



For the attention of the President and /or person concerned

January 2, 2012

Object: Invitation to join the MedPAN Organization

Dear Sir or Madam,

Since 1990, the MedPAN network has sought to bring together the managers of Mediterranean marine protected areas (MPAs) and to support them in their management activities. From 2005 onwards the network's activities gained new momentum under the impetus of WWF, which undertook to coordinate the INTERREG IIIC MedPAN. The MedPAN website www.medpan.org includes more information about the activities of the network.

At the request of Mediterranean MPA managers, the **network has been given a permanent status in the form of an organization established under the 1901 law with an international governance in November 2008** by 9 founding members from 6 Mediterranean countries (*attached*). The organization is currently supported by **RAC/SPA** which is involved in the Board of Directors of the organization.

As stated in its Charter, the purpose of the organization is to **promote the creation, perpetuation and operation of a Mediterranean ecological network of marine protected areas.**

The organization has more than 54 members and partners from almost all Mediterranean countries.

It thus contributes to achieving the specific objectives fixed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) to create and maintain comprehensive national and regional systems of well managed and ecologically representative marine protected areas, that collectively, inter alia through a global network, contribute to achieving the three objectives of the Convention as well as that of significantly reducing the present rate of biodiversity loss on the global, regional, national and sub-national levels. It also contributes to the **implementation of the Barcelona convention** and in particular its protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995) that, under the auspices of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Regional Activities Centre for Specially Protected Areas encourages countries to establish and manage specially protected areas, to implement research programmes and exchange of scientific and technical information, to prepare management plans and design cooperation programmes. The organization can contribute to any other convention, agreement or initiative that pursues the same objective.

To achieve its purpose, the organization intends to particularly pursue without being limited thereto, the following means of action.

- **Promotion and coordination of exchanges between members** and partners of the MedPAN network
- Management, **coordination or participation in projects** related to marine protected areas.
- Provision of support to the **creation of new marine and coastal protected areas** in the Mediterranean
- Setting up of scientific monitoring of the **ecological condition of marine protected areas** and promotion of scientific research programmes.



- **Dissemination to the general public and institutional players** of actions carried out by the MedPAN organization or the members of the network
- **Promotion of the role, of the value and the environmental, social and economic benefits** of Mediterranean marine protected areas amongst all the publics concerned
- **Promotion** of the organization, the members or partners of the network amongst **public or private donors** with the aim of helping fundraising for the organization or the projects it wishes to promote.

I would hereby like to invite you to join our organization. This invitation is supported by RAC/SPA ; you could also contact them to obtain more information on the goals of the organization.

Participation in the activities of the organization is restricted to legal entities. Two forms of membership are provided for that could apply to your organization:

1/ If your organization is in charge of managing a marine protected area, you may join as a **member**. The status of member gives you the right to vote in all the organization's official proceedings.

The membership fee has deliberately been fixed at the low level of 50€ per year so that it does not constitute an obstacle for organizations to join. You could also contribute to the organization by provision of resources (human resources, travels...).

2/ If your organization is not in charge of managing an MPA but is interested in MPA management, you can join as a **partner**. The partner status enables you to participate in the organization's General Assembly and possibly in its Board of Directors as well as in the Advisory Committee but without voting rights. The partner status is voted for 3 years and don't lead to payment of a fee.

The partner status could also be taken by organizations which are working on project of MPAs and organizations for which membership could be a **juridical constraint**.

You could send us the **application form** as a member or partner.

A General Assembly will be organized in 2012 to discuss the MedPAN action plan and particularly the development of projects in the field likely to provide concrete benefits for the network's MPAs. We are looking forward to meeting you there.

If your organization would like to **hold a leadership role** in governing the organization either on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee or the Advisory Committee, please let us know so that we can present your candidature during the organization's next General Assembly.

Awaiting your reply, I remain
Yours faithfully,

Purificacio Canals 
Depana
President of the MedPAN organization