



**3rd Mediterranean Symposium
on Ecology and Conservation
of Marine and Coastal Bird Species**

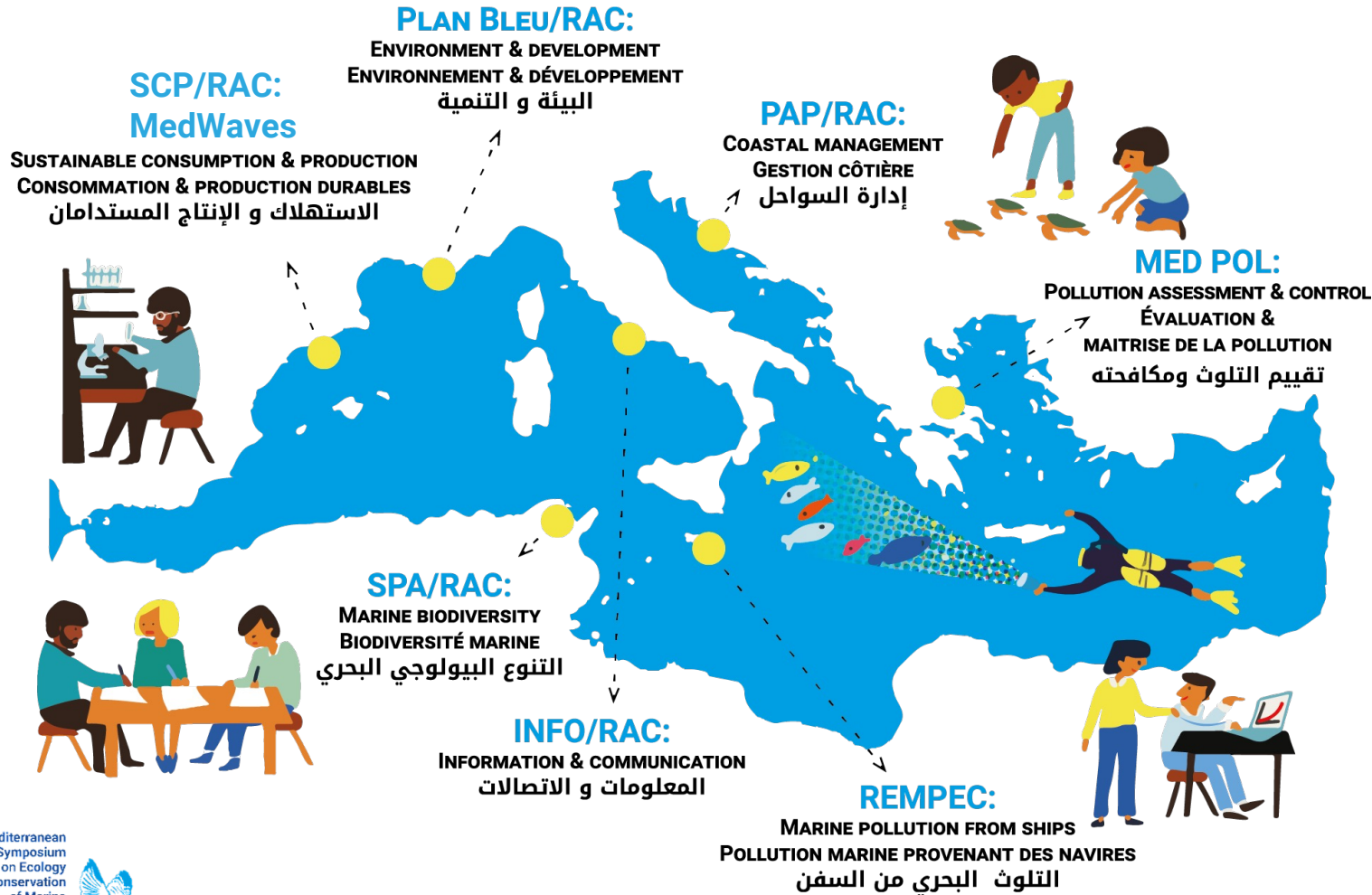


Name : Ms. Lobna BEN NAKHLA
Organization : SPA/RAC

UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention & its Protocols



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit
– Barcelona Convention
Secretariat, based in Athens
(Greece).

MAP Components : 6 Regional
Activity Centres (RACs) and the
MED POL Program.

Specially Protected Areas
Regional Activity Centre
(SPA/RAC) based in Tunisia.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS & BIODIVERSITY



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS & BIODIVERSITY

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre, SPA/RAC, is created in 1985 to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).

SPA/RAC

The Marine Biodiversity Centre At The Service Of The Mediterranean Countries

1

Inventory and mapping

With the aim to identify
species and sites of
conservation interest.

2

Developing research

To complete knowledge
and fill in gaps on
biodiversity.

3

Conservation programmes coordination

At regional level, to mitigate
threats on biodiversity
components, while taking
into account the Ecosystem
Approach principles.

4

Monitoring & assessment

Of the marine biodiversity
status, within the integrated
Monitoring and Assessment
Programme (IMAP).

5

MPAs & SPAMI development

Creation and enforcement
towards a coherent
network.

6

Capacity building

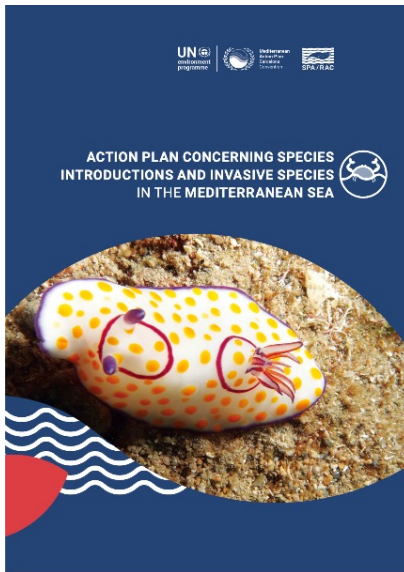
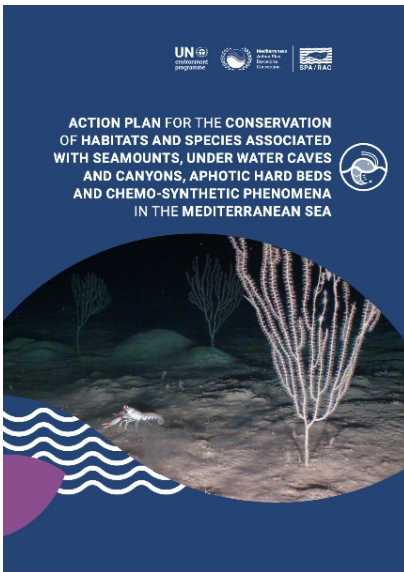
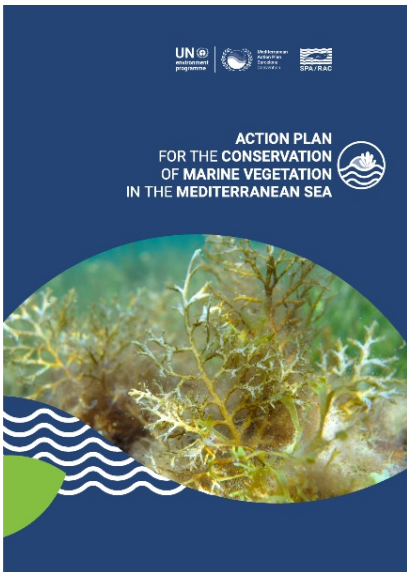
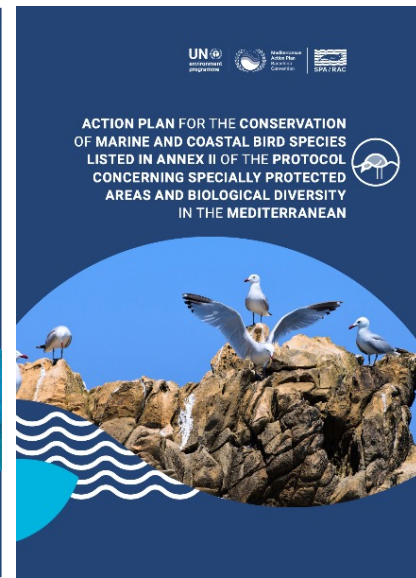
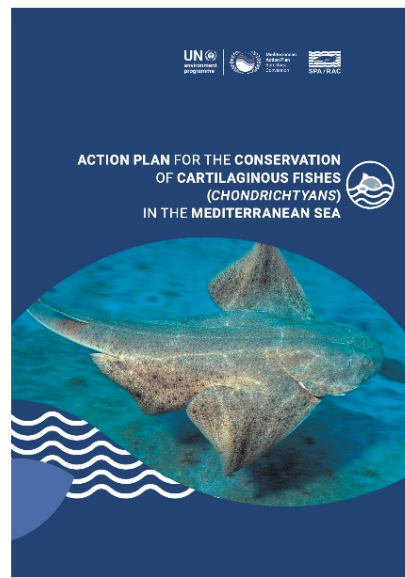
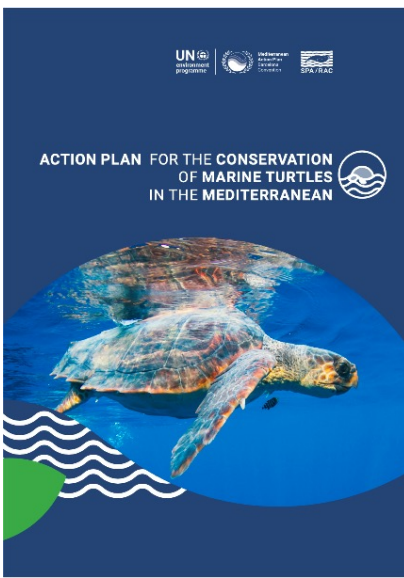
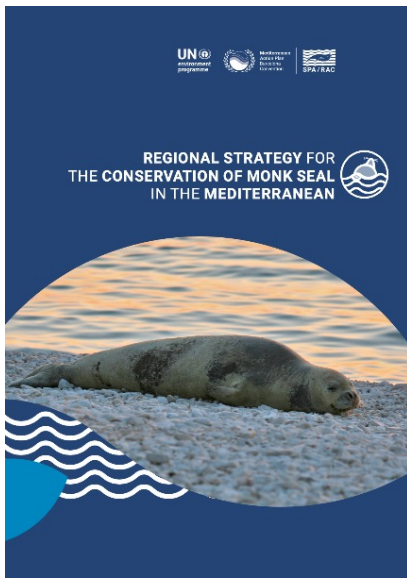
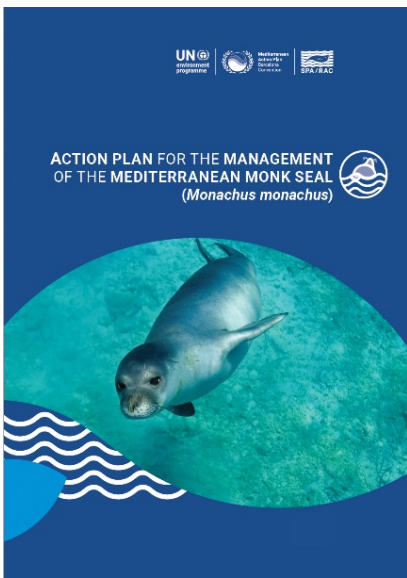
To strength skills for
biodiversity monitoring
& MPAs management.

7

Information, outreach and education

On biodiversity and
MPAs issues.





6 Action Plans & 1 Strategy for the conservation of species (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Cartilaginous Fishes, and Marine & Coastal Birds, Pinna nobilis)

3 Action Plans for the conservation of habitats (Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, and Dark Habitats)

1 Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species

REGIONAL ACTION PLANS : CHARACTERISTICS

- ≈ The most comprehensive approach to address the conservation of one or a group of species aimed at the sustainable management of their stocks, via **objectives/actions** to be carried out in the short, medium and long term
- ≈ No binding legal character
- ≈ **Improve collaboration** between Parties and coordination with key active agencies



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ACTION PLAN

**for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species
listed in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially
Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol)
in the Mediterranean**

≈ **THE MAIN PURPOSE** of the Action Plan is to maintain and/or restore the population levels of bird species in the SPA/BD Protocol's Annex II to a favourable conservation status and to ensure their long-term conservation.



Share knowledge and expertise between Mediterranean countries.



Co-ordinate efforts among Mediterranean countries and other relevant initiatives and agreements, so as to ensure the implementation of these activities.



Encourage research to fill the many gaps in knowledge of coastal and pelagic birds in the Mediterranean, particularly of seabird distribution and movements, and of their feeding, moulting and wintering areas at sea.



Cover of the Action Plan adopted in 2003



TIMELINE

23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023

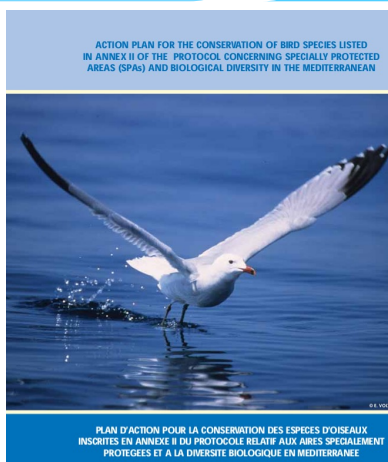
Agenda Item 3: Thematic Decisions

Draft Decision 26/5: Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Ecosystem Restoration

COP 13

Adoption of the Action
Plan by COP 13 of the
Barcelona Convention

2003



2009

1ST UPDATE

Calendar Update
(2009-2013)

2ND UPDATE

Action Plan update
(2013-2019)

2013

2019



3RD UPDATE

Action Plan update
(2019-2023)

2023

4TH UPDATE

Action Plan update
(2024-2029)



Bird Species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol:

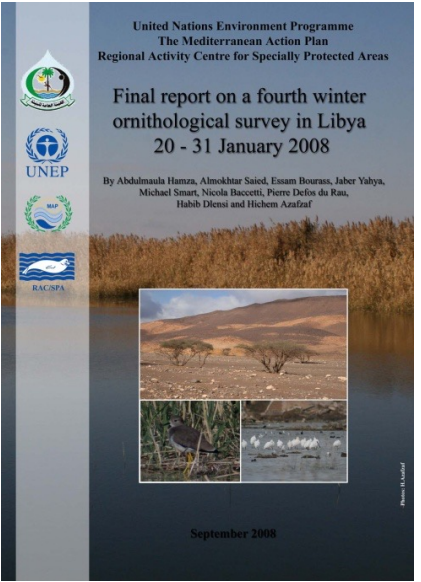
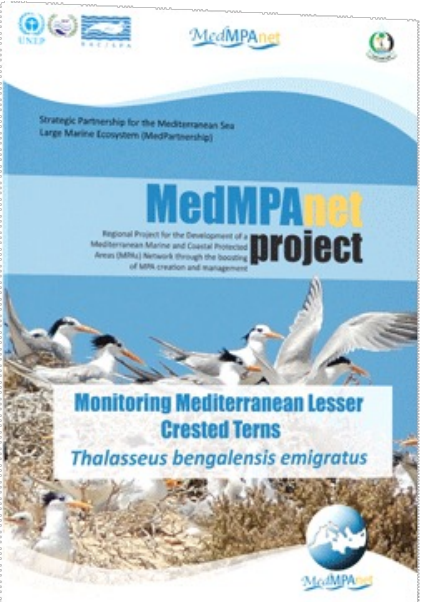
List of Endangered or Threatened Species



English Name	French Name	Scientific Name
Greater Flamingo	Flamant rose	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
European Storm-petrel	Océanite tempête	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus ssp. melitensis</i>
Scopoli's Shearwater	Puffin de Scopoli	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
Yelkouan Shearwater	Puffin yelkouan	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>
Balearic Shearwater	Puffin des Baléares	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	Cormoran pygmée	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>
European Shag	Cormoran huppé	<i>Gulosus aristotelis ssp. desmarestii</i>
Dalmatian Pelican	Pélican frisé	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
Great White Pelican	Pélican blanc	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Kentish Plover	Pluvier à collier interrompu	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Greater Sandplover	Pluvier de Leschenault	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii ssp. columbinus</i>
Slender-billed Curlew	Courlis à bec grêle	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>
Slender-billed Gull	Goéland railleur	<i>Larus genei</i>
Mediterranean Gull	Mouette mélanocéphale	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
Audouin's Gull	Goéland d'Audouin	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
Armenian Gull	Goéland d'Arménie	<i>Larus armenicus</i>
Little Tern	Sterne naine	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Common Gull-billed Tern	Sterne hansel	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	Sterne caspienne	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	Sterne voyageuse	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Sandwich Tern	Sterne caugek	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Osprey	Balbusard pêcheur	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Pied Kingfisher	Martin-pêcheur pie	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
White-breasted Kingfisher	Martin-chasseur de Smyrne	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Eleonora's Falcon	Facoun d'Éléonore	<i>Falco eleonora</i>



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS





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Support the elaboration of NAP for the conservation of bird species in Egypt : January 2024

Regional training for the International Waterbird Census (IWC)



Theoretical and practical training session on monitoring techniques of Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* breeding sites in Libya using the SPA/RAC LCT protocol monitoring Summer 2023

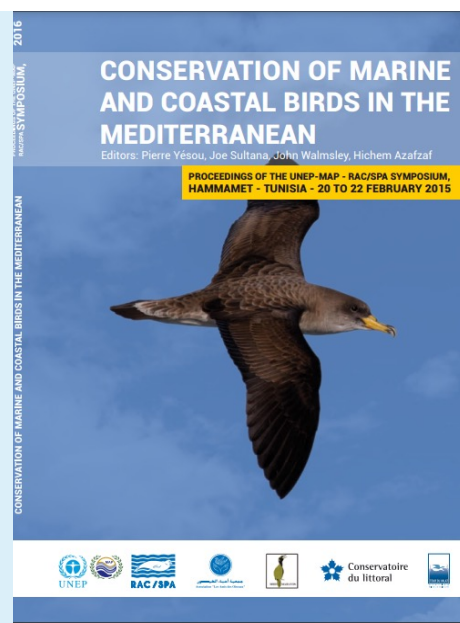


TIMELINE



2005

1ST SYMPOSIUM
Villanova, SPAIN



2016

2ND SYMPOSIUM
Hammamet, TUNISIA

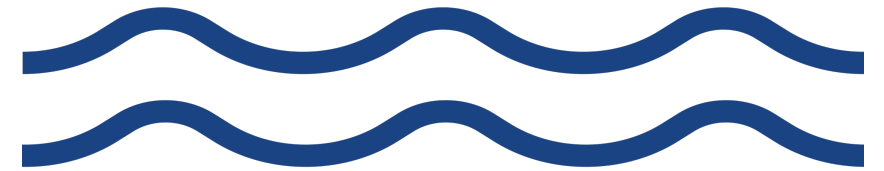


2024

3RD SYMPOSIUM
Djerba, TUNISIA



ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIRD ACTION PLAN



PROTECT LEGALLY ALL BIRD SPECIES IN ANNEX II

The Contracting Parties granted, in one way or another, **legal protection** to the bird species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Difficulties are still linked to the regulatory framework, financial resources, and administrative management.

≈ The mode of protection varied between:

≈ Setting lists of Nationally threatened species

≈ Approving new regulations, to patrolling and

Enforcing the Laws protecting those species.



Optimize synergies with international agreements and organizations

- ≡ Synergies with international organizations and/or agreements dedicated to bird conservation **are established mostly in the European side of the Mediterranean.**
- ≡ Bilateral cooperation among Parties in relation to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol **has been improving**
- ≡ In the South Mediterranean region, the bilateral and multilateral cooperation **is relatively weaker.**

Target and lobby decision-making organizations and government bodies to stimulate the implementation of the Action Plan

- ≡ Produced knowledge at national and regional levels have to be used when visiting politicians and decision-makers to convince them about the importance of the birds and their habitats and make them appreciate the value of their decisions regarding the importance of sustainable conservation.



Organize specific training courses and workshops in coordination/synergy with international and/or national NGOs

- There is a necessity to continue organizing specific training courses and workshops in coordination/synergy with international and/or national Institutions, agreement and NGOs (GFCM;AEWA; Birdlife International/partners....)

Promote a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean-threatened bird species, in coordination with other organizations.

- The winter census (WI) which is a kind of promotion of monitoring within a regional network.
- Birdlife international and AEWA supported respectively the development of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species.
- The IMAP** is ensuring that national country are given the necessary technical support and guidance to effectively deliver sea bird monitoring allowing national and regional assessment.
It still need to direct parties to enhance communication and coordination among governmental entities in the region, enhance stakeholder engagement in sea and coast management.



Establishment/support of research and monitoring programs to fill gaps in the knowledge of threatened species in partnership with other organizations / produce and publish relevant scientific documentation contributing to updating knowledge and enhancing conservation action taken on the Annex II species.

- ≈ Research programs, monitoring protocols, and monitoring plans for the marine and coastal birds listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol, are carried out in the context of some of the SPAMIs: In collaboration with NGOs or only by NGOs
- ≈ Through cooperation with various research institutions like IUCN, BirdLife International, LPO, CEN, Universities; and organizations such as AEWA, Ramsar, SPA/RAC/IMAP.
- ≈ **Supporting sea science and research**, including changing, is considered as an important tool to better manage species conservation.



Establishment and implementation of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean

- ≈ **Many CPs developed and implemented National Action Plans for one or several of the bird species of Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol:** (Action Plans concern the osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Eleonora's falcon *Falco eleonora*, and the Audouin's gull *Larus audouinii*.)
- ≈ **Other claimed they encountered difficulties :** Lack of financial resources, difficulty in identification of policies, and lack of technical scientific capacities or guidance.

Identification of areas important for birds on land and at sea (mapping of breeding, feeding, molting and wintering areas)/Legal establishment of Protected Areas (PAs) with adequate management plans

- ≈ Some important areas for birds were added as protected areas/ with management plans / are in process or under development.
- ≈ **Difficulties and the challenges :** financial; administrative and regulatory framework



Conditions and criteria for the awarding of the Regional ACTION PLAN PARTNER

- ≡ To encourage and reward contributions to the work of applying the Action Plans, the Contracting Parties may at their ordinary meetings grant the title of "**Action Plan Partner**" to any organization (governmental, NGO, economic, etc.) that has to its credit concrete actions likely to help the conservation and the protection of the species/group of species in question.
- ≡ The criteria take into consideration the decision on MAP/Civil society cooperation and Partnership (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 337/8) adopted by 16th COP.



Thank You !
Merci !
شكرًا !