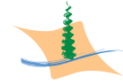


## Press Release

# A unique forum dedicated to the sea for the benefit of the Mediterranean society.



Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts  
et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification

**Tangier, Morocco, 29 November 2016.** For the second time in the Mediterranean, 300 key players involved in the marine environment meet from 28 November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 in Tangier, Morocco, to share their experiences, discuss and develop a joint work program to improve, by 2020, the protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

Coming from all over the Mediterranean, representatives of national environmental agencies, fishing and tourism, land managers, scientists, non-governmental and civil society organisations, local economic actors and European, Mediterranean and international institutions will exchange to find solutions to the challenges raised by marine biodiversity preservation in the Mediterranean while supporting local economies.

The aim of the Forum is to assess the progress made and what's left ahead to achieve the Convention on Biological Diversity to protect 10% of the surface of the Mediterranean through an effective network Marine Protected Areas by 2020.

*Marine Protected Areas are slices of sea and coast placed under protection and managed because of their ecological importance. Through effective management, they protect the amazing marine life of the Mediterranean, ensuring the livelihoods of fishermen, stimulate the local economy and contribute to mankind well-being. Marine Protected Areas are also a nature based solution that is essential to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Forum, that is held just after COP22 on climate in Morocco, will be an opportunity to share in the Mediterranean the message of the COP in link with the role of the oceans.*

## Marine Protected Areas progress in the Mediterranean but efforts must be boosted.

These last years, significant progress has been made in favor of the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean. Today, 7.14% (179,798 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Mediterranean Sea is placed under a protection status, almost all of which (90%) is located in European waters. Despite the fact that we are close to the quantitative target of 10% of protection of the Mediterranean Sea, at the qualitative level, many sites are not managed and do not have sufficient regulation and resources to preserve them adequately. Considering the high pressures exerted on the Mediterranean marine environment with growing trends, it is crystal clear that willingness to invest in marine conservation needs be boosted up. The Forum intends to support this effort.

The brochure «Status of MPAs in the Mediterranean 2016 – Main findings» presented during the Forum, gives an overview of the current states of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean in 2016.

## **A roadmap to achieve in 2020 the international goals of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD)**

In 2012, during the first edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum, a Roadmap was developed by all the participants to succeed in protecting 10% of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020. This Roadmap calls on all stakeholders in MPAs (managers, policy makers, scientists, private actors, civil society) to implement the key actions at the local, national and Mediterranean level for structuring and pragmatic results.

The Roadmap was formally adopted by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention early 2016 to strengthen the Regional Programme of work for Coastal and Marine Protected Areas approved in 2009 by the Barcelona Convention in Marrakesh.

This second Forum of Mediterranean MPAs is an opportunity for a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Roadmap and to propose new recommendations to tackle the challenges faced by MPAs, especially those related to climate change, with an integrated and long term vision.

The 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas is co-organised by the network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA), and the Moroccan Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification, in partnership with many national and international organisations.

## **Marine Protected Areas are everyone's business !**

*Editor's note :*

[Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution \(Barcelona Convention\)](#), was adopted in 1976, came into force in 1978, and was amended in 1995

*Since 1990, the MedPAN network has brought together the managers of Mediterranean MPAs and has supported them in their management activities. A legally independent structure since 2008, MedPAN aims to promote the establishment, the operation and the sustainability of a Mediterranean network of MPAs. The MedPAN association today gathers 65 members (MPA managers) and 37 partners (with activities linked to MPA management) from 17 Mediterranean countries.*

[www.medpan.org](http://www.medpan.org)

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) was established in Tunis in 1985 by decision of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which entrusted it with responsibility for assessing the situation of natural heritage and assisting the Mediterranean countries to implement the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean ([SPA/BD Protocol](#)), which came into force in 1999. [www.rac-spa.org](http://www.rac-spa.org)

The mission of the *Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD)* (HCEFLCD) in Morocco is to 1) Develop and implement government policy in the areas of conservation and sustainable development of natural resources; 2) Coordinate the establishment of institutional mechanisms for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policy to combat desertification; 3) Participate in the development and implementation of government policy on rural development. [www.eauxeforets.gov.ma](http://www.eauxeforets.gov.ma)

# Practical information

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## Date and place:

28 November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, Tangier, Morocco –  
Kenzi Solazur hotel

## Forum web site

[www.medmpaforum2016.org](http://www.medmpaforum2016.org)

## Supporting information

Example of subjects covered during the Forum:

- MPAs in Morocco
- Successful management of artisanal fishing
- Successful management of recreational fishing
- Socio-economic benefits of MPAs
- Blue growth and Maritime Spatial Planning
- Sustainable tourism in MPAs
- Sustainable financing of MPAs
- ...

[Programme highlights](#) – overview of all sessions programmed during the Forum

[Detailed programme](#) – details on all sessions with speakers and summaries of speeches

[Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean 2016 – Main findings](#)

[Poster on the main findings of the status](#)