



APPEAL FOR THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY

Pelagos, a remarkable ambition...

The Pelagos Sanctuary is the first Mediterranean transboundary area created to protect marine mammals. France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco share its governance.

Its 87,500km² territory extends beyond the coastal zone of the three countries, making it one of the largest conservation challenges ever launched in the Mediterranean.

As part of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Barcelona Convention the states have committed to reaching Aichi Target no. 11 which aims to bring the level of sea protection to 10% by the end of 2020. While some sites are currently being implemented, this objective is far from being achieved: currently less than 5% of the Mediterranean Sea is theoretically under protection status. If the Sanctuary were to be excluded from this calculation the percentage would plummet to only 1%.

Still, Pelagos, through its territory and the conservation stakes it represents could become a remarkable model of success with objectives going beyond cetacean protection, and could therefore be used as guide for the establishment of future high seas MPAs.

...but an uneven political will and insufficient resources.

The efficient management of the Sanctuary is impaired by an insufficiently binding agreement, a lack of resources and governance that does not allow the development of real and proper international management.

The current state of Pelagos has worried and disillusioned the various actors involved in it, thereby weakening further attempts at participatory management.

Although entering its second decade, the Pelagos Sanctuary is no longer equal to its initial ambitions and it is no longer held in high regard within the international conservation arena..

The Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) status, assigned to the Sanctuary in 2002, highlights the importance of the protected area for the whole region. This status is currently being reviewed. In the realistic event of a reconsideration of the status, Pelagos would become a symbol of the three States' incapacity to come to an agreement and work jointly in order to protect our precious marine capital.

The NGOs signatories of this call are vigilant regarding the Sanctuary and are concerned that the SPAMI status could be renewed without there being significant improvement in terms of governance.

CALL FOR EMPOWERMENT FROM THE STATES

We, the signatory organizations of this call, are appealing to the Parties of the Pelagos agreement to reclaim the ambition that was the original driving force of the Sanctuary and to give it new impetus through renewed governance and increased resources.

We are asking that France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco mobilize to reinforce their collaboration and to honor their international commitment to enable Pelagos to become an outstanding international example of marine biodiversity conservation.

We are ready to provide all the necessary support to the three Governments and to suggest ways for improvement to carry out this essential effort for the survival of Pelagos.