

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

MAR MENOR AND ORIENTAL
MEDITERRANEAN ZONE OF
THE REGION OF MURCIA
COAST

SPAIN

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Annotated Format is to guide the Contracting Parties in producing reports of comparable contents, including the information necessary for the adequate evaluation of the conformity of the proposed site with the criteria set out in the Protocol and in its Annex I (Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List).

CONTENTS

The presentation report shall include the following main information on: (i) identification of the proposed protected area (ii) site description (iii) its Mediterranean importance (iv) the activities in and around the area and their impacts (v) legal status (vi) management measures (vii) human and financial resources available for the management and the protection of the site.

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

The reports should be submitted to the RAC/SPA two months before the meeting of National Focal Points for SPA in English or in French.

Dossiers should be compiled on A4 paper (210 mm x 297 mm), with maps and plans annexed on paper with a maximum size of an A3 paper (297 mm x 420 mm). Contracting Parties are also encouraged to submit the full text of the proposal in electronic form.

The requested annexes should be submitted on paper and, if possible, also in electronic form. They are the following:

- Copies of legal texts
- Copies of planning and management documents
- Maps: administrative boundaries, zoning, land tenure, land use, and distribution of habitats and species, as appropriate
- Existing inventories of plant and fauna species
- Photographs, slides, films/videos, CD-ROMs
- List of publications and copies of the main ones concerning the site

N.B.: All the following sections have to be in the report submitted, even those sections or elements that do not apply to the proposed area. Where that is the case, please put “not applicable to the proposed area”.

1. AREA IDENTIFICATION

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

SPAIN

1.2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVINCE OR REGION

COMUNIDAD AUTONOMA DE LA REGION DE MURCIA

1.3. NAME OF THE AREA

MAR MENOR AND ORIENTAL MEDITERRANEAN ZONE OF THE REGION OF MURCIA COAST.

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).

The area is located in the Southeast of the Region of Murcia, limiting in its Northern end with the province of Alicante. Toward the East and the South embraces a portion of the submerged coastal fringe of the Mediterranean sea, as well as the Hormigas, Grosa and Farallón Islands. The western limit follows the shore line of the Mar Menor interior lagoon, incorporating three wetlands areas: El Carmolí, Lo Poyo and La Hita. The Southern limit include the submerged coast fringe between Palos Cape and Negrete Cape.

1.5. SURFACE OF THE AREA (total)

27.503 ha
(in ha)

(in national unit) 27,503 ha

1.6. LENGTH OF THE MAIN COAST (Km)

59 km.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (maximum 3 pages)

The area is located in the Southeast of the Region of Murcia, limiting in its Northern end with the province of Alicante. Toward the East and the South embraces a portion of the submerged coastal fringe of the Mediterranean sea, as well as the Hormigas, Grosa and Farallon Islands. The western limit follows the shore line of the Mar Menor interior lagoon, incorporating three wetlands areas: El Carmoli, Lo Poyo and La Hita. The Southern limit include the submerged coast fringe between Palos Cape and Negrete Cape. The surface of the area is 27,503 ha (310 ha terrestrial surface, 1,463 ha wetland surface and 257.3 Sq. Km marine surface).

The zone is part of the great domain of the Betic Mountains, occupying principally a wide quaternary plain. The geomorphology of the area has been due fundamentally to the volcanic and sedimentary processes that gave origin to the sandy bar of La Manga, and the biggest interior lagoon in Spain: the Mar Menor, communicated with the Mediterranean sea through a system of natural channels called "golas". Associated to the lagoon there are coastal salt marshes, salt flats (salt steppes) and some volcanic mountains. In this area the morphology of the coast is shallow; 6.5 m. is the maximum depth in the lagoon. The mediterranean south coast is characterized by an alternation between rocky (sea) cliffs - overcoming the 20 m. height - and small creeks and beaches. The submarine coast registers the same heterogeneity, with areas formed by soft substratum characteristic of beaches and rocky cliffs -10 m. depth-. Next to the islands there are the biggest depths, until 50 m. depth.

The mean annual precipitation is 300 mm, all the water courses are seasonal, generally inactive torrents. Most of these flow into the Mar Menor. The water courses are: Rambla de los Alcázares, Miranda, Beal, Carrasquilla y Siete Higueras.

Actually, we don't have a description of dominant marine habitats on the basis of the habitat classifications adopted within the framework of MAP National Focal Points. But we can recognize the following one:

Posidonia oceanica meadows (III.5.1). Association with *Posidonia oceanica*. Approximate coverage: 8,400 has.

Using the classification of habitats of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, we can distinguish:

Sands banks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time: (*Cymodoceion nodosae* and *Cymodoceum nodosae*). Approximate coverage: 140 has.

Coastal lagoons. Approximate coverage: 13,519 has.

The zone presents a high number of terrestrial habitats, 21 terrestrial habitats (using the classification of terrestrial habitats of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC):

Other singular characteristics of the area are:

It is presented in the area the unique "sabinar of dunes" (*Juniperus turbinata*) of the Region, which is not very abundant in the rest of the Iberian Peninsula. It is presented vegetation of salt environment in a good conservation state and a great variety of communities characteristic of shoreline dunes.

The area presents 7 birds, 4 marine plants, 5 marine invertebrates, 2 fish, 2 reptils and 2 mammals included in Annex II of the Protocol.

The area presents the biggest population of Fartet (*Aphanius iberus*) in the Región of Murcia. It is an important area for aquatic birds, mainly *Himantopus himantopus*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Calandrella rufescens*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Sterna albifrons* and *Gelochelidon nilotica*.

The Isla de las Hormigas have an important colony of *Hidrobates pelagicus melitensis*.

The populations of *Calonectris diomedea* and *Larus audouinii*. Isla Grosa is a very important colony in the world of *Larus audouinii*.

Human population and use of natural resources

Nobody live inside the area, around it inhabit 50,000 people. This population is duplicated in summer. The main economic activity of the area is directly related with tourism, including activities as trade, construction and hostelry. In the coastal settlements there are an hotel offer of 12,000 beds. Other uses are the agriculture (vegetables); fishing (crustaceans, fish and mollusks with a capture of 376 tons in 1999) and industrial exploitation of the salt marshes.

The traditional uses are:

Encañizadas: traditional fishing summoned in natural channels of communication between the coastal lagoon and the Mediterranean Sea. The human activity maintains open the natural channels to facilitate the pass and capture of fish.

Salt Marshes: two salines exist: "Salinas of San Pedro del Pinatar" and "Salinas of Marchamalo". They are dedicated to the extraction of salt from the evaporation of the water coming from the lagoon.

Impacts and activities within the site

* Antecedents:

In the sixties began the tourist development and the expansion of intensive irrigated lands around the zone. These activities were supplemented with the fishing and the exploitation of the salt (salt marshes).

*Current uses:

The whole area is under some protection régime (Natural protected Areas and Coastal Reserves for the legislation of the Autonomous Community of Murcia and of the Spanish State; Special Protection Areas (SPA) for the “Bird Directive”; Sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for the “Habitats Directive” and wetlands included in Ramsar Convention). This guarantees, in legal terms, to harmonize the protection of the areas with the traditional uses, as well as the regulation of the activities and land uses.

In general terms, inside the area an unsustainable exploitation of the natural resources doesn't exist, except drainage, deposit of sediments, trawling fishing, illegal fishing and taking shellfish in certain areas.

The main threats on the natural resources of the area come from the exterior, fundamentally around the zone, especially for the modification and intensification of cultivation practices and touristic uses.

A second threat on the natural resources is the abandonment of traditional extensive land uses of the area.

Threats to habitats and species

1.- Serious threats to habitats

The main serious threats to habitats derive of intensification of tourist-recreational pressure in the area:

a) Habitats modifications

Alteration of the lagoon's hidric régime, alteration of salinity and temperature, water pollution from urban areas and from irrigated lands have caused the substitution and disappearance of habitats and its associate species.

b) Nuisances and alteration of habitats

Tourism activities (sport and leisure structures, nautical sports, etc...) are very important in summer. Their effects are the degradation of the habitat.

2.- Serious threats to species

Basically, they are the same threats that for habitats.

Demand by an increased population and infrastructures

It is foregone an increase of the demographic pressure due to an escalation of the tourism, with expectations of construction of new infrastructures of transport, ports etc.

Historic and current conflicts

The first impacts go back to the XVI and XVII centuries with the development of shepherding, deforestation and the mining in the surrounding basin (specially during the decade of fifties).

In the sixties begin the tourist development and the expansion of intensive irrigated lands around the zone, modifying the régime of land tenure and the modalities of use of resources, based previously in an unirrigated land agriculture, traditional irrigated land, fishing and the exploitation of the salt (salt marshes). The expansion of intensive irrigated lands and touristic uses have caused a decrease of the fishing in the lagoon.

The current conflict is the nonexistence of a balance between a growing tourist-recreational pressure and the conservation of the habitats and species of the area.

There aren't monitoring plans for the impacts originated by the numerous activities developed in the area. They have not been carried out a detailed investigation of the effects on the lagoon and of the conservation of different habitats and species.

Impacts and activities around the site

Disposal of chemical fertilizer coming from irrigated lands around the area, disposal of urban wastes, disposal from desalination plant, disposal of hydrocarbons from aquatic activities, abandonment of garbages, acoustic contamination caused mainly for tourist-recreational activities, flight of airplanes to low height (there is an airport near of the area) and communications networks.

Sustainable development measures

At the present time doesn't exist an integral plan that covers the whole area.

Some spaces inside the area have management plans with sustainable development measures:

1.- *Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar*:

It is a site eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI). Include the Regional Park “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar” declared by Law 4/92 of Planning and protection of the territory of the Región de Murcia, having a “Natural Resources Planning Scheme”.

2.- “Playa de la Hita”, “Marina del Carmoli”, “Saladar de Lo Poyo”, “Salinas de Marchamalo y Playa de las Amoladeras”:

These spaces are part of the SCI "Open Spaces and Islands of the Mar Menor", included inside the Natural Space "Espacios abiertos e islas del Mar Menor", declared by the "Law 4/1992 of Ordination and Protection of the Territory" of the Region of Murcia, having the initial approval of a "Natural Resources Organisational Plan".

3.- The “Coastal Reserve of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas” and the Mar Menor lagoon don't have with management plan, but there are regulations for some leisure and fishing activities.

Expected development and trends

It is foreseen a population's increase around the site due to the growth of the tourism. Around the site will increase urbanised areas, communication networks and intensive irrigated lands. The demand on tourism and recreation (tourism pressure) will increase. It is expected that traditional agriculture and fishing of the area, with significant

historical, cultural and faunal values associates, will disappear. On the contrary, an increase of more intensive economic activities related with the aquaculture (red tuna) is foreseen.

Potential conflicts

Potential conflicts in the area will be the relations between the growing tourist-recreational pressure, the expansion of intensive irrigated lands and the conservation of the natural resources, habitats and species.

Expected development and trends

It isn't foreseen important changes in the land uses inside the SPAMI.

The whole area is under some protection regime, this guarantees, in legal terms, to harmonize the protection of the areas with the traditional uses, as well as the regulation of the activities and land uses.

Protection regime

1. Law 4/1992 of Planning and Protection of the Territory of the Region of Murcia: it is declared like Protected Natural Space:

- Regional Park of the Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar
- Protected Landscape Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor
- Protected Natural Space Islas e Islotes del Litoral Mediterráneo

2. Law 1/2001, of April 24, of the Soil of the Region of Murcia.

Abolish the Preliminary Title and Titles I, II, IV and V and Second Additional Dispositions of the Law 4/1992 of Ordination and Protection of the Territory of the Region of Murcia

3. Decree 7/1993, of March 26, on measures of protection of ecosystems in waters interiors:

According to natural, cultural and landscapes intrinsic values, as well as for the fragility of the ecosystems, declares "Area of High Ecological Sensibility" the ecosystems of interiors waters of the Mar Menor and their islands; and those ecosystems belonging to the islands of the Mediterranean Sea and in the coastal line between the limit of the region with Alicante and the Islas Hormigas y Cabo de Palos.

4. Decree 15/1995, of March 31, which declares Coastal Reserve of Fishing Interest the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

5. Order of June 22 1995 which provides a Coastal Reserve in the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas in external waters.

6. Decree 44/1995, of May 26 wich approved the Natural Resources Planning Scheme of the Regional Park Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar.

7. Law 1/1995 of Protection of the Environment of the Region of Murcia.

"Area of Ecological Sensibility" is declared, to the effects of applying the evaluation of environmental impact, to those Protected Natural Spaces declared by the Law 4/1992.

8. Resolution of November 4 of 1994, of the Subsecretary, for which prepares the publication of the Agreement of the Ministers Council of November 15, 1994, for which is authorized the inclusion of the Embalses de Cordobilla y Malpasillo, Albufera de Adra, Ría del Eo, Mar Menor, Marismas de Santoña and Marjal de Pego-oliva, in the list of the Ramsar Convention, relative to Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Habitat of Aquatic Birds (Ramsar, February 2, 1971).

9. Order of December 29 of 1998, which approved initially the Natural Resources Planning Scheme of the Espacios Abiertos e islas del Mar Menor.

10. Law 11/95, of October 5 1995, of modification of the Law 7/95, of April 21, of the wild fauna, game and fluvial fishing.

11. Law 7/1995 of wild fauna, game and fluvial fishing.

Are declared "Areas of Protection of Wild Fauna": Mar Menor y humedales asociados; las islas Grosa y Hormigas.

12. Order of July 19 of 2001, of the Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente, for which the the diving activities are regulated in waters interiors of the Coastal Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

13. Order of June 6 of 2001 which modifies the Order of June 22 1995, wich provides a Coastar Reserve in the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

14. Order of April 7 of 2000, of Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente, wich the authorized fishing measures are regulated in waters of the Coastal Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

15 Order of April 29 of 1999 wich modifies the Order of June 22 1995, wich provides a Coastar Reserve in the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

16. Order of June 20 of 2001, wic declares « Sensitive Area » in the Region of Murcia, according to the Real Decreto-Ley 11/1995, of December 28, wich provides the applicable norms to the treatment of the residual urban waters.

17. Resolution of May 12, 1999, of the Dirección General de Recursos Humanos, which publicize to the collaboration bargained between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food and the Regional Agricultural, Environmental and Water Ministry of the Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de Murcia, relative to the shared management of the Marine Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

Objectives

The Law 4/1989 provides the objectives of the Planning Schemes:

To define the state of conservation of the natural resources and ecosystems

To define the limitations according to the conservation state

To point out the protection régime that proceed

To promote the application of conservation and restoration measures of the natural resources.

To formulate the criterion to the sectoral politicians and to the economic and social, public and private activities, for to make this politicians and activities compatible with the Planning Schemme.

International treaties

Inside the selected area, there are zones protected at National level by Law 4/89, of Conservation of Natural Spaces and of the Flora and Wild Fauna. Other areas are protected by the Autonomous Community of the Region de Murcia: Law 4/92 of Planning and Protection of the Territory of the Region de Murcia. Other areas are protected by community Directives: COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, and COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

International status

Inclusion of "Mar Menor y sus humedales asociados", in the list of the Ramsar Convention, relative to the Wetlands of international importance.

Special Protection Areas for the birds (SPA) in Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar' Regional Park, Isla Grosa, Islas Hormigas and Mar Menor.

Places of the area proposed as Sites of Community Importance (SCI): Regional Park "Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar"; Mar Menor; Protected Landscape "Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor"; Franja Litoral Sumergida de la Región de Murcia; Islas e Islotes del Litoral Mediterráneo.

Legal provisions for management: zoning.

The legal texts protecting the different areas provides management objectives for different zones (Saltwork Reservation area, Area of high-priority conservation, Area of compatible conservation, Area of intensive use, Area of road public use, etc..).

Legal competencies

Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente (Region of Murcia). It is the maximum organ in charge of the administration and implementation of conservation measures for all the areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI list, except in in the marine area of external waters, where the responsible organ is the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food.

Management

If the area proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI list is accepted, a management organ will be created with agents of the Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente, Secretaria General de Pesca del Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, a participation committee and a scientific committee

Other participants

Environmentalist or conservationist organizations (NGO's), Agrarian professional organizations, City councils of San Pedro del Pinatar and San Javier cities, Regional federation of fishermen's brotherhoods, Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Sailing, University of Murcia, University of Cartagena, Federation of Diving Activities of the Region of Murcia.

Management plan

At the moment, don't exist a common Management Plan for the whole proposed SPAMI, but the realization of a Integral Management Plan will elaborate for the whole area within three years.

Protection, planning and/or ordering measures at the present time:

1.- Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park: Guiding Plan Use and Management (in elaboration), Projects of habitats regeneration, Programs of biological pursuit, Program of Information and communication for the local population and visitors, Activities of environmental education and sensitization.

2.- Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor: Programs of biological pursuit, Covenant for the maintenance of the salt marshes "Salinas de Marchamalo".

Surveillance

The surveillance of the area are carried out for the Guarderia Forestal (Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente), having character of Agents of the Authority; and for the Service of Protection of the Nature (Guardia Civil, Central Administration).The protection means (human and materials) are relatively appropriate to exercise their functions inside the mark of protection of the nature and environment.

The Guarderia Forestal and the Service of Protection of the Nature (Guardia Civil) carry out accusations, having the concern of the sanction procedure (to impose sanctions) the Organ according to the infraction type. In general, the activities of surveillance carried out by The Guarderia Forestal and Guardia Civil, and the possible accusations that make, can't be considered sufficient to dissuade infractions.

Available resources

A specific management body doesn't exist for the proposed area. There are management team only for concrete

places of the area (Regional Park “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar”, Coastal Reserve “Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas”, etc).

It is considered insufficient in number the personnel, (in central offices and in the field). Specific formation’s programmes don't exist for the personnel of this area, but the personnel participates in formation programmes at Regional level.

Additional support

In the area, academic and investigators activities are developed (mainly of the University of Murcia). There are volunteer programmes and non-governmental organisations activities related to investigation and monitoring. The Coastal Reserve "Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas" has administration and investigation personal of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food and the Spanish Institute of Oceanography).

Present financial means

The basic financing of the area, dedicated to the basic personnel, protection and information measures is ensured. This financing comes from own resources of the Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de Murcia. In general terms, the degree of adequacy of the present financial means for the area is moderate.

Expected financial sources

The community funds of the European Union (Structural Fund, IFOP, Financial Instrument LIFE, etc).

Another financing source in project is the application of the obtained benefits (from the different authorizations and permits for economics activities) in the conservation and administration of the area.

Information and knowledge

There is an appropriate knowledge about habitats cartography, inventories of species and biological monitoring. The knowledge of ecological processes and the systemic vision of the area is insufficient. The knowledge of socioeconomic factors and of the derived impacts are scarce.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1. TYPOLOGY OF THE SITE

3.1.1. Terrestrial surface, excluding wetlands (ha):		310
3.1.2. Wetland surface (ha):		1,463
3.1.3. Marine surface (Sq. Km):	Marine internal waters	257.3
	Territorial sea	257.3
	High sea	

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.

The zone is part of the great domain of the Betic Mountains, occupying principally a wide quaternary plain. The geomorphology of the area has been due fundamentally to the volcanic and sedimentary processes that gave origin to the sandy bar of La Manga, and the biggest interior lagoon in Spain: the Mar Menor, communicated with the Mediterranean sea through a system of natural channels called "golas". Associated to the lagoon there are coastal salt marshes, salt flats (salt steppes) and some volcanic mountains. In this area the morphology of the coast is shallow; 6.5 m. is the maximum depth in the lagoon. The mediterranean south coast is characterized by an alternation between rocky (sea) cliffs - overcoming the 20 m. height - and small creeks and beaches. The submarine coast registers the same heterogeneity, with areas formed by soft substratum characteristic of beaches and rocky cliffs -10 m. depth-. Next to the islands there are the biggest depths, until 50 m. depth.

Bibliography

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Dirección General de Medio Ambiente 1999. *El litoral sumergido de la Region de Murcia. Cartografía bionómica y valores ambientales. 2ª Ed.* Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente. Region de Murcia.

Ramirez Díaz, L y col. 1990. *La Region de Murcia y su Naturaleza*. Diario la Opinion- Murcia.

Area de Ecología-Universidad de Murcia. *Estudios básicos de los Planes de Ordenación de los Recursos Naturales en los espacios litorales de Salinas de San Pedro del Pinatar, Calblanque-Peña del Aguila y Cabo Cope-Calnegre*.

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

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

a) Length of sandy beaches:

37.29

b) Length of pebble or stony beaches:

28.32

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

0.1

3.3. FRESHWATER INPUTS

3.3.1. Mean annual precipitation (in mm)

300

3.3.2. Main water courses (permanent and seasonal)

All the water courses are seasonal, generally inactive torrents. Most of these flow into the Mar Menor. The water courses are: Rambla de los Alcazares, Miranda, Beal, Carrasquilla y Siete Higueras.

3.3.3. Estuarine areas: Existence and brief description

Don't exist

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

Not applicable to the proposed area.

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)

Actually, we don't have a description of dominant marine habitats on the basis of the habitat classifications adopted within the framework of MAP National Focal Points. But we can recognize the following one:

- *Posidonia oceanica* meadows (III.5.1). Association with *Posidonia oceanica*. Approximate coverage: 8,400 has.

Using the classification of habitats of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, we can distinguish:

- Sands banks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time: (*Cymodoceion nodosae* and *Cymodoceetum nodosae*). Approximate coverage: 140 has.
- Coastal lagoons. Approximate coverage: 13,519 has.

The zone presents a high number of terrestrial habitats (using the classification of terrestrial habitats of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC):

- 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines
- 1240 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with endemic *Limonium ssp.*
- 1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1410 Mediterranean salt (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilus scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)
- 1430 Halo-nitrophilous scrubs
- 1510* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*)
- 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes
- 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- 2210 *Crucianellion maritimae* fixed beach dunes
- 2230 *Malcomietalia* dune grasslands
- 2250* Coastal dunes with *Juniperus spp.*
- 2260 *Cisto-Lavanduletalia* dune sclerophyllous scrubs
- 5220* Arborescent matorral with *Zyziphus*
- 5330 Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub
- 6110* Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the *Alyso-Sedion albi*.
- 6220* Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals for the *Thero-Brachypodietea*
- 8211 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation of the Western Mediterranean
- 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
- 8230 Siliceous rock with pioneer vegetation of the *Sedo-Sclerantion* or of the *Sedo albi-Veronicion dilleni*
- 92D0 Southern riparian galleries and thickets (*Nerio-Tamaricetea* y *Securinegion tinctoriae*)

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)

Clase	Genus	Species	Rel. Abundance	Global status	Local status
Birds	Pandion	haliaetus	o	r	m
Birds	Calonectris	diomedea	c	r	r
Birds	Hydrobates	pelagicus	u	e	r
Birds	Larus	audouinii	u	r,t	r
Birds	Phoenicopterus	ruber	c	r	w
Birds	Sterna	albifrons	u	r	r
Birds	Sterna	sandvicensis	u	r	b
Mammals	Delphinus	delphis	u	r,t	r
Mammals	Tursiops	truncatus	u	r,t	r
Fish	Aphanius (Lesbias)	iberus	u	r,e,t	r
Fish	Hippocampus	hippocampus	u	r,t	r
Reptiles	Caretta	caretta	u	r,t	m
Reptiles	Dermochelys	coriacea	u	r,t	m
Marine plants	Posidonia	oceanica	c	e	r
Marine plants	Zostera	nolti	u	e	r
Marine plants	Cystoseira	mediterranea	u	e	r
Marine plants	Cystoseira	spinosa	u	e	r
Marine plants	Cystoseira	zosteriodes	u	e	r
Marine invertebrates	Tethya	sp.	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Ophidiaster	ophidianus	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Dendropoma	petraeum	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Lithophaga	lithophaga	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Pholas	dactylus	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Luria	lurida	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Erosaria	spurca	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Charonia	lampas	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Controstephanus	longispinus	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Asterina	pancerii	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Astroides	calycularis	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Axinella	polypoides	u	r	r
Marine invertebrates	Pinna	nobilis	u	r	r

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

Other singular characteristics of the area are:

- It is presented in the area the unique “sabinar of dunes” (*Juniperus turbinata*) of the Region, which is not very abundant in the rest of the Iberian Peninsula. This community is a priority habitat type for the Nature 2000 network and it supposes an interesting rest of the old scrub vegetation arbustiva that covered wide areas of coastal dunes in the Region.
- It is presented vegetation of salt environment in a good conservation state and a great variety of communities characteristic of shoreline dunes.
- Interest species: the mediterranean elements *Sarcocornia alpinii*, *Juniperus turbinata*, *Pancreatium maritimum*, bulbous *Aetheorhiza*, *Triplachne nitens*, *Pseudorlaya pumila*; endemics species *Helianthemum marminorensis* and *Frankenia corymbosa*.
- The islands have a good formations of *Whitania* and *Lycium intricatum*. There are a lot of endemic species (*Limonium delicatulum*, *Limonium x arenosum*, *Teucrium freynii*, *Teucrium carthaginense*, *Sideritis pusilla subsp. carthaginensis*) and “iberoafrican species” (*Caralluma europaea*, *Periploca angustifolia*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, *Tamarix boveana*, *Brassica tourneforti*, *Palestinian Ammochloa*) as well as diverse terminal elements (*Asplenium billotii*, *Polypodium cambricum*, *Othantus maritimus*, *Asparagus maritimus*).

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

The area presents 7 birds, 5 marine plants, 13 marine invertebrates, 2 fish, 2 reptils and 2 mammals included in Annex II of the Protocol.

The area presents the biggest population of Fartet (*Aphanius iberus*) in the Region of Murcia. It is an important area for aquatic birds, mainly *Himantopus himantopus*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Calandrella rufescens*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Sterna albifrons* and *Gelochelidon nilotica*.

The Isla de las Hormigas have an important colony of *Hidrobates pelagicus melitensis*.

The populations of *Calonectris diomedea* and *Larus audouinii*. Isla Grosa is a very important colony in the world of *Larus audouinii*.

Other important species: the marine reptil *Caretta caretta* and the marine mammal *Tursiops truncatus*

3.5. HUMAN POPULATION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

3.5.1 Human population

a) Inhabitants inside the area:

	Number	Date of data
Permanent	0	2000
Seasonal number (additional to permanent)	0	2000

Description of the population

Nobody live inside the area.
Around the area inhabit around 50.000 people. This population is duplicated during the summer (tourism).

Main human settlements and their populations

The main human settlements and their populations are:
Los Alcazares: 6,134 inhabitants
San Javier: 17,523 inhabitants
San Pedro del Pinatar. 14,487 inhabitants
Small settlements of Cartagena: 11,860 inhabitants

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.

The main economic activity of the area is directly related with tourism, including activities as trade, construction and hostelry. In the coastal settlements there are an hotel offer of 12,000 beds. Other uses are the agriculture (vegetables); fishing (crustaceans, fish and mollusks with a capture of 376 tons in 1999) and industrial exploitation of the salt marshes.

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 Impact	Conserv.		
FISHING				
Subsistence	0	0		
Commercial, local	2	1	+/- 100	Permanent
Commercial, non-local	1	2	20-30	Permanent
Controlled recreational	1	1	< 1000	Summer
Un-controlled recreational	1	1	< 1000	Summer
Other				
TOURISM				
Regulated	3	2	+ - 150,000	Summer
Unregulated	no data	no data		
Indicate the type of tourism	no data	no data		
-.....				
-.....				
.				
.				
Tourism facilities	2	2		
FOREST PRODUCTS				
Subsistence	0	0		
Non-timber commercial, local	0	0		
Non-timber commercial, non-local	0	0		
Timber commercial, local	0	0		
Timber commercial, non-local	0	0		
Agriculture	2	3	+/-1000 (outside SPAMI)	Permanent
Stockbreeding	0	0		
Aquaculture	3	2	4 concession	Permanent
EXTENSIVE STOCK GRAZING				
Subsistence	0	0		
Commercial, local	1	1	No data	No data
Commercial, non-local	0	0		
OTHER ACTIVITIES				
-				
-				

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.

Encañizadas: traditional fishing summoned in natural channels of communication between the coastal lagoon and the Mediterranean Sea. The human activity maintains open the natural channels to facilitate the pass and capture of fish.

Salt Marshes: two salines exist: “Salinas of San Pedro del Pinatar” and “Salinas of Marchamalo”. They are dedicated to the extraction of salt from the evaporation of the water coming from the lagoon.

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).

Actually, we don't have a description of dominant marine habitats on the basis of the habitat classifications adopted within the framework of MAP National Focal Points. But we can recognize the following one:

- *Posidonia oceanica* meadows (III.5.1). Association with *Posidonia oceanica*. Approximate coverage: 8,400 has.

Using the classification of habitats of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, we can distinguish:

- Sands banks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time: (*Cymodoceion nodosae* and *Cymodoceetum nodosae*). Approximate coverage: 140 has.
- Coastal lagoons. Approximate coverage: 13,519 has.

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.

The area presents the biggest population of Fartet (*Aphanius iberus*) in the Region of Murcia. It is an important area for aquatic birds, mainly *Himantopus himantopus*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Calandrella rufescens*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Sterna albifrons* and *Gelochelidon nilotica*.

The Isla de las Hormigas have an important colony of *Hidrobates pelagicus melitensis*. The populations of *Calonectris diomedea* and *Larus audouinii*. Isla Grosa is a very important colony in the world of *Larus audouinii*.

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

The traditional activities of fishing (Encañizadas) and Salt Marshes with the associate birds have a great educational importance.

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 ecosystem of the lagoon is unique in the western Mediterranean coast. It is the biggest interior lagoon in the western Mediterranean coast and presents environmental conditions different of the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore singular ecological processes are developed.

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

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

The place “Punta de Algas” is a landscape with a great value. It is located in the Regional Park “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar”, where the Mediterranean Sea contact with the Mar Menor lagoon. Here the “Encañizadas” are placed (traditional fishing).

Another element of interest are the dunes in the “Playa de la Torre Derribada” beach. It is the limit between the beach and the rest of ecosystems of the Park.

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.

Related with the cultural and historical patrimony, the “Molino de la Calcetera” and “Molino de Quitín” mills are very important for their singularity. They are elements of great cultural significance. The mills are faithful testimonies of an economic activity (salt marshes) carried out in the area that has demonstrated to be a compatible activity with the conservation of the natural values.

Another element to highlight are “Las Encañizadas”, art of traditional fishing used by the fishermen in the past. Now they have been recovered as economic resources. Around it, the houses that were used by the fishermen to keep the fishing utensils are very interesting.

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.

*** Antecedents:**

In the sixties began the tourist development and the expansion of intensive irrigated lands around the zone, modifying the of land tenure and the modalities of use of resources, based previously in an unirrigated land agriculture, and traditional irrigated land. These activities were supplemented with the fishing and the exploitation of the salt (salt marshes).

***Current uses:**

The whole area is under some protection status (Natural protected Areas and Coastal Reserves for the legislation of the Autonomous Community of Murcia and of the Spanish Government; Special Protection Areas (SPA) for the “Bird Directive”; Sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for the “Habitats Directive” and wetlands included in Ramsar Convention). This guarantees, in legal terms, to harmonize the protection of the areas with the traditional uses, as well as the regulation of the activities and land uses.

In general terms, inside the area an unsustainable exploitation of the natural resources doesn't exist, except drainage, deposit of sediments, trawling fishing, illegal fishing and taking shellfish in certain areas.

The main threats on the natural resources of the area come from the exterior, fundamentally around the zone, especially for the modification and intensification of cultivation practices and touristic uses. This tourist-recreational pressure is manifested by a great urbanisation and an increase of the uses and recreational activities around and inside the area.

A second threat on the natural resources is the abandonment of traditional extensive land uses of the area, with significant historical and cultural values associated.

The current situation of the uses in the area are the following one:

- 1.- Increase of drainage in channels and for artificial beach and deposit of sediments. This has caused the modification of marine currents, changes in biological communities and invasion by species from the Mediterranean Sea to the lagoon.
2. - The fishing in the lagoon is in decline due to captures decrease, but it has a great superficial extension.
3. - The surfaces dedicated to salt exploitation show a great stability. Only the most extensive saltworks, the « Salinas de San Pedro del Pinatar » really stays in active. Saltworks “Salinas de Marchamalo” need public subsidies for their maintenance.
4. - Other uses of natural resources inside the area like the shepherding or the gathering of vegetable species for medicinal uses have scarce representation. Inside the area don't exist surfaces dedicated to the agriculture.

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.

1.- Serious threats to habitats

The main serious threats to habitats derive of intensification of tourist-recreational pressure in the area:

a) Habitats modifications

Alteration of the lagoon's hidric regime, alterarion of salinity and temperature, water pollution from urban areas and from irrigated lands have caused the substitution and disappearance of habitats and its associate species. This has been caused by the opening and dredged of channels between the lagoon and Mediterranean Sea, creation of artificial beach and seaport, creation of irrigated lands and urban areas around the zone.

b) Nuisances and alteration of habitats

Tourism activities (sport and leisure structures, nautical sports, etc...) are very important in summer. Their effects are the degradation of the habitat for the trample, abandonment of garbages and contamination.

2.- Serious threats to species

Basically, they are the same threats that for habitats. Inside the lagoon opportunists species (*Chaetomorpha linum* and *Caulerpa prolifera*) have appeared from the Mediterranean Sea due to alteration of lagoon's hidric régime (salinity and temperature). Some jellyfish (*Cotylorhiza tuberculata* and *Rhizostoma pulmo*) are now pest species.

The *Posidonia oceanica* meadows present as main threat the trawling and activities related with nautics sports.

Another threat is the abandonment of traditional uses of the area, with significant historical, cultural and faunal values associated (traditional fishing and saltworks).

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.

Inside the area doesn't exist human settlements, only some inhabited housings associated to the saltworks.

It is foregone an increase of the demographic pressure due to an escalation of the tourism, with expectations of construction of new infrastructures of transport, ports etc.

5.1.4. Historic and current conflicts

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

In the area, historically numerous uses and interests converge, actually it has been object of all type of environmental aggressions.

The first impacts go back to the XVI and XVII centuries with the development of shepherding, deforestation and the mining in the surrounding basin (specially during the decade of fifties). This caused an increment of the sedimentation rates in the lagoon.

In the sixties begin the tourist development and the expansion of intensive irrigated lands around the zone, modifying the regime of land tenure and the modalities of use of resources, based previously in an unirrigated land agriculture, traditional irrigated land, fishing and the exploitation of the salt (salt marshes). The expansion of intensive irrigated lands and touristic uses have caused a decrease of the fishing in the lagoon.

The current conflict is the nonexistence of a balance between a growing tourist-recreational pressure and the conservation of the habitats and species of the area.

The ecological and cultural values of the area have been broadly recognized at European and international level through diverse protection figures (Ramsar, Natura 2000 Network). Now it exists a high social sensibility of the problems that affect to the area. Nevertheless, there aren't monitoring plans for the impacts originated by the numerous activities developed in the area. They have not been carried out a detailed investigation of the effects on the lagoon and of the conservation of different habitats and species.

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.

Disposal of chemical fertilizer coming from irrigated lands around the area.

Disposal of urban wastes

Disposal from desalination plant

Disposal of hydrocarbons from aquatic activities

Abandonment of garbage

Acoustic contamination caused mainly for:

- tourist-recreational activities
- flight of airplanes to low height (there is an airport near of the area)
- communications networks

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 main serious threats to habitats and species derive of intensification of tourist-recreational pressure in the area:

Alteration of the lagoon hidric regime, alterarion of salinity and temperature, water pollution from urban areas and from irrigated lands have caused the substitution and disappearance of habitats and its associate species. This has been caused by the opening and dredged of channels between the lagoon and Mediterranean Sea, creation of artificial beach and seaport, creation of irrigated lands and urban areas around the zone.

Tourism activities (sport and leisure structures, nautical sports, etc...) are very important in summer. Their effects are the degradation of the habitat due to trampling, abandonment of garbages and contamination.

Inside the lagoon species opportunists (*Chaetomorpha linum* and *Caulerpa prolifera*) have appeared from the Mediterranean Sea due to alteration of lagoon's hidric regime (salinity and temperature). Some jellyfish (*Cotylorhiza tuberculata* and *Rhizostoma pulmo*) are now pest species.

The *Posidonia oceanica* meadows present as main threat the trawling and activities related with nautics sports.

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?

At the present time doesn't exist an integral plan that covers the whole area.

Some spaces inside the area have management plans with sustainable developpment measures:

1.- *Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar*:

It is a site eligible for indentification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI). Include the Regional Park "Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar" declared by Law 4/92 of Plannig and protection of the territory of the Murcia Region, having a "Natural Resources Planning Scheme".

2.- "Playa de la Hita", "Marina del Carmolí", "Saladar de Lo Poyo", "Salinas de Marchamalo y Playa de las Amoladeras":

These spaces are part of the SCI "Open Spaces and Islands of the Mar Menor", included inside the Natural Space "Espacios abiertos e islas del Mar Menor", declared by the "Law 4/1992 of Planning and Protection of the Territory" of the Murcia Region, having the initial approval of a "Natural Resources Organisational Plan".

3.- The "Marine Reserve of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas" and the Mar Menor lagoon don't have with management plan, but there are regulations for some leisure and fishing activities.

6. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS¹

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

It is foreseen a population's increase around the site due to the growth of the tourism.

Around the site will increase urbanised areas, communication networks and intensive irrigated lands.

The demand on tourism and recreation (tourism pressure) will increase.

It is expected that traditional agriculture and fishing of the area, with significant historical, cultural and faunal values associates, will disappear. On the contrary, an increase of more intensive economic activities related with the aquaculture (red tuna) is foreseen.

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.

The whole area is protected (at regional, national, or international level), therefore the potential conflicts in the area will be the relations between the growing tourist-recreational pressure, the expansion of intensive irrigated lands and the conservation of the natural resources, habitats and species.

¹ 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

It isn't foreseen important changes in the land uses inside the SPAMI.
The main threat is the abandonment of the traditional uses, with significant historical and cultural values.
The growing touristic-recreational uses (construction of infrastructures, urbanization) will cause the loss of the landscape diversity.

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

The whole area is under some protection regime (Natural protected Areas and Marine Reserves for the legislation of the Autonomous Community of Murcia and of the Spanish Government; Special Protection Areas (SPA) for the "Birds Directive"; Sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for the "Habitats Directive" and wetlands included in Ramsar Convention). This guarantees, in legal terms, to harmonize the protection of the areas with the traditional uses, as well as the regulation of the activities and land uses. However, the growing tourist-recreational pressure (increase of aquatic sport activities like sailing, diving, etc) it will extend their effects.

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

1. Special Plan for the Protection of the Salinas de San Pedro del Pinatar, Coto de las Palomas y de la Llana y el Mojon. (Resolution of 24-05-1985)
2. Law 4/1989, of March 27, of Conservation of the Natural Areas and Wild Flora and Fauna.

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.

1. Law 4/1992 of Planning and Protection of the Territory of the Region of Murcia: it is declared like Protected Natural Area:
 - Regional Park of the Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar
 - Protected Landscape Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor
 - Protected Natural Space Islas e Islotes del Litoral Mediterráneo
2. Law 1/2001, of April 24, of the Soil of the Region of Murcia.
Abolish the Preliminary Title and Titles I, II, IV and V and Second Additional Dispositions of the Law 4/1992 of Planning and Protection of the Territory of the Region of Murcia.
3. Decree 7/1993, of March 26, on measures of protection of ecosystems in waters interiors:
According to natural, cultural and landscapes intrinsic values, as well as for the fragility of the ecosystems, declares “Area of High Ecological Sensibility” the ecosystems of interiors waters of the Mar Menor and their islands; and those ecosystems belonging to the islands of the Mediterranean Sea and in the coastal line between the limit of the region with Alicante and the Islas Hormigas y Cabo de Palos.
4. Decree 15/1995, of March 31, which declares Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.
5. Order of June 22 1995 which provides a Marine Reserve in the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas in external waters.
6. Decree 44/1995, of May 26 wich approved the Natural Resources Planning Scheme of the Regional Park Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar.
7. Law 1/1995 of Protection of the Environment of the Region of Murcia.
“Area of Ecological Sensibility” is declared, to the effects of applying the evaluation of environmental impact, to those Protected Natural Spaces declared by the Law 4/1992.
8. Resolution of November 4 of 1994, of the Subsecretary, for which prepares the publication of the Agreement of the Ministers Council of November 15, 1994, for which is authorized the inclusion of the Embalses de Cordobilla y Malpasillo, Albufera de Adra, Ria del Eo, Mar Menor, Marismas de Santoña and Marjal de Pego-oliva, in the list of the Ramsar Convention, relative to Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Habitat of Aquatic Birds (Ramsar, February 2, 1971).
9. Order of December 29 of 1998, which approved initially the Natural Resources Planning Scheme of the Espacios Abiertos e islas del Mar Menor.
10. Law 11/95, of October 5 1995, of modification of the Law 7/95, of April 21, of the wild fauna, game and fluvial fishing.
11. Law 7/1995 of wild fauna, game and fluvial fishing.
Are declared “Areas of Protection of Wild Fauna”: Mar Menor y humedales asociados; las islas Grosa y Hormigas.
12. Order of July 19 of 2001, of the Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente, for which the the diving activities are regulated in waters interiors of the Marinel Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.
13. Order of June 6 of 2001 which modifies the Order of June 22 1995, wich provides a Marine Reserve in the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.
14. Order of April 7, 2000, of Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente, wich the authorized fishing measures are regulated in waters of the Marine Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.
- 15 Order of April 29, 1999 wich modifies the Order of June 22, 1995, wich provides a Marine Reserve in the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.
16. Order of June 20 of 2001, wicd declares « Sensitive Area » in the Region of Murcia, according to the Real Decreto-Ley 11/1995, of december 28, wich provides the applicable norms to the treatment of the residual urban waters.
17. Resolution of May 12, 1999, of the Dirección General de Recursos Humanos, which publicize to the coloboration bargained between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food y la Regional Environmental, Agricultural and Water Ministry of the Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de Murcia, relative to the shared management of the Marine Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

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.

The Law 4/1989, of March 27, Conservation of the Natural Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora, provides the objectives of the Planning Schemes:

- To define the state of conservation of the natural resources and ecosystems
- To define the limitations according to the conservation state
- To point out the protection régime that proceed
- To promote the application of conservation and restoration measures of the natural resources.
- To formulate the criterion to the sectoral politicians and to the economic and social, public and private activities, for to make this politicians and activities compatible with the Planning Schemme.

The section 4 of this Law, provides the minimum content of the Natural Resources Planning Scheme:

- Delimitation of the planning territorial boundary and description and interpretation of their physical and biological characteristics
- Definition of conservation state of the natural resources, the ecosystems and the landscapes inside the limits, formulating a diagnosis and a forecast of their future evolution
- To define the limitations according to the places and species conservation state, with specification of the different areas in their case
- Application, in their case, of some of protection régime established in this Law
- Concretion of those activities, works or facilities, public or private, to those that the evaluation régime should be applied.

To formulate the criterion to other sectoral politicians for the territorial boundary.

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).

Inside the selected area, there are zones protected at National level by Law 4/1989, of Conservation of Natural Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora.

Other areas are protected by the Autonomous Community of the Region de Murcia: Law 4/92 of Planning and Protection of the Territory of the Region de Murcia.

Other areas are protected by community Directives: COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, and COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

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.).

1. Resolution of the Ministers Council of July 15, 1994, in which is authorized the inclusion of « Mar Menor y sus humedales asociados », between others, in the list of the Ramsar Convention, relative to the Wetlands of international importance.
2. Resolution of October 13, 1998 for which becomes public the Government Council agreement on Special Protection Areas for the birds (SPA) in « Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar' Regional Park ».
3. Resolution of March 30, 2000 for the classification like SPA of the « Isla Grosa ».
4. Resolution of July 28, 2000 for which becomes public the Government Council agreement on appointment of the sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI) in the Region de Murcia.
Areas proposed as Sites of Community Importance (SCI): Regional Park “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar”; Mar Menor; Protected Landscape “Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor”; Franja Litoral Sumergida de la Región de Murcia; Islas e Islotes del Litoral Mediterraneo.
5. Resolution of October 11, 2000 for which becomes public the Government Council agreement on Special Protection Areas for the birds (SPA) in « Islas Hormigas ».
6. Resolution of May 8, 2001 for which becomes public the Government Council agreement on Special Protection Areas for the birds (SPA) in « Mar Menor ».

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 area includes the following places:

- 1.- Lagoon: 135 km² (Public property).
- 2.- Islands inside the lagoon: Isla Mayor (89.4 ha. Public property); Isla Perdiguera (27.5 ha. Public property); Isla del Ciervo (17 ha. Public property); Isla Redonda (2,4 ha. Private property) and Isla Sujeto (2,5 ha. Private property).
- 3.- Open areas: Playa de la Hita (27.75 ha. Public and Private property); Marina del Carmoli (396.61 ha. Public and Private property); Saladar de Lo Poyo (210.38 ha. Public and Private property); Salinas de Marchamalo y Playa de las Amoladeras (198,27 ha. Public and Private property).
- 4.- Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar: 872.6 ha. (Private property 477.3 ha. and Public property 395.3 ha.).
- 5.- Islands of the Mediterranean Sea: Isla Grosa (18.3 ha. Public property); Islote del Farallon (0,3 ha. Public property);
- 6.- Franja litoral sumergida de la Region de Murcia: Public property.

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

Regional Park “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar”. Natural Resources Planning Scheme. Zoning:

- 1.- Saltwork Reservation area (463.7 ha). Management objectives: conservation and improvement of the area, compatible with the saltwork, restricting the public use.
- 2.- Area of High-priority conservation (300,60 ha). Management objectives: make compatible the conservation and regeneration works with the controlled investigation, evaluation of the management actions and certain productives uses. To prioritize the conservation and investigation aspects. To achieve a maximum self-supporting of the natural conditions and a minimum intervention grade. To reach the biggest protection grade for the autochthonous vegetation and faunal communities, especially for the catalogued species.
- 3.- Area of Compatible conservation (59.23 ha). Management objectives: make compatible the conservation and regeneration works with the controlled investigation, evaluation of the management actions, therapeutic and the extensive public use.
- 4.- Area of Intensive Use (33.11 ha). Management objectives: to guarantee and to favour the current use of the area.
- 5.- Area of Road Public Use. Management objectives: to guarantee the correct conditions of access and traffic in the Regional Park.
- 6.- Other Areas of the Planning Scheme (15.93 ha). Management objectives: buffer area. Make compatible the regeneration of habitats with the public use (interpretation and enjoyment of the Regional Park).

Protected Landscape « Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor » Natural Resources Planning Scheme. Zoning:

- 1.- Area of High-priority conservation (749.94 ha). Management objectives: habitat conservation, the investigation, environmental education and interpretation, enjoyment of nature but strictly regulated.
- 2.- Area of Compatible conservation (15.69 ha). Management objectives: conservation and regeneration of the natural areas, compatible, exclusively, with extensive uses and activities (recreational in beaches, archaeological and landscapes restoration).
- 3.- Area of Intensive Use: Agrarian Landscape (144.31 ha). Management objectives: to maintain and to restore of the productive activiteis of extensive agrarian character (traditional unirrigated land) and herbaceous intensive cultivations (irrigated). To conserve the landscapes. To restore traditional hidrics structures.
- 4.- Area of Intensive Use: General (4.43 ha). Management objectives: the objectives are the consolidation, reforms and aesthetic adaptation of the constructions, conservation of the architectural patrimony, as well as the activities and works that are derived of the saltworks. To promote environmental education and interpretation without damage the saltworks use.
- 5.- Area of Road Public Use. Management objectives: to guarantee the correct conditions of access and traffic in the zone, considering their landscape integration, people’s security and protection of wildlife.

Marine Reserve “Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas”. Zoning:

Area of Integral Reservation (268 ha). It is prohibited any type and marine fishing, the extraction or capture of marine flora and fauna and the diving.

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.

The basic regulations are those included in the section 7 and also:

Law 6/2001, of modification of Real Decreto-Legislativo 1302/1986, of June 28, on evaluation of environmental impact.

Order of June 20, 2001, declaring "Sensitive Area" in the Murcia Region, according to the Real Decreto-Ley 11/1995, of December 28, wich provides the applicable norms to the treatment of the urban residual waters.

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.

Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente (Region of Murcia). It is the high organism in charge of the administration and implementation of conservation measures for all the areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI list, except in the marine area of external waters, where the responsible organism is the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spanish Central Government).

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.

Participation and collaboration organ of the Regional Park: Rectors Committee or Patronages (Act nº 9/1994, of February, of constitution and operation of Rectors committee of Protected Natural Spaces).

Support Commission of the Marine Reserve Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas. (Act 15/1995, of March 31, which declares Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest the area of Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas).

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

- Secretaria General de Pesca Maritima. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spanish Central Government).
- Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente (Autonomous Government of Region of Murcia).

8.1.2. Other participants in the management body

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

If the area proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI list is accepted, a management organ will be created with agents of the Consejería de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente and the Secretaria General de Pesca Maritima, a participation committee and a scientific committee.

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.

Environmentalist or conservationist organizations (NGO).
Agrarian professional organizations.
City councils of San Pedro del Pinatar and San Javier cities.
Regional federation of fishermen's brotherhoods.
Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Sailing.
University of Murcia.
University of Cartagena
Federation of Diving Activities of the Region de Murcia.

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:

Moderate

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

Moderate

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).

At this moment, don't exist a common Management Plan for the whole proposed SPAMI, but the realization of a Integral Management Plan will elaborate for the whole area within three years.

Protection, planning and/or ordering measures at the present time:

1.- Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park:

- Guiding Plan Use and Management (in elaboration)
- Projects of habitats regeneration
- Programs of biological pursuit
- Program of Information and communication for the local population and visitors.
- Activities of environmental education and sensitization.

2.- Espacios Abiertos e Islas del Mar Menor:

- Programs of biological pursuit
- Covenant for the maintenance of the salt marshes "Salinas de Marchamalo"

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.

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:

Natural Resources Planning Scheme “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar”:

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

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.

Marine Reserve: the boundaries of the area are adequately marked.

Regional Park “Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar”: the boundaries of the area are adequately marked in the principal points of access.

There are informative panels inside all Regional Park.

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.

City Councils of San Pedro del Pinatar and San Javier cities and other sectoral organisms.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
Rectors committee.
Management and Pursuit Committee of the Marine Reserve

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

The surveillance of the area are carried out for the Guarderia Forestal (Consejeria de Agricultura, Agua y Medio Ambiente), having character of Agents of the Authority; and for the Service of Protection of the Nature (Guardia Civil, Central Government).The protection means (human and materials) are relatively appropriate to exercise their functions inside the mark of protection of the nature and environment.

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.

The Guarderia Forestal and the Service of Protection of the Nature (Guardia Civil) carry out accusations, having the concern of the sanction procedure (to impose sanctions) the Organ according to the infraction type.
In general, the activities of surveillance carried out by The Guarderia Forestal and Guardia Civil, and the possible accusations that make, can't be considered sufficient to dissuade infractions.

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.

A specific management body doesn't exist for the proposed area. There are management team only for concrete places of the area (Regional Park "Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar", Marine Reserve "Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas", etc).

It is considered insufficient in number the personnel, (in central offices and in the field). Specific formation's programmes don't exist for the personnel of this area, but the personnel participates in formation programmes at Regional level.

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.

According to the already exposed in the previous section, a specific management body doesn't exist for the proposed area. There are management team only for concrete places of the area.

	YES/NO	NUMBER Permanent/Part-time	ADEQUACY OF TRAINING LEVEL			
Field Administrator	YES	4				
Field Experts (scientific monitoring)	YES	2				
Field Technicians (maintenance, etc)	YES	2				
Wardens	YES	2				
Of which marine wardens	YES					
Guides	YES	2				
Other	YES NO		0	1	2	3

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.

In the area, academic and investigators activities are developed (mainly of the University of Murcia). There are volunteer programmes and non-governmental organisations activities related to investigation and monitoring.

The Coastal Reserve "Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas" has administration and investigation personal of the Central Administration ("Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food" and "Spanish Institute of Oceanography").

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.

The basic financing of the area, dedicated to the basic personnel, protection and information measures is ensured. This financing comes from own resources of the Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de Murcia.

In general terms, the degree of adequacy of the present financial means for the area is moderate.

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.

The community funds of the European Union are a source of complementary financing in vigor, and with perspectives of constituting a source of alternative financing to half term (Structural Fund, IFOP, Financial Instrument LIFE, etc).

Another financing source in project is the application of the obtained benefits (from the different authorizations and permits for economics activities) in the conservation and administration of the area.

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	3
Signs on the main accesses	YES	2
Guard posts on the main accesses	YES	1
Visitors information centre	YES	2
Self guided trails with signs	YES	2
Terrestrial vehicles	YES	2
Marine vehicles	YES	2
Radio and communications	YES	2
Environmental awareness materials	YES	2
Capacity to respond to emergencies	YES	3
Comment on basic infrastructure and equipment		

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.

There is an appropriate knowledge about habitats cartography, inventories of species and biological monitoring.

The knowledge of ecological processes and the systemic vision of the area is insufficient. The knowledge of socioeconomic factors and of the derived impacts are scarce.

9.3.2. Data collection

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

The data are very dispersed and little systematized and coordinated.

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? *not for the whole area

YES*

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

Yes, In three years

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

Medium

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

For the personnel of the Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de Murcia is carried out the control of the uses and the norms to apply, especially in the protected areas.
The monitoring of species and conservation state of the ecosystems is carried out directly by the personnel of Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de Murcia, or in an indirect way, coordinating and supervising these actions.

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

10. Other information, if any

[Empty rectangular box for providing other information]

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

Director General del Medio Natural
Comunidad Autonoma de la Region de
Murcia

Directora General de Conservación de
la Naturaleza.
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente.

Fdo. Carlos Brugarolas Molina

Fdo. Ines Gonzalez Doncel

13. DATE

05/10/2001