

# Format for the Periodic Review of the SPAMIs

**SPAMI Name:** SP9 Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast

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

- Spanish Central Administration for the SPAMI's marine area –external waters-
- Murcia Autonomous Administration for the SPAMI's terrestrial area and the marine area –internal waters-

These two administrations are implementing harmonized collaboration. 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

The Agriculture, Food and Alimentation Ministry has declared a Special Protection Area ES0000508 Espacio Marino de Tabarca-Cabo de Palos by a legal act "Orden AAA/1260/2014", 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, which declares SPAs in marine Spanish Waters.

**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

- Rural development aids, incentives for farming practices compatible with the conservation
- Prevention of discharges from agricultural activity to Mar Menor
- Prevention of intensive cultivation within the protected area
- Establishment of ecological anchoring points
- Areas closed to fishing
- Scuba diving management

### 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 (all the marine area –external waters- is covered by a management plan. For the terrestrial area, management plans exists for several zones and they are in elaboration for other zones).

**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

**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

YES (for the marine area –external waters- and for the terrestrial area and internal Waters there are monitoring programs too.)

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

The parameters of the monitoring programme are set in the “ANNEX 11. Indicators for the monitoring of the conservation status of habitats, species and achievement of the objectives of the Integrated Management Plan” of the Integrated Management Plan. The annex is made of the following sections:

- Monitoring of the Conservation Status of Habitats and biota considered key elements of the Integrated Management Plan.
- Monitoring of the Conservation Status of species considered key elements of the Integrated Management Plan.
- Monitoring the achievement of the objectives of the Integrated Management Plan.

**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?**

YES

Although there is no official feedback structure, the results of monitoring programmes are taken into consideration by the management body in close consultation with the scientists involved in the monitoring.

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.

**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 (for both the marine area –external waters- and the rest of the SPAMI)

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: The main threats are from agriculture and pollution.

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: The main threat is from the development of tourism.

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: The main conflicts are between scuba diving and small scale fishing. However, there is a project to minimize these conflicts.

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

Tourism: 2  
Pollution: 2  
Agriculture: 2  
Fisheries and aquaculture: 3  
Scuba diving: 3  
Sedimentation: 2  
Wind farms risk: expected  
Alien species: 2

**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: However, for Mar Menor there are pollution threats from agriculture.

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")

1

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

Sampling/drilling to come for petrol with acoustic devices. Specially harmful to cetaceans. Wind farms development in the area because it is considered as a suitable zone for it.

**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)

1 (for both the marine area –external waters- and the rest of the SPAMI)

There is an Integrated Management Plan developed for the entire zone. It covers all the SPAMI area and beyond it. It was developed in consultation with the stakeholders, but it is not yet officially approved for the entire zone.

**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: The area, as the other Mediterranean waters of Spain, is regulated by national laws implementing the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention (dumping of wastes, discharge of pollutants, etc.)

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: the issue of introduction of non indigenous species is regulated in Spain according to the relevant European Union Directives. Also, there are regional acts to deal with non indigenous species.

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: the issue of Environmental Impact Assessment is regulated in Spain according to the relevant European Union Directives. Also, there are regional acts about Environmental Impact Assessment.

#### **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: The texts establishing the protection of sites within the SPAMI provide for the regulation of fishing, hunting and taking of animals and species. Furthermore, national and regional texts exist concerning the regulation of these issues.

## 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)

3: the zoning plan is annexed to this evaluation report.

### 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)

0: It is expected to create a committee in the Integrated Management Plan.

### 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: Local communities and stakeholders are involved in the elaboration and implementation of the Integrated Management Plan.

### 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 – The marine reserve of *Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas* is managed by both the Secretariat for Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment) and the regional government (Fisheries Unit of *Región de Murcia*).

All the national, regional and local administrations are bound by the provisions of the Integrated Management Plan. For example, Agriculture, Food and Environment Ministry, Industry Ministry, etc.



## 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: There are no physical marks showing the boundaries of the SPAMI, because the managers believe boundaries are clearly visible on the land. At sea the limits of the Posidonia meadows provide an adequate delineation.

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: Rangers of the protected area ("Agentes Medioambientales") works with the national police (guardia civil) to ensure the surveillance of the protected area. Moreover, there are Coast services collaborating with Central Administration in the maritime area ("Demarcación de Costas De Murcia").

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

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

1: see the previous paragraph.

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: Agentes Medioambientales are the only staff of the protected area empowered to impose sanctions along with guardia civil.

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: The SPAMI is governed by the regional emergency plan.

## 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 (The Integrated Management Plan provides for increasing the number of permanent field staff. Indeed, the entry into force of the Integrated Management Plan will require additional permanent train field staff in order to meet the objectives of this Plan).

**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: The available staff has had adequate skills, but with the expansion of protection under the Integrated Management Plan additional training will be needed.

## 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)

1 (Additional funding is needed for the development of the Integrated Management Plan, including strengthening of the monitoring and an increasing number of rangers and technicians. The same is true for the future management plan for the marine external waters).

**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)

2 The SPAMI has premises, including offices and a visitors centre in the Salinas de San Pedro Natural Park.

### 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)

1

## 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)

2 The SPAMI has now adequate baseline information but further monitoring and data collection is going to be needed as the Integrated Management Plan will enter into force as well as the Management Plan for the marine external waters.

**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 (See the comment under 11.1).

## 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: Universities, Oceanography Spanish Institute (IEO), Volunteers (national and local NGOs, etc...), Foundations (Fundación Biodiversidad), LIFE+ projects, etc...

**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: The collaboration between SPAMIs is ensured at a national level

through the Agriculture, Food and Environment Ministry.

## **COMMENTS**

In the marine portion of the SPAMI, the Special Protection Area was declared recently; it is therefore difficult to evaluate the efficiency of its protection and management in the way the format requires.

## **CONCLUSION**

According to the evaluation made by the Technical Advisory Committee this SPAMI continues to fulfil the criteria that are mandatory for the inclusion of an area in the SPAMI list.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

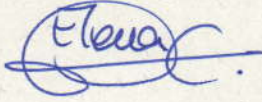
The Technical Advisory Committee recommends:

- Having the Integrated Management Plan and the Management Plan for the marine Special Protection Area approved as soon as possible.
- Establishing a structure allowing the participation of public and stakeholders in the governance of the SPAMI.
- Establishing a scientific committee to promote links between the results of data collection/monitoring and management.
- Enhancing collaboration and networking with SPAMIs in other countries, RAC/SPA could play a significant role in this context.

**SIGNATURES**

For National Focal Point :

Elena Casuegra Alcalde

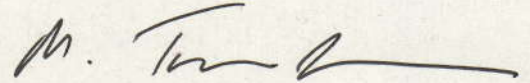


Independent Experts

Chedly RAIS



M. TUNOI AGAROY



SPAMI Manager(s)

J. Francisco Martínez Fernández



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

## SPAMI VALUE-ADDED

Questions		Score
5	Threats and surrounding context	19
6	Regulations	4
7	Management	9
8	Protection measures	5
9	Human resources	4
10	Financial and material means	4
11	Information and knowledge	4
12	Cooperation and networkings	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>53</b>