

Press release

A unique forum dedicated to the sea for the benefit of the Mediterranean society.



Hyères, France, November 15, 2012 - For the first time in the Mediterranean, 300 key players involved in the marine environment meet from 25 to 28 November 2012 in Antalya, Turkey to share their experiences, discuss and develop a joint work program to improve, by 2020, the protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

From the 21 riparian states, representatives of national environmental agencies, fishing and tourism, land managers, scientists, non-governmental organizations, local economic actors and institutions European, Mediterranean and international will exchange to find solutions to the challenges raised by marine biodiversity preservation in the Mediterranean while supporting local economies.

The aim of the Forum is to develop a common vision and roadmap to help achieve the goal under the Convention on Biological Diversity to protect 10% of the surface of the Mediterranean through an effective network Marine Protected Areas.

Marine Protected Areas are slices of sea and coast placed under protection and managed because of their ecological importance. Through effective management, they protect the amazing marine life of the Mediterranean, ensuring the livelihoods of fishermen, stimulate the local economy and offer tourists the opportunity to rekindle their links with nature.

Purificació Canals, Chairman of MedPAN, the network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean states: *"Planning and managing a Marine Protected Area is a complex task, both in terms of the diversity of actors and disciplines involved and in terms of resistance factors. It will be possible to achieve the 10% target only if all stakeholders in the Mediterranean get coordinated, develop a common vision and agree on the steps to get there. This forum is essential for the future of the Mediterranean"*

Marine Protected Areas progress in the Mediterranean but efforts must be boosted.

Since 2008, significant progress has been made in favor of the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean. With approximately 7 000 km² of additional sites under protection, policy makers at all levels have shown a strong commitment.

But with only a little over than 4% of the Mediterranean under protection, there is still much to be done to achieve effective management of all Marine Protected Areas and to ensure that the Mediterranean marine biodiversity "hot-spots" are protected. Concrete measures to strengthen MPA human and financial resources and enforcement must be adopted. One of the challenges is to increase the exchange of experience and solidarity among all Mediterranean countries actors.

The report "2012 Status of MPAs in the Mediterranean", to be published at the Forum, highlights the current gaps and suggests avenues for future.

A roadmap to achieve in 2020 the international goals of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD)

In the framework of the Aichi targets given by the International Convention for Biological Diversity, countries bordering the Mediterranean have renewed their commitment in 2010 to protect, by 2020, 10% of coastal and marine areas with national and regional systems of Marine Protected Areas that are comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative.

Mr Abderrahmen Gannoun, Director of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP / MAP-RAC / SPA, Tunis) points out: "*The marine and coastal protected zones 10% target was already the subject of a commitment for 2012 by Mediterranean countries in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. But this goal is not yet been attained and the Mediterranean Action Plan, in particular through its regional thematic center for the promotion of protected areas, RAC / SPA, is ramping up to ensure that this objective are achieved by 2020, focusing on the high seas and deep waters and strengthening the assistance to Mediterranean countries to identify and create new marine and coastal protected areas*".

To get there, an unprecedented effort of coordination must be undertaken between all stakeholders on a political and technical level. A roadmap is being developed with all partners of the Forum and will bring together the key elements that will guide this effort. It will be completed during the Forum with the recommendations of the participants to define the steps and actions to be taken by each actor in the coming years.

This roadmap will be submitted for the development of the future programs that will be drawn up in the context of the Barcelona Convention and EU policies in favor of Marine Protected Areas. It may also allow to bring Mediterranean recommendations to an international level, and serve as an example for other regions of the world.

The 2012 Forum Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is a joint initiative of the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) and its partners¹, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA), the Turkish General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assets and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Turkey.

It is supported by the French Global Environment Fund, the MAVA Foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Total Foundation, the French Development Agency, the city of Marseille, the Urban Community of Toulon-Provence-Méditerranée, the General Council of the French Var region, the European Programme Med and the Spanish AECID.

Marine Protected Areas are everyone's business!

¹ Forum partners:

CBD Secretariat, WWF, IUCN, Agence française des Aires Marines Protégées, Conservatoire du Littoral, ACCOBAMS, MedPartnership, GFCM, SAD, TUDAV



Practical information

Contact : Magali Mabari
magali.mabari@medpan.org
Communications Officer – MedPAN
– tel : +33 6 72 07 20 44

Date and place: 25-28 November 2012, Antalya, Turkey - Mirada del Mar hotel

Forum web site : www.medmpaforum2012.org

Additional Information : see press kit

With the financial support of:

