

Workshop A: Linkages between Protected Areas and Surrounding Landuses

Conclusions and recommendations

(draft)

Introduction

The Mediterranean is a single eco-region. Its landscape has evolved till recently from the interaction between its geo-climate and its rich cultural heritage, and nowadays, most of our current protected areas fit within those places where linkages between agricultural lands and forests, driven by natural and human processes have resulted in the maintenance of high biological diversity. Traditional land management practices aiming at using the diversity of ecological setting, built in the Mediterranean a complex mosaic of landscapes and ecosystems of different productivity. The main objective is the maintenance of production, but an outcome is also that the Mediterranean landscapes are one of the world hot spots for biodiversity. The landscape configurations insure the linkages required to sustain that biodiversity. Biological diversity and cultural diversity are interdependent.

When compared to other regions, the Mediterranean holds different territorial realities and necessities. In this sense, when dealing with the establishment of functional linkages in the Mediterranean landscape and seascape, it is needed to develop a new view that integrates both ecological and historical-cultural flows. In the development of proper management plans in these landscapes, it is essential to integrate ecological (biological diversity; population distribution and dynamic; etc), cultural (traditions, land water uses, etc) and social variables (demography, incomes, employment structure, etc...). Hence, cultural landscapes should be management units in the Mediterranean eco-region.

Mediterranean framework. Challenges and Opportunities relevant to the Workshop Stream

An eco-regional framework

For the establishment of an eco-regional framework, it is necessary to see the Mediterranean as a highly ecologically heterogeneous territory, subjected to a different turnovers and interconnected at the different temporal and spatial scales. In this context, protected areas - characterised by their multifunctional character - are not target of conservation but tools for assembling sectorial policies. Furthermore, protected areas are bridges, facilitating the shift from sectorial and compartmented to global and holistic territorial management approach.

The principles and methodological procedures of ecosystem management provides the best approach for the management of Mediterranean protected areas. From this view, the main aim of a Mediterranean action plan of protected areas is:

The preservation of the ecological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic (marine and continental) ecosystems within multifunctional landscapes, fostering their wise use for keeping, now and in the future, their ecological, socio-economical, historical and cultural functions.

To reach this aim, the co-management (conservation or restoration) of biological and cultural diversity is needed and, as a consequence, when delineating and managing protected areas, it is needed to consider not only administrative but also ecological, societal and cultural limits. According to this, the eco-regional approach applied to the Mediterranean region implies that management units have to be defined from the ecological and socio-cultural dimensions.

The general principles for linkages in the Mediterranean PA include:

- ? The preservation of the ecological integrity (structure, functions and dynamics) and resilience of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
- ? The use of the best multidisciplinary knowledge in relation to social and ecological sciences
- ? wisely devise multiple uses of the landscape
- ? foster social awareness and participation
- ? facilitate coordination and collaboration within and between administration
- ? develop preventive management model
- ? foster adaptative management based on evaluation and monitoring.
- ? promote models based on environmental equity and ethics

According to these principles, the delineation and management of protected areas should include the following criteria:

- ? The preservation of territorial networks, basically those related to water flows (integrated management of surface and groundwater basins).
- ? The preservation of biological linkages (movement of species at the different spatial and temporal scales)
- ? The sustainability of populations of protected species but also of key species (functional biodiversity)
- ? The maintenance of the integrity of community and ecosystems
- ? The preservation of man made networks (cattle roads, hedgerows, etc...)
- ? The preservation of elements – of any size - promoting connectivity within the territory.
- ? The consideration of local land and sea uses as the starting point for reaching sustainable development and PA goals
- ? The integration of natural fluctuations and environmental constraints into management plans
- ? The design of management rules at different spatial and temporal scales
- ? The preservation of the diversity of the Mediterranean ways of life
- ? The restoration of social linkages between urban and rural inhabitants
- ? To promote IUCN category V of PA

Identification of gaps and mitigation options at the Mediterranean level

GAPS	MEANS OF MITIGATIONS
Lack of biophysical linkages between protected areas	To preserve functional elements for connectivity and to identify critical and strategic areas for priority actions
Lack of jurisdictional coordination that imply the existence of uncoordinated sectoral policies, focussed on contrasting objectives within the same territory	To promote environmental strategic evaluation procedures and the establishment and development of adequate participatory approach principles
Lack of environmental awareness of societal sectors relevant to the achievement of protected area goals (agriculture, fishery...)	Education and promotion of an active role in the decision making
Lack of knowledge, information and tools for the proper design and management of PA and their connectivity (with special relevance to MPA)	To promote multidisciplinary studies from an eco-regional approach
Lack of legal instruments for the management of transboundary biophysical processes	To promote transboundary protected areas specially within the Mediterranean sea
Lack of integration of protected areas of different ecological characteristics	To foster the development of protected area systems including terrestrial, coastal and marine
Loss of traditional Mediterranean habits (i.e. change in food habits) with incidence in the multifunctionality of the landscape	Promotion of Mediterranean culture through the development of new tourism alternatives.
Lack of biocentric deviation of most management plans	To focus PA management not only on species but also on cultural landscapes
Lack of standard management concepts	To develop a glossary of terms related to the management of Mediterranean PA
Lack of coordination of the different international agreements and instruments	To promote the development of international PA, as Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar

Challenges and opportunities within the Mediterranean context

Challenges	Opportunities
To evolve to an integrated management of PA	To use IUCN Category V approach
Friendly land and sea uses	Integrated management plans
A Mediterranean sustainable model	To work with people and for people
A system of PA (sea/coastal/inland)	Common management system
To preserve singularities	Highlight cultural heritage
Sectoral integration	Co-operation, education and involvement of actors
Bridge differences between the N and the S	To foster twinning between PA from the North and the South of the basin
Extend the implementation of success at different scales	Bottom-up approach

Priority actions

- ? Promote ecosystem management models from the eco-regional approach (establishment of new networks, linkages between ecosystem function and BD preservation, ..), establishing specific proposals at short, medium and long term
- ? To develop SD plans at medium term in Category V Protected Areas
- ? Develop quality economies and the eco-certification of the products coming out from PA
- ? To promote scientific projects concerning Mediterranean functional biodiversity and characterisation of ecological processes within the Med marine and continental areas
- ? To promote the development of ecological maps at the different scales including socio-cultural factors
- ? To develop initiatives to avoid migration from rural to urban areas and for reverting the process
- ? To promote multi-linkages (scientific, cultural, societal, jurisdictional) for the amelioration of capacity for management
- ? To promote the establishment of a documentation centre for Mediterranean PA
- ? To promote a scientist networking for improving the state of the art of Mediterranean ecosystem