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SPAMI Evaluation system

Evaluation sheets of the SPAMI: Alboran Island

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GRAND TOTAL SCORE:

52

(max score: 66)

SECTION I:

CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST

Total score

1. MEDITERRANEAN VALUE OF THE SPAMI

6

(max score: 7)

Comments by the TAC:

The SPAMI fulfils all the criteria of Annex I. Actually the area was identified as one of the main biodiversity hot spots in Spain and therefore was included in the Life Indemares project carried out between 2009 and 2013 in order to implement oceanographic campaigns to improve knowledge. • **UNIQUENESS:** The Island of Alborán constitutes the emerged part of a dorsal, parallel to two others located further North (Betic System) and to the South (the Rif). The environment of the Alboran Island is a transition zone, with high biological biodiversity and rich in fishing resources in which the Mediterranean waters receive a marked influence of the waters coming from the Atlantic Ocean. • **NATURAL REPRESENTATIVENESS:** This protected area presents marine habitats and plant communities representative of the different ecosystems that integrate this maritime-terrestrial space. • **DIVERSITY:** Much of the ecological and landscape peculiarity of the SPAMI has its origin in its geological diversity, with a predominance of volcanic substrates, and in its oceanographic characteristics. It contains a high number of marine species and habitats such as the laminaria meadows (*Laminaria ochroleuca* and *Saccorhiza polyschides*), red coral (*Corallium rubrum*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), sand beds, "maèr" beds (*Phymatolithon calcareum* y *Lithothamnion corallioides*), coralligenous circalittoral rock, etc. All of them harbour a high diversity. The Alboran Sea is also an important point of passage for the migrations of large cetaceans. • **PRESENCE OF HABITATS THAT ARE CRITICAL FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES:** the rocky and sandy bottoms and the diversity of their vegetal colonization constitute the support of a great faunistic richness, with presence of many species of importance for the Mediterranean. It counts with one of the best population of *Patella ferruginea* in the Mediterranean. The island houses the most important nesting point for the Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) in Andalusia. • **CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVENESS:** There is a military base staying permanently in the island housed in the Alboran lighthouse was inaugurated in 1876 and that has been rebuilt in part by the MAPA at the end of the XX century. Complete report on the natural values of the area can be checked in the following links: Book: *Entre África y Europa: Historia Natural de la Isla de Alborán (2006)* <http://www.cma.junta-andalucia.es/medioambiente/site/porta/web/menuitem.7e1cf46ddf59bb227a9e8e205510e1ca/?vgnextoid=1cea9e405f99a010vgnextVCM1000000624e50aRCRD&vgnextchannel=1f27dfe043f4310VgnVCM1000001325e50aRCRD> https://www.indemares.es/sites/default/files/espacio_marino_de_alboran.pdf No adverse changes for habitats and species has been detected during the evaluation. Most of the objectives established in the original SPAMI application for the designation have been pursued actively.

Total score

2. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

4

(max score: 6)

Comments by the TAC:

The SPAMI has maintained its legal status since the date of the previous evaluation report (year 2014 - 2015). The actual level of legal protection of the SPAMI Alboran: - Natural Place (Law 3/2003 of the Andalusian Regional Government) - Natura 2000 site (Site of Community Importance and Special Protection Area) - Marine Reserve of fishing interest. In 2015, a decree (Andalusian Decree 369/2015) designating the area as a Special Areas of Conservation (SAC "ES 6110015 Alborán") within Natura 2000 and a management plan was approved by the Andalusian Regional Government. Nevertheless, the Statement of the High Court of Justice of Andalusia cancelled it arguing that the competence to declare de SAC and approve a management plan relied on the Spanish Central Administration (Ministry for ecological transition). Besides this, and overlapping the SPAMI, the Ministerial order AAA/1260/2014, designated several marine Special Protection Area within the Spanish marine waters, including "ES0000505 Espacio Marino de la Isla de Alborán". The management plan for this SPA is currently being drafted and its approval is expected by 2020. Surrounding the SPAMI has been approved the SCI "ESZZ16005 Espacio Marino de Alborán", which will, in near future, be joint together with SCI «Alborán» making one all together. The management plan for both sites is foreseen by 2022. With regard to the Marine Reserve of fishing interest, the SPAMI has also the next level of legal protection: - Order 1997, of July 31, establishing a Marine Reserve and a Fishing Reserve in the vicinity of the island of Alborán. (B.O.E. Núm 2014, August 26, 1997). - Order 1998, of September 8, establishing a Marine Reserve and a Fishing Reserve in the vicinity of the island of Alborán and regulating the exercise of fishing in adjacent fishing grounds. (B.O.E. Núm 233, September 29, 1998). - Order 2001, of June 6 amending the Order of September 8, 1998, establishing a marine reserve and fishing reserve in the vicinity of the island of Alborán (BOE No. 146 of 19 June 2001) - Order APA/ 767/2018, of June 19, amending the Order of September 8, 1998, establishing a marine reserve and a fishing reserve in the vicinity of the island of Alboran and regulating the exercise of fishing in adjacent fishing grounds.

With regards to the Natura 2000 sites, the distribution of competencies and responsibilities among Administrations is defined according to the justification stated above but need to be regularized in the management plans that will be approved in the coming years. The competences of the Natural Place of Alboran correspond in to the government of Andalusia. Regarding the Marine Reserve of fishing interest, the competences are attributed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food.

Regarding the marine part of the SCI Alborán it has got a different authority now as when the SPAMI was established and last evaluated, since the actual management authority is the Ministry for Ecological Transition, which is the same body in charge of the SPA Espacio Marino de la Isla de Alborán. The management body for the Marine Reserve and the Fisheries Reserve is the General Secretary for Fisheries (GSF) - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA). The GSF manages the fisheries regime and has assigned a qualified staff for the surveillance of the marine and fishing reserves as well as 2 surveillance boats. This staff has control and surveillance functions for an effective defense of the authorised fisheries activities and for the protection of the ecological values in these reserves and too to for awareness actions in the area- in the reserves and in the surrounding area.

Total score

3. MANAGEMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

8

(max score: 12)

Comments by the TAC:

The management plan for the SPA Espacio Marino de la Isla de Alborán is not yet approved, but expected by 2020. The management plan for the joint SCI is expected to be finished by 2022. The management plan approved for the SCI Alborán has been cancelled by the Statement of the High Court of Justice of Andalusia, since the Autonomous Community of Andalusia was not the authority for doing so. The Law 3/2003, of June 25, for the declaration of the

Natural Place of Alborán, constituting the main planning in the natural place, where are the activities in this space regulated. After that, the Order of May 25, 2005 is published, approving the measures for the management of the Special Protection Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI). The Marine Reserve is regulated by the next normative (management plan) armonised to the objectives of the SPAMI - Order 1997, of July 31, establishing a Marine Reserve and a Fishing Reserve in the Island of Alborán. (B.O.E. Núm 204, August 26, 1997). - Order 1998, of September 8, establishing a Marine Reserve and a Fishing Reserve in the Island of Alborán and regulating the exercise of fishing in adjacent fishing grounds. (B.O.E. Núm 233, September 29, 1998). - Order 2001, of June 6 amending the Order of September 8, 1998, establishing a marine reserve and fishing reserve in the vicinity of the island of Alborán (BOE No. 146 of 19) June 2001) - Order APA/ 767/2018, of June 19, amending the Order of September 8, 1998, establishing a marine reserve and a fishing reserve in the vicinity of the island of Alborán and regulating the exercise of fishing in adjacent fishing grounds. The marine reserve extends up to one mile from the Alborán Island, and comprises a circle of half a mile around the point of coordinates 35° 57.95'N and 2° 58, 60'W. It comprises two "non-take" reserves, one in the area that extends up to half a mile around the island of Alborán, and another that occupies the circular area of half a mile around the point of coordinates 35° 57.95'N and 2° 58, 60'W. All this on the basis of the high ecological value of these areas that contain habitats and communities with high diversity as coralligenous circalittoral rock, shelf-edge rock, "maërl" beds, laminary seaweed beds and very well preserved coralline beds. The Fishing Reserve, centered on the Island of Alborán, includes fishing grounds of species of high commercial value, such as the red shrimp. In 2018, thanks to the greater knowledge of the seabed studied in the LIFE + INDEMARES project, the Order APA/ 767/2018, of June 19, was developed, with the main objective of protecting the coralligenous and maërl beds whose coverage reaches up to 100 meters deep. The marine and fishery reserves have a management plan that respond to the many of the SPAMI objectives. None of the sites managed by the Ministry for Ecological Transition has a management plan already approved. The measures contained in Law 3/2003, and approved by Ministry of Environment of the Government of Andalusia, take into account some objectives and requirements established in the article 7 of the Protocol and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated Format, but need to be updated.

Regarding the sites competence of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Andalusian Regional Government, the human resources available are considered insufficient. The Marine Reserves of the island of Alborán and Cabo de Gata-Níjar have a shared staff which comprises: Boat Crew: 9 part time persons including sailors, fish guards, divers, boat captains and mechanics. Technician: 1 part-time person Technic coordinator: 1 full-time person. The main funding of the SPAMI comes from the Government of Andalusia, the Government of Spain and from UE through the European Regional Development Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Regional Development and the European Social Fund. Some universities and research centers also finance research projects. Regarding the Ministry for Ecological Transition: • Budget and material to run current management rely on the general budget of General Directorate for the Sustainability of Coast and Seas of the Ministry for Ecological Transition allocated to implement their tasks. • The Indemares project implied an important budget allocation to improve knowledge on the site and to set guidelines to develop its management plan. A specific budget to develop the management plan is foreseen within the Life Integrated Project Intemares (<https://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/es/biodiversidad-marina-y-litoral/proyectos-props/life-ip-paf-intemares>) Regarding the Regional Government of Andalusia, the infrastructures as well as other elements, are located on the island of Alborán, and are derived from activities of military use and support for navigation: - The building and tower of the Alborán lighthouse. - Two boards ("Poniente" and "Levante") - An heliport. - Communication antennas. - Seismograph and weather station. - Warehouses. The marine reserve provides with the next equipment: - Surveillance radar - 2 surveillance boats: Riscos de Famara- 20 meters length- and Punta Sirenas -12 meters length - Terrestrial vehicle: Tractor - Office, labs and library (lighthouse) - Meeting room - Lodging for Scientific staff - Interpretative panels of the marine reserve - Surveillance equipment such as: Telescope, night vision binoculars, Photo and video camera. - Remoted operated vehicles (ROVs) - Educational outreach material Regarding the Ministry for Ecological Transition, a specific monitoring program for the sites of its competences has not been established yet. Nevertheless the Marine Strategies monitoring program are implemented in all Spanish marine waters and therefore covers the SPAMI area. In strong coordination with these monitoring programs, specific monitoring programs for MPA have been launched prioritizing the monitoring of MPA that already have a management plan and therefore it is expected to launch a monitoring program for the SCI competence of the Ministry for Ecological Transition when the management plan is approved. Regarding the Natural Place, monitoring programs carried out by Andalusia are: - Program of Actions for the conservation of aquatic invertebrates in Andalusia (Patella ferruginea) - POCTOFEX Alborán Project (2008-2013) - Sustainable Management Program of the Andalusian Marine Environment. - Emergency Program, Epidemiological and Monitoring Wildlife of Andalusia. - Work plan for Conservation and maintenance of the coastal environment. - Program of Control of Invasive Alien Species of Andalusia. - Program of recovery and conservation of dunes, sands and coastal cliffs. The marine reserve implements the next monitoring programs: - Measurement of seawater temperature - Monitoring of artisanal fishing - Monitoring of marine litter Regarding the Ministry for Ecological Transition, since there is no management plan yet, there is no link to monitoring results and the management objectives. Nevertheless it is expected to follow this adaptive management approach taking into account that the management plan of Natura 2000 sites is reviewed each 6 years and objectives and measures are reviewed according to the results of the monitoring programs.

SECTION II:

FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA

Total score

4. THREATS AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT

19

(max score: 23)

Comments by the TAC:

The assessment of unregulated exploitation that may occur on the SPA "Espacio marino de la Isla de Alborán" and the joint SCI ESZ216005 "Espacio Marino de Alborán- ES 6110015 Alborán" will be developed in the framework of the drafting of the management plan. The main unauthorized exploitation of marine resources is occasionally carried out by illegal fishermen (furtive recreational fishing) in areas of the SPAMI

An initial assessment of the threats affecting the area was accomplished within Indemares and is included in the chapter 7 of the report https://www.indemares.es/sites/default/files/espacio_marino_de_alboran.pdf. The SPAMI is about 45 miles from the peninsular coast; the main human impacts that affect the Alborán platform are related to fishing activity. This activity is monitored and surveilled by the Fisheries General Secretary in order to reduce their occurrence. - Illegal bottom trawling in non-permitted areas (less than 100 meters) - Drift nets used by ships registered in foreign countries - Marine litter - Ghost fishing - Intense maritime traffic close to the SPAMI with the consequent potential risk of accidental spills of hydrocarbons or other contaminants.

Regarding the Marine Reserve for fisheries: - Intense maritime traffic close to the SPAMI - The presence of migrant boats in the area has become a constant. These boats are sometimes abandoned in the area when the migrants are rescued. - Fishing activity

Regarding the Natural Place, conflicts between fishing boats that work in the area are identified. With regard to the Marine Reserve for Fisheries, the island of Alborán is a military base and a place of Interest for the National Defense with two security zones that do not allow boats to approach at a distance of one mile from the low water line. There are no conflicts between users known.

- Trawl fisheries - Marine litter

The Mediterranean is an almost closed sea, with a little depth. In addition, its coasts are overcrowded. These conditions make it more vulnerable to problems of pollution and eutrophication, as a result of solid waste discharges, wastewater and fertilizers of agricultural origin. In addition, there is a high risk of receiving oil slicks due to navigation accidents or discharges in the high seas even if they occur far from the SPAMI area. Even the SPAMI is about 45 miles from the peninsular coast, the type of agriculture in the coast (mainly greenhouses) generates the elimination of large quantities of plastics that arrive to the area. Sometimes this solid waste is not properly disposed of and ends up in the sea. There is also presence of marine litter in the SPAMI, some of it probably derives from the presence of fishing vessels.

There is no threat, although there is an obvious landscape impact from the port

For the Natural Place there are not expected threats upon the surrounding area. Regarding the Marine Reserve for fisheries, other threats as the illegal fishing practices are being controlled by the different administrations and by the marine reserve, but it is difficult to know its development.

- Fishing activities, both professional and game fish - Some recreational activities as whale-watching - Marine transport

(noise, spills, discharges, waste) - Solid waste (floating plastics, balls of porexpan, remains of pneumatic boats...) - Tar and oil stains - Risk of oil slick - Port (visual impact)
 The shellfishing and the indiscriminate illegal fishing was solved when the military garrison became permanent since 1997.
 There is a document: "Proposal for an Andalusian Strategy for the Integral Management of Coastal Areas (Barragán, 2007). Moreover, there is a law: Law 2/2013, on Protection and Sustainable Use of the Coast
 The Measures for the Management of the Natural Place of Alboran affects the island of Alboran and the surrounding waters included in it. Furthermore, in order to address external threats, in the future management plan for Natura 2000 sites, collaboration mechanisms with other governing bodies will be sought, such as collaboration agreement between the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Regional Government of Andalucía.

Total score

5. ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION MEASURES

6

(max score: 6)

Comments by the TAC:

On land, the boundaries are defined by the emerged area of the island. In addition, the boundaries of the Marine and fishery reserve are public and well known.
 With regards to the sites managed by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, there is a collaborative framework with the Army and the Maritime Service of the Civil Guard for the surveillance of MPA The Marine Reserve has a specific surveillance service. It collaborates with the Civil Guard of the sea, as well as with the Fishing inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, with Customs Surveillance Service and with "Salvamento Marítimo". In the island there is a permanent military detachment that carries out surveillance work. With regard to the Natural Place, there is also collaboration between the Defence Ministry and the Govern of Andalucía.
 State security forces and bodies area empowered to enforce regulations, including the specific regulations applying in the SPAMI.
 Yes, there is a system on infringements and penalties established, and sanctions are enough to dissuade citizens.
 The surveillance and protection of the Natural Place of Alboran is carried out by the military detachment present on the island, the marine patrols of the civil guard and the coast guard service The marine reserve staff is empowered to impose sanctions for illegal fishing practices as well as for non-compliance with the marine reserve regulation.
 Further information: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/plan-ribera/default.aspx>

Total score

6. COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

5

(max score: 6)

Comments by the TAC:

An important amount of scientific information has been gathered on habitats and species in the frame of the LIFE+ INDEMARES project referred to the SPAMI bottoms (more information at the siteweb: www.indemares.es). This information will be used in order to make a consistent and social supported management plan for the joint sites SCI ESZZ16005 Espacio Marino de Alborán- ES 6110015 Alborán, within the frame of the Life + Indemares integrated Project.
 There is collaboration between the andalusian and spanish SPAMI, and within the framework of european projects such as ACT4LITTER (marine litter management in the Mediterranean) with other SPAMIs, but it is necessary to improve this issue. ACT4LITTER is an 18-month project funded by the Interreg Mediterranean European Territorial Cooperation Program. The marine reserve collaborates with the project "Mares circulares" that carries out the clean-up of some beaches all around the Spanish and Portuguese coast and an educational project in different high schools next to the marine reserves (some of them included in SPAMIs areas). The marine reserve staff has already given talks in several high schools talking about the marine litter problem in the SPAMI of Cabo de Gata-Níjar and Isla de Alborán.

SECTION III:

FOLLOW-UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATION(S)

Total score

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS

4

(max score: 6)

(if applicable)

Comments by the TAC:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE EVALUATION:

- given the overlapping protection figures within the area and the upcoming management plan there should be more synergies among the different authorities responsible for the management of the areas.
- there should be an attempt to develop proposal for funding and ensuring better cooperation for the monitoring of the marine and coastal biodiversity

SECTION I:

CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST

1. MEDITERRANEAN VALUE OF THE SPAMI

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.

Score

yes=1

Score justification:

The SPAMI fulfils all the criteria of Annex I. Actually the area was identified as one of the main biodiversity hot spots in Spain and therefore was included in the Life Indemares project carried out between 2009 and 2013 in order to implement oceanographic campaigns to improve knowledge.

- **UNIQUENESS:** The Island of Alborán constitutes the emerged part of a dorsal, parallel to two others located further North (Betic System) and to the South (the Rif). The environment of the Alboran Island is a transition zone, with high biological biodiversity and rich in fishing resources in which the Mediterranean waters receive a marked influence of the waters

Score

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.

3= No adverse change

Score justification:

No adverse changes for habitats and species has been detected during the evaluation

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

Score
2= Yes for most of them

Score justification:

Most of the objectives established in the original SPAMI application for the designation have been pursued actively

SECTION I:

CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST
2. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Score

2.1. The legal status of the SPAMI (with reference to its legal status at the date of the previous evaluation report).

2 = The SPAMI has maintained or improve

Score justification:

The SPAMI has maintained its legal status since the date of the previous evaluation report (year 2014 - 2015). The actual level of legal protection of the SPAMI Alboran:

- Natural Place (Law 3/2003 of the Andalusian Regional Government)
- Natura 2000 site (Site of Community Importance and Special Protection Area)
- Marine Reserve of fishing interest

In 2015, a decree (Andalusian Decree 369/2015) designating the area as a Special Areas of

Score

2.2. Are competencies and responsibilities clearly defined in the texts governing the area?

1 = The definition of competencies

Score justification:

With regards to the Natura 2000 sites, the distribution of competencies and responsibilities among Administrations is defined according to the justification stated above but need to be regularized in the management plans that will be approved in the coming years.

The competences of the Natural Place of Alboran correspond in to the government of Andalusia.

Regarding the Marine Reserve of fishing interest, the competences are attributed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food.

Score

2.3. Does the area have a management body, endowed with sufficient powers?

1 = The management body is not

Score justification:

Regarding the marine part of the SCI Alborán it has got a different authority now as when the SPAMI was established and last evaluated, since the actual management authority is the Ministry for Ecological Transition, which is the same body in charge of the SPA Espacio Marino de la Isla de Alborán

The management body for the Marine Reserve and the Fisheries Reserve is the General Secretary for Fisheries (GSF) - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food- (MAPA).

SECTION I:

CRITERIA WHICH ARE MANDATORY FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AREA IN THE SPAMI LIST
3. MANAGEMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

Score

3.1. Does the SPAMI have a management plan?

2 = The management plan is officially adop

Score justification:

The management plan for the SPA Espacio Marino de la Isla de Alborán is not yet approved, but expected by 2020.

The management plan for the joint SCI is expected to be finished by 2022. The management plan approved for the SCI Alborán has been cancelled by the Statement of the High Court of Justice of Andalusia, since the Autonomous Community of Andalusia was not the authority for doing so.

The Law 3/2003, of June 25, for the declaration of the Natural Place of Alboran, constituting the

Score

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 SPA/BD Protocol and Section 8.2.3 of the Annotated Format (AF)

1 = Fair

Score justification:

The marine and fishery reserves have a management plan that respond to the many of the SPAMI objectives.

None of the sites managed by the Ministry for Ecological Transition has a management plan already approved

The measures contained in Law 3/2003, and approved by Ministry of Environment of the Government of

Score

3.3. Assess the adequacy of the human resources available to the SPAMI

1 = Fair

Score justification:

Regarding the sites competence of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Andalusian Regional Government, the human resources available are considered insufficient.

The Marine Reserves of the Island of Alboran and Cabo the Gata-Nijar have a shared staff which comprises:

Boat Crew: 9 part time persons including sailors, fish guards, divers, boat captains and mechanics.
 Technician: 1 part-time person

Score

3.4. Assess the adequacy of the financial and material means available to the SPAMI.

1 = Fair

Score justification:

The main funding of the SPAMI comes from the Government of Andalusia, the Government of Spain and from UE through the European Regional Development Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Regional Development and the European Social Fund. Some universities and research centers also finance research projects.

Regarding the Ministry for Ecological Transition:

- Budget and material to run current management rely on the general budget of General Directorate

Score

3.5. Does the area have a monitoring programme?

2 = The monitoring programme is

Score justification:

Regarding the Ministry for Ecological Transition, a specific monitoring program for the sites of its competences has not been established yet. Nevertheless the Marine Strategies monitoring program are implemented in all Spanish marine waters and therefore covers the SPAMI area. In strong coordination with these monitoring programs, specific monitoring programs for MPA have been launched prioritizing the monitoring of MPA that already have a management plan and therefore it is expected to launch a monitoring program for the SCI competence of the Ministry for Ecological Transition when the management plan is approved.

In case of Score = 1, this section should also include the list of the parameters to include and the related rationale.

Score

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?

1 = The existing feedback mecha

Score justification:

Regarding the Ministry for Ecological Transition, since there is no management plan yet, there is no link to monitoring results and the management objectives. Nevertheless it is expected to follow this adaptive management approach taking into account that the management plan of Natura 2000 sites is reviewed each 6 years and objectives and measures are reviewed according to the results of the monitoring programs.

In case of Score =1, this section should also include concrete recommendations to improve the existing feedback mechanism.

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 of Annex I). In particular:

Score

Unregulated exploitation of natural resources (e.g. sand mining, water, timber, living resources). See 5.1.1. in AF. 2

Score justification:

The assessment of unregulated exploitation that may occur on the SPA "Espacio marino de la Isla de Alborán" and the joint SCI ES2216005 "Espacio Marino de Alborán- ES 6110015 Alborán" will be developed in the framework of the drafting of the management plan.

The main unauthorized exploitation of marine resources is occasionally carried out by illegal fishermen (furtive recreational fishing) in areas of the SPAMI

Threats to habitats and species (e.g. disturbance, desiccation, pollution, poaching, introduced alien species...). See 5.1.2. in AF. 2

Score justification:

An initial assessment of the threats affecting the area was accomplished within Indemares and is included in the chapter 7 of the report https://www.indemares.es/sites/default/files/espacio_marino_de_alboran.pdf.

The SPAMI is about 45 miles from the peninsular coast; the main human impacts that affect the Alborán platform are related to fishing activity. This activity is monitored and surveilled by the Fisheries General Secretary in order to reduce their occurrence.

Increase of human impact (e.g. tourism, boats, building, immigration...). See 5.1.3. in AF. 2

Score justification:

Regarding the Marine Reserve for fisheries:

- Intense maritime traffic close to the SPAMI
- The presence of migrant boats in the area has become a constant. These boats are sometimes abandoned in the area when the migrants are rescued.
- Fishing activity

Conflicts between users or user groups. See 5.1.4. and 6.2. in AF. 2

Score justification:

Regarding the Natural Place, conflicts between fishing boats that work in the area are identified.

With regard to the Marine Reserve for Fisheries, the island of Alborán is a military base and a place of interest for the National Defense with two security zones that do not allow boats to approach at a distance of one mile from the low water line.

There are no conflicts between users known.

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

- Trawl fisheries
- Marine litter

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

Score

Pollution problems from external sources including solid waste and those affecting waters up-current. 3
See 5.2.1. in AF.

Score justification:

The Mediterranean is an almost closed sea, with a little depth. In addition, its coasts are overcrowded. These conditions make it more vulnerable to problems of pollution and eutrophication, as a result of solid waste discharges, wastewater and fertilizers of agricultural origin.

In addition, there is a high risk of receiving oil slicks due to navigation accidents or discharges in the high seas even if they occur far from the SPAMI area.

Even the SPAMI is about 45 miles from the peninsular coast, the type of agriculture in the coast

Significant impacts on landscapes and on cultural values. 3
See 5.2.2. in AF.

Score justification:

There is no threat, although there is an obvious landscape impact from the port

Expected development of threats upon the surrounding area. 3
See 6.1. in AF.

Score justification:

For the Natural Place there are not expected threats upon the surrounding area.

Regarding the Marine Reserve for fisheries, other threats as the illegal fishing practices are being controlled by the different administrations and by the marine reserve, but it is difficult to know its development.

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

- Fishing activities, both professional and game fish
- Some recreational activities as whale-watching
- Marine transport (noise, spills, discharges, waste)
- Solid waste (floating plastics, balls of porexpan, remains of pneumatic boats...)
- Tar and oil stains
- Risk of oil slick
- Port (visual impact)

Please include the list of threats that were of concern and were eliminated or solved.

The shellfishing and the indiscriminate illegal fishing was solved when the military garrison became permanent since 1997.

Score

4.3. Is there an integrated coastal management plan or land-use laws in the area bordering or surrounding the SPAMI? (B4.e of Annex I). See 5.2.3. in AF.

Yes=1

Score justification:

There is a document: "Proposal for an Andalusian Strategy for the Integral Management of Coastal Areas (Barragán, 2007).

Moreover, there is a law: Law 2/2013, on Protection and Sustainable Use of the Coast

Score

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

Yes=1

Score justification:

The Measures for the Management of the Natural Place of Alboran affects the island of Alboran and the surrounding waters included in it.

Furthermore, in order to address external threats, in the future management plan for Natura 2000 sites, collaboration mechanisms with other governing bodies will be sought, such as collaboration agreement between the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Regional Government of Andalusia.

SECTION II:

FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA

5. ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION MEASURES

5.1. Assess the degree of enforcement of the protection measures. In particular: Score

Are the area boundaries adequately marked on land and, if applicable, adequately marked on the sea? Yes=1
 See 8.3.1. in AF.

Score justification:

On land, the boundaries are defined by the emerged area of the island.
 In addition, the boundaries of the Marine and fishery reserve are public and well known.

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? Yes=1
 See 8.3.2. and 8.3.3. in AF.

Score justification:

With regards to the sites managed by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, there is a collaborative framework with the Army and the Maritime Service of the Civil Guard for the surveillance of MPA

The Marine Reserve has a specific surveillance service. It collaborates with the Civil Guard of the sea, as well as with the Fishing inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, with Customs Surveillance Service and with "Salvamento Marítimo".

Are third party agencies also empowered to enforce regulations relating to the SPAMI protective measures? Yes=1

Score justification:

State security forces and bodies are empowered to enforce regulations, including the specific regulations applying in the SPAMI.

Are there adequate penalties and powers for effective enforcement? Yes=1
 See 8.3.4. in AF.

Score justification:

Yes, there is a system on infringements and penalties established, and sanctions are enough to dissuade citizens.

Is the field staff empowered to impose sanctions? Yes=1
 See 8.3.4. in AF.

Score justification:

The surveillance and protection of the Natural Place of Alborán is carried out by the military detachment present on the island, the marine patrols of the civil guard and the coast guard service

The marine reserve staff is empowered to impose sanctions for illegal fishing practices as well as for non-compliance with the marine reserve regulation.

Has the area established a contingency plan to face accidental pollution or other serious emergencies? Yes=1
 (Art. 7.3. of the Protocol, Recommendation of 13th Meeting of Contracting Parties).

Score justification:

Further information:

<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/plan-ribera/default.aspx>

**SECTION II:
 FEATURES PROVIDING A VALUE-ADDED TO THE AREA
 6. COOPERATION AND NETWORKING**

Score

Are other national or international organizations collaborating to provide human or financial resources? 3= Excellent
 (e.g. researchers, experts, volunteers...). See 9.1.3. in AF.

Score justification:

An important amount of scientific information has been gathered on habitats and species in the frame of the LIFE+ INDEMARES project referred to the SPAMI bottoms (more information at the website: www.indemares.es). This information will be used in order to make a consistent and social supported management plan for the joint sites SCI ESZZ16005 Espacio Marino de Alborán- ES 6110015 Alborán, within the frame of the Life + Intemares integrated Project.

Score

Assess the level of cooperation and exchange with other SPAMIs (especially in other nations) 2= Fairly
 (Art. 8, Art. 21.1, Art. 22.1. and Art. 22.3 of the Protocol, A,d in Annex I).

Score justification:

0
 There is collaboration between the andalusian and spanish SPAMI, and within the framework of european projects such as ACT4LITTER (marine litter management in the Mediterranean) with other SPAMIs, but it is necessary to improve this issue.

ACT4LITTER is an 18-month project funded by the Interreg Mediterranean European Territorial Cooperation Program.

SECTION III: FOLLOW-UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATION(S)
7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS

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. 2 = "Yes" for most of them

7.2. 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 II. 2 = "Yes" for most of them

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE EVALUATIONS

Please insert here the Recommendations of the TAC for the future evaluations of the SPAMI.

- given the overlapping protection figures within the area and the upcoming management plan there should be more synergies among the different authorities responsible for the management of the areas.
- there should be an attempt to develop proposal for funding and ensuring better cooperation for the monitoring of the marine and coastal biodiversity

SIGNATURE

Date:

Names and Signatures:

National Focal Point:

Independent Experts:

SPAMI manager(s):