Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas
Progress, next step and context for this workshop

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Seabirds are in decline

Source: www.birdlife.org/datazone

Seabirds make up:
- 4% of the worlds birds (346 species)
- 7% of all IUCN threatened species
- 11% of all critically endangered birds
- 30% of seabirds are threatened
- Further 10% Near Threatened

Source: www.birdlife.org/datazone
Multiple Pressures....worst of both worlds!

Source: original artwork by Rachel Hudson www.butterflytrack.co.uk
Seabirds undertake huge migrations

- Cory’s shearwater
- Scopoli’s shearwater
- Sooty shearwater
- Bulwer’s Petrel
- Desertas Petrel

Source: www.seabirdtracking.org
Seabirds in decline
Policy Context
Marine IBA progress
This workshop
Global Targets to designate Marine Protected Areas

- By 2014 only 3.6% of the ocean protected
- Global commitment to designate 10% of oceans as MPAs by 2020 (CBD Aichi Target 11)
- Unique opportunities to designate new MPAs – ensure seabirds are part of proposals

Source: IUCN and UNEP-WCMC (Oct 2013) www.protectedplanet.net
CBD Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas

Annex I: Site Criteria

1. Uniqueness or rarity
2. Special importance for life history of species
3. Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
4. Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, slow recovery
5. Biological productivity
6. Biological diversity
7. Naturalness

Annex II: MPA Network Guidance

1. EBSAs (Site criteria)
2. Representativity
3. Connectivity
4. Replication
5. Adequacy/viability
CBD Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas

View Areas Meeting the EBSA Criteria

All Regions
Arctic
Eastern Tropical and Temperate
Mediterranean
North Pacific
North-west Atlantic
South-Eastern Atlantic
Southern Indian Ocean
Western South Pacific

Málaga, Spain, from 7 to 11 April 2014
17 areas described
The objective of the Barcelona Convention is the protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area.

Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol (SPA/BD)

Objective of the Protocol SPA/BD: cooperate to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of ecosystems.

Contracting Parties have obligations to a) protect, preserve and manage, in a sustainable and environmentally sound way, areas of particular natural and cultural value, notable by the establishment of specially protected areas and to b) protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna.

The Protocol envisages, in particular, dispositions relating to the creation, protection and management of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), to the establishment of a Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) list, and to the protection and the conservation of the species.
Member states must designate as SPAs the most important sites for species listed on Annex of the Bird’s Directive.

Ruling that stated Bird’s Directive must also be applied within Member States EEZs.

BirdLife IBAs specifically designated to assist with identification of SPA

In Med key species include:
- Balearic, Scopoli’s and Yelkouan Shearwater
- Mediterranean Shags
- Audouin’s Gull

NB By 2021, EU Member States need to develop spatial management plans for their seas by integrating an ecosystem-based approach.

Source: IUCN and UNEP-WCMC (Oct 2013) www.protectedplanet.net
Seabirds in decline

Policy Context

Marine IBA progress

This workshop
Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas - IBAs

A1. Globally threatened species
A2. Restricted-range species
A3. Biome-restricted species
A4. Congregations

Source: BirdLife marine e-atlas www.birdlife.org/datazone/marine

3500 sites shown via interactive e-atlas
The 3-day workshop focused on data needs and analytical approaches for defining marine IBAs and contributing to SPA designation.
Number partners engaged in marine IBA work

Source: BirdLife Country Profiles www.birdlife.org/datazone/country
Regional workshops and technical reports

National Inventories
Scientific and policy collaborations

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- CBD EBSAs
- Nairobi Convention
- Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
- WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
- CCAMLR
- High Seas Alliance
- British Antarctic Survey
- Natural Environment Research Council
- World Seabird Union
- Life
- Natura 2000
- OSPAR COMMISSION
- Protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources
- CAFF
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
- BirdLife International
- Partnership for nature and people

CBD EBSAs
Integrating data

- **Census**
- **Habitat modelling**
- **Tracking**

Cory’s shearwater

Other spp.

Cape Nao candidate IBA

METHODS
Collaborations – working with other taxon groups
Important Marine Mammal Areas - IMMAs

A – Species or Population Vulnerability

B - Distribution and Abundance
   Sub-criterion B(i) - Small and Resident Populations
   Sub-criterion B(ii) - Aggregations

C– Key Life Cycle Activities
   Sub-criterion D(i) - Reproductive Areas
   Sub-criterion D(ii) - Feeding Areas
   Sub-criterion D(iii) - Migration Routes

D – Special Attributes
   Sub-criterion C(i) - Distinctive
   Sub-criterion C(ii) - Diversity
Iberian Peninsula
Building from successes in Spain and Portugal

Spain designated 39 new Special Protection Areas for seabirds in July 2014
Portugal 2 new SPAs for seabirds in Oct 2015

Source: Ramirez et al. (2008), Arcos et al. (2009)
Marine IBAs informing SPA designation in EU

Marine Natura 2000 network

The information presented therein represents the most accurate assessment of seabird protection in the European Union. Download the full report or select a country below.

Hover mouse over country and click to view EU progress
Click here to show/hide all EU progress

2014 report
40% marine IBAs unprotected
Uneven progress

Seabirds in decline
Policy Context
Marine IBA progress
This workshop
Advancing marine protection in the Mediterranean

This workshop aims to:

• Highlight progress in Malta and the Med
• Build BirdLife Partner capacity to engage with policy
• Assess benefits of closer alignment with Barcelona Convention
• Identify gaps and priorities for new MPAs from geographic and threatened species perspective

Currently just 4% of the Mediterranean is protected

Source: MedPAN, IBA inventories for Malta, Italy, Greece, and Spain
Together we are BirdLife International
Partnership for nature and people