

Marine & Coastal Conservation: EUROSITE MARINE & COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP

The context

The Eurosite Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Working Group (Eurosite MCPA Working Group) was developed during two recent Eurosite Annual General Meetings (Turku, Finland 2008 and Valencia, Spain 2009), and approved by the Eurosite Council and Board in autumn 2009. The objective is to implement a programme of activities over three years, from 2010 to 2012, focusing on the exchange of practical experience in managing marine and coastal protected areas by site management organizations, within their European framework. Special attention is given to the implementation of the Natura 2000 network at seas and its interface with coastal areas.

Annual workshops will gather site managers directly involved in the management of marine and coastal protected areas. We will be working on methods and tools developed in implementing coastal and marine management plans, in particular for Natura 2000 sites. Within the context of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC and its marine regions, we will focus on how to achieve good conservation status and how to develop cooperation between marine and coastal protected areas, which know no frontiers between countries. We will focus on practical responses to marine conservation with adaptive approaches, building upon the experience gained over the years in ecosystem-based management and integrated coastal management planning.

Three workshops are planned, they are organized and hosted by Eurosite members such as the French Marine Protected Agency (AAMP), the Conservatoire du Littoral (CELRL), l'Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN), with the technical support of the Eurosite Secretariat.

Workshop 1: 1-3 September 2010 in Marseille, France, hosted by AAMP, CELRL, with the support of the Eurosite Secretariat & Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels.

Workshop 2: Spring 2011 in Brittany, France, hosted by Parc naturel marin d'Iroise.

Workshop 3: Spring 2012 in Scotland, UK, hosted by Scottish Nature Heritage.

The workshops are designed to share good practice and to exchange ideas between site management organisations from different European countries and ensure the delivery of a successful network of MCPAs. The workshops are planned purposefully in three EU marine regions: the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the North Sea. Each time, their regional characteristics will be illustrated through sea and coastal fieldtrips. As the principle of the working group is to develop a European perspective and enrich the exchange of good practice by views stemming from other EU marine regions, the participation of managers from other marine and coastal regions of Europe is therefore essential.

This Eurosite MCPA working group and these three workshops, with their specific focus on practical management, can be considered as a useful complement to conferences (Wilm 2009, London in December 2009) and institutional processes in which Member States, the European Union and major sea conventions (Ospar, Barcelona, Helcom) are engaged.

Products expected

European good practice cases studies, network of experts and site managers, information and tools to be used by site management organisations, contribution useful to institutional marine processes and to IMPAC III, Marseille 2013.

MARINE & COASTAL CONSERVATION: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURA 2000 MANAGEMENT PLANNING 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2010, MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

- Venue: close to the *Vieux Port* in the centre of Marseille
- A registration form, updated programme and information are available on the website: <http://euosite-mpawg.espaces-naturels.fr/>
- Language of the workshop: mainly English with translation in French
- Fees: the participation to the workshop is free
- Each participant is responsible for their own travel, food and hotel costs
- An hotel list within proximity of the venue is published on the website. A special tariff is proposed by Etap Hotel. This offer is limited
- The Thursday fieldtrip lunch is offered by the field trip organisers
- Registration will close on the 30th of July. The number of participants is limited

Workshop 1 – 1-3 September 2010 in Marseille, PACA, France, organized by the Agence des Aires Marines Protégées, Conservatoire du Littoral, Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels, Eurosite Secretariat. The first of the three planned workshops will take place in the Mediterranean where cooperation in coastal and marine protected areas has developed since 1975. Marseille will host a global conference on marine issues in 2013: IMPAC III.

To set the scene, we will look at the Mediterranean within its global and European framework – the Mediterranean Action Plan, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC and the Birds and Habitats Directives, now entering their designation and implementation phases in the marine environment. What is the role of Marine Protected areas in the implementation of the directives? How are site management organisations involved in the process? What is to be expected in a marine Natura 2000 management plan? A common understanding of the common drivers behind all the efforts, commitments of management organisations is necessary, it will form the basis for the further exchange of experience and good practice. We will discuss what to expect from different frameworks, how they fit together and how they can help site management organisations in the designation of marine protected areas and in the delivery of nature conservation objectives.

We will then look at **practical approaches & good ideas for effective management planning** Examples of how management plans linking coast and sea are established in different marine regions and countries. The way they are effectively implemented will be a major point for discussion between practitioners. We want to address, from the site managers perspective, what is really at stake, the setting of objectives, the difficulties encountered, the solutions tested, their successes and failures, the lessons learnt (positive

and negative), the questions still to be solved from the perspective of different marine regions in Europe.

The involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of nature conservation objectives is considered as a key for the success of an effective management plan. We want to address this important question through examples focussing on how to deal with different nautical activities which can have a major impact on the marine and coastal environment, such as leisure fisheries, scuba diving, mooring, sailing and jet-ski.

In the marine and coastal environment, networking together is essential. This need will be illustrated through existing regional cooperation between marine and coastal protected areas. For example, through well-established marine regional networks such as MEDPAN (Mediterranean Protected Areas Network) or new emerging networks such as Interreg MAIA in the Atlantic or PIM, the Small Mediterranean Islands Initiative. Networking between marine regions - at a wider scale and European level - will be further discussed.

Day field trips, on land and sea, organized by local coastal & marine protected areas

Within close proximity of the city of Marseille, there is a host of spectacular coastal and marine protected areas, managed under the responsibility of the Coastal Conservancy and its partners at the national, regional and local levels, such as: Frioul Islands, the future Calanques National Park. We will discover these areas by boat and will study how to apply the concept of wildlife corridors to an MPA network, linking land and sea.

Participants & Registration

Managers of protected areas and Natura 2000 marine & coastal sites are the target audience. Eurosite members and other participating organisations are invited to consider how to ensure attendance of practicing site managers. Representatives of EU candidate, accessing and neighbouring countries (Adriatic Ionian Seas, Aegean Levantine Seas, South of the Mediterranean), who could benefit from this exchange of experience based on good practice are invited to join the workshop.

For more information, please contact:

Nicole Nowicki: nnowicki@eurosite.org
EUROSITE
Luijbenstraat 3,
5211 BR 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0) 73 61 29 222
Fax: +31 (0) 73 61 45 544
Skype: nicolenowicki

