

**ANNOTATED FORMAT FOR THE PRESENTATION  
REPORTS FOR THE AREAS PROPOSED  
FOR INCLUSION IN THE SPAMI LIST**

ISLAS COLUMBRETES

SPAIN

## 1. AREA IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1. COUNTRY/COUNTRIES (in the case of transboundary areas)

SPAIN

### 1.2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVINCE OR REGION

COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA (VALENCIA REGION)

### 1.3. NAME OF THE AREA

ISLAS COLUMBRETES (COLUMBRETES ISLANDS)

### 1.4. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Describe its geographical boundaries, e.g. rivers, roads, geographical or administrative boundaries (do not describe the co-ordinates here; please make a separate annex with a map and a description of geographical co-ordinates as stated in the legal declaration of the area).

Columbretes islands are a small archipelago of volcanic origin located 30 nautic miles off the coast of Castellón. The proposed SPAMI includes both the islands and the surrounding sea.

The sea around the islands is a Marine Reserve since 1990 (44 Sq Km) whereas a former law, 1987 protects up to 122 Sq Km around the islands.

### 1.5. SURFACE OF THE AREA (total)

12.306 Has.	(In national unit)	12.306	(in ha)
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### 1.6. LENGTH OF THE MAIN COAST (Km)

c. 5 km

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** (maximum 3 pages)

Supply a summary of the information contained in sections 3 to 9.

Columbretes islands are characterised by its small surface (19 ha emerged land) and isolation, located 30 nautic miles from the nearest coast. Due to these circumstances, holds both endemic species (more than 12 invertebrates, 1 endemic lizard, 2 endemic plants) and breeding colonies of rare marine birds (*Calonectris diomedea*, *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, *Hydrobates pelagicus*). All terrestrial mammals were extirpated.

The surrounding sea is dominated by submerged reefs (also of volcanic origin) that rise over a 90 m depth platform, covered by detritic bottoms and maërl. The diversity of depths and substrates, the distance from the coast and more than 10 years of continuous protection, allows the existence of a great variety of communities with an excellent degree of conservation. It holds rare plants (*Laminaria rodriguezii*) and animals increasingly rare in the valencian coast due to overfishing (*Palinurus elephas*, *Epinephelus marginatus*, *Corallium rubrum*) or habitat alteration (*Cystoseira*, *Pinna nobilis*). Cetaceans are common, either as residents (*Tursiops truncatus*) or migrants (*Balaenoptera physalus*). Sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) are frequent in the summer months.

Historically, the island were inhabited occasionally by fishermen and, during more than one century by lighthouse keepers. Since its legal protection the only permanent inhabitants are Reserve wardens.

The island and its surrounding sea is protected under national legislation (Law 30/1987), as a Nature Reserve (1988, emerged land) and as Marine Reserve (1990, 4.400 ha). Its is classified as a SPA under the Birds Directive and proposed as SCI under the Habitat Directive.

Nowadays the main uses are commercial fishing outside the Marine Reserve, and recreational activities inside. Annual affluence of visitors is estimated in c. 3.000 boats and 3.500 divers. Access to land is strictly limited to only one path in the main island, with daily quotas and up to 3.500 visitors/year landing.

Main threats are outside the Marine Reserve, with high concentration of fishing boats (trawlers, gill-nets, long-lines), taking advantage of the biomass exported by the Reserve.

The increasing demand for recreational activities in the Marine and Nature Reserve, forces quota raising and regulation relaxation. Increase in public use over the estimated carrying capacity may affect habitats and species.

### 3. SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1. TYPOLOGY OF THE SITE

3.1.1. Terrestrial surface, excluding wetlands (ha):

19 ha

3.1.2. Wetland surface (ha):

3.1.3. Marine surface (Sq. Km):

Marine internal waters

Territorial sea

High sea

12.287 ha

#### 3.2. MAIN PHYSICAL FEATURES

##### 3.2.1. Geology/Geomorphology

Give a brief description of: (i) geological aspects (lithologic and tectonics); (ii) processes of sedimentation and erosion observable in the area; (iii) coastal geomorphology and (iv) island system. Indicate bibliographical sources.

Columbretes islands are of volcanic origin, with eruptions dated 3.0-0.5 millions years ago. They rise over the continental platform from the sea bottom c. 90 m depth in form of submerged reefs and emerged islands in 4 groups : L'Illa Grossa, La Foradada, La Ferrera & El Carallot.

The sea around Columbretes islands is quiet rocky with caves and volcanic structures. The water are very clear and full with life : algae, benthos and fishes.

Islas Columbretes. Contribución al estudio de su medio natural. GENERALITAT VALENCIANA, 1991. Valencia, 505 pp.

3.2.2. Other interesting physical features: Such as hydrodynamics, volcanic formations, caves, underwater formations, etc.

The submerged reefs cover c. 5.000 ha, with platforms, pithons and underwater caves.

3.2.3. Length of beaches (in Km), including islands:

a) Length of sandy beaches:

b) Length of pebble or stony beaches:

c. 5 km

c) Length, height and depth of active sand-dunes:

### 3.3. FRESHWATER INPUTS

3.3.1. Mean annual precipitation (in mm)

265 mm

3.3.2. Main water courses (permanent and seasonal)

No freshwater.

3.3.3. Estuarine areas: Existence and brief description

None

3.3.4. Freshwater springs: Existence and brief description, including marine offsprings

None

### 3.4. BIOLOGICAL FEATURES (B2, Annex I)

3.4.1. Habitats: A brief description of dominant marine and terrestrial habitats, on the basis of the habitat classifications adopted within the framework of MAP (and their coverage in ha)

II.4.1.3. Association with <i>Nemalion helminthoides</i>	20 ha
III.3.2.1. Maërl facies	>1.000 ha
III.6.1. Biocenosis of infralittoral algae ( <i>Cystoseira mediterranea</i> )	50 ha
IV.2.27. Association with <i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i> on detritic	100 ha
IV.3.1.13 Facies with <i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	50 ha
IV.3.2.2. Facies with <i>Corallium rubrum</i>	10 ha

### 3.4.2. List of regionally important species (flora and fauna) (B-2a, Annex I)

List here ONLY those species protected by international agreements, particularly those marine species included in Annex II of the Protocol, which are present in the area. Any other species may be listed if it is clearly considered of regional importance given its high representation in the area. Display the species list under the headings Marine Plants, Terrestrial Plants, Marine Invertebrates, Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals. For each species state:

- its relative abundance as Common (C), Uncommon (U) or Occasional (O),
- Its global status as rare (r), endemic (e) and/or threatened (t), and
- its status as an important resident population (R), or important for its breeding (B), feeding (F), wintering (W) or migratory passage (M)

SPECIES	Rel. Abundance (C) (U) (O)	Global STATUS (r) (e) (t)	Local STATUS (R) (B) (F) (W) (M)
<b>MARINE PLANTS</b>			
<i>Cystoseira mediterranea</i>	(C)		
<i>Cystoseira zosteroides</i>	(C)		
<i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i>	(U)		
<b>MARINE INVERTEBRATES</b>			
<i>Aplysina aeromorpha</i>	(C)		
<i>Axinella polypoides</i>	(C)		
<i>Geodia cydonium</i>	(C)		
<i>Hippospongia communis</i>	(C)		
<i>Spongia agaricina</i>			
<i>Spongia officinalis</i>			
<i>Tethya aurantium</i>	(U)		
<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	(C)		
<i>Paracentrotus lividus</i>			
<i>Hornera lichenoides</i>			
<i>Dendropoma petraeum</i>	(U)		
<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	(C)		
<i>Pinna rudis</i>	(C)		
<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i>			
<i>Erosaria spurca</i>	(U)		
<i>Luria lurida</i>	(U)		
<i>Charonia lampas</i>	(U)		
<i>Homarus gammarus</i>	(U)		

<i>Maja squinado</i>	(C)		
<i>Palinurus elephas</i>	(C)		
<i>Scyllarydes latus</i>	(U)		
<i>Ophidiaster aphidianus</i>			
<b>FISHES</b>	(C)		
<i>Epinephelus marginatus</i>		(t)	(F)
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>			
<i>Prionace glauca</i>	(C)		
<i>Sciaena umbra</i>	(C)	(t)	(M)
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	(C)	(r)	(B)
<i>Xiphias galdius</i>		(e)	(B)
		(r)	(B)
<b>REPTILS</b>	(C)	(e)	(R)
<i>Caretta caretta</i>		(r)	(R)
	(O)		
<b>BIRDS</b>	(C)	(r)	(M)
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	(C)	(r)	(R)
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	(U)		
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	(C)		
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	(C)		
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	(O)		
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	(C)		
<b>MAMMALS</b>			
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>			
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			

3.4.3. Flora: Describe in a few sentences the main plant assemblages significant in the area.

Main vegetation is a nitro-halophilous shrub dominated by *Sueda*, with endemics *Lobullaria maritima columbretensis* and *Medicago citrina*. Rest of climatic mediterranean shrub with *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Chamaerops humilis*. Esclerophilous shrubs with *Withania frutescens* and *Lycium intricatum*.

*Laminaria rodriguezii* beds are found from 35-40 meters depth.

Maërl bottoms rare in the Mediterranean are here well represented.

3.4.4. Fauna: Describe in a few sentences, which are the main fauna populations present in the area.

**TERRESTRIAL** : Presence of endemic species, including 12 arthropoda, 1 mollusc and 1 lizard (*Podarcis atrata*). Breeding colonies of endangered seabirds as : *Calonectris diomedea* (60.140 pp), *Hydrobates pelagicus* (20-50 pp) ; *Larus audouinii* (100-600 pp.), *Falco eleonora* (25-35 pp) and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (10 pp.).

**MARINE**: Great diversity of benthic invertebrates, including sensible species as *Pinna nobilis* and *Paramunicea clavata*. Good populations of commercial shellfishes (*Palinurus elephas*) and fishes (*Epinephelus marginatus*), increasingly scarce in the valencian coast due to overfishing. Regular presence of *Tursiops truncatus* (groups up to 20 ex.) and migrating *Balaenoptera physalus*. Summer concentrations of *Caretta caretta*.

### 3.5. HUMAN POPULATION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

#### 3.5.1 Human population

a) Inhabitants inside the area:

	Number	Date of data
Permanent	4	2001
Seasonal number (additional to permanent)		

Description of the population

Since the protection of the islands, the only permanent inhabitants are Reserve wardens.

Main human settlements and their populations

Not applicable to the proposed area.

#### 3.5.2 Current human use and development

a) Briefly describe the current use of the area by subsistence, artisan, commercial and recreational fishing, hunting, tourism, agriculture and other economic sectors.

Nowadays, commercial fishing is allowed only outside the Marine Reserve. Inside Marine Reserve recreational fishing is controlled. Increasing recreational use both in the sea (nautic, scuba-divers) and in land (tourist).

b) Enter how many of the users depend on these resources, seasonality, and assessment of the social and economic importance of their use and of the perceived impact on the conservation of the area, in a score of 0-1-2-3 (meaning null, low, medium, high).

ACTIVITY AND CATEGORY	ASSESS IMPORTANCE OF		Estimated No. of Users	Seasonality
	Socio-economic	Conserv. Impact		
<b>FISHING</b>				
Subsistence	0			
Commercial, local		<b>2</b>	200 boats	Year round
Commercial, non-local	<b>1</b>		10 boats	Occasional.
Controlled recreational		<b>2</b>		
Un-controlled recreational		<b>1</b>	800 boats/year	Year round
Other	0			
<b>TOURISM</b>				
Regulated		<b>2</b>		
Unregulated		<b>1</b>		
Indicate the type of tourism				
-sport boats		<b>2</b>	1.500 boats/y	Summer
-scuba-diving		<b>2</b>	3.500 divers/y	Apr-Oct
. tourist landing		<b>2</b>	3.000 visit/y	Summer
Tourism facilities	1	0		
<b>FOREST PRODUCTS</b>				
Subsistence	0			
Non-timber commercial, local	0			
Non-timber commercial, non-local	0			
Timber commercial, local	0			
Timber commercial, non-local	0			
Agriculture	0			
Stockbreeding	0			
Aquaculture	0			
<b>EXTENSIVE STOCK GRAZING</b>				
Subsistence	0			
Commercial, local	0			
Commercial, non-local	0			
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>				
-				
-				

### 3.5.3. Traditional economic or subsistence uses

Name any environmentally sound traditional activities integrated with nature, which support the well being of the local population. E.g. land, water use, target species, if closed seasons or closed zones are used as management techniques.

The only traditional uses in the area are those related to commercial fishing from local fishermen. Among them only gill-nets and, to some extent, small long lines can be considered as semi-artisanal are authorised as included into a list but these boats seldom fish inside the Marine Reserve.

A larger scale commercial fishery is realised just around the border of the Marine Reserve and off. The boats come from different Spanish regions.

#### 4. MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE

This Section aims at stressing the importance of the site for conservation at the regional or global scales, as set in Art. 8 para. 2 of the Protocol and B2-a, B2-b and B2-c in Annex I.

##### 4.1. PRESENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS/HABITATS SPECIFIC TO THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Name the type of habitats considered of Mediterranean specificity, on the basis of the habitat classifications adopted within the framework of MAP, and their estimated cover (Ha).

II.4.1.3. Association with <i>Nemalion helminthoides</i>	20 ha
III.3.2.1. Maërl facies	>1.000 ha
III.6.1. Biocenosis of infralittoral algae ( <i>Cystoseira mediteranea</i> )	: 50 ha
IV.2.27. Association with <i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i> on detritic	100 ha
IV.3.1.13 Facies with <i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	50 ha
IV.3.2.2. Facies with <i>Corallium rubrum</i>	10 ha

##### 4.2. PRESENCE OF HABITATS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO ENDANGERED, THREATENED OR ENDEMIC SPECIES

A critical habitat is an area essential to the conservation of the species concerned. These species should be those included in Annex II of the Protocol. E.g. Islets and sea stacks, as small islands in the sea or in large bodies of water, mostly important for water-bird colonies; caves appropriate for monk seals; undisturbed sand beaches where marine turtle nesting occurs; coastal lagoons where threatened fish or bird species feed or breed; tidal flats, coastal or benthic substrates important for marine invertebrates, etc.

Name the habitat types and the species linked to it.

**TERRESTRIAL:** Islands free of terrestrial predators that hold endemic and threatened seabird species.

**MARINE:** Submerged reefs and complex sea bottom topography that offer habitat and shelter both to benthic and pelagic species, including good cover of algae in lighted depths.

#### 4.3. OTHER RELEVANT FEATURES (Art. 8 paragraph 2 in the Protocol)

##### 4.3.1. Educational Interest (B-3 in Annex I)

E.g. particular values for activities of environmental education or awareness

Columbretes Information Centre, located in Castellón coast, offer educational programmes and exhibitions to c. 20.000 visitors/year.

A snorkel itinerary is trying to be implemented in summer.

##### 4.3.2. Scientific Interest (B-3 in Annex I)

Explain if the site represents a particular value for research in the field of natural or heritage sciences.

The Reserve offer excellent research possibilities and some facilities. More than 40 research projects developed both in terrestrial and marine ecosystems and species in the last 10 years. Some of them focus spiny lobster, gorgonians and the interaction of long lines and birds.

##### 4.3.3. Aesthetic Interest (B-3 in Annex I)

Name and briefly describe any outstanding natural features, landscapes or seascapes.

The islands themselves are an outstanding landmark in the middle of the open sea. Precipitous cliffs. Submerged reefs and caves.

##### 4.3.4. Main cultural features

Indicate if the area has a high representative value with respect to the cultural heritage, due to the existence of environmentally sound traditional activities integrated with nature which support the well-being of local populations.

Legends about Columbretes come from classical times (Plini, Strabo). The islands are very much appreciated by Castellón locals, as a far away and mysterious place hosting local mythology. Great fishermen tradition, both commercial and sports.

## 5. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE AREA

### 5.1. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SITE

#### 5.1.1. Exploitation of natural resources

Assess if the current rates of exploitation of natural resources within the area (sand, water and mineral exploitation, wood gathering, fishing, grazing...) are deemed unsustainable in quality or quantity, and try to quantify these threats, e.g. the percentage of the area under threat, or any known increase in extraction rates.

The only direct exploitation of natural resources occurs in the sea, scarce in the Marine Reserve, with an important concentration of fishing boats (trawlers, gill-nets, long-lines) all around the Marine Reserve, taking advantage of the biomass exported by the Reserve.

#### 5.1.2. Threats to habitats and species

Mention any serious threats to marine or coastal habitats (e.g. modification, desiccation, disturbance, pollution) or to species (e.g. disturbance, poaching, introduced alien species...) within the area.

Uncontrolled commercial fishing outside the Marine Reserve.

Uncontrolled mooring from sports fishing boats inside the Marine Reserve. Its impact is being studied and measures will follow up.

#### 5.1.3. Demand by an increased population and infrastructures

Assess whether the current human presence or an expected increase in frequentation (tourism, passage of vehicles and boats) and any human immigration into the area, or plans to build infrastructures, are considered a threat.

The increasing demand for recreational activities in the Marine and Nature Reserve, forces quota raising and regulation relaxation. Increase in public use over the estimated carrying capacity may affect habitats and species.

Scuba diving quotas are fixed and the activity is being followed up.

Sports fishing is being followed up too.

#### 5.1.4. Historic and current conflicts

Make a brief statement of any historic or current conflicts between users or user groups.

Integral protection of the marine-terrestrial area is hindered by concurrent competences of regional (land) and estate (sea) administrations. Increase in recreational fishing causes conflicts with commercial fishermen.

## 5.2. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE SITE

In Art.7.2-e the Protocol calls for the regulation of activities compatible with the objectives for which a SPA was declared, such as those likely to harm or disturb species or ecosystems (Art.6.h), while Section B4 in Annex I asks to consider “the existence of threats likely to impair the ecological, biological, aesthetic or cultural value of the area” (B4-a in Annex I), recommending the existence, in the area and its surroundings, of opportunities for sustainable development (B4-d) and of an integrated coastal management plan (B4-e).

### 5.2.1. Pollution

Name any point and non-point sources of external pollution in nearby areas, including solid waste, and especially those affecting waters up-current.

Not applicable to the proposed area.

### 5.2.2. Other external threats, natural and/or anthropogenic

Briefly describe any other external threat to the ecological, biological, aesthetic or cultural values of the area (such as unregulated exploitation of natural resources, serious threats on habitats or species, increase of human presence, significant impacts on landscapes and cultural values, pollution problems, any sectorial development plans and proposed projects, etc.), likely to influence the area in question.

The area outside the Marine Reserve, as the rest of the coastal platform, is overexploited by fisheries. There are close relationships in between seabirds and fishing activities in a big area around Columbretes (up. To more than 50 miles away), both positive (taking advance of discards) and negatives (dead in longlines). There is strong evidence than the size and breeding success of colonies of Audouin’s gull and Cory’s shearwater depend more on fishing activities outside the area tha on the conservation efforts inside. Some scarce data also on incidental catches of seaturtles (specially longlines) and dolphins (nets) outside the area.

### 5.2.3. Sustainable development measures

Comment whether the area is covered by an integrated coastal management plan, or bordering upon a zone under such a plan. Are there other opportunities for sustainable development provided for in the neighbouring areas?

There is a draft plan (technical report) but not legally approved.

Forbid the uncontrolled mooring from sports fishermen or at least in some specific areas.

In 2002 « scarecrow » lines on commercial fishing boats with long lines will be implemented.

## 6. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS<sup>1</sup>

The foreseeable development and trends of the site do not appear in the list of common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI list, as established in the Protocol and its Annex I. Moreover, this is not always easy to assess and it is necessary to have knowledge about the site, which is not always available to all managers of protected areas; Thus, it is not obligatory to fill in the boxes in this Section 6.

On the other hand, the assessment of this foreseeable evolution and trends constitutes a dynamic supplement to the static knowledge of the site, as it appears in Sections 3, 4 and 5 above. Moreover, it is of significant importance for the definition of the objectives and the management plan of the site.

It thus appears desirable to bringing out the main outlines at least in respect to the following points:

### 6.1. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS OF THREATS TO AND PRESSURES UPON THE AREA

Deal briefly in succession with:

- The demographic development in and around the site
- The development of economic activities (other than tourism and recreation) within the area
- The development of local demand on tourism and recreation
- The development of tourism pressure on the area

Nautic activities are increasing along the valencian coast, specially sailing, yatching and scuba-diving. Increasing tourist facilities in the coast and general deterioration of natural environment forces the growing demand for preserved sorroundings to concentrate in the few places (as Columbretes) with a protected status.

There is scientific evidence of impacts on the sea-bottom. Regulation on marine activities are being carried on.

### 6.2. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS IN THE AREA

Make a brief statement of potential use conflicts between the users or group of users of the site.

Increase in recreational activities may jeopardize carrying capacity. The current protected area (Marine Reserve) may become small to sustain growing recreational demand. As affluence increases, conflicts between users wil grow.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and food aware of it regulates the uses.

<sup>1</sup> By expected development and trends are meant the development, which is thought most likely to occur in the absence of any deliberate intervention to protect and manage the site.

**6.3. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS OF THE NATURAL LAND ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPES OF THE AREA:** as expected arising from the evolution of the pressures

Current regulation of the Nature Reserve, public owned, prevents major changes in the near future.

**6.4. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND SEASCAPES OF THE AREA:** as expected arising from the evolution of the pressures

Regulation of marine uses is undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with both law and expenses in order to control and follow up, for the trends that show arising pressure from leisure activities.

## 7. PROTECTION REGIME

### 7.1. LEGAL STATUS (General Principles "e" and Section C-2 both in Annex I)

#### 7.1.1. Historical background of the protection of the site

Columbretes was first proposed as a marine-terrestrial protected area in the beginning of the 80's.

#### 7.1.2. Legal texts currently ruling the protection on the site

Enter the national conservation category, the dates and the present enforcement status of the legal instrument declaring the protection of the area. Consider both the land and the marine areas of the site. Include the full text(s) as an annex.

Law 30/1987, 18 dec. (National) for the protection of Columbretes and regulation of competences between national and regional administrations.  
 Decree 15/1988, 25 jan. (Regional) of declaration of Columbretes Natural Park (terrestrial). Later classified as a Nature Reserve (Law 11/1994, Regional).  
 Order 19 apr. 1990 (National) of declaration of Colubretes Marine Reserve.  
 Order 19 jan. 1999 (National), regulating fisheries.  
 Order 7 dec. 2000 (National), defining new boundaries and the extension of one protected area inside the Marine Reserve.  
 Order 17 jan. 2002, for scuba diving and sports fishing.

#### 7.1.3. Objectives (General Principles "a" and D-1 in Annex I)

Name in order of importance the objectives of the area as stated in its legal declaration.

Law 30/1987 : integral protection of land, sea, sea-bottom, species, habitats and atmosphere.  
 Decree 15/1988 : integral protection of terrestrial species, habitats and landscape and Order 19 apr. 1990 : regulation of fishing and diving for recovery and improvement of fisheries and marine species.

#### 7.1.4. Indicate whether the national protection regime arises from international treaties enforced or from implementation measures of treaties (Art. 6.a in the Protocol).

Not at the moment the 30/1987 Law was issued.

## 7.2. INTERNATIONAL STATUS

### 7.2.1. Transboundary or high seas areas

Complete this section only if the area is transboundary, totally or partially in the high sea, or within areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined. In this case, mention the modalities of the consultation (Art. 9 para. 3A in the Protocol and General Principles “d” in Annex I).

Not applicable to the proposed area.

### 7.2.2. International category

Mention if the area, or part of it, has been designated and on what date, with an international conservation category (e.g. Specially Protected Area, Biosphere Reserve, Ramsar Site, World Heritage Site, European Diploma, Natura 2000, Emerald network, etc.).

SPA (Birds Directive, Code Natura 2000 : ES00000061) in 1989  
Proposed as SCI (Habitat Directive, Code Natura 2000 : ES00000061) in 1997

## 7.3. PREVIOUS LEGAL BACKGROUND AND LAND TENURE ISSUES

Briefly mention if the area or part of it is subject to any legal claim, or to any file open in that connection within the framework of an international body. Describe the land tenure regimes within the area, and append a map if existing.

The land is public (Estate) owned. The sea is public domain.

## 7.4. LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR MANAGEMENT (Section D-1 in Annex I)

### 7.4.1. Zoning

Briefly state if the legal text protecting the area provides for different zones to allocate different management objectives of the area (e.g. core and scientific zones in both land and sea, fishing zones, visitation, gathering, restoration zones etc) and in this case the surface area in ha of these zones. Include a map as an annex

Terrestrial : Zoning was established by the Decree 10/1994. 7 jun. (Regional) with c. 1% of the total emerged land for public use (subjected to daily quotas), and the rest only for research and conservation.

Marine : Zoning recently revised (Order 7 dec. 2000, National) with 1 Strict Reserves (no fishing) designed for public use (270 has) and 1 Strict Reserve (no fishing, no public use) designed for research (690 has).

### 7.4.2. Basic regulations

Mention the provisions, which apply to the area concerning the implementation of Article 6 of the Protocol (paragraphs a to i), Section D5 (a to d) in the Annex I and Article 17 of the Protocol.

Terrestrial : Those established by the Decree 10/1994, that approve the Management Plan of the Nature Reserve.

Marine : Those established by the Order 19 apr. 1990. All kind of fishing forbidden in Strict Reserves. Outside, only purse-seine permitted and special permission required for recreational fishing. Scuba diving limited by special permissions and daily quotas.

### 7.4.3. Legal competencies

Section D4 in Annex I states that the competence and responsibility with regard to administration and implementation of conservation measures for areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List must be clearly defined in the texts governing each area. Additionally Art.7.4. of the Protocol calls for the provision of clear competencies and co-ordination between national land and sea authorities, with a view to ensuring the appropriate administration and management of the protected area as a whole. Mention in which way do the legal provisions clearly establish the institutional competencies and responsibilities for the administration and conservation of the area, and if being the case, their co-ordination means, including those between land and sea authorities.

The Law 30/1987 made legal reservation of competences in the sea to the Estate (National), allowing the Regional administration to declare the islands (emerged land) as a protected area.

The Decree 15/1988, 25 jan. gave the islands a protected status (formerly Natural Park, nowadays Nature Reserve) under regional administration, being the Regional Environmental Department the responsible body.

The Order 19 apr. 1990 gives the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food creates the Marine Reserve and regulates the uses in the sea inside the Reserve.

### 7.4.4. Other legal provisions

Describe any other relevant legal provisions, such as those requiring a management plan, the establishment of a local participation body, binding measures for other institutions or economic sectors present in the area, allocation of financial resources and tools, or any other significant measures concerning the protection and management of the area or its surrounding zones.

The Nature Reserve has a participation body (Junta de Protección) with representatives of administrations and stakeholders (ecologists, fishermen, universities).

The Marine Reserve has a consultation body (Comisión de Seguimiento) with representatives of Administrations and fishermen.

Both ruling administrations (Regional Environmental Department and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) have a binding protocol to share personnel and means for the marine-terrestrial surveillance and information.

## 8. MANAGEMENT

Through the General Principles, para. (e) in the Annex I, the Parties agree that the sites included in the SPAMI List are intended to have a value as examples and models for the protection of the natural heritage of the region. To this end, the Parties ensure that sites included in the List are provided with adequate legal status, protection measures and management methods and means.

### 8.1. INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

#### 8.1.1. Authority/Authorities responsible for the area

Terrestrial : Consellería de Medio Ambiente (C.M.A. Regional Authority for the Environment).

Marine : Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (M.A.P.A., Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food).

#### 8.1.2. Other participants in the management body

Such as other national or local institutions, as stated in Section D6 in Annex I.

#### 8.1.3. Participants in other committees or bodies

Such as a scientific committee, or a body of representatives from the local stakeholders, the public, the professional and non-governmental sectors, as in Sections B4-b and B4-c in Annex I.

Local (Castellón) City Council. Regional Fisheries Authorities. Ministry of the Environment. Professional fishermen association. Ecologist representant. University. Castellón Port Authority.

#### 8.1.4. Effectiveness

As stated in Section B4 of Annex I, assess as very low, low, moderate, satisfactory, very satisfactory, and comment as needed on the following aspects:

##### a) Effectiveness of the co-ordination, where existing:

Very satisfactory between Regional Environmental Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

##### b) Quality of involvement by the public, local communities, economic sectors, scientific community:

Moderate.

High for scientific community dealing with the marine sciences.

## 8.2. MANAGEMENT PLAN (as set out in D7 of Annex I)

### 8.2.1. Management Plan

State if there is a management plan (MP) and in this case include the document as an annex. In the absence of a MP, mention if the main provisions governing the area and the main regulations for its protection are already in place and how (D7 in Annex I) and if the area will have a detailed management plan within three years (D7 in Annex I).

There is a MP approved and enforced (Decree 10/1994) for the Nature Reserve (terrestrial).

There is a draft Plan prepared from the Regional Environmental Authority for the whole area.

### 8.2.2. Formulation and approval of the Management Plan

Mention how the MP was formulated, e.g. by an expert team and/or under consultation and/or participation with other institutions or stakeholders. State the legal status of the MP, whether it is officialized, and how, and if it is binding for other institutions and sectors involved in the area.

The MP was formulated by the Regional Environmental Authority, passed through a process of consultation with institutions and stakeholders and approved by the Regional (Autonomous) Government.

The dictates by the Comisión de Seguimiento are the equivalent of the MP for the Marine Reserve.

### 8.2.3. Contents and application of the Management Plan

State the degree of detail in the MP by entering YES or NO in the following list of potential contents, and assess the degree of implementation of the MP by using the 0-1-2-3 score on the right hand side:

	Existing in MP	Degree of application
Detailed management objectives	YES	3
Zoning	YES	2
Regulations for each zone	YES	2
Governing body(ies)	YES	2
Management programmes as:		
Administration	YES	2
Protection	YES	3
Natural resource management	YES	3
Tourism and Visitation	YES	3
Education and Training	YES	3
Research and Monitoring	YES	2
Services and Concessions	NO	0
Fund raising activities	YES*	0
Periodic revisions of the MP	YES	1

\* For the Marine Reserve.

### 8.3. PROTECTION MEASURES

By Art. 6 of the Protocol the Parties agree to take all the necessary protection measures required for the conservation of the area, particularly the strengthening the application of the other Protocols to the Convention, and through the regulation of any other activity likely to harm the natural or cultural value of the area, such as economic, recreation or research activities. As per Section D2 in Annex I, the protection measures must be adequate to the site objectives in the short and long term, and take in particular into account the threats upon it.

#### 8.3.1. Boundaries and signing

Briefly, state if the boundaries of the area and its zones are adequately marked in the field, both on land, in the sea, and at the principal points of access.

Boundaries of the Marine Reserve are in nautic charts and in all the surrounding ports.

#### 8.3.2. Institutional Collaboration

Name the different national and local institutions or organisations with legal responsibilities or involved in the protection and surveillance of land and sea zones, and any measures or mechanisms through which their co-ordination is pursued.

Essentially Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA, sea) and Regional Environmental Authority (CMA, land). Both linked through a cooperation protocol.

#### 8.3.3. Surveillance

Consider the adequacy of the existing protection means (human and material), and your present ability to survey land and sea uses and accesses

Wardens have boats, radios, optical material and radar. Survey is almost 100% effective, unless during daylight.

#### 8.3.4. Enforcement

Briefly, consider the adequacy of existing penalties and powers for effective enforcement of regulations, whether the existing sanctions can be considered sufficient to dissuade infractions, and if the field staff is empowered to impose sanctions.

Sufficient. Field staff is empowered for denounce and traslate infractions to the Authorities.

## 9. AVAILABLE RESOURCES

### 9.1. HUMAN RESOURCES (Art. 7.2.f in the Protocol)

#### 9.1.1. Available staff

Assess the adequacy of the human resources available to the management body, in number of employees and training level, both in central headquarters and in the field. Indicate if there are staff training programmes.

Basicly adequate. Ocassional training programmes and interchange with othe protected areas.

#### 9.1.2. Permanent field staff

Answer YES or NO on the current existence of the following FIELD staff categories. If YES, enter the number of staff either permanent or part-time in that category, and evaluate on a 0-1-2-3 score (0 is low, 3 is high) the adequacy of their training level.

	YES/NO	NUMBER Permanent/Part-time	ADEQUACY OF TRAINING LEVEL
Field Administrator	YES	2 Part Time	2
Field Experts (scientific monitoring)	YES	1 Part time (Marine Res.)	
Field Technicians (maintenance, etc)	NO		
Wardens	YES	6 Permanent	2
Of which marine wardens	YES	4	2
Guides	YES	2 Permanent + 1 Part-time	2
Other			

#### 9.1.3. Additional Support

Briefly, describe if the area currently has the advantage of other external human resources in support of its objectives, either from other national or local institutions, volunteer programmes, non-governmental organisations, academic or international organisations. Mention if there are any significant changes in prospect for the near future.

Volunteers and Scientific support.

## 9.2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

By Art. 7 in the Protocol, the Parties agree to adopt measures or mechanisms to ensure the financing of the specially protected areas (Art.7.2.d), and the development of an appropriate infrastructure (Art.7.2.f). The General Principles para. "e" in the Annex I call upon the Parties to provide the areas with adequate management means.

### 9.2.1. Present financial means

Note if the basic financing is ensured: a core funding for basic staff, protection and information measures. Who provides this core funding? Briefly assess the degree of adequacy of the present financial means for the area, either low, moderate, satisfactory; e.g. the implementation of the management plan, including protection, information, education, training and research.

Basic financing ensured through cooperation protocol between CMA and MAPA. Annual budget 300.000-600.000 € considered satisfactory.

### 9.2.2. Expected or additional financial sources

Briefly describe any alternative sources of funding in use or planned, and the perspectives for long-term funding from national or other sources.

Support from EU funds (LIFE and IFOP) high from IFOP for the Marine Reserve.

### 9.2.3. Basic infrastructure and equipment

Answer YES or NO to the following questions, and if YES, assess with a score of 1-2-3 (1 is low, 3 is high) the adequacy of the basic infrastructure and equipment.

	YES/NO	ADEQUACY
Office and/or laboratory in the field	YES	1
Signs on the main accesses	YES	2
Guard posts on the main accesses	YES	3
Visitors information centre	YES	2
Self guided trails with signs	YES	1
Terrestrial vehicles	YES	2
Marine vehicles	YES	2
Radio and communications	YES	2
Environmental awareness materials	YES	2
Capacity to respond to emergencies	YES	2
Comment on basic infrastructure and equipment: Radar for surveillance. Limited because of the protection of the shoreline.		

### 9.3. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

By Section D3 of Annex I, the Parties agree that the planning, protection and management of a SPAMI must be based on an adequate knowledge of the elements of the natural environment and of socio-economic and cultural factors that characterize each area. In case of shortcomings in basic knowledge, an area proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List must have a programme for the collection on the unavailable data and information.

#### 9.3.1. State of knowledge

a) Assess the general state of knowledge of the area.

		2	
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b) Briefly describe the extent of knowledge of the area, considering at least specific maps, main ecological processes, habitat distribution, inventories of species and socio-economic factors, such as artisan fishing.

Extensive information on terrestrial habitat and species with up to 15 years of monitoring of key species (breeding birds). Marine benthic life in inventory, 5 years studies of commercial importance species (lobster), 5 years studying the interaction long lines-birds and one year studying gorgonians. Socio-economic analysis just started

#### 9.3.2. Data collection

Describe and assess the adequacy of any programme and activities to collect data in the area.

Good for the marine programme but the importance of the submerged ecosystems shows that implementation of them will help to get more important information.

#### 9.3.3. Monitoring programme

Section D8 in Annex I states that to be included in the SPAMI List, an area will have to be endowed with a monitoring programme having a certain number of significant parameters, in order to allow the assessment of the state and trends of the area, as well as the effectiveness and protection and management measures, so that they may be adapted if need be (indicators may, for instance, supply information about species status, condition of the ecosystem, land-use changes, extraction of natural resources -sand, water, game, fish-, visiting, adherence to the provisions of the management plan, etc.).

a) Is there a monitoring programme?

YES	
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b) If NO, are there plans to start one, and when?

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c) If YES, assess as low, medium, satisfactory, its adequacy and present level of development.

Satisfactory in terrestrial habitat,  
Satisfactory in marine.

d) If YES, who is/are carrying out the monitoring programme?

Terrestrial: Reserve wardens following technical advice from conservation officers and scientific support from researchers. Marine: Reserve wardens, one biologist of the Marine Reserve and scientific institutions on contracts.

e) If YES, briefly describe how the monitoring programme will be used in reviewing the management plan.

Statistics of public use (visitors, boats, divers) are compared with evolution of key species and habitats. If impacts detected zoning can be modified.

**10. Other information, if any**

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**11. CONTACT ADDRESSES** (name(s), position(s) and contact address(es) of the person(s) in charge with the proposal and that compiled the report)

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SPAIN

**12. SIGNATURE(S) ON BEHALF OF THE STATE(S) PARTY/PARTIES MAKING THE PROPOSAL**

La Directora General de  
Planificación y Gestión del Medio

La Directora General de  
Conservación de la Naturaleza

Paloma Gómez Ossorio

Inés González Doncel

**13. DATE**

February, 13, 2002.