

## SPAMI periodic review report

SPAMI name : Pelagos Sanctuary

Review type : Ordinary Review

Review year : 2024

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**SPAMI periodic review report**  
**SPAMI name: Pelagos Sanctuary**  
**Review year: 2024**

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

**1. MEDITERRANEAN VALUE OF THE SPAMI**

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>1.1. The SPAMI still fulfils at least one of the criteria related to the regional Mediterranean value as presented in the SPA/BD Protocol's Annex I.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0</p> <p>Yes : 1</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>

**Rationale for the note**

The Pelagos Sanctuary fulfils several criteria related to the regional Mediterranean values as presented in the SPA/BD Protocol’s Annex I as follows:

**a) Uniqueness and b) Natural Representativeness:** The Sanctuary’s marine currents (including the frontal zone, which concentrates different water masses, and the Ligurian-Provençal current) alongside its unique underwater topography drive a nutrient upwelling. This upwelling supports high biological productivity, fostering the development of abundant and diverse wildlife. As a result, the Sanctuary hosts one of the most productive pelagic environments in the Mediterranean Sea, home to all commonly resident cetacean species in the region.

Two EBSAs (Ecologically or Biologically Important Marine Areas), declared in the 2010s by the UN Convention on Biodiversity, fully overlap the Pelagos Sanctuary: the North-western Mediterranean Pelagic Ecosystems and the North-western Mediterranean Benthic Ecosystems. This recognizing the high ecological value of the marine habitats and species of the area.

**c) Diversity:** The area is rich in biodiversity, featuring various species of magnoliophytes, phaeophytes, rhodophytes, porifera, cnidarians, echinoderms, molluscs, fish, reptiles, birds and marine mammals. Regarding the latter, eight species are regularly observed in the Sanctuary: Fin whale, Sperm whale, Long-finned pilot whale, Risso’s dolphin, Cuvier’s beaked whale, Common Bottlenose dolphin, Striped dolphin and Common dolphin. Due to its distinctive physical, ecological, and biological characteristics, the Sanctuary serves as an ideal habitat for migrating cetaceans during the spring and summer months. Rare sightings of Monk seal can also occur. Indeed Monk seal’s sightings have become more frequent in recent years and non-invasive monitoring, such as photo-traps in potential caves used by the animals and environmental DNA analysis, have confirmed its presence. Moreover, accidental sightings of species like the Humpback whale, Harbor porpoise and Killer whale have also occurred.

Recently the IUCN identified two IMMAs (Important Marine Mammal Areas) in this region: the Western Ligurian Sea and Genoa Canyon IMMA (a key habitat for the Cuvier’s beaked whale) and the North West Mediterranean Sea, Slope and Canyon System IMMA (important habitat for fin and sperm whales and extending further beyond Pelagos).

**e) Critical Habitats for Endangered, Threatened, or Endemic Species:** The Sanctuary encompasses a variety of habitats that are regularly used by cetaceans in the northwestern Mediterranean, serving as a vital feeding ground for many species, particularly in the summer. All cetacean species, except the Common bottlenose dolphin (listed in Appendix II), are included in Appendix IV of the Directive for the Flora Fauna Habitats 92/43/EEC. The continental shelf is the primary habitat for the Common bottlenose dolphin, whose Mediterranean subpopulation is classified as "least concern" by the IUCN with a decreasing trend (Natoli et al., 2021). Although rare in the Sanctuary, the Common dolphin (with a Mediterranean subpopulation considered "endangered" by the IUCN (Bearzi et al., 2022)) also inhabit this area. The continental slope is a favored habitat for large teutophage species, including the Sperm whale ("endangered" according to IUCN criteria (Pirota et al., 2021)), as well as the Long-finned pilot whale ("endangered" according to IUCN criteria (Gauffier & Verborgh, 2021)) and Risso’s dolphin ("endangered" according to IUCN criteria (Lanfredi et al., 2022)). The Great Abyssal Plain, located in the western part of the Sanctuary, is the preferred habitat for the Fin whale ("endangered" according to IUCN criteria (Panigada et al., 2021)). Additionally, underwater canyons, due to their unique biogeographic features, promote high productivity, which regularly attracts species like the Cuvier’s beaked whale ("vulnerable" according to IUCN criteria (Cañadas, A. & Notarbartolo di Sciarra, G. 2018)), Sperm whale, and Risso’s dolphin.

**f) Cultural Representativeness:** The Pelagos Sanctuary encompasses the sea embedded between five French and Italian administrative regions (Corsica, Liguria, Provence-Alpes-Cote d’Azur, Sardinia, and Tuscany) and the principality of Monaco, which are extremely rich in culture and historical traditions link to the sea. Many educational and awareness-raising activities take place in the Sanctuary area, thanks to events organized for schools in the municipalities that have signed the Pelagos Partnership Charter, as well as by environmental associations, museums, and aquariums. Activities and workshops are promoted and/or co-organised every year by the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement in order to foster cooperation between Italian, French and Monegasque classes. Lectures on various topics related to the Pelagos Sanctuary are given regularly at Universities in the three member countries. Moreover the Pelagos Agreement created a dedicated website page, new communication and awareness-raising tools (<https://pelagos-sanctuary.org/activities-for-children/>) for children and schools.

Finally, media interest has been steadily increasing, with major newspapers and TV stations covering the Sanctuary and the collaborative efforts between the three Countries in their reports.

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>1.2. Level of adverse changes occurred during the evaluation period for the habitats and species considered as natural features in the SPAMI presentation report submitted for the inclusion of the area in the SPAMI List.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Significant changes : 0</p> <p>Moderate changes : 1</p> <p>Slight changes : 2</p> <p>No adverse change : 3</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>

**Rationale for the note**

During the evaluation period there were no adverse changes. In June 2022, the stranding of 4 specimens of Cuvier’s beaked whale occurred in the Pelagos Sanctuary (3 in Corsica and 1 in Elba island), most probably due to impulsive underwater noise of military exercises. Although Article 15 of the text of the Agreement states that “Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the sovereign immunity of warships or other ships owned or operated by a State, insofar as they are used for non-commercial public services”, the Parties, through the Permanent Secretariat, sent an official note to the French and Italian navies in order to make them aware of the impact of military exercises on Cuvier’s beaked whale and suggested them, if possible, to not organize the military exercises in Summer or Spring in the area, because they are the seasons with the highest concentration of specimens. Moreover, the Pelagos Working Group on Impacts, focused on the Cuvier’s beaked whale and the challenges posed by impulsive underwater noise, developing a document aimed at recommending specific protective measures to the Pelagos Agreement’s Contracting Parties (France, Italy and Monaco) as decided during the 9th Meeting of the Parties (MOP9), held in January 2024 in Nice, with Res. 9.1/: <https://pelagos-sanctuary.org/the-cuviers-beaked-whale/>

Another stranding involving 3 Cuvier’s beaked whales occurred in May 2024 (the 18th or around) on three different beaches along the coasts of Corsica. On the basis of a preliminary report, there is evidence that human noise caused by unknown sources was generated in the marine area where the strandings occurred. French marine informed that internal processes are undertaken (as soon as when planifying activities and permanent acoustic monitoring during operations) in order to avoid or reduce impacts of military operations on cetaceans. Furthermore, ACCOBAMS agreement, together with ASCOBANS and CMS, conducts a dialogue with marines in order to enhance the optimal management of uses at sea, in particular reconcile the need for military exercises and the protection of marine species.

**Score**

3

**1.3. Are the objectives, set out in the original SPAMI application for designation, actively pursued?**

**Rating scale**

- No : 0
- Only some of them : 1
- Yes for most of them : 2
- Yes for all of them : 3

**Rationale for the note**

**Multilateral framework**

The objectives outlined in the original proposal to designate the Sanctuary as a SPAMI are actively pursued through the cooperation among the three countries. These objectives form the basis of the Agreement and are detailed in its text, specifically in the following articles focused on establishing a Sanctuary for marine mammals in the Mediterranean:

- Art. 2:
  1. The Parties establish a marine Sanctuary in the Mediterranean zone defined under article 3, the diversity and biological wealth of which are indispensable factors for the protection of marine mammals in their habitat.
  2. They protect all species of marine mammals.
- Art. 4: The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures in the Sanctuary [...] to guarantee a favourable state of conservation of marine mammals, protecting them, together with their habitat, against the direct or indirect negative impacts of human activities.

During the evaluation period:

- in order to reduce ship strikes, the Pelagos Parties and Spain finalised an initiative that was launched in the Pelagos fora in 2013: the designation of a *Particularly Sensitive Sea Area* (PSSA). The PSSA, encompassing the Pelagos Sanctuary and the Spanish Cetacean Corridor, was declared in July 2023 by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the North-Western Mediterranean (NW-Med PSSA), with associated voluntary protection measures (MEPC 380(80)).
- the objectives of the Agreement are pursued through a six-year management plan, implemented via a two-year Working programme approved by the Parties at the occasion of the MOP. The Working programmes are implemented by the Permanent Secretariat in collaboration with the Parties, the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), including through the support of the working groups, as well as the Pelagos relevant stakeholders.

**National frameworks**

**France**

-Moreover the French maritime authority (Préfecture maritime) has decided to ban fast motor boat competitions in the Pelagos Sanctuary

Moreover, the French Maritime Authority (Autorité Maritime) has decided to ban hot motor boat competitions in the Pelagos Sanctuary (Arrêté 384/2023 du 20 November 2023).

- Ministerial decree of the 11.12.17 establishing the list of systems sharing the positions in order to avoid ship strikes in the Pelagos and Agoa marine protected areas;
- Ministerial decree of the 02.05.17 establishing the characteristics and technical needs of the systems sharing the positions of vessels in order to avoid ship strikes in the Pelagos and Agoa marine protected areas;
- Ministerial decree n. 2012-1148 of the 12.10.12 related to the creation of the EEZ in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Ministerial decree of the 07.12.11 amending the decree of May 3, 1995 on nautical events;
- Ministerial decree of July 11, 2011 concerning the ban on fishing with driftnets;
- Ministerial decree dated from the 01.07.11 establishing the list of protected marine mammals and the related modalities to protect them at a national scale, including the forbidding of the cetacean intentional disturbance.

**Italy**

- Constitutional Law of 11 February 2022, No. 1, amending art. 9 of the Italian Constitution and introducing environmental protection and protection of animals among its fundamental principles;
- Law of 17 May 2022, n. 60. including provisions for the recovery of waste at sea and inland waters for the promotion of circular economy (the so called Legge “SalvaMare”);
- DPCM Application DPCM 10.10.17 – Approval of the Program of measures, in accordance with Art.12, subparagraph 3, Legislative decree 190/2010, related to the definition of strategies for the marine environment which include a specific measure aimed at preventing ship strikes;
- Ministerial Decree of the Ministry in charge of transport in cooperation with the Ministry in charge of the environment n. 0000070 of the 02.03.12, called “Decreto rotte” including provisions to restrict or prohibit the transit of merchant vessels for the protection of sensitive areas within the territorial sea;
- Legislative decree 190/2010 of national transposition of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/CE;
- Legislative decree n. 128/2010 11.08.10, entitled “Modifications and integrations to the Legislative decree of the 03.04.2006, n.152, bearing rules for the environment subject, according to Art.12 of the law 18.06.2009, n.69” which interdicts inside the perimeter of marine and coastal protected areas, including Pelagos, any activities related to hydrocarbon research, in particular with air gun and exploitation. This provision is further extended to a buffer zone of 12 nautical miles around the protected areas;
- D.P.R. 27.10.11 n.209 “Institution of Ecological Protection Zones in the North-Western part of the Mediterranean Sea”;

**2.- LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- Italy prohibited the offshore powerboat racing within the Italian territorial waters of the Pelagos Sanctuary already in 2001, through the law of ratification of the Agreement (Italian Law n. 391 of October 11th 2001).

	<b>Score</b>
<p>- Law n. 157 of 1992 related to the protection of the marine mammals;</p> <p>- Ministerial Decree of 18 July 1991 “Suspension of the fishing of swordfish and albacore tuna with drift nets”;</p> <p>- Ministerial Decree of 2 November 1989 “Discipline of cetaceans, turtles and sturgeon catching”</p> <p><b>Monaco</b></p> <p>- Maritime Code Art. O.230-1 et seq on the protection of the marine environment;</p> <p>- Maritime Code Art. O.244-1 et seq on the exploitation and exploration of the marine environment.</p> <p>- Monaco is assessing how to align its legislation with the ban in force in France and Italy regarding offshore powerboat racing.</p>	<b>2</b>
<p>The SPAMI has maintained or improved its legal status : 2</p>	

**Rationale for the note**

The SPAMI has maintained its legal status with reference to the previous evaluation report and the objectives actively pursued through an innovative Management Plan 2022-2027.

The legal status of the Agreement is based on the following acts:

**France**

- Ministerial Decree n.2002-1016 dated of 18.07.02 promulgating the Agreement signed in Rome on the 25th November 1999 on the creation of a marine mammal Sanctuary in the Mediterranean Sea;

**Italy**

- Law n.391 dated of 11.10.01 ratifying the Agreement signed in Rome on the 25th November 1999 on the creation of a marine mammal Sanctuary in the Mediterranean Sea;

**Monaco**

- Sovereign order n.15.258 dated from the 18.02.02 promulgating the Agreement signed in Rome on the 25th November 1999 on the creation of a marine mammal Sanctuary in the Mediterranean Sea.

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>2.2. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Competencies and responsibilities are not clearly defined : 0</p> <p>The definition of competencies and responsibilities needs slight improvements : 1</p> <p>The SPAMI has clearly defined competencies and responsibilities : 2</p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The Pelagos Management Plan 2022-2027 designates the responsible for the implementation of each action.</p> <p>Moreover, the new Rules of Procedure (Resolution 9.6) clearly define the competencies and the responsibilities of the bodies of the Agreement, as well as the role of other entities, such as the official partners.</p>	

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>2.3. Does the area have governance bodies in line with the original application for inclusion in the SPAMI List?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No governance bodies : 0</p> <p>Only some governance bodies are in place : 1</p> <p>The governance bodies are in place, but they are not functioning on a regular basis (e.g.: no regular meetings or works) : 2</p> <p>The SPAMI has fully dedicated governance bodies and sufficient powers to address the conservation challenges : 3</p>	<b>3</b>

<b>3. MANAGEMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES</b>	
<b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b>	
The Meeting of the Parties (MOP) serves as the decision-making body of the Agreement, responsible for adopting the recommendations. It expresses its opinion on the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) and on the proposals of the Permanent Secretariat, established based on the Management Plan.	<b>Score</b>
<p>The MOP consists of the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chair of the STC, delegations from the three Parties, members of the Permanent Secretariat, and observers.</p> <p>The STC collaborates with the Permanent Secretariat and the National Focal Points from France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco. It includes the Chair of the STC, the Heads of Delegation, and up to five members and experts representing each Party to the Agreement. The STC provides advice and guidance to the Parties on achieving the Agreement's objectives, supporting the Permanent Secretariat in preparing recommendations, resolutions, programmes of work and setting international priorities.</p> <p>No management plan : 0</p> <p>The MOP reviews and approves the STC's proposals, based on the management plan and priority actions. The level of implementation of the management plan is assessed as "insufficient" : 1</p>	<b>3</b>
The management plan is not officially adopted but its implementation is assessed as "adequate" : 2	
The management plan is officially adopted and adequately implemented : 3	
<b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b>	
<p>A new six-year Management and Action Plan was adopted at the occasion of the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Pelagos Agreement (Resolution 8.1 - Rome, 15-16 December 2021)). Covering the period from 2022 to 2027, the plan is implemented through biennial programmes of work. The Management Plan was elaborated with the support of a consultant during the year prior to MOP8. The authorities of the agreement were involved in its drafting, as well as all stakeholders through public consultations.</p> <p>Among the innovative elements that the Management Plan introduces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rediscovering the international dimension of the Pelagos Agreement, because every action that leads to the achievement of an objective, if determined by only one party to the Agreement, does not constitute a success for the Agreement itself;</li> <li>2. Revitalisation of the Pelagos community to bring all stakeholders, including NGOs, IOs, economic operators, citizens, territorial and local authorities, etc. to participate in the implementation of the Management Plan. Pelagos sees itself as an agora in which all parties can participate in the governance of the Agreement and the implementation of its objectives.</li> <li>3. Participation in capitalisation projects such as <i>Interreg-Med</i> and <i>Life</i> for the implementation of specific actions in the Working Programme;</li> <li>4. Prioritise simplification through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revision of the Agreement's Rules of Procedure (Resolution 9.6);</li> <li>• introduction of more dynamic and lighter procedures (introduction of tacit acceptance);</li> <li>• system of delegations at Permanent Secretariat and national level;</li> <li>• building a system and relationships of trust among the Agreement authorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>From a scientific point of view, it is planned to carry out inventories of the Sanctuary's populations and to approach research from the point of view of pressures, because it is on pressures that interventions and management must be carried out.</p> <p>From a financial point of view, in view of the ambition of the Management Plan and the resulting Working Programmes, a 'Pelagos Voluntary Fund' (PVF) has been set up to receive voluntary contributions from any entity wishing to contribute to the implementation of the Management Plan and the Agreement's Working Programmes.</p>	

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>3.2. Assess the adequacy of the management plan taking into account the SPAMI objectives and the requirements set out in article 7 of the Protocole ASP/DB and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated Format (AF).</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Low : 0</p> <p>Medium : 1</p> <p>Good : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	<b>3</b>

**Rationale for the note**

Recalling art. 7 of the Protocol:

*(a) the development and adoption of a management plan that specifies the legal and institutional framework and the management and protection measures applicable;*The Management Plan 2022-27, sets the mandate for action and provides practical guidance on:

- the policy agreed by the Parties by order of priority and the fields of action (A. Networks; B. Communication and awareness; C. Training; D. Registers, databases, archives; E. Assessments; F. Protocols; G. Mitigation measures; H. Modus operandi; I-J. Harmonisation of procedures for governance; K-L. Administrative management of the Permanent Secretariat);
- the governance framework of the executive bodies (Contracting Parties and Permanent Secretariat);
- the role of other stakeholders.

*(b) the continuous monitoring of ecological processes, habitats, population dynamics, landscapes, as well as the impact of human activities;* One of the 4 domains in which the Management Plan is divided is “The cohabitation of marine mammals and the uses of the sea”: this theme includes all the activities for the periodic assessment of the status of species and the environment in the Pelagos Sanctuary.

*(c) the active involvement of local communities and populations, as appropriate, in the management of specially protected areas, including assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of such areas;* Under the domain “Communication and training” of the Management Plan are included all communication, awareness-raising and training activities organised by the Agreement for all stakeholders and local inhabitants.

*(d) the adoption of mechanisms for financing the promotion and management of specially protected areas, as well as the development of activities which ensure that management is compatible with the objectives of such areas;*Management and activities are funded by annual ordinary contributions of the Parties. Moreover, the creation of a Pelagos Voluntary fund receiving contributions and donations from both internal and external sources, was adopted during MOP8 (15 - 16 December 2021, Rome).

*(e) the regulation of activities compatible with the objectives for which the specially protected area was established and the terms of the related permits;*The domain “Governance” contains, among others, the harmonisation of national and international policies and legislation as well as internal and administrative regulations.

	<b><u>Score</u></b>
<p><b>3.3. Assess the adequacy of the human resources available to the SPAMI.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Very low/Insufficient : 0</p> <p>Low : 1</p> <p>Adequate : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

**Rationale for the note**

The Parties provide financial support for the Permanent Secretariat, formed by an Executive Secretary and a Deputy Executive Secretary. The Permanent Secretariat gives its own support to the Agreement's bodies (MOP, STC, National Focal Points). Moreover, aware of the ambitious management plan and Working Programmes, the Parties, also through the allocation of voluntary contributions, have allowed the Permanent Secretariat to draw on the support of 1 technical and administrative and 6 technical and scientific consultancies for the implementation of the Working Programme priority actions.

Each of the three Parties to the Pelagos Agreement has its own administrative staff overseeing their respective areas within the Pelagos Sanctuary.

In Italy, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) leads the national delegation, supported by the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA). The Italian delegation to the STC is composed by representatives of the Ministry, of ISPRA and of other scientific institutes and NGOs. Additionally, a network of experts contribute to the activities of the Pelagos working groups.

In France, the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Cohesion of Territories (MTECT) leads the national delegation, supported by Port-Cros National Park (PNPC), which manages the French section of the Sanctuary and fosters networking activities with NGOs, the national stranding network, scientists, politicians, and other stakeholders. To support these efforts, the PNPC allocates 1.75 staff units. Additionally, a network of experts contributes to Pelagos activities.

In Monaco, the Department of External Relations and Cooperation leads the national delegation, supported by Maritime Affairs Department, Environment Department and the Monaco Scientific Center.

The diverse roles, expertise and organizations contributing resources to the Pelagos Sanctuary at the national level represent a significant asset for the effective implementation of its international activities.

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>3.4.1. Assess the adequacy of the financial and material means available for the implementation of the SPAMI conservation/management measures at national level</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Low : 0</p> <p>Medium : 1</p> <p>Good : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	2

**Rationale for the note**

The MTEBFMP (France) provides funds to the Port Cros National Park to cover its activities undertaken for the Pelagos Sanctuary: triennial research programmes, awareness, communication and measures related to cetaceans stranding. 295.500 € for 2021-2023 period and 395.000 € for 2024-2027 period Besides, MTECT supports every year NGOs for their actions related to the Pelagos activities.

In 2024, MASE (Italy) provided 208.659,00 € for the implementation of project proposals submitted by the Italian Pelagos Partnership Municipalities for the protection of marine mammals of the Pelagos Sanctuary and their habitat. Moreover, through the voluntary contributions allocated for the implementation of the Pelagos Programmes of Work, MASE also supported activities that had a valuable impact at national level, such as the training session on disentanglement involving operational units of the Coast Guard.

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>3.4.2. Assess the adequacy of the financial and material means available to the multilateral governance bodies of the SPAMI</b></p>	2

<p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Low : 0</p> <p>Medium : 1</p> <p>Good : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The ordinary contributions of the Pelagos Parties cover mainly the running costs of the Permanent Secretariat and the organisation of institutional meetings (total amount of the ordinary contribution is 168.750,000 euro per year).</p> <p>The Monegasque Party hosts the Agreement’s headquarter. It provided a new larger office in 2023 and covers the expenses resulting from its use.</p> <p>During the evaluation period, the financial and material resources available to the Agreement have increased following the creation of the “Pelagos Voluntary Fund” (PVF) by the Pelagos Parties in order to improve the Governance of the Agreement and ensure the financial support to the implementation of the Pelagos Management Plan.</p> <p>Voluntary contributions to the PVF have been granted by the Pelagos Parties for a total amount of 537.000,00 euro and by private donors for a total amount of 62.300,00 euro. These voluntary funds enable the implementation of the Management Plan actions and its management measures.</p>	

	<b><u>Score</u></b>
<p><b>3.5. Does the area have a monitoring programme?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No monitoring programme : 0</p> <p>The level of implementation of the monitoring programme is assessed as “insufficient” : 1</p> <p>The monitoring programme needs improvement to cover other parameters that are significant for the SPAMI : 2</p> <p>The monitoring programme is adequately implemented and allows the assessment of the state and evolution of the area, as well as the effectiveness of protection and management measures : 3</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>

**Rationale for the note**

In the common framework decided by the Meeting of the Parties of the Pelagos Agreement, the monitoring activities are carried out at a national scale in compliance with Resolution 7.3 of the Pelagos Agreement (Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, 9th February 2018).

The monitoring parameters considered at a national level are:

- for the marine mammals: abundance estimate, seasonality, geographical repartition, diet, population structure, health, stranding events;
- for the human activities: marine traffic (commercial, boating and tourism included nautical events), professional fisheries, whale watching, constructions (costal and at sea), navy activities, research conducted at the sea on marine mammals;
- for the threats to marine mammals: pollution (chemical pollution, marine litters and microplastic), ship strikes, noise, interactions with fisheries (bycatch, depredation and reduction of food stock), disturbance and stress, habitat loss, global warming, natural diseases.

The current Management Plan recalls the priority themes of interest in the Agreement which are:

- (a) species and ecosystem status assessment;
- (b) pollution (with priority given to the type of pollution under Annex I of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention);
- (c) deliberate disturbance;
- (d) fisheries (including competition for resources and the problem of ghost nets);
- (e) support for coordinated research and awareness raising among all stakeholders (particularly on the problem of collisions, drilling and emergency situations).

To cover these specific topics, six calls for scientific consultancy were signed in December 2023 (see section III item 4.1 for full list) and the related projects, lasting one and a half years, are currently in the final phase of implementation.

Moreover, the Sanctuary benefits from national surveys conducted in France and Italy under the framework of the MSFD, the EU Habitat Directive, the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) for fishery aspects, the IMAP of the Barcelona Convention as well as from international surveys and monitoring activities carried out by scientific institution that are partners of the Agreement (i.e. Accobams Survey Initiative) and from national or local associations.

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>3.6. Is there a feedback mechanism that establishes an explicit link between the monitoring results and the management objectives, and which allows adaptation of protection and management measures?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Low : 0</p> <p>Medium : 1</p> <p>Good : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	2
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The monitoring activities are regularly carried out at a national level (see question 3.5) and the STC assesses the status of species, habitat and pressures based on monitoring results and data, and formulates recommendations to the MOP in order to adapt protection and management measures if needed.</p> <p>With the end of the implementation of the Management Plan 2022-2027, a “Quality Status Report” (QSR) will be elaborated to assess the objectives achieved, as well as the status of the area.</p>	
	<u>Score</u>

<p><b>3.7. Is the management plan effectively implemented?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Low : 0</p> <p>Medium : 1</p> <p>Good : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The Management Plan is effectively implemented through its Action Plan, which is a more detailed guide to the activities that are necessary to achieve the short and long-term objectives across various sectors. The biennial Working Programmes, provide specific details on completing the proposed activities. Moreover, the Management Plan 2022-2027 foresees the elaboration of a “Quality Status Report” (QSR) that will be elaborated to assess the objectives achieved, as well as the status of the area.</p>	

		<b>Score</b>
<p><b>3.8. Have any concrete conservation measures, activities and actions been implemented?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>Low : 0</p> <p>Medium : 1</p> <p>Good : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Many concrete activities have already been implemented. For more details on the progress of the activities following the Management and Action Plan 2022-2027, please check the following link: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jdc0cTrzR_JJZQ-Y5C347BNH1Jhu5rG/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jdc0cTrzR_JJZQ-Y5C347BNH1Jhu5rG/edit</a></p>		

**Section II: FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE ADDED TO THE AREA**

**4. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT**

**4.1. Assess the level of threats within the site to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a Annex I).**

Under section 4.1, questions are asked in two parts: part a) enquiring on the existence of threats within the site, and part b) asking about the response made to mitigate such threats. If the answer to part a) is “no threats”, part b) is not applicable. Whereas, when threats are reported under part a), part b) should be answered. The score achieved in response to part b) is considered as a bonus and has no impact on the score evaluation and consequently the result of the review.

		<b>Score</b>
<p><b>4.1.1.a. Unregulated exploitation of natural resources (e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources) See 5.1.1. in AF.</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	

<p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.1.2. a).</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Not applicable for this topic.</p>	

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.1.1.b. Efforts (actions) undertaken during the evaluation period to address/mitigate the unregulated exploitation of natural resources (e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources) See 5.1.1. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.1.1. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	<p><b>Not Applicable</b></p>

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.1.2.a. Threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species ) See 5.1.2. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.1.3. a).</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>

**Rationale for the note**

Species and habitats are subject to cumulative threats that could affect the conservation status of marine mammals and their habitats. The presence of commercial and industrial activities, the urbanisation, the overfishing, the impact of tourism and maritime traffic as well as chemical, biological and acoustic pollution, are amongst pressures that can lead to disturbance, stress, changes in migratory and reproductive behaviour, but also potential diseases and mortality.

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>4.1.2.b. Efforts (actions) undertaken during the evaluation period to address/mitigate the threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species ) See 5.1.2. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.1.2. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	<b>3</b>

**Rationale for the note**

Details about efforts undertaken during the evaluation period can be found at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jdc0cTrzR\\_JJZQ-Y5C347BNH1Ihu5rG/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jdc0cTrzR_JJZQ-Y5C347BNH1Ihu5rG/edit)

Here are examples of activities aiming at mitigating the threats:

The Pelagos WG on Impacts worked on a document about the Cuvier’s beaked whale and impulsive underwater noise in the Mediterranean Sea with the aim to recommend measures to the contracting Parties: <https://pelagos-sanctuary.org/the-cuviers-beaked-whale/>

The 3 Contracting Parties and Spain, are discussing on a possible exchange protocol for collection of information about cetaceans sightings finalized to provide a specific AIS service to vessels sailing in the Pelagos area in the PSSA framework. This specific service, launched by Italy, is being developed within the technical group established during the second coordination meeting of the NW Med PSSA

The Secretariat participated to the meetings for the implementation of the PSSA, contributing to the discussions and the work of the technical groups, including through the presentation of the first results of the study on the Assessment of the distribution of maritime traffic and anthropogenic underwater noise in the Pelagos Sanctuary and initial considerations on their potential impacts on the priority species”.

The REPCET system to mitigate the risk of collision between large ships and cetaceans has been adopted by 29 ships (as of 31/12/2023), of which 24 from France, where as a result of regulation the tool is mandatory in the French part of the Sanctuary, 4 from Italy and 1 from Monaco, where it is set up on a voluntary basis.

Knowing that entanglement is one of the major threats for marine mammals, a 2-days training course on the rescue of large cetaceans entangled in fishing gears was organized by the Agreement in cooperation with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Coast Guard – Maritime Directorate of Genoa. This was the first tripartite training provided to the operational units of the three countries Parties to the Agreement.

In addition, environmental awareness and education activities were carried out at national and international level and a specific communication was made on high quality whale watching label.

In particular for Pelagos Ambassadors was prepared and distributed a dedicated brief guide consisting of 10 laminated cards bound with a ring, containing useful information for boaters navigating the Pelagos Sanctuary. The kit contains from emergency contact numbers, to the code of good conduct for whale and dolphin watching, to advice on using sustainable materials on board, information on different marine mammal species, and guidelines for sustainable navigation, ending with a page dedicated to children.

<u>Score</u>	
<p><b>4.1.3.a. Increase of human impact (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...)</b> See 5.1.3. in AF.</p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.1.4. a).</b></p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Being aware of the increase of human impact in the area of the Sanctuary surrounded by commercial and industrial activities, urbanisation, tourism and maritime traffic, the top priority of the current Management Plan (2022-2027) is the identification and implementation of effective and adapted measures to mitigate the impacts of key human activities on marine mammals and their ecosystem. In this regard, in late 2023, 6 scientific projects have been funded through the voluntary contribution by Italy and scientific experts are working on evidence to be presented to the next Scientific Committee.</p> <p>Whale-watching activities (dedicated tours for sighting of cetaceans) are constantly increasing. In order to mitigate the risk of animal disturbance, the label “High Quality Whale Watching®” (HQWW®), property of ACCOBAMS and elaborated jointly with the Pelagos Agreement, introduced good practices for a sustainable whale-watching tourism. The label is operated in France, in Monaco and Italy.</p>	

<u>Score</u>	
<p><b>4.1.3.b. Efforts undertaken during the evaluation to address/mitigate the increase of human impact (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...)</b> See 5.1.3. in AF.</p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.1.3. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	<p>3</p>

**Rationale for the note**

In order to mitigate the disturbance caused by whale watching activities, continuous efforts to disseminate the Code of Good Conduct among pleasure boaters and whale watching operators has so far resulted in 20 French and 15 Italian whale watching operators labelled 'High Quality Whale Watching®' to operate in the Sanctuary waters. To obtain the certification, the operator undertakes a training programme aimed at adding value to the excursions by conducting awareness-raising activities on boats, limiting the impact of the activity on cetaceans by respecting the Code of Good Conduct ACCOBAMS/Pelagos for approaching the sea, contributing to their protection and to scientific research by sharing data on sightings, and guaranteeing a sustainable future for commercial marine mammal observation.

In addition, environmental awareness and education activities were carried out at national and international level.

		<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.1.4.a. Conflicts between users or user groups. See 5.1.4. and 6.2 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.1.5. a).</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>A great part of the Sanctuary is located in offshore pelagic waters, where little conflicts between users and user groups occur. The most important area in order to achieve the goals of the Pelagos Agreement is the pelagic zone. This very large area reduces the conflicts between users and user groups.</p>		

		<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.1.4.b. Efforts (actions) undertaken during the evaluation period to address/mitigate the conflicts between users or user groups. See 5.1.4. and 6.2 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.1.4. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	<p><b>Not Applicable</b></p>	

**Please include here a prescriptive list of threats (not evaluated or mentioned above) that are of concern and are evaluated individually:**

Chemical and biological pollutants

A scientific consultancy project is ongoing for the assessment of chemical and biological pollution status in the Sanctuary through a bibliographic review, the elaboration of contaminant maps and the assessment of the potential risk for marine mammals from different types of pollutants. Results will be available in June 2025.

The assessment of pathological effects (including mortality) resulting from chemical and biological contamination in cetaceans in the Pelagos Sanctuary is the content of a scientific consultancy project currently underway, the results of which will be available in June 2025.

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**4.2. Assess the level of external threats to the ecological, biological, aesthetic and cultural values of the area (B4.a of the Annex I) and the efforts made to address/mitigate them. See 5.2 in the AF.**

Under section 4.2, questions are asked in two parts: part a) enquiring on the existence of external threats, and part b) asking about the response made to mitigate such threats. If the answer to part a) is “no threats”, part b) is not applicable. Whereas, when threats are reported under part a), part b) should be answered. The score achieved in response to part b) is considered a bonus and has no impact on the score evaluation and consequently the result of the review.

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>4.2.1.a. Pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current. See 5.2.1 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.1.2. a).</b></p>	<b>2</b>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Solid waste (including plastics), runoff, and wastewater from agricultural operations, industrial sites and human settlements impact the coasts and waters of the Pelagos Sanctuary.</p>	

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>4.2.1.b. Efforts (actions) undertaken during the evaluation period to address/mitigate the pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current. See 5.2.1 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p>	<b>3</b>

<p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.2.1. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Many communication and education activities were carried out to raise awareness of best practices to reduce impacts from external sources. For example, the dissemination to Municipalities of the Pelagos Partnership Charter, MPAs and National Parks of a guide prepared by RAMOGE Agreement and dedicated to local communities on how to combat plastic pollution with easy and not-expensive actions, a guide by ISPRA dedicated to actions for sustainable boating and the recommendations and management measures developed in the framework of 2 projects supported by the Pelagos Agreement, Pelagos Plastic Free and Plastic Busters.</p> <p>A specific tool for recreational boaters was distributed to the Pelagos Ambassadors and made available to be downloaded in the Pelagos website. The “Pelagos Ambassadors Kit” features a concise guide made up of 10 laminated cards bound by a ring, providing key information including emergency contact numbers, guidelines for respectful whale and dolphin watching, recommendations for sustainable materials on board, insights into different marine mammal species, and tips for eco-friendly navigation.</p> <p>Based on the results of Calls 3 and 4 of the Pelagos scientific consultancies on chemical and biological pollution and its pathogenicity and Call 5 on the impact of port-related activities, awareness-raising material will be produced to disseminate good practices among stakeholders (see section III item 4.1 for full list of consultancy calls).</p>	

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.2.2.a. Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values. See 5.2.2 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.2.3. a).</b></p>	3
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Not significant impacts</p>	

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.2.2.b. Efforts (actions) undertaken during the evaluation period to address/mitigate the significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values. See 5.2.2 in AF.</b></p>	Not Applicable

<p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.2.2. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	
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<b><u>Score</u></b>	
<p><b>4.2.3.a. Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area. See 6.1 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No threats : 3</p> <p>Weak threats : 2</p> <p>Serious threats : 1</p> <p>Very serious threats : 0</p> <p><b>(If the answer is “no threats”, pass directly to question 4.2.4. a).</b></p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Maritime traffic is expected to increase in view of the enlargement of some commercial ports within and outside the Sanctuary area. At the same time, increased noise, chemical and biological pollution is a consequence of urbanisation, tourism and coastal development.</p> <p>The Mediterranean Sea is recognized as the most overfished sea in the world. Following GFCM report (“The state of the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries 2023”) more than half the stocks for which validated assessments are available are fished outside biologically sustainable limits and fishing pressure remains twice what is considered sustainable, with a consequent depletion of prey for cetaceans.</p> <p>Threats from climate change and warming seas are now considered, though not yet quantifiable.</p> <p>The Pelagos secretariat has launched a series of consultancies (available at section III question 4.1), in order to further understand upcoming pollutions.</p>	

<b><u>Score</u></b>	
<p><b>4.2.3.b. Efforts (actions) undertaken during the evaluation period to address/mitigate the expected development of threats upon the surrounding area. See 6.1 in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p>	<p>2</p>

<p>No efforts : 0</p> <p>Little efforts : 1</p> <p>Some efforts : 2</p> <p>Significant efforts : 3</p> <p><b>(If applicable: Not applicable if the answer to question 4.2.3. a) is “no threats”.)</b></p>	
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**Rationale for the note**

In order to reduce ship strikes, the Pelagos Parties and Spain finalised an initiative that was launched in the Pelagos fora in 2013: the designation of a *Particularly Sensitive Sea Area* (PSSA). The PSSA, encompassing the Pelagos Sanctuary and the Spanish Cetacean Corridor, was declared in July 2023 by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the North-Western Mediterranean (NW-Med PSSA), with associated voluntary protection measures (MEPC 380(80)).

All Pelagos scientific consultancies currently ongoing on the impacts of pollutants, port activities and maritime traffic will prepare information booklets and advisory material to make port authorities, shipping companies, tourism organisations and citizens aware of good practices for sustainable activities.

**Please include here a prescriptive list of threats (not evaluated or mentioned above) that are of concern and are evaluated individually:**

**Please include the list of threats (not evaluated or mentioned above) that were of concern and were eliminated or solved :**

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>4.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or land-use laws in the area bordering'.' or surrounding the SPAMI? (B4.e Annex I). See 5.2.3. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0</p> <p>Yes : 1</p>	1

**Rationale for the note**

France and Italy adopted their national Maritime Spatial Plans while Monaco adopted a National Maritime Strategy.

Pelagos and RAMOGE Agreements (see section II item 6.1) are cooperating on many topics related to integrated coastal management.

In the frame of the collaboration of the Municipalities of the Pelagos Partnership Charter, it is required, amongst the others, to: “make express reference to the presence of the Pelagos Sanctuary and the objectives it pursues in any relevant administrative process - planning and/or regulatory - that has an impact on the marine environment”. Mainly, the Partnership Charter promotes the collaboration in the following fields:

- Information and awareness-raising;
- Education and training;
- Environmental monitoring;
- Prevention/reduction of negative impacts of human activities;
- Cooperation with other signatory municipalities/Unions of municipalities.
- Cooperation with Marine Protected Areas and National Parks of the area of the Pelagos Sanctuary

For more details on the Municipalities of the Pelagos Partnership Charter, see question 6.1

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>4.4. Does the management plan for the SPAMI have influence over the governance' . ' of the surrounding area? (D5.d Annex I). See 7.4.4. in the AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0 Yes : 1</p>	<b>1</b>

**Rationale for the note**

The Management Plan of the Pelagos Sanctuary has an influence over the governance of the surrounding area. In fact, the Permanent Secretariat is often invited in conferences and workshops in order to present the transboundary experience of the Pelagos Sanctuary and its Management and Action Plan (i.e. for EBSAs, etc.) Some tools initially deployed in the Pelagos Sanctuary were also tested in other areas, such as the High Quality Whale Watching (HQWW®) label, that has been created specifically for the Pelagos Sanctuary, before being operational throughout the Mediterranean region, in Mayotte (Indian Ocean) and inspiring the regulations in Agoa (Caribbean).

The ship strike REPCET tool, developed by France, has been implemented on a voluntary basis in the Pelagos Sanctuary and currently is being used also in other areas.

Finally, the discussions that led to the designation of the PSSA were initiated in the Pelagos fora and for the Pelagos area and extended, years later, to the NW Mediterranean Sea.

**5. ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION MEASURES**

**5.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures In particular**

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>5.1.1.a. Is the area officially depicted on the international marine / terrestrial maps?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0 Yes : 1</p>	<b>1</b>

**Rationale for the note**

The area is officially represented on international marine/terrestrial maps

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>5.1.1.b. Is the area officially reported on the marine / terrestrial maps of each SPAMI Member State?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0 Yes : 1</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The area is officially reported on the sea/land maps of each SPAMI member state</p>	

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>5.1.1.c. Are the coordinates of the area easily accessible (maps,internet, etc.)?</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0 Yes : 1</p>	<b>1</b>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The coordinates of the area are established by the text of the Agreement and they are easily accessible on internet and on maps.</p>	

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>5.1.2. Is there any collaboration from other authorities in the protection and surveillance of the area and, if applicable, is there a coastguard service contributing to the marine protection? See 8.3.2. and 8.3.3. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p>	<b>1</b>

No : 0 Yes : 1	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The Maritime Prefecture of the Channel and Mediterranean along with the National Navy in France, the Italian Coast Guard and Maritime Affairs, and the Division of Maritime and Airport Police in the Principality of Monaco, are responsible for surveillance and marine protection of the area at the national level.</p>	

<b>Score</b>	
<p><b>5.1.4. Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement? See 8.3.4. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0            Yes : 1</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Each Party has adequate provisions for penalties or sanctions.</p>	

<b>Score</b>	
<p><b>5.1.5. Is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions? See 8.3.4. in AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0            Yes : 1</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The relevant authorities in charge of enforcing the agreement provisions are those listed in point 5.1.2, they have staff empowered to impose sanctions.</p>	

<b>Score</b>	
<p><b>5.1.6. Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>

<p><b>other serious emergencies? (Art. 7.3. in the Protocol, Recommendation of the 13th Meeting of Contracting Parties).</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0</p> <p>Yes : 1</p>	
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>In the event of ship strikes or stranding incidents, National and regional Stranding Networks are in operation.</p> <p>In case of accidental pollution, RAMOGEPOL plan is activated, covering the entire Pelagos Sanctuary.</p> <p>Additionally, the Pelagos Secretariat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the RAMOGE Secretariat in March 2024, which resulted in Representatives of the Secretariat participating in the RAMOGEPOL annual anti-pollution exercise that took place in Viareggio (Italy) 28-30 May 2024.</p>	

## 6. COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>6.1. Are other national or international organizations collaborating to provide human or financial resources? (e.g. researchers, experts, volunteers...). See 9.1.3. in the AF.</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0</p> <p>Weakly : 1</p> <p>Fairly : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>

**Rationale for the note**

In the framework of the Pelagos Management Plan, the Permanent Secretariat has established several new collaborations.

The Permanent Secretariat has become official partner of the Barcelona Convention. It has also signed a MoU with Info/RAC (Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre of UNEP-MAP) and is negotiating a MoU with REMPEC. A MoU was established also with RAMOGE, IWC (International Whaling Commission), as well as with “The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community” MBPC with the support of the Interreg Mediterranean Joint Secretariat for the implementation of specific activities of the Working Program 2022-2023.

A network of collaboration with academic research institutes was also initiated and a MoU was signed with CoNISMa (Italian Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences) and IUM (International University of Monaco).

The new Rules of Procedure establish also a process to become official partner of the Pelagos Agreement (Ris. 9.6).

The Pelagos Partnership Charter and network (currently composed by 89 Municipalities) have evolved and a version 2.0 was approved by Resolution 8.11. This version of the Charter provides for a strengthening of the collaboration between the Agreement and the signatory Municipalities. It is in line with the priorities identified by the Parties to the Agreement, and the changes were discussed with the Municipalities themselves during two surveys and a dedicated meeting, the 2nd International Meeting of the Signatory Municipalities of the Pelagos Charter of Partnership (Sassari, 22 June 2023).

The ‘Pelagos Ambassadors’ instrument will also evolve. The views and proposals of the Pelagos Ambassadors was sought through different public consultations and at a round table organised at the joint RAMOGE-Pelagos event (Menton, 15 October 2024). The proposals will be assessed by the WG on Governance and finally presented to the STC and to the next Meeting of the Parties of the Pelagos Agreement, end of 2025 or early 2026.

Finally, a network of 127 voluntary experts regularly collaborate with the Pelagos Agreement in the framework of the new Working Groups. In fact, openness and inclusiveness are fundamental elements of the new Pelagos WGs. Those WGs are ruled by specific ToRs. They are open to all stakeholders with expertise who can help develop the actions of the Working Programmes. The WGs are the following ones: WG on Assessment, WG Impact (and Sub-WG on maritime traffic and collisions, Sub-WG on Noise, Sub-WG on Pollution, Sub-WG on Fisheries, Sub-WG on Good Practices), WG SPAMIs and MPAs, WG on Laws, WG on Governance, WG on Communication (and Sub-WG on Monk Seal).

	<u>Score</u>
<p><b>6.2. Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs (especially in other nations). (Art. 8, Art. 21.1, Art. 22.1., Art. 22.3 of the Protocol, A.d in Annex I).</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>No : 0</p> <p>Insufficient : 1</p> <p>Fairly : 2</p> <p>Excellent : 3</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>The Pelagos Agreement collaborates regularly with the three SPAMIs within the area of the Pelagos Sanctuary: Port-Cros National Park, Bonifacio Strait Nature Reserve and Portofino Marine Protected Area. The three SPAMIs are regularly invited in round tables and workshops for the exchange of good practices and the harmonization of measure along with other MPAs and National Parks in the Sanctuary. For this purpose, the WG on SPAMIs and MPAs is a dedicated space for the implementation of the priority activities of the Pelagos Working programs.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement has initiated exchanges with the <i>Spanish Cetacean Corridor</i> aimed at ensuring the protection and conservation of cetaceans and marine mammals in both areas, increasing the ecological connectivity among them, and ensuring the coordinated implementation of the NW Mediterranean PSSA.</p> <p>The Pelagos Agreement hosted and co-organised, together with UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC, the 1st edition of the SPAMI Day (20 May 2022, Monaco) and took part in the Mediterranean Workshop on the SPAMI Collaborative Platform ((28-29 January 2021, Brindisi).</p>	

**Section III: FOLLOW-UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATION(S)**

**7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS**

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>7.1. Assess to what extent the recommendations possibly made by the previous evaluations were implemented: Recommendations made by the TAC(s) and/or approved by the Focal points for SPAs regarding Section I</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>'No' for all of them : 0            'Yes' for some of them : 1            'Yes' for most of them : 2            'Yes' for all of them : 3</p>	<b>3</b>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>Following the recommendations made by the previous evaluation:</p> <p><i>-Improve as appropriate the resources for the implementation of the management plan:</i></p> <p>The tool of the "Pelagos Voluntary Fund" (PVF) was created for this purpose.</p> <p><i>-Monitoring activities should be reinforced and oriented to provide useful data to identify and, where necessary, adapt the management measures in the coming years.</i></p> <p><i>-Further integration of international and national monitoring programs is recommended:</i></p> <p>During MOP 8th the Contracting Parties committed (resolution 8.1) to use data collected in the Pelagos area in the framework of MSFD, NATURA2000, MSP, Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS and other relevant frameworks for the assessment of pressures and populations. This decision is being implemented in particular through scientific consultancies.</p>	

	<b>Score</b>
<p><b>7.2. Assess to what extent the recommendations possibly made by the previous valuations were implemented: Recommendations made by the TAC(s) and/or approved by the Focal points for SPAs regarding Section II</b></p> <p><b><u>Rating scale</u></b></p> <p>'No' for all of them : 0            'Yes' for some of them : 1            'Yes' for most of them : 2            'Yes' for all of them : 3</p>	<b>3</b>
<p><b><u>Rationale for the note</u></b></p> <p>no recommendation regarding Section II was made by the previous valuations</p>	



**CONCLUSION\* (based on score\*) :**

**Based on the results obtained, the SPAMI is maintained in the ordinary revision process.**

**\*Evaluation of the score:**

The TAC will propose to include the SPAMI in a period of provisional nature (in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Procedure for the revision of the areas included in the SPAMI List) if the SPAMI has:

- a score < 1 in one or more of the following questions: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6;
- a score < 2 in one or more of the following questions: 1.2, 1.3, 7.1 and 7.2.

Furthermore, considering that the sites included in the SPAMI List are intended to have a value of example and model for the protection of the natural heritage of the region (Paragraph A.e of Annex 1 to the SPA/BD Protocol), the TAC shall also propose to include the SPAMI in a period of provisional nature if:

- the total score of the evaluation is less than 54 for a coastal national SPAMI (= 70% of the maximum total score without bonus: 78);
- the total score of the evaluation is less than 50 for a coastal national SPAMI subject to its first ordinary periodic review (= 70% of the maximum total score without bonus: 72);
- the total score of the evaluation is less than 58 for a multilateral (transboundary high sea) SPAMI (= 70% of the maximum total score without bonus: 83);
- the total score of the evaluation is less than 53 for a multilateral (transboundary high sea) SPAMI subject to its first ordinary periodic review (=70% of the maximum total score without bonus: 77).

The bonus will count only in the case where the SPAMI has not reached the minimum score without the bonus. Then, the bonus will be added to the total score achieved by the SPAMI.

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

**1. MEDITERRANEAN VALUE OF THE SPAMI**

Total score 7 (Max : 7)

**2. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Total score 7 (Max : 7)

**3. MANAGEMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES**

Total score 22 (Max : 27)

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

**4. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT**

Total score 18 (Max : 23)

**5. ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION MEASURES**

Total score 7 (Max : 7)

**6. COOPERATION AND NETWORKING**

Total score 5 (Max : 6)

**Section III: FOLLOW-UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATION(S)**

**7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS**

**EVALUATIONS**

Total score

6 (Max : 6)

**Overall total score**

**72 (Max : 83)**

**Recommendations for future evaluation**

1 - The TAC recommends to the Parties of the Agreement to ensure the continuity and the operability of the SPAMI management.

## Signatures

**Lionel Launois**  
Focal Point



**Raphaël SIMONET**  
Focal Point

+



**Chedly Rais**  
Independent Expert



Chedly RAIS

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Focal Point



**Robert Turk**  
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**Costanza FAVILLI**  
SPAMI Manager

