Long-term objective

The project aims to promote the establishment of a representative ecological network of protected areas in the Mediterranean, through the SPAMI system, in the open sea areas, including the deep seas.

In addition, it will contribute to the long-term sustainability of human activities in the region, ensuring the conservation of the biodiversity of these areas and guarantee the sustainable use of their marine resources.

Specific objective

The activities of the Project’s second phase aim at facilitating the process of designating as SPAMIs sites included in the areas identified in the first phase as areas for conservation interest in the open seas, including the deep seas.

Creating SPAMIs in these areas requires setting up a process of coordination and consultation between neighbouring countries. Indeed, in Article 9, ‘Procedure for the creation and listing of SPAMIs’, the SPA/BD Protocol stipulates that proposals for the SPAMI List may be submitted by (i) two or more neighbouring Parties if the area lies wholly or partially in the high sea, and (ii) by the concerned neighbouring Parties in areas where the boundaries of national jurisdiction or sovereignty have not yet been defined.

Furthermore, the Parties that are making the proposal for the SPAMI List provide the RAC/SPA with a presentation report containing information on the area’s geographic location, its physical and ecological features, its legal status, its management plan and the means of implementing this, and a statement justifying the area’s Mediterranean importance. When a proposal has been made for an area that lies wholly or partially in the high sea or in areas where the
boundaries of national jurisdiction or sovereignty have not yet been defined, the neighbouring Parties must consult one another to ensure that the proposed protection and management measures, and means of implementation, are consistent.

Thus, the activities of the Project’s second phase aim at facilitating the process that must end in the drafting of a SPAMI presentation report by the area’s neighbouring Parties and at accompanying the concerned countries in this process of consultation and coordination.

Read about the methodology >>