

# Format for the Periodic Review of the SPAMIs

## **SPAMI Name : SP 7 Columbretes Islands**

(Two administrations are responsible for the management of this SPAMI:

- Spanish Central Administration for the SPAMI's marine area
- Valencia Autonomous Administration for the SPAMI's terrestrial area

This contingency will be taken into account when answering to questions from 5 to 12)

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

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

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

### **1. CONSERVATION STATUS**

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

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

YES

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

YES

### **2. LEGAL STATUS**

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

YES (See Appendix 1)



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

YES

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

YES

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

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

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

YES (See appendix 1)

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

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

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

YES

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

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

YES (See appendix 1)

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

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



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

YES

#### **4. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

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

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

YES (See appendix 1)

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

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

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

YES (See appendix 1)

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

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

YES (See appendix 1)



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

**5. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT**

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

See 5.1. consider also 3.5.2.b, 6.3 & 6.4. in the AF

**In particular:**

Unregulated exploitation of natural resources

(e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources) See 5.1.1. in the AF

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

3

Serious threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species ....) See 5.1.2. in the AF

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

2

Increase of human presence (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...)

See 5.1.3. in AF

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

2

Historic and current conflicts between users or user groups See 5.1.4., 6.2. in the AF

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

3

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

(See appendix 1)

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

**In particular:**

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

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

3

Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values. See 5.2.2

**(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")**

**3**

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

**(SCORE: 0 means "very serious threats"; 3 means "no threats")**

**2**

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

(See appendix 1)

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

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

Not applicable.

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

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

**1**



## 6. REGULATIONS

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

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

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1



## **7. MANAGEMENT**

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

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

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

2 (See appendix 1)

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

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

See 7.3. in the AF

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

3

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1 (See appendix 1)

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

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

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

2

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1 (See appendix 1)



## 8. PROTECTION MEASURES

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

#### In particular:

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

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

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

## 9. HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Is there a permanent field administrator of the area?

See 9.1.2. in the AF

(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

Are there other permanent staffs in the field?

(e.g. technicians, wardens, guides, ...) See 9.1.2. in the AF



(SCORE : 0 = No / 1 = Yes)

1

**9.2. Assess the adequacy of the training level of available staff**

(Art.7.2-f in the Protocol, D6 in Annex I) (e.g. enough training level to ensure protection of the area). See 9.1.2. in the AF

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

2

## 10. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS

**10.1. Assess the degree of adequacy of the financial means**

Sufficient resources for the development and implementation of the management plan, including e.g. interpretation, education, training, research, surveillance and enforcement of regulations. See 9.2.1. in the AF

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

2

**10.2. Assess the basic infrastructure (Art.7.2-f in the Protocol)**

Administrative premises in the site, visitors' facilities (reception centre, trails, signs...), specific information, education and awareness materials

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

3

**10.3. Assess the equipment.**

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

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

3

## 11. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

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

See 9.3.1. in the AF

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

3 (See appendix 1)

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

See 9.3.2. in the AF

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

2



## 12. COOPÉRATION AND NETWORKING

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

See 9.1.3. in the AF

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

2 (See appendix 1)

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

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

2 (See appendix 1)

### **CONCLUSION**

- The Technical Advisory Committee concluded that the SPAMI continues to fulfil the criteria that allowed its inclusion in the SPAMI list.
- From the last evaluation the following improvements were recorded:
  - improved legal framework,
  - improved knowledge about marine habitats and assemblages, and
  - improved facilities and equipment.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

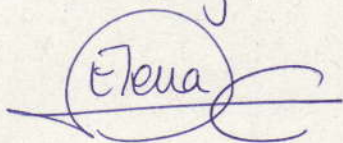
- Establish a body which allows the involvement of public and all stakeholders, including scientists not only in the planning, but also in the management of the SPAMI.
- Collaboration with the SPAMIs of other Mediterranean countries should be established directly and/or through RAC/SPA.
- The SPAMI area should be extended to cover also the newly proposed Site of Community Importance.
- We recommend to the extent possible the harmonization of all relevant management plans.
- As is the case of almost everywhere in the world, the management body should charge a fee for use of the scientific facilities, for instance the lighthouse lodging, and lab.



## SIGNATURES

For National Focal Point :

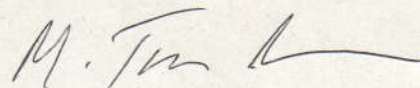
Elena Consuegra Alalde

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring the name 'Elena' inside a circle, with a horizontal line crossing through the circle.

Independent Experts

Cheddy RAIS

M. TUNDI AGARDY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Tundi Agardy' with a stylized flourish at the end.

SPAMI Manager(s)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal line.

MARINE RESERVES (GST-  
General  
Secretariat  
for Fisheries)

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



## SPAMI VALUE-ADDED

Questions		Score obtained	Maximum
5	Threats and surrounding context	19	232
6	Regulations	4	4
7	Management	9	11
8	Protection measures	5	5
9	Human resources	4	5
10	Financial and material means	8	9
11	Information and knowledge	5	6
12	Cooperation and networkings	4	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>698</b>



## **Appendix 1**

2.1. From the last evaluation, there were the following new texts:

The Agriculture, Food and Environment Ministry has declared a Special Protection Area ES0000512 Espacio Marino del Delta d'Ebre-Illes Columbretes by a legal act "Orden AAA/1260/2014, de 9 de julio, por la que se declaran ZEC en aguas marinas españolas" and has proposed the Site of Community Importance ZZ16004 Espacio Marino de Illes Columbretes by another legal act "Orden AAA/2280/2014, de 1 de diciembre, por la que se aprueba la propuesta de inclusión en la lista de lugares de importancia comunitaria de la Red Natura 2000 de los espacios marinos... ZZ16004 Espacio Marino de Illes Columbretes".

2.4. The following measures have been taken:

- full prohibition of bottom trawling
- regulation of diving activities
- no take zone in the whole area
- no anchoring and mooring buoys provided

3.2. A new management plan will be developed to cover both existing and the newly proposed enlargement of the Site of Community Importance. In addition, this management plan is going to apply to the adjacent SPA.

4.1. There are three boats, ranger/scientist lodging facilities.

4.2. Monitoring of the emblematic habitat and species and of physical parameters of the quality of the sea waters.

4.3. This mechanism is going to be strengthened for the marine area when the management plan for Natura 2000 sites will be implemented.

5.1. The most significances threats in the area are:

Allen species 2  
Global change 2

5.2. Exploration for oil and gas using acoustic devices, may be especially harmful to cetaceans.

7.1. This applies for the marine Reserve, for the rest of the area the management plan is being developed.

7.3. There is a structure involving fishermen in the decisions concerning the Marine Reserve and additional structures involving the others stakeholders for the wider area will be established.



7.5. Being issued by decree, the management plan is legally binding for all administrations.

8.1. The SPAMI is governed by the regional emergency plan.

11.1. More knowledge is available for the area thanks to project LIFE+ INDEMARES.

12.1. Universities, Oceanographic Spanish Institute (IEO), Volunteers (NGOs), Foundations (Fundación Biodiversidad), European Commission.

12.2. The Marine Reserve collaborates with other Spanish SPAMIs.