

Med-RAS Partners meeting – 7 October 2008 - Barcelona

Participants

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Catherine Piante – MedPAN / WWF
Mohend Mahouche – WWF France
Silvia Revenga – Ministry of Fishery, Spain
Christine Pergent - RAC/SPA
Marie Christine Grillo – ACCOBAMS
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Dania Abdul Malak
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Minute of the discussion

T. Agardy

1. Which kind of data will be used in the analysis? Do you want to focus on key species, or only on available data, or use proxy data?

A. The baseline will be the red list, available data (provided by the partners of the initiatives). How to process different data is part of the activities

2. Is it correct to use the term “operating principles”? Usually, this term is used only if you can really have results of precise object you are testing.

Agardy suggest “Assumptions”. To not influence the final product. You should be very clear and transparent on the objectives and criteria of the project.

3. What is your final product? If you are designing a network without a real stakeholder’s involvement, I would suggest “Site selection plan”

C. Piante

At what scale are you working?

A. The first step will be setting general principles at ecoregional scale, then scaling down the focus (when it will be possible). There is a range in the quality of information availability (or data sharing) that will bring to different scenarios.

M. Mahouche

1. What is the time frame?

- A. We are at the beginning of the project. It is a 2years project that should be finished by the end of 2009, beginning of 2010.

2. How it will be the data collection in non-EU countries?

- A. Using the areas with enough data available will give us the baseline to set the process and data analysis

G. Notarbartolo

1. WCPA will give support to this process

2. As consultant of RAC/SPA we are working on setting the process to identify high sea priority areas.

- A. We want to use proxy (seascape) for no coastal areas. We look forward to sharing of information and collaboration in the two initiatives.

3. Rac/Spa has the mandate to lead this process with its PoW of marine and coastal protected areas. RAC/SPA needs to use the suggestion of the focal points and the whole process needs to be accepted by countries.

Do you think that your project will interfere?

- A. The project has long term objectives and we hope that the results of this first steps will support the PoW of RAC/SPA, who has obviously the mandate to transfer to countries any recommendations

P. Grigoriev

He was involved in the Canada planning PAs. In that initiative they used different type of data including abiotic and biological data and taking into consideration an ecosystem approach, including the processes, functions and uses (Structural data such as habitats; functional data such as feeding grounds), but also cultural significant layer.

No room for competition, through a participatory approach

C. Rais

1. There is a need for this kind tool. The WWF gap analysis done 10 years ago was based on the same principles, they failed because in some areas there were no data or data were not georeferenced. Then, they changed strategy and the produced map of potential hot spot biodiversity areas based on bathymetry.

RAC/SPA clearing house mechanism and the work on GIS can help a lot for this project.

2. The problem is which habitat and species criteria to use? The one of Natura 2000, the RAC/SPA standard data form for important areas...

- A. This is one of the issues that the experts will address in the first phase of the project

3. Which kind of product you are planning?

- A. CD or online user friendly platform. But more important is that the product will be the methodology and the process.

S. Revenga

In Spain, our department is in charge on MPA development. I suggest using the work already developed. The Ministry of Fishery have a lot of data and experience, but the challenge is the lack of human resources to add more work such as collaborating in the work. You are welcome.

C. Piante

If you want that the suggestion are taken into account you have to involve the state from the very beginning in order to have a collaborative approach.

G. Notarbartolo

Do you want to use the ecoregion classification of Spaulding et al? It could be too rough as it is done a global level.

- A. This is also to be discussed. At the beginning we want to use this classification as it is the recent one, then scaling down the project, the definition of the borders will be tailored with the local expertise.

Françoise Breton

The feasibility of using CORINE at sea is under discussion. They are interested in data sharing, but we need to fix a specific meeting to discuss it further.

MC Grillo

This project should be in close coordination with the project lead by RAC/SPA.

C. Pergent

1. Before the next COP may 2009 there is no possibility to have the approval of some sort of collaboration by countries.

- A. The time frame of this project is of two years, but we hope that it is the beginning of a longer programme

2. Data availability is not a problem; the difficulty is in receiving the approval to share data from the countries.

- A. We would like to involve research centres

A. Pome

What type of agreements should we develop or how you want to engage with partners? I suggest planning a formal collaborative approach among the partners.