

CERRANO CHARTER

The Cerrano Charter sets the basis for the establishment of the Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Adriatic Sea, or “AdriaPAN Network”: constitution, objectives and interventions.

Text adopted unanimously on July 8th, 2008 in Villa Filiani in Pineto (TE) Italy

Definitions

Pursuant to this charter, the terms below have the following meanings:

- **Marine and Coastal Protected Area** means any defined area within or adjacent to the marine environment, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna, and historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation or other effective means, including custom, with the effect that its marine and/or coastal biodiversity enjoys a higher level of protection than its surroundings.
- **Adriatic network** means a group of Marine and/or Coastal Protected Areas maintaining a coherent ensemble of critical habitats necessary for dynamic functioning of ecological processes, which are essential for the biodiversity and regeneration of natural resources in the Mediterranean sea.
- An **Ecoregion** is a large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions. The boundaries of an ecoregion encompass an area within which important ecological and evolutionary processes most strongly interact” (WWF 2003). Ecoregion conservation “is an evolution in thinking, planning, and acting at the spatial and temporal scales best suited for successful biodiversity conservation”

Main objective

The main objective of the AdriaPAN network is to initiate a technical process in support of all MPAs managers, aimed at speeding up the achievement of the goal set during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)¹ to establish networks of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas by 2012.

In accordance with such an international commitment, as well as with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the countries bordering the Adriatic Sea are called upon to halt marine and coastal biodiversity loss through the identification and design of a system of regional networks of ecologically and culturally representative coastal protected areas, managed effectively, and to create the conditions necessary to achieving such a system by 2012.

In compliance with the European Directive 2008/56/CE ("*Framework Directive on Strategy for the Marine Environment*", 17/6/2008), the activation of the Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Adriatic Sea - AdriaPAN aligns with:

- The demand for implementation of thematic strategies - which are precisely those undertaken by the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas - for the management of human activities that have an impact on marine and coastal ecosystems;
- The request (Article 13, paragraph 4) to implement conservation measures that can contribute to the establishment of coherent and ecologically representative networks of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.

Managers of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and of coastal protected areas whose perimeter is partly in

¹ World Summit on Sustainable Development, Plan of Implementation. 31(c): (“sviluppare e facilitare l'uso di diversi approcci e strumenti, includendo ... la costituzione di aree marine protette in accordo con le leggi internazionali e basate su informazioni scientifiche compresi networks rappresentativi, entro il 2012”...

contact with the Adriatic sea², characterized by shared common concerns linked with the protection and proper fruition the Adriatic Sea and coast, voluntarily adhere to the Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Adriatic Sea - AdriaPAN. They constitute the "nodes" (nodi) of the network.

The Charter stems from a strong need for coordination among all actions related to the management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Adriatic Sea.

The Adriatic Sea has always represented an area where different lands and cultures found a common language, new forms of commerce and where, perhaps more than elsewhere, the coastline represented the search for a cross-border cooperation and development. In order to further the socio-economic consolidation and cohesion of the Adriatic ecoregion it is essential to consider the conservation of the marine and coastal environment as the main pillar (structural element) of any plan or programme, with a special emphasis on the most sensitive and vulnerable areas, most notably the coastline, where most economic activities are concentrated and where natural resources are most compromised.

To ensure the proper management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Adriatic Sea it is therefore necessary:

- To define priorities for the conservation of key marine and coastal biodiversity features of the Adriatic, including through gap analyses;
- To identify the stakeholders and their level of dependence on the natural resources (such as those operating in the fisheries sector and in tourism);
- To engage local actors, both public and private, in common conservation strategies aimed at promoting sustainable development in and in the vicinity of the protected areas;
- To identify all risks caused by illegal practices and then call on the relevant institutions for their intervention;
- To promote the management of the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas on the basis of common standards and protocols;
- To disseminate knowledge and the comprehension of the environmental, socio-economic and cultural (tangible and intangible) values of the Adriatic Sea and coasts;
- To promote the role of protected areas as an effective tool to achieve national conservation priorities, contribute to the halt of biodiversity loss and the reduction of poverty;
- To disseminate and apply the concepts of integrated coastal and marine areas management;
- To understand the political and administrative processes that lead to the creation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and promote the establishment of new Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in order to expand the network, with a special regard to those biodiversity features still underrepresented of environmental protection still little represented;
- To identify funding opportunities in support to the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and the operation of the network.

The AdriaPAN network is an integral part of the network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean – MedPAN. Within such a network, AdriaPAN represents and promotes the ecological, cultural and economic specificities of the Adriatic sea and coasts. The existing networks of protected areas in the Mediterranean, such as MedPAN, the SPAMI list (Special Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance), the network of Natura 2000 sites, the network of Ramsar sites, the UNESCO Man and Biosphere reserves, and the network of protected areas belonging to Europarc, represent a reference for the AdriaPAN network.

The AdriaPAN network interfaces with existing networks that are representative of the Adriatic that do not address environmental issues exclusively, such as the Adriatic Euroregion network.

The protocols and tools made available by European and international institutions on MPA management and integrated coastal and marine areas management, such as ICZM Recommendation of the European Commission, the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, the EC Eco-label, EMAS, represent other elements of reference for the future activities of AdriaPAN.

The Marine and Coastal Protected Areas adhering to the Charter of Cerrano commit to actively contributing to the protection of the marine and coastal environment in the Adriatic ecoregion, to safeguarding such habitats and ecosystems and ensuring their good environmental status as well as the flux of benefits to the coastal communities which still depend on natural resources.

² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS, SCBD, 40 pages (CBD Technical Series no. 13)

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the network AdriaPAN are, therefore, the following:

- To ensure the networking of Mediterranean MPAs and create synergies between them;
- To promote technical and institutional exchange between members of the network;
- To facilitate the implementation of concrete actions of common interest to managers, able to contribute to the improvement of Mediterranean MPA management, particularly through improving the dissemination of knowledge and management techniques of these protected areas;
- To facilitate fund raising for the implementation of these actions;
- To meet the technical needs of the other stakeholders involved in the management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the region;
- To encourage the development of the network of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas.
- To assist managers of each protected area so that they can manage their area as part of a network;
- To promote the research of the ecological aspects of the Adriatic sea as a whole as well as of the physical and cultural linkages between the “nodes” in the network, with a special regard to:
 - o collection of information on biological diversity and distribution of marine and coastal habitats;
 - o collection of information on ecological, socio-economic and cultural aspects of the Adriatic coasts;
 - o use of GIS systems in support to the decision-making processes, the management and monitoring, including the use of indicators;
 - o develop the concept of information hubs to disseminate and make available to the public;
- To promote and safeguard local traditions related to the management of the sea and coastal environments;
- To fund raise to achieve the goals set here.

Priority actions

The priority actions of network AdriaPAN are:

- To ensure information flow and coordination among the “nodes” of the network;
- To create and maintain an archive of all Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Adriatic in accordance with the methodology developed by WWF, IUCN-Med and UNEP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA);
- To run a preliminary survey to understand whether each protected area adhering to the Charter was established through participatory process and verify whether the management is done according to commonly shared protocols and initiatives aimed an engaging local stakeholders;
- To map and evaluate the governance and management of each marine Protected area in the Adriatic;
- To develop projects and fund raise.

Those undersigning this Cerrano Charter are committed to establishing a structure that will coordinate, guide and promote the integrated system of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Adriatic in the form of an association.

The number of institutions that can be part of AdriaPAN network can be expanded without geographical restrictions, as long as the objective of promoting sustainable development through participatory process is ensured.

Villa Filiani - Pineto - July 8th, 2008