Second Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded EcAp MED III Project

Videoconference, 15 June 2022

Agenda item 3: Workplan 2022-2023

EcAp MED III Project Workplan 2022-2023

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1.   **Introduction**

The implementation plan of EcAp MED III was updated to take into account the progress of the Project – described in the Project Report (UNEP/MED WG.525/2) – since its first Steering Committee meeting. This document summarises the activities of EcAp MED III expected to be implemented with a modified timeline in the period July 2022 - August 2023 (section 2.) and subsequently presents an updated workplan (section 3.). The objective of this Report is to inform the donor and to support the oversight of the Project execution and the related strategic guidance of its second Steering Committee meeting.

2.   **Revised Deadlines**

In this section, details are given on changes and revised deadlines from the workplan of the first Steering Committee meeting for the activities expected to be performed during the period July 2022 – August 2023, i.e., until the scheduled end date of the project. Activities which would strongly benefit from an extension beyond August 2023 are highlighted in blue.

Outcome 1: Effective 'on-the-ground' national IMAP implementation by the beneficiary countries providing quality-assured data that will enable the development of the quality-assured, region-wide and data-based 2023 MED QSR

Output	Activity planned (07/22-08/23)	Deadline		Remark
		Original	Revised	
1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP	1.1.1 Design concrete monitoring plans for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity	Q3/21	Q4/22	Achieved for all the countries with which a legal agreement was signed. The others are pending but will be prepared on time to contribute to the 2023 MED QSR.
	1.1.4 Prepare national assessment factsheets for the selected indicators (CI 13, 14, 17, 21, 22, 23)	02/22	Q3 2022	The first drafts for countries with which a legal agreement was signed will be prepared in Q3 2022.
1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022	1.4.3 Assess the capacity, compatibility and interoperability with IMAP Info System of National information systems	06/22	06/23	Ongoing. As such, there is no interoperability with the national information systems, hence a slower process (between policy dialogue and trainings) with each country to increase their compatibility during the entire lifespan of the Project.

Outcome 2: Regional scale progress and consensus for the monitoring and assessment as well as the reporting processes at national, sub-regional and regional levels

Output	Activity planned (07/22-08/23)	Deadline		Remark
		Original	Revised	
2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP CIs agreed/progressed	2.1.1.2 Propose updated/new scales of monitoring and assessment for all mandatory Common Indicators as applicable	04/22	Q2/23	Ongoing work for CI 13 and CI 14 which will be finalized during quarter 3 2022. The upcoming CORMON meetings will be considering elements of monitoring and assessment, including scales, for CIs during 2022 and Q2 2023.
	2.1.1.3 Prepare GIS atlas for scales of monitoring and scales of assessment to be integrated into IMAP Pilot Info System	09/22	Q2-Q3/23	Based on the results of Activity 2.1.1.2 and the relevant GIS-based maps that will be produced, the subsequent step is to develop the Atlas. This Activity would benefit from an extension of the Project.
	2.1.1.5 Undertake a desk review of available data sources, best practices and methodologies in the Mediterranean and under MSFD for the monitoring and assessment of seafloor damage	Q4/21	10/22	Ongoing, the work will be reviewed by the next CORMON meeting in October 2022 (*cf* Project Report).
2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP CIs included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)	2.1.2.3 Test integrated assessment approaches/methodologies, including approaches to interrelate pressures/impacts/state of the marine environment	12/22	Q2-Q3/23	Ongoing as planned with one testing in Morocco by PAP/RAC. Should the Project be amended, a second testing could take place in the first semester of 2023. In 2023, the Project would also consider the ongoing testing of assessment criteria and integrated methodologies on pollution and marine litter carried out by MED POL (under a SIDA-funded project and the Programme of Work 2022-2023).
2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level	2.2.2.4. Organize national thematic events/workshops in line with the respective country priorities and needs	09/22	Q2-Q3/23	The SPI activity is directly supporting the IMAP cluster on coast and hydrography. Since the next related CORMON meeting is planned later than initially envisaged, the SPI session is *de facto* rescheduled and the workshop in Morocco will be held in spring 2023 as a specific SPI session of the CORMON meeting. Should the Project be amended, a second pilot could be envisaged, with a workshop in Q3 2023.
2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23	2.2.4.1 Define the methodology, outline, structure and contents of 2023 MED QSR	04/22	07/22	The methodology, outline, structure and contents of 2023 MED QSR were further elaborated in quarter 1 2022 and will be presented to the 9th EcAp Coordination Group meeting on 5 July 2022.

3. Updated Project Workplan

For each activity, the previous timeline is depicted in green, while the revisions (where applicable) are depicted in the following row in orange.
Activities which would strongly benefit from an extension beyond August 2023 are highlighted in blue.
The second Steering Committee meeting of EcAp MED III is planned on Q2 of Year 3.

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	A) Project Output: 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP.	**Project Management Unit (PMU), MED POL, SPA/RAC**														
1.1.1	**Design concrete monitoring plans for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity**	**PMU/MED POL**														
		SPA/RAC														
1.1.2	**Prepare and support implementation of field survey programmes for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity**	**PMU/MED POL**														
		SPA/RAC														
1.1.3	**Organize national and sub-regional validation meetings/workshops and provide technical support through thematic regional consultancies**	**PMU/MED POL**														
		SPA/RAC														
1.1.4	**Prepare national assessment factsheets for the selected indicators (CI 13, 14, 17, 21, 22, 23)**	**PMU**														
	B) Project Output: 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented	**SPA/RAC**														
1.2.1	**Implement Joint Monitoring and Assessment programme on NIS at national and sub-regional level and reporting of results through IMAP Info System**	**SPA/RAC**														
1.2.2		**SPA/RAC**														

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1 Q3	Year 1 Q4	Year 2 Q1	Year 2 Q2	Year 2 Q3	Year 2 Q4	Year 3 Q1	Year 3 Q2	Year 3 Q3	Year 3 Q4	Year 4 Q1	Year 4 Q2	Year 4 Q3	Year 4 Q4
	Support a baseline national, sub regional and regional assessment for NIS															
1.2.3	Develop national and sub-regional assessment factsheets	SPA/RAC							green	green	green	green		blue		
	C) Project Output: 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring for CI 16 in at least one area per beneficiary country	PAP/RAC														
1.3.1	Provide technical support to data monitoring and processing for CI 16 including reporting in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia	PAP/RAC				green	green	green	green	green	green	green				
1.3.2	Develop methodology and conduct baseline assessment for CI 15 in all eligible countries	PAP/RAC				green	green	green	green	green	green	green				
1.3.3	Prepare a report on lessons learned to be discussed at sub-regional/CORMON meetings	PAP/RAC									green	green	green	green		
	D) Project Output: 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022.	INFO/RAC														
1.4.1	Upgrade hardware and software (HW&SW) platform	INFO/RAC		green	green	green	green									
1.4.2	Develop Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) for CORMON review and approval, and implement data flows (EO3 not included)	INFO/RAC	green	green	green	green	green	green	green	green	green	green				
1.4.3	Assess the capacity, compatibility and interoperability with IMAP Info System of National information systems	INFO/RAC	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange		
1.4.4	Define and implement QA/QC procedures	INFO/RAC				green	green	green	green	green	green	green				
1.4.5	Provide dedicated support to beneficiary countries to use IMAP Info System	INFO/RAC				green	green	green	green	green	green	green	green	green	blue	
1.4.6	Implement IMAP data policy	INFO/RAC	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	green / orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange		

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	E) Project Output: 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP Common Indicators agreed/progressed	**MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC**														
2.1.1.1	**Undertake in-depth analysis of knowledge gaps related to scales of assessment for all mandatory CI as applicable**	**MED POL**	G	G	G	G										
2.1.1.2	**Propose updated/new scales of monitoring and assessment for all mandatory Common Indicators as applicable**	**MED POL**			G	G	G	G	G	G						
							O	O	O	O	O	O				
2.1.1.3	**Prepare GIS atlas for scales of monitoring and scales of assessment to be integrated into IMAP Pilot Info System**	**PMU/MED POL**							G	G	G					
											O	O	O	O	B	
2.1.1.4	**Develop a proposal on integrated assessment scales as appropriate across clusters**	**MED POL**					G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
2.1.1.5	**Undertake a desk review of available data sources, best practices and methodologies in the Mediterranean and under MSFD for the monitoring and assessment of seafloor damage**	**CU, PAP/RAC**				G	G	G								
							O	O	O		O					
	F) Project Output: 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP Common Indicators included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)	**MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC**														
2.1.2.1	**Update/upgrade and develop assessment criteria using trend and threshold approach as appropriate for 10 CI already included in the IMAP Info System (CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23)**	**MED POL**		G	G	G	G	G	G	G						
		SPA/RAC	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G						
		PAP/RAC		G	G											
2.1.2.2	**Develop guiding documents for the application of assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for all IMAP clusters at the national level**	**MED POL**							G	G						
		SPA/RAC	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G						
		PAP/RAC			G	G	G	G	G	G			B	B		

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Entity	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
2.1.2.3	Test integrated assessment approaches/methodologies, including approaches to interrelate pressures/impacts/state of the marine environment	MED POL						Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	
2.1.2.4	Adjust and further develop IMAP methodology on integrated assessments	MED POL								Green	Green	Green				
	G) Project Output: 2.1.3: Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria	PMU, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC Plan Bleu														
2.1.3.1	Support organization of regional/sub-regional expert group meetings to share experience between countries	PMU/MED POL			Green											
		SPA/RAC								Green	Orange					
		PAP/RAC											Green			
	H) Project Output: 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC														
2.1.4.1 &2	Support organization of CORMONs (for all three clusters as well as integrated CORMON), with participation of experts from country and sub-regional teams	MED POL			Green	Green				Green			Green	Green		
		SPA/RAC (green)			Green	Green				Green			Green	Green		
		SPA/RAC (orange)			Orange	Orange	Orange		Orange				Orange	Orange		
		PAP/RAC (green)			Green	Green				Green			Green	Green		
		PAP/RAC (orange)			Orange	Orange	Orange						Orange	Orange		
	J) Project Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held	PMU/CU														
2.2.1.1	Develop and implement a communication and visibility strategy/plan for 2023 MED QSR	PMU/CU	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green		
		PMU/CU													Blue	Blue
		PMU/CU		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green		

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2.1.2	Develop and implement a collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan for the 2023 MED QSR														B	B
	K) Project Output: 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level	Plan Bleu														
2.2.2.1	Identify relevant existing frameworks, processes and institutions at national level	Plan Bleu		G	G	G	G									
2.2.2.2	Provide inputs to CORMONs and EcAp CG meetings on issues related to regional/sub-regional topic-specific SPI work	Plan Bleu			G	G				G			G	G		
2.2.2.3	Develop ToRs and set up 2 national SPI pilots in 2 beneficiary countries	Plan Bleu		G	G	G										
								O	O	O		B	B			
2.2.2.4	Organize national thematic events/workshops in line with the respective country priorities and needs	Plan Bleu								G				O	B	
2.2.2.5	Undertake a desk review of existing literature with the view to identify and propose an emerging list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean, to be also supported by the results and data coming from implementation of monitoring programmes on the ground	PMU							G	G	G	G	G			
	L) Project Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a timeline for regional data sharing between partners	PMU/CU														
2.2.3.1	Map sources of data and partners to address 2023 MED QSR data gaps, and establish mechanisms and a timeline for data sharing, technical advice and peer review	PMU/CU	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
	M) Project Output 2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23. This should include the chapter on the assessment of fish stocks and bycatch indicators to be prepared in collaboration with GFCM	PMU/CU														
2.2.4.1	Define the methodology, outline, structure and contents of 2023 MED QSR	CU/PMU	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G						
			O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O					
2.2.4.2	Collect, analyse data, prepare thematic assessment products and 2023 MED QSR including maps and graphics	CU/PMU					G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
		MED POL					G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
		SPA/RAC					green	green	green	green	green	green	green	green		
		PAP/RAC					green	green	green	green	green	green				
		INFO/RAC					green	green	green	green	green	green				
							orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange		
		Plan Bleu							green	green	green	green				
													blue	blue		
2.2.4.3	Establish a web-based platform to host the contents of the 2023 MED QSR online, including procurement, design, content management and maintenance	CU/PMU							green	green	green	green	green	green		
															blue	blue
2.2.4.4	Review, revise and finalize 2023 MED QSR publication and present it at COP23 in two languages (including editing, layout, translation and printing)	CU/MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu,									green	green	green	green		
															blue	blue