was well thought out, addressing real and proximate threats to the biodiversity and ecosystem function of the area; 2) the present, and whether the steps articulated in the management plan are being carried out; and 3) the future, and whether mechanisms are in place to adapt management to address emerging threats and pressures.

Cabrera National Park appears to be well designed and remains a gem of the Spanish protected area system. The archipelago is highly valued by residents and tourists alike, and its pristine nature makes it extremely important as a place for scientific study as well. The two main historic threats to the archipelago: fishing and unregulated recreational use (and with these the attendant pressures caused by invasive species introductions and pollution impacts), were adequately addressed in the design of the park, the zonation adopted, and the regulations pertaining to extractive use and limited entry.

The park is extremely well-managed, with a well-articulated monitoring and enforcement regimen, and support to the type of applied research that has implications for management. Established priorities continue to get the allocation of human and financial resources they deserve – this in spite of a possibly significant cutback in funding that occurred with the transfer of administration from the national to the regional authorities. Rats have been successfully eradicated from the seabird colony islets and Conillis Island (along with goats, which were of course easier to control), and measures are in place to limit future invasive species introductions.

In terms of the park's potential adaptability in the future, and its sustainability as a nationally and internationally recognized protected area of excellence, park staff are aware of increasing and new pressures, and are working to address them. One of the challenges remains the burden that Cabrera National Park administrators must shoulder regarding financial support to other regional parks, as happened with the transfer of administration. Because of the severe cutbacks that resulted, the park staff is actively engaged in trying to identify sustainable financing measures that could be put in place to support the type of capacity the park needs to be viable. In particular, a user fee, mooring fee, and entrance fee to the visitor's center (all currently free) are being considered.

The visitor's center in Colonia San Jordi is a wonderful facility, but the capital costs were enormous and the operating costs exceed one million Euros per year (has ranged from 1-1,350,000 Euros per year). Cabrera National park is expected to support the operation of the aquaria and the visitor's center, admission to which is currently free. In contrast, the commercial aquarium of Palma charges 25 and 35 Euros for children and adults, respectively. While the visitors center allows for greater public awareness about the great value of the park's marine and terrestrial flora and fauna (as well as its historic and cultural significance), and promotes engagement of local communities in park management, the business model is not viable and represents an undue drain on park management budgets.

Artisanal fisheries continue to exert pressure on the marine resources of the archipelago, though the limited entry scheme prevents over-exploitation, for the most part, and the particular gears used are non-destructive, with very limited by-catch. The fishing community is an important proponent for the park, and performs *de facto* enforcement functions as well. Future studies, finances permitting, might look at the impact of resource extraction on the trophic web, and on the spawning biomass of key species. In addition, there is a need to evaluate how commercial fishing outside the park's boundaries could be affecting fisheries productivity within the park, as well as abundances of seabirds, cetaceans, etc.

The extent to which poaching is an increasingly threat is not known, but current surveillance and monitoring is probably not sufficient to determine either the level of poaching, or its impacts on the marine ecology. The park might well consider placement of remote surveillance (cameras) in key spots (such as aggregation areas for grouper), or it might consider varying the patrol schedules in order to introduce the element of unpredictability into enforcement.

Overall, this protected area certainly deserves continuing SPAMI status, and serves as a model for Spanish MPAs, as well MPAs throughout the Mediterranean.

### 3.2 Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo

The Technical Advisory Commission has concluded that this SPAMI site is extremely important in that it has prevented the total conversion of coastal fringe to hotel, resort, and

home development in Costal del Sol. For a stretch of approximately 12 kilometers, the littoral of the park is relatively pristine, with only those buildings that were grandfathered into the park (having been built prior to the park declaration). The protected area supports a robust population of Spanish wild goat (*Capra pyrenaica*), the only population near the sea, and also some populations of reptiles (e.g. chameleon), seabirds, raptors and songbirds.

From the marine perspective, the park is neither as large nor as significant as Cabrera National Park and marine conservation and management is not as well-developed as in other Mediterranean sites. That said, the creation of artificial reefs has prevented illegal trawling in much of the park, and routine (but unpredictable) patrols have prevented incursions of commercial (and recreational) fishing boats within the park boundaries (extending to one nautical mile offshore). Scuba diving is regulated, and landing on the coast or beaches from offshore is prohibited. Scuba diving pressures appear to have decreased in recent years, as the nine scuba operators formerly accessing the park have been reduced to only one.

One issue concerning the occurrence and health of the seagrasses is the occasional sediment-loading that occurs following torrential rains. Although there is riparian buffer and a small wetland at the mouth of the Rio Miel, rainwater cascading down the valley overpowers the vegetation and results in great amount of sediment loading, as well as dumping of debris (including cars, washing machines, etc.). Regional authorities are considering building a dike to mitigate these catastrophic effects, spurred in large part by the recent building of the autopista (four lane highway).

Park patrol agents have the authority of the law and can penalize those who do not abide by park regulations. Patrolling from the tops of the cliffs (using binoculars) is done every day, with a minimum of one patrol agent (maximum four, as needed).

Visitor management must be commended. That the park was able to restrict vehicle traffic to the beaches (roads already in), and to the two bar/restaurants operating summer, is a significant accomplishment, given the pressure that local people must have exerted to keep the road open. The park provides small autobus service to two of the beaches in summer. Public education is limited – there is no visitor's center, and signage, though present at all beaches, does little to explain the natural value of the site. With the surrounding region supporting a population of almost half a million people, there is much potential for expanding environmental education using Maro Cerro Gordo as a focal site.

Nonetheless, in the height of the season, there is a staff of 40 volunteers from NGOs as well as retired people to help with education and outreach. There is also an excellent guidebook entitled "Itinarios des Paraje Natural Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo" prepared by the Consejeria de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalusia. If a visitor's center is created in the future for the park, this professional guidebook should be made available to all visitors. Furthermore, the Aula del Mar de Malaga, located in the port area of Malaga, performs public education and increases visitor interest in the marine life of the region, including sea turtles (which are actively rehabilitated there). The facility works to make strong connections between



what the visitors see in exhibits and in the rehabilitation center, and the existence of the Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo Park.

The park operating budget is sufficient for the monitoring, surveillance, research, and public outreach activities that are being undertaken. High quality scientific research and improvement of marine habitat is guaranteed through the EU Life project. However, when the Life program terminates in 2013, the park management will have to find alternative funding for maintenance of artificial reefs, as well as the scientific research being undertaken in the marine environments, at least at the scale done currently.

One challenge that will remain is the fact that all the property within park boundaries is privately held. Purchasing these properties at fair market value would be impossible, so the park must make do with managing, but not owning, the land.

Finally, an integrated management plan is being developed, and though not within the SPAMI stipulated timeline of three years from the time of nomination, the plan will undoubtedly be comprehensive, professional, and effective.

## **4. Recommendations**

### **4.1 Parque nacional marítimo terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera**

The Technical Advisory Commission recommended to renew the SPAMI status for Cabrera National Park.

### **4.2 Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo**

The Technical Advisory Commission indicated that the park deserves renewal as a SPAMI designation.

## Annex 1 – Synthesis of the results

<b>SECTION I : CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST</b>		
<b>1. CONSERVATION STATUS</b>		
	<b>Cab.<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>M.-C. G.<sup>2</sup></b>
1.1. Does the SPAMI fulfill one of the criteria related to Mediterranean interest as presented in Protocol's Annex I section B paragraph 2 ?strictly maintain the status of populations of its protected species (those in Annex II to the Protocol), the status of its habitats and no adverse significant changes in the functioning of its ecosystems? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
1.2. If "yes", are the objectives set out in the original SPAMI application for designation actively pursued? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
<b>2. LEGAL STATUS</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
2.1. Does the area maintain or has improved its legal protection status from the date of the previous report? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
2.2. Does the legal declaration of this area consider the conservation of natural values as the primary objective? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
2.3. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
2.4. Are external influences/threats been taken into account in the legal framework of the SPAMI? Does the legal text clearly establish coordination means between land and sea authorities? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
<p><b>Cabrera National Park:</b> The main external threats to Cabrera National Park are fishing – either sport or commercial -, tourism, and military maneuvers (the owner of the archipelago is the Spanish Ministry of Defense). All these threats have been addressed and regulated, from the time the park was first established. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sport fishing is totally banned (Declaration Law 14/1991, Royal Decree 941/2001 or "Fisheries Decree"); and Management Plan (Decree 58/2006).</li> <li>b) Commercial fisheries have specific regulations for each gear type, and fisheries are restricted to 4 fishermen associations in harbours located in the vicinity of the park.</li> <li>c) External visitors and tourism are strictly regulated through limited entry of sailing boats and ferries, as well as the number of visitors that are allowed to disembark each day. Zonation adds additional protection to special areas like islets or sea cliff nesting species breeding zones</li> <li>d) Military maneuvers are strictly modulated through the prohibition of manouvrrers with live fire, and the small scalen in time and space, of military exercises, in periods no longer normally than two days (Declaration Law 14/1991; Royal Decree 941/2001 or "Fisheries Decree"; and Management Plan (Decree 58/2006).</li> </ul> <p><b>Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs:</b> Activities are regulated within the SPAMI, according to the existing nature conservation laws. The Consejeria de Medio Ambiente has articulated a program entitled "Life" of the European Union, which allows improvements in active management, including surveillance using patrol boats and cameras, installation of buoys, the maintenance of artificial reefs in the region of El Molino (to prevent incursions by bottom trawlers), and conservation of <i>Posidonia</i> beds.</p>		

<sup>1</sup> Parque nacional marítimo terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera

<sup>2</sup> Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo

3. MANAGEMENT METHODS		
	Cab.	M.-C. G.
3.1. Does the area have the same or an improved management body/authority as when the SPAMI was established and/or last evaluated? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
3.2. Is the management plan in force? Has the management plan been officially adopted? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	N
<b>Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs:</b> The management plan is in progress and will be finalized by 2012, as required by protected areas within the "Natura 2000" network of the European Union.		
3.3. Does the management plan address the requirements set out in article 7 of the Protocol and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated format? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y

4. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION		
	Cab.	M.-C. G.
4.1. Is there basic equipment, human and financial resources ensured to the management body? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
4.2. Does the area have a monitoring program? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y
<p><b>Cabrera National Park:</b> A partial monitoring program – not included as a separate piece of legislation – is followed on an annual or biannual basis. Main parameters which are evaluated are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Fisheries: CPUE for each gear type; list of targeted species; discard rates; economic valuation for each fishery, according to gear type; spatial and temporal distribution of fishing methods. Experimental fisheries, boardings, and visual transects on rocky bottom habitats are also performed.</li> <li>b) Distribution and abundance of invasive species, either on land or marine species – mainly algae.</li> <li>c) Specially protected, endangered, flagship or key species occurrences: <i>Posidonia</i> beds, groupers, lizards, seabirds, raptors, plants in the Red List, endemic taxa.</li> <li>d) ISO 14000 certification: water, energy, residues. Management objectives are established and evaluated every six monthd.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs:</b> Conservation of seagrass within the SPAMI site; Maintenance of artificial reefs; Conservation of special, at-risk species: <i>Astroides calicularis</i>, <i>Patella ferruginea</i>, <i>Pinna nobilis</i>; Keeping inventories of regulated species and monitoring extraction of <i>Charonia lampa</i>.</p>		
4.3. Is there a feedback mechanism that establishes an explicit link between the monitoring results and the management objectives, and which allows adaptation of protection and management measures? (Y: Yes; N: No)	Y	Y

**SECTION II : FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA**

<b>5. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
5.1. Assess the level of threats within the site to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (0 means "no threats"; 3 means "very serious threats")		
Unregulated exploitation of natural resources	3	2
Serious threats to habitats and species	2	1
Increase of human presence	3	1
Historic and current conflicts	2	2
<p><b>Cabrera National Park:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduced alien species – either land or marine taxa</li> <li>- Fisheries and their impact on target species and/or marine seabirds feeding on them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Occasional torrential rainfall causes sedimentation and deposits of debris on the shoreline; this requires special mitigation/management.</li> <li>- Scuba diving is difficult to monitor and even though diving in caves is prohibited, surveillance and enforcement is difficult.</li> <li>- Bottom and demersal trawling is prohibited but these fisheries have proven very difficult to regulate outside the SPAMI, and pressures continue to be exerted outside the protected area.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
5.2. Assess the level of external threats to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (0 = no threats ; 3 = very high level of threats)		
Pollution problems from external sources (including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current)	3	1
Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values	3	2
Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area	3	2
<p><b>Cabrera National Park:</b> Commercial fisheries in the wider area may be a threat, particularly to the seabird populations and migratory species using the islands during some part of their life cycle. Park management cannot address these external threats, but can track studies providing information on these pressures.</p> <p><b>Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs:</b> The surrounding area of the SPAMI is very important for coastal tourism (Nerja and Almunecar); despite regulations, occasionally the wastewater treatment capacity is exceeded, resulting in sporadic contamination.</p>		
5.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or landuse laws in the area limiting or surrounding the SPAMI? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1
5.4. Does the management plan for the SPAMI have influence over the governance of the surrounding area? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	0

<b>6. REGULATIONS</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
6.1. Assess the degree of legal regulations (0 = no; 1 = yes)		
In particular, within the national framework:		
a) Regulations concerning the strengthening of the application of the other Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, particularly dumping, passage of ships and modification of the soil	1	1
b) Regulations on the introduction of any species not indigenous to the specially protected area in question, or of any genetically modified species	1	1
c) Regulations concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and projects that could significantly affect the protected areas	1	1
In particular, within the SPAMI framework:		
d) Regulations for fishing, hunting, taking of animals and harvesting of plants or their destruction, as well as trade with animals, parts of animals, plants, parts of plants, which originate in the area	1	1

<b>7. MANAGEMENT</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
7.1. Assess the degree of detail of the management plan (0 = No Management Plan / 1= Weak / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	2	2
7.2. Assess to what extent is land ownership well determined (0 = Undetermined / 1= Weak / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	3	2
7.3. Is there a body representing the public, professional and nongovernmental sector and the scientific community linked to the management body? (0 = non ; 1 = oui)	1	0
7.4. Assess the quality of the involvement by the public, and particularly of local communities, in the planning and management of the area (0 = No involvement / 1= Low / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	1	1
7.5. Is the management plan binding for other national/local administrations with competencies in the area? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1

<b>8. PROTECTION MEASURES</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
8.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures		
Are the area boundaries adequately marked on land and, if applicable, adequately marked on the sea? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1
Is there any collaboration from other authorities in the protection and surveillance of the area and, if applicable, is there a coastguard service contributing to the marine protection? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1
Are third party agencies also empowered to enforce regulations relating to the SPAMI protective measures? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1
Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement of regulations and is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1
Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or other serious emergencies? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	0

<b>9. HUMAN RESOURCES</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
9.1. Adequacy of the human resources available to the management body		
Is there a permanent field administrator of the area? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	0
Are there other permanent staff in the field? (0 = no; 1 = yes)	1	1
9.2. Asses the adequacy of the training level of available staff (0 = Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	2	2
<b>10. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
10.1. Assess the degree of adequacy of the financial means (0 = Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	2	1
10.2. Assess the basic infrastructure (0 = Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	2	2
10.3. Assess the equipment (0 = Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2 = Adequate / 3= Excellent)	2	2
<b>11. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
11.1. Assess the extent of knowledge about the area and its surrounding zones. (0 = Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)	2	2
11.2. Assess the adequacy of the program for data collection and the monitoring program (0 = Inexistent / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)	1	2

<b>12. COOPERATION AND NETWORKING</b>		
	<b>Cab.</b>	<b>M.-C. G.</b>
12.1. Are other national or international organizations collaborating with human or financial resources? (0 = No / 1= Weakly / 2 = Satisfactory / 3= Excellent)	2	2
12.2. Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs (especially in other nations) (0 = No / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)	0	2
<b>COMMENTS by the Technical Advisory Commission</b>		
<b>Cabrera National Park:</b> No comment expressed.		
<b>Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs:</b> The SPAMI designation deserves to be extended.		

**Annex 2 – Completed and signed formats**



# Format for the Periodic Review of the SPAMIs

SPAMI Name : Cabrera National Park

## SECTION I: CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST

*(Art. 8.2. of the Protocol and General Principles and C and D of Annex I)*

*In each question, crossed references to the Annotated Format (AF) are given.*

### 1. CONSERVATION STATUS

**1.1. Does the SPAMI fulfill one of the criteria related to Mediterranean interest as presented in Protocol's (Annex I section B para. 2), strictly maintain the status of populations of its protected species (those in Annex II to the Protocol), the status of its habitats and no adverse significant changes in the functioning of its ecosystems? (Article 8.2.)**  
*(See 3.4. and 4 in the AF)*

YES

In case of "no", indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies, their relative seriousness and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

**1.2 If "yes", are the objectives, set out in the original SPAMI application for designation, actively pursued?**

YES

### 2. LEGAL STATUS

**2.1. Does the area maintains or has improved its legal protection status from the date of the previous report? (A-e and C-2, Annex I).**  
*See 7.1.2 in the AF*

YES

**2.2. Does the legal declaration of this area consider the conservation of natural values as the primary objective? (A-a and D1 in Annex I).**  
*See 7.1.3 in the AF*

YES

<sup>2</sup>  
**2.3. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area? (D4 Annex I). See 7.4.3 in the AF**

YES

**2.4. Are external influences/threats been taken into account in the legal framework of the SPAMI? Does the legal text clearly establish coordination means between land and sea authorities? (D4 Annex I, Art.7.4. in the Protocol).**

YES

In case there is no sea within the SPAMI, this question would be non-applicant.  
See 7.4.3. in the AF

Indicate measures that have been adopted to address these influences/threats. In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

The main external threats to Cabrera National park are fishing -either sport or commercial-, tourism, and military maneuvers (the owner of the archipelago is the Spanish Ministry of Defense). All these threats have been addressed and regulated, from the time the park was first established. Specifically:

a) sport fishing is totally banned (Declaration Law 14/1991; Royal Decree 941/2001 or "Fisheries Decree"; and Management Plan (Decree 58/2006).

b) commercial fisheries have specific regulations for each gear type, and fisheries are restricted to 4 fishermen associations in harbours located in the vicinity of the park.

c) external visitors and tourism are strictly regulated through limited entry of sailing boats and ferries, as well as the number of visitors that are allowed to disembark each day. Zonation adds additional protection to special areas like islets or sea cliff nesting species breeding zones.

d) Military manoeuvres are strictly modulated through the prohibition of maneuvers with live fire, and the small scale, in time and space, of military exercises, in periods no longer normally than two days.

(Declaration Law 14/1991; Royal Decree 941/2001 or "Fisheries Decree"; and Management Plan (Decree 58/2006).

### **3. MANAGEMENT METHODS (General principles D Annex 1)**

**3.1. Does the area have the same or an improved management body/authority as when the SPAMI was established and/or last evaluated?**

Existence of a management body with sufficient powers (Art. 7.2.d, 7.2.f).  
D6 - Annex I: "To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must

*have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area". See 8.1. in the AF*  
YES

**3.2. Is the management plan in force?**

Has the management plan been officially adopted? (D7 Annex I). See 8.2.1, 8.2.2. in the AF  
YES

**3.3. Does the management plan address the requirements set out in article 7 of the Protocol and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated Format?**

More details useful for the evaluation of the management plan are addressed in question 7.1 of this questionnaire.  
YES

In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

4.

**AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

**4.1. Is there basic equipment, human and financial resources ensured to the management body?**

(Art. 7.2.d, 7.2.f. D6 in Annex I: "To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area"). See 9.1, 9.2. in the AF  
YES

**4.2. Does the area have a monitoring program?**

(D8 - Annex I: "The program should include the identification and monitoring of a certain number of significant parameters for the area in question, in order to allow the assessment of the state and evolution of the area, as well as the effectiveness of protection and management measures implemented, so that they may be adapted if need be"). See 9.3.3. in the AF  
YES

If yes, what are the monitoring parameters and the management objectives being addressed by these parameters?

A partial monitoring program -not included as a separate piece of legislation- is followed on an annual or biannual basis. Main parameters which are evaluated are:

a) fisheries: CPUE for each gear type; list of targeted species; discard rates; economic valuation for each fishery, according to gear type; spatial and temporal distribution of fishing methods. Experimental fisheries, boardings, and visual transects on rocky bottom habitats are also performed.

b) Distribution and abundance of Invasive species, either on land or marine species -mainly algae.

c) Specially protected, endangered, flagship or key species occurrences: *Posidonia* beds, groupers, lizards, seabirds, raptors, plants in the Red List, endemic taxa.

d) ISO 14000 certification: water, energy, residues. Management objectives are established and evaluated every six months.

**4.3 Is there a feedback mechanism that establishes an explicit link between the monitoring results and the management objectives, and which allows adaptation of protection and management measures?**

YES

In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies, their relative seriousness, and the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

**SECTION II: FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA**  
(Section B4 of the Annex I, and other obligatory for a SPA (Art. 6 and 7 of the Protocol))

**5. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT**

**5.1 Assess the level of threats within the site to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a Annex I).**  
See 5.1. consider also 3.5.2.b, 6.3 & 6.4. in the AF

**In particular:**

Unregulated exploitation of natural resources  
(e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources) See 5.1.1. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)  
3

Serious threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species ....) See 5.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)  
2

Increase of human presence (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...) See 5.1.3. in AF  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)  
3

Historic and current conflicts between users or user groups See 5.1.4., 6.2. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”):  
2

Please include a prescriptive list of threats that are of concern and are evaluated individually

- a) Introduced alien species –either land or marine taxa.
- b) Fisheries and their impact on target species and/or marine seabirds feeding on them.

**5.2 Assess the level of external threats to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a of the Annex I).** See 5.2. in the AF

**In particular:**

Pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current. See 5.2.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

3

Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values. See 5.2.2

(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

3

Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area See 6.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

3

Please include a prescriptive list of external threats that are of concern and are evaluated individually.

Commercial fisheries in the wider area may be a threat, particularly to the seabird populations and migratory species using the islands during some part of their life cycle. Park management cannot address these external threats, but can track studies providing information on these pressures.

**5.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or land-use laws in the area limiting or surrounding the SPAMI? (B4.e Annex I). See 5.2.3.**

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**5.4. Does the management plan for the SPAMI have influence over the governance of the surrounding area? (D5-d Annex I). See 7.4.4. in the AF**

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**6.****REGULATIONS****6.1. Assess the degree of legal regulations See 7.4.2. in the AF****In particular, within the national framework:**

Regulations concerning the strengthening of the application of the other Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, particularly dumping, passage of ships and modification of the soil (*Art. 6b, 6c, 6e in the Protocol, D5-a Annex I*)

**(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)**

1

Regulations on the introduction of any species not indigenous to the specially protected area in question, or of any genetically modified species, (*Art. 6 d in the Protocol, D5-b Annex I*)

**(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)**

1

Regulations concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and projects that could significantly affect the protected areas (*Art. 17 in the Protocol*)

**(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)**

1

**In particular, within the SPAMI framework:**

Regulations for fishing, hunting, taking of animals and harvesting of plants or their destruction, as well as trade with animals, parts of animals, plants, parts of plants, which originate in the area (*Art. 6 g in the Protocol, D5-c Annex I*)

**(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)**

1

**7.1. Assess the degree of detail of the management plan**

(e.g. zoning, regulations for each zone, competencies and responsibilities, governing bodies, management programs as protection, natural resource management, tourism, public use, education, research, monitoring, maintenance, services and concessions....) See 8.2.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= No Management Plan / 1= Weak / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

**7.2. Assess to what extent land ownership is well determined**

(Undetermined land tenure regimes and registrations are a common source of conflicts in most protected areas world-wide)

See 7.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Undetermined / 1= Weak / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

3

**7.3. Is there a body representing the public, professional and non-governmental sector and the scientific community linked to the management body? (B4b, B4c of the Annex I). See 8.1.2. & 8.1.3**

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**7.4. Assess the quality of the involvement by the public, and particularly of local communities, in the planning and management of the area (B4.b of the Annex I)**

(e.g. adequate planning involves local stakeholders and accommodates within appropriate management regimes a spectrum of possible multiple uses and regulated human activities, within the primary objective of conservation of marine and coastal environments) See 8.1.4. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= No involvement / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1

The archipelago is uninhabited, however the local communities on the mainland of Mallorca are somewhat involved, and the new visitors center for the park, located in Colonia St Jordi has increased public awareness, education of local schoolchildren, and participation by local communities.

**7.5. Is the management plan binding for other national/local administrations with competencies in the area? See 8.2.2 in the AF**

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1



## 8. PROTECTION MEASURES

### 8.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures

#### In particular:

Are the area boundaries adequately marked on land and, if applicable, adequately marked on the sea? See 8.3.1. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Is there any collaboration from other authorities in the protection and surveillance of the area and, if applicable, is there a coastguard service contributing to the marine protection? See 8.3.2. 8.3.3. in AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are third party agencies also empowered to enforce regulations relating to the SPAMI protective measures ?

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement of regulations and is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions? See 8.3.4. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or other serious emergencies? (*Art. 7.3. in the Protocol, Recom. 13<sup>th</sup> Parties Meeting*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

## 9. HUMAN RESOURCES

**9.1. Adequacy of the human resources available to the management body** (*Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I*) (e.g. enough number of employees to ensure adequate management and protection of the area) See 9.1.1. in the AF

Is there a permanent field administrator of the area?

See 9.1.2. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are there other permanent staffs in the field?  
(e.g. technicians, wardens, guides, ...) See 9.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**9.2. Assess the adequacy of the training level of available staff**  
(Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I) (e.g. enough training level to ensure protection of the area). See 9.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

## 10. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS

**10.1. Assess the degree of adequacy of the financial means**  
Sufficient resources for the development and implementation of the management plan, including e.g. interpretation, education, training, research, surveillance and enforcement of regulations. See 9.2.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

**10.2. Assess the basic infrastructure** (Art.7.2-f in the Protocol)  
Administrative premises in the site, visitors' facilities (reception centre, trails, signs...), specific information, education and awareness materials  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

**10.3. Assess the equipment.**  
Guard posts and signs on the main accesses, means to respond to emergencies, marine and terrestrial vehicles, radio and communications equipment. See 9.2.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

## 11. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

**11.1. Assess the extent of knowledge about the area and its surrounding zones.** (D3 - Annex I: Considering at least specific maps, habitat distribution, species inventories, and socio-economical factors)  
See 9.3.1. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

**11.2. Assess the adequacy of the program for data collection and the monitoring program.**  
See 9.3.2. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Inexistent / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1

## 12. COOPÉRATION AND NETWORKING

**12.1. Are other national or international organizations collaborating with human or financial resources?** (e.g. researchers, experts, volunteers..).

See 9.1.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= No / 1= Weakly / 2= Satisfactory / 3= Excellent)

2

**12.2. Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs** (especially in other nations) (Art. 8, Art. 21.1, Art. 22.1., Art. 22.3, A.d in Annex I)

(SCORE: 0= No / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

0

**COMMENTS by the Technical Advisory Commission**

## CONCLUSIONS

We have evaluated the SPAMI status of Cabrera National Park looking through three different lenses : 1) the past, and whether the design of the protected area and its management plan was well thought out, addressing real and proximate threats to the biodiversity and ecosystem function of the area ; 2) the present, and whether the steps articulated in the management plan are being carried out ; and 3) the future, and whether mechanisms are in place to adapt management to address emerging threats and pressures.

Cabrera National Park appears to be well designed and remains a gem of the Spanish protected area system. The archipelago is highly valued by residents and tourists alike, and its pristine nature makes it extremely important as a place for scientific study as well. The two main historic threats to the archipelago : fishing and unregulated recreational use (and with these the attendant pressures caused by invasive species introductions and pollution impacts), were adequately addressed in the design of the park, the zonation adopted, and the regulations pertaining to extractive use and limited entry.

The park is extremely well-managed, with a well-articulated monitoring and enforcement regimen, and support to the type of applied research that has implications for management. Established priorities continue to get the allocation of human and financial resources they deserve – this in spite of a possibly significant cutback in funding that occurred with the transfer of administration from the national to the regional authorities. Rats have been successfully eradicated from the seabird colony islets and Conillis Island (along with goats, which were of course easier to control), and measures are in place to limit future invasive species introductions.

In terms of the park's potential adaptability in the future, and its sustainability as a nationally- and internationally recognized protected area of excellence, park staff are aware of increasing and new pressures, and are working to address them. One of the challenges remains the burden that Cabrera National Park administrators must shoulder regarding financial support to other regional parks, as happened with the transfer of administration. Because of the severe cutbacks that resulted, the park staff is actively engaged in trying to identify sustainable financing measures that could be put in place to support the type of capacity the park needs to be viable. In particular, a user fee, mooring fee, and entrance fee to the visitors center (all currently free) are being considered.

The visitor's center in Colonia San Jordi is a wonderful facility, but the capital costs were enormous and the operating costs exceed one million euros per year (has ranged from 1-1,350,000 euros per year). Cabrera National Park is expected to support the operation of the aquaria and the visitor's center, admission to which is currently free. In contrast, the commercial aquarium of Palma charges 25 and 35 euros for children and adults, respectively. While the visitors center allows for greater public

awareness about the great value of the park's marine and terrestrial flora and fauna (as well as its historic and cultural significance), and promotes engagement of local communities in park management, the business model is not viable and represents an undue drain on park management budgets.

Artisanal fisheries continue to exert pressure on the marine resources of the archipelago, though the limited entry scheme prevents over-exploitation, for the most part, and the particular gears used are non-destructive, with very limited by-catch. The fishing community is an important proponent for the park, and performs *de facto* enforcement functions as well. Future studies, finances permitting, might look at the impact of resource extraction on the trophic web, and on the spawning biomass of key species. In addition, there is a need to evaluate how commercial fishing outside the park's boundaries could be affecting fisheries productivity within the park, as well as abundances of seabirds, cetaceans, etc.

The extent to which poaching is an increasingly threat is not known, but current surveillance and monitoring is probably not sufficient to determine either the level of poaching, or its impacts on the marine ecology. The park might well consider placement of remote surveillance (cameras) in key spots (such as aggregation areas for grouper), or it might consider varying the patrol schedules in order to introduce the element of unpredictability into enforcement.

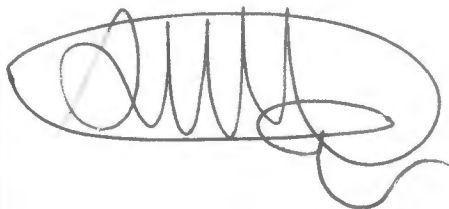
Overall, this protected area certainly deserves continuing SPAMI status, and serves as a model for Spanish MPAs, as well MPAs throughout the Mediterranean.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

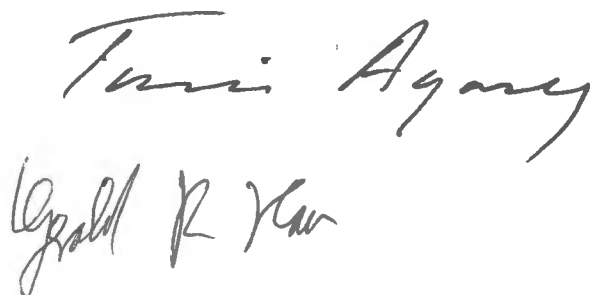
Renew SPAMI status for Cabrera National Park

**SIGNATURES**

**National Focal Point**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

**Independent Experts**

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top one is 'Turi Agony' and the bottom one is 'Gerald R. Yan'.

**SPAMI Manager(s)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large loop on the left and several vertical strokes on the right.

**(ADDITIONAL PAGES MAY BE ADDED FOR EACH MEMBER'S COMMENTS)**

## SPAMI VALUE-ADDED

Questions		Score obtained	Maximum
5	Threats and surrounding context	21	23
6	Regulations	4	4
7	Management	8	11
8	Protection measures	5	5
9	Human resources	4	5
10	Financial and material means	6	9
11	Information and knowledge	3	6
12	Cooperation and networkings	2	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>69</b>

# Format for the Periodic Review of the SPAMIs

**SPAMI Name** : Acantilados Maro Cerro Gordo

## SECTION I: CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST

*(Art. 8.2. of the Protocol and General Principles and C and D of Annex I)*

*In each question, crossed references to the Annotated Format (AF) are given.*

### 1. CONSERVATION STATUS

**1.1. Does the SPAMI fulfill one of the criteria related to Mediterranean interest as presented in Protocol's (Annex I section B para. 2), strictly maintain the status of populations of its protected species (those in Annex II to the Protocol), the status of its habitats and no adverse significant changes in the functioning of its ecosystems? (Article 8.2.) (See 3.4. and 4 in the AF)**

YES

In case of "no", indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies, their relative seriousness and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

**1.2 If "yes", are the objectives, set out in the original SPAMI application for designation, actively pursued?**

YES

### 2. LEGAL STATUS

**2.1. Does the area maintains or has improved its legal protection status from the date of the previous report? (A-e and C-2, Annex I). See 7.1.2 in the AF**

YES

**2.2. Does the legal declaration of this area consider the conservation of natural values as the primary objective? (A-a and D1 in Annex I). See 7.1.3 in the AF**

YES



**2.3. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area? (D4 Annex I). See 7.4.3 in the AF**

YES

**2.4. Are external influences/threats been taken into account in the legal framework of the SPAMI? Does the legal text clearly establish coordination means between land and sea authorities? (D4 Annex I, Art.7.4. in the Protocol).**

YES

In case there is no sea within the SPAMI, this question would be non-applicant.  
See 7.4.3. in the AF

Indicate measures that have been adopted to address these influences/threats. In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

Activities are regulated within the SPAMI, according to the existing nature conservation laws. The Consejería de Medio Ambiente has articulated a program entitled "LIFE" of the European Union, which allows improvements in active management, including surveillance using patrol boats and cameras, installation of buoys, the maintenance of artificial reefs in the región of El Molino (to prevent incursions by bottom trawlers), and conservation of *Posidonia* beds.

### **3. MANAGEMENT METHODS (General principles D Annex 1)**

**3.1. Does the area have the same or an improved management body/authority as when the SPAMI was established and/or last evaluated?**

Existence of a management body with sufficient powers (Art. 7.2.d, 7.2.f).  
*D6 - Annex I: "To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area". See 8.1. in the AF*

YES

**3.2. Is the management plan in force?**

Has the management plan been officially adopted? (D7 Annex I). See 8.2.1, 8.2.2. in the AF

No- it is in progress and will be finalized by 2012, as required by protected areas within the "Natura 2000" Network of the European Union

**3.3. Does the management plan address the requirements set out in article 7 of the Protocol and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated Format?**

More details useful for the evaluation of the management plan are addressed in question 7.1 of this questionnaire.

YES

In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies and, if possible, the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

**4. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

**4.1. Is there basic equipment, human and financial resources ensured to the management body?**

(Art. 7.2.d, 7.2.f. D6 in Annex I: "To be included in the SPAMI List, a protected area must have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers as well as means and human resources to prevent and/or control activities likely to be contrary to the aims of the protected area"). See 9.1, 9.2. in the AF

YES

**4.2. Does the area have a monitoring program?**

(D8 - Annex I: "The program should include the identification and monitoring of a certain number of significant parameters for the area in question, in order to allow the assessment of the state and evolution of the area, as well as the effectiveness of protection and management measures implemented, so that they may be adapted if need be"). See 9.3.3. in the AF

YES

If yes, what are the monitoring parameters and the management objectives being addressed by these parameters?

- Conservation of seagrasses within the SPAMI site
- Maintenance of artificial reefs
- Conservation of special, at-risk species: *Astroides calicularis*, *Patella ferruginea* *Pinna nobilis*
- Keeping inventories of regulated species and monitoring extraction of *Caronia lampa*

**4.3 Is there a feedback mechanism that establishes an explicit link between the monitoring results and the management objectives, and which allows adaptation of protection and management measures?**

YES

In case of any "no" answer, indicate the reasons that have motivated the deficiencies, their relative seriousness, and the date in which they are expected to be overcome.

**SECTION II: FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA**  
(Section B4 of the Annex I, and other obligatory for a SPA (Art. 6 and 7 of the Protocol))

**5. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT**

**5.1 Assess the level of threats within the site to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a Annex I).**  
See 5.1. consider also 3.5.2.b, 6.3 & 6.4. in the AF

**In particular:**

Unregulated exploitation of natural resources  
(e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources) See 5.1.1. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")

2  
Serious threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species ....) See 5.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")

1  
Increase of human presence (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...) See 5.1.3. in AF  
(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")

1  
Historic and current conflicts between users or user groups See 5.1.4., 6.2. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats"):

2

Please include a prescriptive list of threats that are of concern and are evaluated individually

- Occasional torrential rainfall causes sedimentation and deposits of debris on the shoreline, this requires special mitigation/ management.
- Scuba diving is difficult to monitor and even though diving in caves is prohibited, surveillance and enforcement is difficult.
- Bottom and demersal trawling is prohibited but these fisheries have proven very difficult to regulate outside the SPAMI, and pressures continue to be exerted outside the protected area

**5.2 Assess the level of external threats to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a of the Annex I). See 5.2. in the AF**

**In particular:**

Pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current. See 5.2.1. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

1

Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values. See 5.2.2  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

2

Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area See 6.1. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0 means “very serious threats”; 3 means “no threats”)

2

Please include a prescriptive list of external threats that are of concern and are evaluated individually.

The surrounding area of the SPAMI is very important for coastal tourism (Nerja and Almunecar); despite regulations, occasionally the wastewater treatment capacity is exceeded, resulting in sporadic contaminantion.

**5.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or land-use laws in the area limiting or surrounding the SPAMI? (B4.e Annex I). See 5.2.3.**

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**5.4. Does the management plan for the SPAMI have influence over the governance of the surrounding area? (D5-d Annex I). See 7.4.4. in the AF**

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

0

## 6. REGULATIONS

### 6.1. Assess the degree of legal regulations See 7.4.2. in the AF

#### In particular, within the national framework:

Regulations concerning the strengthening of the application of the other Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, particularly dumping, passage of ships and modification of the soil (*Art. 6b, 6c, 6e in the Protocol, D5-a Annex I*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Regulations on the introduction of any species not indigenous to the specially protected area in question, or of any genetically modified species, (*Art. 6 d in the Protocol, D5-b Annex I*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Regulations concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and projects that could significantly affect the protected areas (*Art. 17 in the Protocol*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

#### In particular, within the SPAMI framework:

Regulations for fishing, hunting, taking of animals and harvesting of plants or their destruction, as well as trade with animals, parts of animals, plants, parts of plants, which originate in the area (*Art. 6 g in the Protocol, D5-c Annex I*)

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

## 7. MANAGEMENT

### **7.1. Assess the degree of detail of the management plan**

*(e.g. zoning, regulations for each zone, competencies and responsibilities, governing bodies, management programs as protection, natural resource management, tourism, public use, education, research, monitoring, maintenance, services and concessions....) See 8.2.3. in the AF*

**(SCORE: 0= No Management Plan / 1= Weak / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)**

2

### **7.2. Assess to what extent land ownership is well determined**

*(Undetermined land tenure regimes and registrations are a common source of conflicts in most protected areas world-wide)*

*See 7.3. in the AF*

**(SCORE: 0= Undetermined / 1= Weak / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)**

2

### **7.3. Is there a body representing the public, professional and non-governmental sector and the scientific community linked to the management body? (B4b, B4c of the Annex I). See 8.1.2. & 8.1.3**

**(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)**

0

### **7.4. Assess the quality of the involvement by the public, and particularly of local communities, in the planning and management of the area (B4.b of the Annex I)**

*(e.g. adequate planning involves local stakeholders and accommodates within appropriate management regimes a spectrum of possible multiple uses and regulated human activities, within the primary objective of conservation of marine and coastal environments) See 8.1.4. in the AF*

**(SCORE: 0= No involvement / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)**

1

### **7.5. Is the management plan binding for other national/local administrations with competencies in the area? See 8.2.2 in the AF**

**(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)**

1

## 8. PROTECTION MEASURES

### 8.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures

#### In particular:

Are the area boundaries adequately marked on land and, if applicable, adequately marked on the sea? See 8.3.1. in the AF  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Is there any collaboration from other authorities in the protection and surveillance of the area and, if applicable, is there a coastguard service contributing to the marine protection? See 8.3.2. 8.3.3. in AF  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are third party agencies also empowered to enforce regulations relating to the SPAMI protective measures ?  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement of regulations and is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions? See 8.3.4. in the AF  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or other serious emergencies? (*Art. 7.3. in the Protocol, Recom. 13<sup>th</sup> Parties Meeting*)  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

0

## 9. HUMAN RESOURCES

**9.1. Adequacy of the human resources available to the management body** (*Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I*) (*e.g. enough number of employees to ensure adequate management and protection of the area*)  
See 9.1.1. in the AF

Is there a permanent field administrator of the area?  
See 9.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

0



Are there other permanent staffs in the field?  
(e.g. technicians, wardens, guides, ...) See 9.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**9.2. Assess the adequacy of the training level of available staff**  
(Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I) (e.g. enough training level to ensure protection of the area). See 9.1.2. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

## 10. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS

**10.1. Assess the degree of adequacy of the financial means**  
Sufficient resources for the development and implementation of the management plan, including e.g. interpretation, education, training, research, surveillance and enforcement of regulations. See 9.2.1. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

1

**10.2. Assess the basic infrastructure** (Art.7.2-f in the Protocol)  
Administrative premises in the site, visitors' facilities (reception centre, trails, signs...), specific information, education and awareness materials  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

**10.3. Assess the equipment.**  
Guard posts and signs on the main accesses, means to respond to emergencies, marine and terrestrial vehicles, radio and communications equipment. See 9.2.3. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

## 11. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

**11.1. Assess the extent of knowledge about the area and its surrounding zones.** (D3 - Annex I: Considering at least specific maps, habitat distribution, species inventories, and socio-economical factors)  
See 9.3.1. in the AF  
(SCORE: 0= Very Insufficient / 1= Low / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

**11.2. Assess the adequacy of the program for data collection and the**

monitoring program.

See 9.3.2. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= Inexistent / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

## 12. COOPÉRATION AND NETWORKING

**12.1. Are other national or international organizations collaborating with human or financial resources? (e.g. researchers, experts, volunteers..).**

See 9.1.3. in the AF

(SCORE: 0= No / 1= Weakly / 2= Satisfactory / 3= Excellent)

2

**12.2. Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs (especially in other nations) (Art. 8, Art. 21.1, Art. 22.1., Art. 22.3, A.d in Annex I)**

(SCORE: 0= No / 1= Insufficient / 2= Adequate / 3= Excellent)

2

### COMMENTS by the Technical Advisory Commission

The SPAMI designation deserves to be extended.

## CONCLUSIONS

This SPAMI site is extremely important in that it has prevented the total conversion of coastal fringe to hotel, resort, and home development in Costa del Sol. For a stretch of approximately 12 kilometers, the littoral of the park is relatively pristine, with only those buildings that were grandfathered into the park (having been built prior to the park declaration). The protected area supports a robust population of Spanish wild goat (*Capra pyrenaica*), the only population near the sea, and also some populations of reptiles (e.g. chameleon), seabirds, raptors and songbirds.

From the marine perspective, the park is neither as large nor as significant as Cabrera National Park, and marine conservation and management is not as well-developed as in other Mediterranean sites. That said, the creation of artificial reefs has prevented illegal trawling in much of the park, and routine (but unpredictable) patrols have prevented incursions of commercial (and recreational) fishing boats within the park boundaries (extending to one nautical mile offshore). Scuba diving is regulated, and landing on the coast or beaches from offshore is prohibited. Scuba diving pressures appear to have decreased in recent years, as the nine scuba operators formerly accessing the park have been reduced to only one.

One issue concerning the occurrence and health of the seagrasses is the occasional sediment-loading that occurs following torrential rains. Although there is riparian buffer and a small wetland at the mouth of the Rio Miel, rainwater cascading down the valley overpowers the vegetation and results in a great amount of sediment loading, as well as dumping of debris (including cars, washing machines, etc.). Regional authorities are considering building a dike to mitigate these catastrophic effects, spurred in large part by the recent building of the autopista (four lane highway).

Park patrol agents have the authority of the law and can penalize those who do not abide by park regulations. Patrolling from the tops of the cliffs (using binoculars) is done every day, with a minimum of one patrol agent (maximum four, as needed).

Visitor management must be commended. That the park was able to restrict vehicle traffic to the beaches (roads already in), and to the two bar/restaurants operating summer, is a significant accomplishment, given the pressure that local people must have exerted to keep the roads open. The park provides small autobus service to two of the beaches in summer. Public education is limited – there is no visitor's center, and signage, though present at all beaches, does little to explain the natural value of the site. With the surrounding region supporting a population of almost half a million people, there is much potential for expanding environmental education using Maro Cerro Gordo as a focal site.

Nonetheless, in the height of the season, there is a staff of 40 volunteers from NGOs as well as retired people to help with education and outreach. There is also an excellent guidebook entitled, "Itinarios del Paraje Natural Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo" prepared by the Consejeria de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalusia. If a visitor's center is created in the future for the park, this professional guidebook should be made available to all visitors. Furthermore, the Aula del Mar de Malaga, located in the port area of Malaga, performs public education and increases visitor interest in the marine life of the region, including sea turtles (which are actively rehabilitated there). The facility works to make strong connections between what the visitors see in exhibits and in the rehabilitation center, and the existence of the Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo park.

The park operating budget is sufficient for the monitoring, surveillance, research, and public outreach activities that are being undertaken. High quality scientific research and improvement of marine habitat is guaranteed through the EU LIFE project. However, when the LIFE program terminates in 2013, the park management will have to find alternative funding for maintenance of artificial reefs, as well as the scientific research being undertaken in the marine environments, at least at the scale done currently.

One challenge that will remain is the fact that all of the property within park boundaries is privately held. Purchasing these properties at fair market value would be impossible, so the park must make do with managing, but not owning, the land.

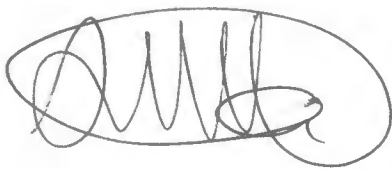
Finally, an integrated management plan is being developed, and though not within the SPAMI stipulated timeline of three years from time of nomination, the plan will undoubtedly be comprehensive, professional, and effective.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The park deserves renewal as a SPAMI designation.

**SIGNATURES**

**National Focal Point**



**Independent Experts**

*Tunji Aganuy*  
*Gerald R Han*

**SPAMI Manager(s)**



## SPAMI VALUE-ADDED

Questions		Score obtained	Maximum
5	Threats and surrounding context	12	23
6	Regulations	4	4
7	Management	6	11
8	Protection measures	4	5
9	Human resources	3	5
10	Financial and material means	5	9
11	Information and knowledge	4	6
12	Cooperation and networkings	4	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>69</b>