



**Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of MPAs creation and management**

- Project starting date: September 2009
- Total duration: 5 years

The UNEP/MAP-GEF “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) project includes four components, one of which (Component 3) relates to the “Conservation of Biological Diversity: implementation of SAP BIO7 and related National Action Plans”. This component specifically addresses the decline of biodiversity and fisheries in the Mediterranean.

Sub-Component 3.1 (“Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network”) is implemented through two complementary projects, the “MedMPAnet” project led by RAC/SPA and the “MedPAN South” (and later “SEA-Med”) project led by WWF MedPO.

The MedMPAnet Project (“Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of MPAs Creation and Management”) involves 12 eligible Mediterranean riparian countries that are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

It is a 5-year project, from 2010 to 2015, aiming at enhancing the effective conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity features, through the creation of an ecologically coherent marine protected area (MPA) network in the Mediterranean region, as required by the Barcelona Convention’s Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).