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**Enhancing UNEP/MAP Cooperation on Spatial-based Protection
and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity
with regional partners through SPA/RAC**

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Acronyms

ABNJ: Area Beyond National Jurisdiction

ACCOBAMS: the CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area

AECID: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

AEWA : The CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

CCEA: Canadian Council of Ecological Areas

CCH : Cetacean Critical Habitats (ACCOBAMS)

CIESM: Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la mer Méditerranée

CMS: UNEP Convention on the conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals (Bonn convention)

COFI : Fisheries Committee of FAO

CSR: Corporate social responsibility

DELIC: UNEP Division for Environmental Law and Conventions

DOALOS: UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

EBM: Ecosystem Based Management

EBSA: Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Area

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

EcAp: Ecosystem Approach under the Barcelona Convention

ECS: European Cetacean Society

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organisation

FAO: United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation

FP: Focal Point

FRA: Fisheries Restricted Area

GA: General Assembly of the United Nations

GFCM: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO)

GIS: Geographic Information System

ICZM: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

IFWA: Important Freshwater Area

IMMA: Important Marine Mammals Area IUCN (concept under development)

IMO: International Maritime Organisation

IPA: Important Plant Area

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IUCN-Med: IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

KBA: Key Biodiversity Area

MAB: Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO

MAP: Mediterranean Action Plan

MCSDD: Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

MedPAN: Network of marine protected area managers in the Mediterranean

MPA: Marine Protected Area

MSSD: Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

NBSAPs: National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

PSSA: Particularly Sensitive Sea Area

RAC/SPA: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the UNEP/MAP (Barcelona Convention)

RFMO: Regional Fisheries Management Organization (FAO)

ROMOs: Regional Ocean Management Organisations

RSC: Regional Sea Convention

SAP-BIO : Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region

SEA : Strategic Impact Assessment

SPA-BD: Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity

SPA: Specially Protected Area

SPAMI: Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance

TEEB: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

UNCLOS: United Nations Convention on Law of the Seas

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP/MAP: United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Seas Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

VME: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem

VMS: Vessel Monitoring System

Foreword

Considering that there is an urgent need to better harmonize the efforts undertaken by Regional Organisations addressing the management and conservation of the marine environment in the Mediterranean, five organisations'¹ secretariats agreed to investigate ways for using their different expertise and respective mandates in a joint strategy aimed at promoting spatial based management and conservation measures, building on their respective achievements and their existing cooperation agreements. These organisations are (in alphabetical order):

- ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area),
- GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean),
- RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas),
- IUCN-Med (IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation),
- MedPAN (marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean Network).

In this context, these organisations are setting about to elaborate and propose a Joint Cooperation Strategy, whose aim is to strengthen their collaboration, focusing on how to address the issues of common interest related to the adoption of spatial based management and conservation measures including their promotion and fund raising for the implementation of the strategy. The Joint Cooperation Strategy is therefore intended to better harmonise their activities regarding, notably, marine spatial management, benefiting from existing structures and work, performed in a cooperative and inclusive manner. This will allow in particular that future declaration of spatial based management and conservation measures will benefit from a solid synergy, notably in the open seas, including deep seas.

This document was prepared by two consultants appointed to assist the five organisations secretariats in the elaboration of the Joint Strategy.

It is structured as follows:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Analysis of mandates, current strategies and preliminary identification of commonalities among ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN and RAC/SPA, which provides a synthesis describing the organisations strategies and frameworks allowing for an analysis of issues of common interest and used to identify commonalities and future synergies favouring the integration of pelagic and deep seas ecosystems in regional conservation measures;
- 3 Guiding document on necessary steps towards joint proposal for the establishment and management of area-based measures at multinational level;
- 4 Joint Cooperation Strategy document, through which, while keeping their respective independence and their respective mandates, the five organisations will engage in exchange of information, planning of specific common actions and possible synergies for fundraising efforts for common scopes.
- 5 Annexes

¹ In this document “organisation” means all the international entities involved in the strategy, Intergovernmental and non-governmental ones.

1. Introduction

The Mediterranean marine fauna and flora have evolved over millions of years making this sea one of the Planet's Biodiversity hotspots with a high level of endemism and a great diversity of assemblages. The civilizations that have succeeded in the Mediterranean coastal zone benefited from the services provided by the marine ecosystems of this sea, some had even largely based their economy on uses of marine resources. The increasing development of human activities generated, however, severe impacts on the marine environment. The threats are complex and the growing human pressure, generated by 150 million residents and 200 million tourists visiting the region every year, could be kept under control only through complex measures requiring the involvement of all stakeholders at local, national and regional levels. In the high sea zones, sovereignty considerations as well as the political contexts prevailing in some parts of the Mediterranean make the spatial based conservation measures more difficult to implement.

Spatial based management and conservation measures have many meanings. In the relevant documents of the 5 organisations concerned here, some of such measures are explicitly provided for, while other ones can only be deduced. Under the Barcelona Convention, there are clear provisions for the use of spatial based management and conservation measures, especially through the implementation of the SPA/BD and ICZM Protocols. ACCOBAMS focuses more on critical habitats and the added value of MPAs for Cetaceans conservation and underlines some moving or ephemeral habitats that require the establishment of a network of protected areas. For GFCM, the use of spatially based measures for the management of fisheries is among the approaches it promotes to achieve conservation and sustainability objectives of fisheries management, while contributing to biodiversity and habitat conservation.

Inspired by a useful definition, given recently by David MacKinnon (CCEA, Canada.) in MPA News vol. 16, no 5, spatial based management areas:

- Should be well-defined geographically;
- Should have objectives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, achieved through conservation of biodiversity as a whole;
- Their conservation objectives must receive first priority when in conflict with other objectives;
- The mechanisms by which the areas are established must have the comprehensive ability to exclude, control, and manage all activities likely to have impacts on biodiversity, and must compel the prohibition of incompatible activities;
- Should be in place for the long term;
- The mechanisms by which they are established must be difficult to reverse; and
- Should be in effect year-round.

In a wider sense, spatial based management measures are recognized as key elements for an integrated management towards a diversity of objectives, including biodiversity conservation, resource partitioning or fisheries enhancement.

Currently in the Mediterranean, spatial management includes at regional and subregional levels: SPAMIs declared under the UNEP/MAP context, FRAs established by GFCM (including the prohibition of the use of towed dredges and trawl nets fisheries at depths beyond 1000 m of depth), the EU Natura 2000 sites, Emerald network under the Bern Convention, Ramsar Sites, the World Heritage Sites and the Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO, as well as wide network of

sites declared at national level as specially managed or protected areas (including military, industrial ones and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas of IMO).

The Mediterranean region environmental governance presents many opportunities, but also challenges, enhanced by the current problems, which are being faced by some countries of the Region.

From more than 30 years, riparian Countries exchanged about their concerns and looked for solutions in intergovernmental contexts. Years after years they improved their cooperation and built synergies. Having developed for many decades their cooperation and having built tools inspiring the world community, the Mediterranean riparian States have in hands the challenge and the opportunity to work together towards a better use of marine resources, including through the achievement of international objectives such as the Aichi target 11 of the CBD or Sustainable Development Goal 14, by implementing concerted spatial based management and conservation measures to preserve their common heritage, achieve a sustainable use of marine living resources and overcome the conservation gaps, particularly in the open-sea and deep-sea environment. Indeed, the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and marine resources is one of the topics where progress was significant. It is time to build upon the progress and achievements to propose a common Mediterranean Strategy for promoting spatial based management and conservation measures. The Regional Organisations have the potential to play central role through facilitation of inter-country consultations as well as the development of joint initiatives for data collection about the open-sea and deep-sea ecosystems.

1. Analysis of mandates, current strategies² and preliminary identification of commonalities

1.1 Who's Who?

(In alphabetical order)

1.1.1 ACCOBAMS

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is one of the Agreements related to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) under the auspices of UNEP.

Given the state of knowledge available in 1989, the Bern Convention Standing Committee underlined that it was imperative to establish a new cooperation tool for conservation, and decided to create an informal group on small cetaceans that met in Palma de Majorca in 1991 with the view of drafting an Agreement involving Bern, Barcelona and Bonn Conventions. But given the migratory characteristics of cetaceans, the Agreement was established under the auspices of the Bonn Convention (CMS) incorporating the Barcelona Convention cetacean action plan.

Two meetings in Monaco negotiated a draft Agreement on the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The first meeting (September 1995), led to drawing up the text of the Agreement and its conservation plan as well as extending the taxonomic coverage of the Agreement to include also large cetaceans found in the zone (in particular the finwhale and the sperm whale).

All questions regarding the exact definition of the Agreement area, in particular the status of the inland waters and the proposal to extend the instrument to the adjacent waters of the Atlantic Ocean that had remained suspended were negotiated in a second meeting hosted by the

² All the data used for the "analysis" (part 2) were up-to-date in February 2015.

Principality of Monaco, from 18 to 24 November 1996. Representatives of over 20 countries of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, as well as observers from many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the plenipotentiary Conference for signature, which closed the meeting. There are currently 23 riparian states Party to the Agreement.

The Agreement entered into force the 1st of June 2001.

The main objectives of the ACCOBAMS are (1) to reduce threats to cetaceans, mainly resulting from interactions with human activities and practices, which have a significant impact on cetacean conservation, and (2) to improve knowledge on cetacean populations.

The four official languages of the ACCOBAMS are Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish but the working language are English and French.

The "mother Convention" of ACCOBAMS, CMS, presents a noticeable interest for the Mediterranean region as general framework for migratory species concerns (protected areas, migration patterns, emergency situations, wind farm, etc.) but also through some specific Agreements and MoU. AEWB (for water birds), is the other one covering the Mediterranean region but others may serve for inspiration and/or have tools for species like monk seals, marine turtles and sharks.

1.1.2 GFCM

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO (GFCM) is the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) with competence over the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. It was established in 1949 under Article XIV of the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to monitor and manage fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea on the basis of the first agreement that entered into force in 1952. Over time, and through a series of amendments of the Agreement in 1963, 1976, 1997 and 2014, the role of the GFCM has evolved considerably, moving from a Council to a Commission and progressively enshrining UN concepts such as precautionary approach, sustainable development and blue growth in its work, whilst also adding the development of sustainable aquaculture to its core-competences.

GFCM has autonomous headquarters in Rome (Italy), Secretariat, and budget, and actively cooperates in the governance and better management of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

The GFCM is made up by representatives of its 24 Members (22 Mediterranean and Black Sea States, Japan, and the European Union), which constitute the Commission and the subsidiary bodies. The Members undertake to implement any recommendations made by the Commission, with the provision that, if they do not expressly object to them within 120 days, they must incorporate them into their national legislation.

The GFCM mandate embraces the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and the 2014 amendments includes wording relating to the need for the Commission to also take into account negative impacts on marine ecosystems. Also, the functions of GFCM now expressly include setting up Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), building upon recent GFCM practice.

The four official languages of the Commission are Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

1.1.3 RAC/SPA

Under the auspices of UNEP, in 1975, the first Regional Seas Programme was the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) with its two pillars: a legal one (the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols) and a socio-economical one (the Blue Plan, the Regional Activity Centre and the RAC/SPA), both originally particularly focused on the fight against pollution.

After Rio 1992, in order to respond to the prevailing trends, the goals of the Convention were extended in 1995 to cover the sustainable development. The Convention and some of its protocols, including the Specially Protected Areas Protocol, were amended, some new ones were adopted and the Mediterranean Commission for the Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established. The Convention changes from "*Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution*" into "*Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean*" more focused on environmental conservation and sustainable development as a whole.

As far as the spatial based management and conservation approach is concerned, the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol) is the most relevant tool of the Barcelona Convention, although the Protocol for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) may play an important role. To help the Contracting Parties to implement the Convention and its Protocols, a Coordinating Unit (based in Athens) and 6 Regional Activity Centres (RACs) were established. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) based in Tunis is the Centre in charge of coordinating the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

1.1.4 *IUCN-Med*

Created in 1948, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working to promote nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Its membership includes about 1200 Governmental and non-Governmental organisations. IUCN has thematic commissions dealing with the most relevant conservation issues. Some 11,000 scientists and experts participate in the work of IUCN commissions on a voluntary basis. The headquarters of IUCN are in Gland (Switzerland), it employs approximately 1000 full-time staff working in offices located in more than 60 countries.

IUCN is a unique organization - a democratic membership union - composed of over 1,200 Members, 11,000 scientific experts in our thematic Commissions and 1,000 staff, who work together in more than 160 countries to help the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN is a democratic membership-based organisation. Its Members form the highest decision-making body. The IUCN Global Programme is adopted by the Members at the World Conservation Congress every four years.

Following a decision by its members, IUCN established the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) whose goal is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies in achieving both the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable development. The IUCN-Med was inaugurated in 2000 in Malaga (Andalucia, Spain) with the financial support of the Consejeria de Medio Ambiente (Junta de Andalucia) and the Spanish Ministry of Environment.

1.1.5 *MedPAN*

The "Mediterranean Protected Areas Network" was established in 1990 to provide a framework for the exchange of experience among the managers of Mediterranean protected areas. Its creation was supported by the METAP Programme of the World Bank who provided financial support to the functioning of the network during six years (1990-1996). Its main activities were thematic conferences and the elaboration of technical publications.

In 1999, after two years of non-activity because of the lack of human and financial resources, the National Park of Port-Cros (France) and RAC/SPA collaborated to give a new life to the

network. To this end the MedPAN association was created and registered in France with the Port-Cros National Park ensuring the function of Executive Secretariat, while RAC/SPA ensured the function of General Secretariat of the Network. The Federation of Regional Natural Parks of France was also involved in the association structure.

In 2001, on behalf of the Port-Cros National Park, WWF France launched a process to revitalize the network and to ensure long term financing for its activities. In this context, a three-year project was financed by INTERREG III of the European Union. It helped to organize several thematic workshops on common MPA management issues, such as management planning, management of fisheries and tourism, habitat management, fund raising, etc. In total, 23 partners from 11 Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) participated in the project. Thanks to additional funding from IUCN participants from Lebanon, Libya and Egypt were also involved.

Based on the collaboration bounds established, the project partners and some MPA managers decided to establish in 2008, with 9 founding members, a new MedPAN organization aimed at promoting the establishment, the operation and the sustainability of a Mediterranean network of MPAs.

As per February 2015, the MedPAN organization has 59 members managing more than 90 MPAs and 37 partners from 18 Mediterranean countries. The Executive Secretariat of the organization is based in Marseille (France) and has 7 permanent staff.

1.1.6 *Others relevant organisations and frameworks*

Many other organisations are concerned by and develop tools for the implementation of spatial based managements and conservation measures: the Secretariats of CBD, Ramsar, Bern Conventions, UNESCO, IMO ("Special Areas" and PSSAs), EU, several NGOs (inter alia WWF, OCEANA, etc.).

1.2 *Overall goals of the involved organisations*

1.2.1 *ACCOBAMS*

In the Mediterranean, 22 cetacean species have been recorded; the cetacean population is thus highly diversified for such a geographically closed sea. But these populations suffer many threats. Fishing through incidental capture, overexploitation of the fishing stock, chemical pollution, persistent synthetic materials, the intensification of maritime traffic, the underwater noise and the development of 'whale-watching', all exert pressure whose impact must be assessed to define priority actions to protect these species. The scientific community has been aware for several decades of the importance of the rich biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea. Many efforts have concentrated on marine mammals, whales in particular, for scientific as well as cultural and aesthetic reasons.

The Agreement

The purpose of the ACCOBAMS Agreement is to take co-ordinated measures to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for cetaceans. To this end, Parties shall prohibit and take all necessary measures to eliminate, where this is not already done, any deliberate taking of cetaceans and shall co-operate to create and maintain a network of specially protected areas to conserve cetaceans.

Conservation, research and management measures are prescribed in the Agreement Annex 2 (“the Conservation Plan”).

Geographical coverage:

The geographic scope of the Agreement is constituted by all the maritime waters of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean and their gulfs and seas, and the internal waters connected to or interconnecting these maritime waters, and of the Atlantic area contiguous to the Mediterranean Sea west of the Straits of Gibraltar.

An amendment still expecting its formal adhesion extends the area to include the whole Portuguese and Spanish Atlantic waters.

One of the innovative areas of the Agreement meets the need to include in its application those countries, which, though not within its scope, have vessels practising activities in the area that may affect the conservation of Cetaceans. To this end, the Agreement introduces the notion of "Distribution Area States" (all invited to sign it), defined as "any State exercising sovereignty and/or jurisdiction in any part of the range of a population of Cetaceans covered by this Agreement, or a State whose flag vessels practise activities in the Agreement area that may affect the conservation of Cetaceans".

Species protected under the Agreement

18 main Cetacean species in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, are concerned, as well as any other Cetacean species that may be found incidentally or occasionally in the area covered by the Agreement.

The conservation plan

The ACCOBAMS Agreement combines an entire protection of cetacean species together with an increased spatial protection of their habitat.

Member States shall provide for:

- Legal measures to forbid direct catches, to mitigate by-catches of cetaceans in fishing gears, to restrict pollutant discharges;
- Measures to minimize the effects of fishing (no drift-nets longer than 2.5 km, release of live by-caught cetaceans);
- Studies to evaluate the impact of marine activities such as fisheries, offshore prospection, nautical sports, whale watching, tourism, etc.
- Habitat protection via the establishment of Specially Protected Areas in zones of importance for cetacean;
- Scientific research and monitoring;
- Creation of common tools to collect and disseminate information;
- Education and information programmes aimed at both the general public and professionals;

1.2.2 GFCM

The main objective of the GFCM is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters. The Commission has the authority to adopt binding recommendations for fisheries conservation and management in its area of application and plays a critical role in fisheries governance in the region.

The Agreement

The objective of the Agreement is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the area of application.

To facilitate reaching this goal the Agreement created a Commission. As one of its general principles, the Commission adopts recommendations on conservation and management measures aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishing activities, in order to preserve the marine living resources, the economic and social viability of fisheries and aquaculture.

In accordance with its objectives and general principles, the Commission shall, inter alia, formulate and recommend, in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 and 13, appropriate measures, including to establish fisheries restricted areas for the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including but not limited to nursery and spawning areas, in addition to or to complement similar measures that may already be included in management plans.

Geographical coverage and Members

The GFCM has competence over the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters. It has 24 Members: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey. Cooperating non-Contracting Parties include Georgia and Ukraine. In addition to its regional scope, the GFCM has recently stressed the need to operate at sub-regional scales, providing support for the implementation of management plans in the western, central, and eastern part of the Mediterranean, the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea.

Scope of action

As an FAO body, the GFCM has been instrumental in the implementation of FAO fisheries and aquaculture policies in its area of competence, tailoring and adapting the general concepts introduced by FAO to the priorities of the Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries and the characteristics of fisheries and ecosystems of the region. Concepts such as the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, the guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries and those for sustainable small-scale fisheries have been adapted at the GFCM level. Instances of this practice are the GFCM Guidelines for fisheries management in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, the binding recommendations on management plans for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic, demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily, turbot stocks in the Black Sea and red coral populations, as well as the establishment of four fisheries restricted areas and the prohibition of bottom-trawling activities in waters below 1000 meters. In other aspects of special relevance for the area, the GFCM has been proactively organizing and coordinating activities, such as the Symposium and Regional Conference for Small-Scale fisheries or the adoption of a Roadmap to fight IUU and recommendations on Port State Measures, on the establishment of a list of IUU vessels, and on the use of VMS systems, which contribute to FAO's work to define policies on these issues.

Experts' groups on stock assessment, vulnerable species, aquaculture technologies, marine environment, socio-economics of fisheries, etc., meet on a regular basis to provide the Commission with the best scientific advice in order to drive its policy and decisions. Subsequent to the entry into force of the 2014 amendment, Members decided to establish a Mediterranean subregional approach in support of the work of the Commission. The reorganization in subregional working groups would introduce a more flexible framework, under which different thematics (biological, environmental, social and economic, etc.) and subregional issues are discussed to provide more effective indications for the policy of the Commission.

1.2.3 *RAC/SPA*

Under the auspices of UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) was established in Tunis in 1985 by decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention), which entrusted it with responsibility for assessing the situation of natural heritage and assisting the Mediterranean countries to implement the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol), which came into force on 12 December 1999.

Before the 1995 new Protocol, a Protocol for Specially Protected Areas was adopted in 1982 and was ratified by 21 Parties. This Protocol is still into force for those Parties that have not ratified the new SPA/BD Protocol of 1995 (4 Countries).

The new Protocol aims at promoting the conservation and the sustainable management of areas having a particular natural or cultural value and at promoting the conservation of the animal and plant species that are endangered or threatened.

Furthermore, in relation to biodiversity protection, it is important to note that the Barcelona Convention is one of the few RSCs, which have a specific mandate through this new Protocol to act for the conservation of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The situation of the Mediterranean in this regard is also particular because there is no point located at a distance of more than 200 nm from the closest land or island, therefore areas beyond limits of national jurisdiction (high seas) would disappear if all the Mediterranean coastal States decided to establish their own exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Given the political complexity of such scenario in this semi-enclosed sea scattered by islands, it is not expected that such projection happens in the short/medium term.

As the Barcelona Convention covers only the maritime waters of the Mediterranean but authorizes any Protocol to extend its geographical coverage, the Protocol covers also, *inter alia*, the seabed and its subsoil.

It envisages in particular arrangements related to the creation, protection and management of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), to the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), and to the protection and the conservation of the species and their habitats.

The SPA/BD Protocol is thus the foremost tool available for the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to implement, in the Mediterranean, the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the *in situ* conservation and the sustainable use of the marine and coastal biodiversity.

The SPA/BD Protocol has three annexes which were adopted in 1996 in Monaco, namely the Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI list (Annex I), the List of endangered or threatened species (Annex II), and the List of species whose exploitation is regulated (Annex III).

Objective and mission of the RAC/SPA

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), the specific objective of RAC/SPA is to contribute to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

RAC/SPA's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol, especially in regard to developing and promoting Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and reducing the loss of marine and coastal

biodiversity.

Scope of action

The actions carried out by RAC/SPA are aiming for the conservation of habitats, ecosystems, sites and species in the Mediterranean areas both within and beyond national jurisdiction, taking into account sustainable management and the ecosystem approach.

With a view to furthering the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, RAC/SPA developed a Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), which was adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003.

Within the framework of this SAP BIO, RAC/SPA pursues the following basic objectives:

- Fostering improved knowledge of marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Improving the management of existing and facilitating the creation of new Marine and Coastal Protected Areas;
- Enhancing the protection of endangered species and habitats;
- Contributing to the reinforcement of relevant national legislation and national and international capacity-building; and
- Contributing to fund-raising efforts.

Therefore, the main fields of action of RAC/SPA are:

- Developing research to complete the knowledge base and fill in knowledge gaps on biodiversity;
- Inventorying, mapping and monitoring coastal and marine biodiversity;
- Assessing and mitigating the impact of threats on biodiversity;
- Conserving sensitive habitats, species and sites; and
- Coordinating capacity-building and technical support and assistance to countries.

RAC/SPA relies on **specific tools** for biodiversity conservation like the Species and Habitats Action Plans but, for spatial based management and conservation measures, RAC/SPA is promoting the establishment by States of Specially Protected Areas. It also encourages the Contracting Parties to propose SPAMIs. The Mediterranean countries recognise the Mediterranean importance of the areas in the SPAMI List and are committed to comply with the measures applicable to each SPAMI and not to authorize nor undertake any activities that might be contrary to the objectives for which it was established.

In waters under national jurisdiction, SPAMIs could be developed by a single State or, jointly, by neighbouring States. For waters beyond national jurisdiction, concerned States must act together for a joint proposal.

RAC/SPA has **collected information** on ecosystems of the Mediterranean, including the deep seas (using existing databases and expert opinions), assessed subregions within the Mediterranean basin, and compiled data on important areas for birds in the Mediterranean open seas. It has also carried out studies on fisheries management and vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean open seas including on: (i) deep seas; (ii) geological features of the seabed (seamounts, mud volcanoes, dries, canyons, hydrothermal vents); (iii) oceanographic features such as fronts and upwellings; (iv) ecological features of certain vulnerable habitats (coralligenous facies, white coral communities, etc.); and (v) biogeographic features of commercial pelagic species and species subject to incidental capture or by-catch (spawning and nursery areas).

1.2.4 *IUCN-Med*

As defined in its 2010-2020 marine strategy, the IUCN-Med's vision for Mediterranean marine

ecosystems is as follow:

“Marine ecosystems are valued and their governance structures are enhanced to ensure biodiversity conservation and support equitable and sustainable management of their resources and improve the livelihoods of Mediterranean societies.”

The overall goal of the IUCN-Med is reflected in its mission, which is defined as follows “To influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies in achieving both the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable development”. In this context, being the IUCN body the most focusing on the Mediterranean region, the IUCN-Med develops its activities in accordance with the global orientations of IUCN and taking into account other IUCN programmes of relevance for the Mediterranean region, in particular: the North Africa programme, the Pan-European programme and the West Asia programme.

In addition to the general orientations provided by these programmes, the IUCN-Med aims at promoting the integration of the social, economic and cultural dimensions in conservation strategies and strengthening the Pan-Mediterranean cooperation.

1.2.5 MedPAN

The MedPAN network's mission is to promote, through a partnership approach, the sustainability and operation of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, which are ecologically representative, connected and effectively managed to help reduce the current rate of marine biodiversity loss. The activities of the network revolve around 3 strategic components :

- Be a network for knowledge, information, anticipation and synthesis
- Develop the life of the network, the exchanges between its members and their capacity to effectively manage their MPAs in link with the other players in their territories.
- Reinforce the sustainability, prominence, governance and resources of the MedPAN network.

are guided by the 2013-2017 General Strategy (jointly developed with all members and partners), as well as a capacity building strategy (jointly developed with the RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO), a scientific strategy and a communication strategy.

The activities carried out by the network are the result of a strong coordination between its members and partners so as to ensure effectiveness and reach.

Key players in the Mediterranean such as RAC / SPA of the United Nations Environment Programme, WWF, the Conservatoire du Littoral, IUCN Mediterranean, the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas, ACCOBAMS and GFCM are partners of the network and are working together to synchronise their activities. The MedPAN organisation, which coordinates the MedPAN network has a unifying and dissemination role and also has its own activities on certain themes.

Some key actions:

- MAPAMED, the Mediterranean MPA database
- Mediterranean MPA status every 4 years
- Scientific watch

- Exchange of experiences between managers
- Call for Small Projects
- Newsletter and website
- MPA Forum every 4 years
- Network representation in European, Mediterranean and international conferences.

1.3 Governance structures, tools and procedures of each organisation

1.3.1 ACCOBAMS

The Agreement established the main following governance bodies:

- The Meeting of the Parties which is the decision-making body of this Agreement gathering at intervals of not more than three years;
- The Secretariat is established in Monaco through an host country agreement;
- The Co-ordination Units, one for each subregion: the RAC/SPA, Sub-regional Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat, Sub-regional Coordinating Unit for the Black Sea;
- The Bureau of the Contracting Parties;
- The Scientific Committee (which includes scientists and representatives from IUCN, CIESM, IWC, CMS and ECS);

The Parties at their ordinary Meetings adopt Recommendation and Decisions. They adopt the triennial budget and programme of work including actions open for voluntary contribution.

1.3.2 GFCM

The decision-making body of GFCM is the Commission, which implements its policy and activities through its Secretariat and operates during the intersession by means of its subsidiary bodies. The four committees that support the work of the Commission are: the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC), the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), the Compliance Committees (CoC), and the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF). An ad-hoc Working Group on the Black Sea is devoted to discuss fisheries and aquaculture issues specifically for this region. The Commission usually meets every year in May, but can hold additional extraordinary sessions. The SAC also meets annually, prior to the Commission. The SAC's mandate in particular is crucial to provide independent, technical and scientific advice to facilitate the adoption of recommendations and resolutions concerning the sustainable management of fisheries and ecosystems at the regional and subregional levels. The advice of the SAC takes into consideration relevant biological, environmental, social and economic aspects, as well as on issues associated with the ecosystem approach to fisheries, the impact of IUU fishing on populations and ecosystems, and the assessment of biological and ecological implications under different management scenarios.

Based on the advices of SAC, the Commission holds its regular sessions annually and operates during the intersession by means of its committees: the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), the Compliance Committee (CoC), the Committee of Administration and Finance (CAF) and their subsidiary Sub-Committees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs), including the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) and its Gear Selectivity Working Group and the Marine Protected Areas Working Group (WGMPA)³, and the ad hoc Working Group for the Black Sea (WGBS). The GFCM Bureau steers strategic orientations to the Commission and the Secretariat.

The four official languages of the Commission are Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

It has to be noted that GFCM is one of the few RFMOs worldwide entitled to adopt spatial

³ <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/background/structure/en/>

management measures that regulate or restrict fisheries activities in the high seas.

Over the last years, the GFCM has been addressing issues related to marine protected areas *sensu lato* especially as a tool for fisheries management. The spatial based approach to fisheries management has the final goal of preserving fisheries resources by minimizing the impact of fishing on specific habitats with a high value from a biological point of view. This could be achieved by closing sensitive habitats to selected fisheries seasonally or permanently. In this respect the **Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA)** is the spatial management tool of GFCM for preserving fisheries related resources (nurseries, reproduction and spawning grounds, adults and juveniles, etc.) and to protect specific and vulnerable habitats (sponges associations, deep-sea coral banks, seagrasses meadows, seamount areas, etc.) from fishing activities. A FRA is defined by the GFCM as *a geographically-defined area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of harvested living aquatic resources or the protection of marine ecosystems.*

The process for the designation of new FRAs by the GFCM often starts with a technical discussion which conclusions are put forward to the Commission for its consideration. In this sense, new proposals of FRAs are often presented and discussed by an expert or organization participating at a relevant SAC expert group (e.g. GFCM working group on MPAs, subregional Committees, etc.); upon agreement of the group, the proposal is submitted to the GFCM SAC for its revision and technical advice; at this stage the SAC should evaluate if the proposal is technically consistent and if so submit it to the Commission for its consideration. Also, proposals can be made directly at the Commission by any GFCM Member, in this case often based on previous scientific knowledge provided by the SAC. In this manner, the initial proposal for a FRA could be provided by a range of actors, including official representatives of GFCM Members as well as other stakeholders such as institutions, scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, private sector, etc. Once the proposal is approved by the Commission, a FRA is formally established by mean of a legal decision (i.e. GFCM Recommendation).

A standard form for submitting proposals for FRAs to the GFCM is available for download at the GFCM website. The form requests information on the area, site description, biological features, human activities and impacts, legal status, objective of the FRA, etc.

Resolution GFCM/37/2013/1 established that the designation of FRAs for the conservation and management of fisheries resources within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, including for the cases where their location may be totally or partially coincident with that of SPAMIs shall be done by GFCM in particular for areas in the High Seas. In case GFCM intend to designate a FRA that may be totally or partially in a SPAMI such a decision may only be taken if appropriate cooperation and coordination have taken place between GFCM and UNEP/MAP and other competent regional organizations, such as ACCOBAMS.

The FRAs approach used is perfectly in line with the vulnerable marine ecosystem (**VMEs**) concept promoted by FAO and its International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO DSF Guidelines). Adopted in August 2008, these guidelines aim to facilitate and encourage the efforts of States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations/Agreements towards sustainable use of marine living resources, and the prevention of significant adverse impacts on deep-sea Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. The VME concept emerged from discussions at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and gained momentum after UNGA Resolution 61/105. The FAO DSF Guidelines build on the resolution and provide details on the VME concept for fisheries management. The FAO DSF Guidelines also provide guidance on management factors ranging from an appropriate regulatory framework to the components of a good data collection programme, and include the

identification of key management considerations and measures necessary to ensure the conservation of target and non-target species, as well as affected habitats. VMEs are now firmly embedded in regimes for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

1.3.3 *RAC/SPA*

RAC/SPA is one of the 6 Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan. In 1995, it was entrusted to assist the Contracting Parties to implement the new SPA/BD Protocol. Although some Riparian States are not Party to this Protocol, the decision body, as for the whole juridical system of the Barcelona Convention, is the meeting of the Parties.

A network of national focal points, that meet every two years, advises the RAC/SPA.

One of the major tools provided for by the SPA/BD Protocol is the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs).

According to the provisions of the Protocol, **SPAMIs** may be established in the marine and coastal zones subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Parties and in areas situated partly or wholly on the high sea. The SPAMI List may include sites which:

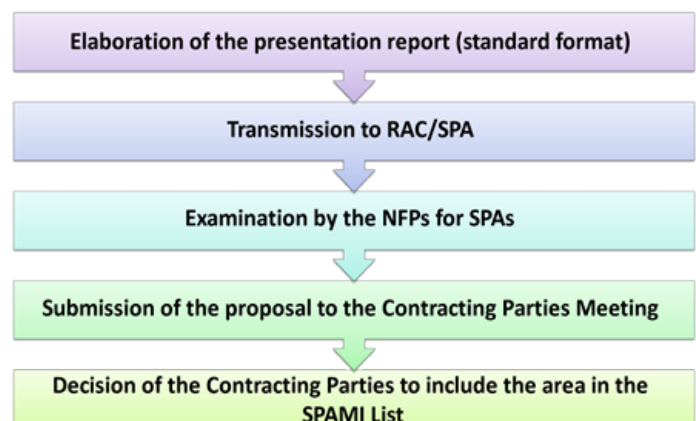
- Are of importance for conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean;
- Contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species;
- Are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels.

Article 9 of the SPA/BD Protocol provides that the proposal for inclusion in the SPAMI List is submitted: (i) by the Party concerned, if the area is situated in a zone already delimited, over which it exercises sovereignty or jurisdiction; (ii) by two or more neighbouring Parties concerned if the area is situated, partly or wholly, on the high sea; and (iii) by the neighbouring Parties concerned in areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined.

The Parties concerned provide RAC/SPA with a presentation report (Annotated Format), by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, containing information on the area's geographical location, its physical and ecological characteristics, its legal status, its management plans and the means for their implementation, as well as a statement justifying its Mediterranean importance.

In order to facilitate the consultation and coordination processes for SPAMIs including areas beyond national jurisdiction, the Annotated format includes a preliminary declaration of intention stating their intention to conduct consultation processes with the neighbouring Parties concerned. Through this declaration, the Contracting Party may as appropriate request assistance from SPA/RAC and MAP Secretariat in order to facilitate the consultation process including with relevant international or regional organizations.

After officially sending the presentation report to RAC/SPA, the proposal is submitted to the National Focal Points meeting, which shall examine its conformity with the guidelines for the establishment and management of specially protected areas and the common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List (Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol).



If the proposal is considered to be consistent by the National Focal Points, RAC/SPA then transmits it to the Secretariat, which informs the meeting of the Parties, which decides to include the area in the SPAMI List. For an area situated, partly or wholly, on the high sea or in areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined, the decision to include the area in the SPAMI List is taken by consensus by the Contracting Parties, which also approve the management measures applicable to the area.

After this adoption, the Centre informs the competent international organizations of the List and of the measures taken in the SPAMIs.

During their Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting (Almeria, Spain, January 2008), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols adopted the Procedure for the revision of the areas included in the SPAMI List and requested RAC/SPA to implement the adopted Procedure (Decision IG.17/12). The objective of this procedure is to evaluate SPAMI sites in order to examine whether they still meet the SPA/BD Protocol's criteria (Annex I of the Protocol: "Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List").

1.3.4 IUCN-Med

Being part of IUCN, the IUCN-Med is subject to the authority of the governing bodies of IUCN. These are:

- The IUCN World Conservation Congress
- The IUCN Council
- The General Director

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is held every 4 years. As part of its works, the Member Assembly is held. It is the IUCN's highest decision-making body and provides guidance to the IUCN's work plan for the following four years.

The programme of work of the IUCN-Med is elaborated in accordance with the general guidance of the Assembly, taking into account the needs and opinions expressed by the Mediterranean Members of IUCN during meetings and regional forums.

IUCN has also six expert commissions dealing with the following themes:

- Education and Communication,
- Environmental, Economic and Social Policy,
- Environmental Law,
- Ecosystem Management,
- Survival of species,
- Protected Areas.

The Director of IUCN-Med reports to the General Director of IUCN.

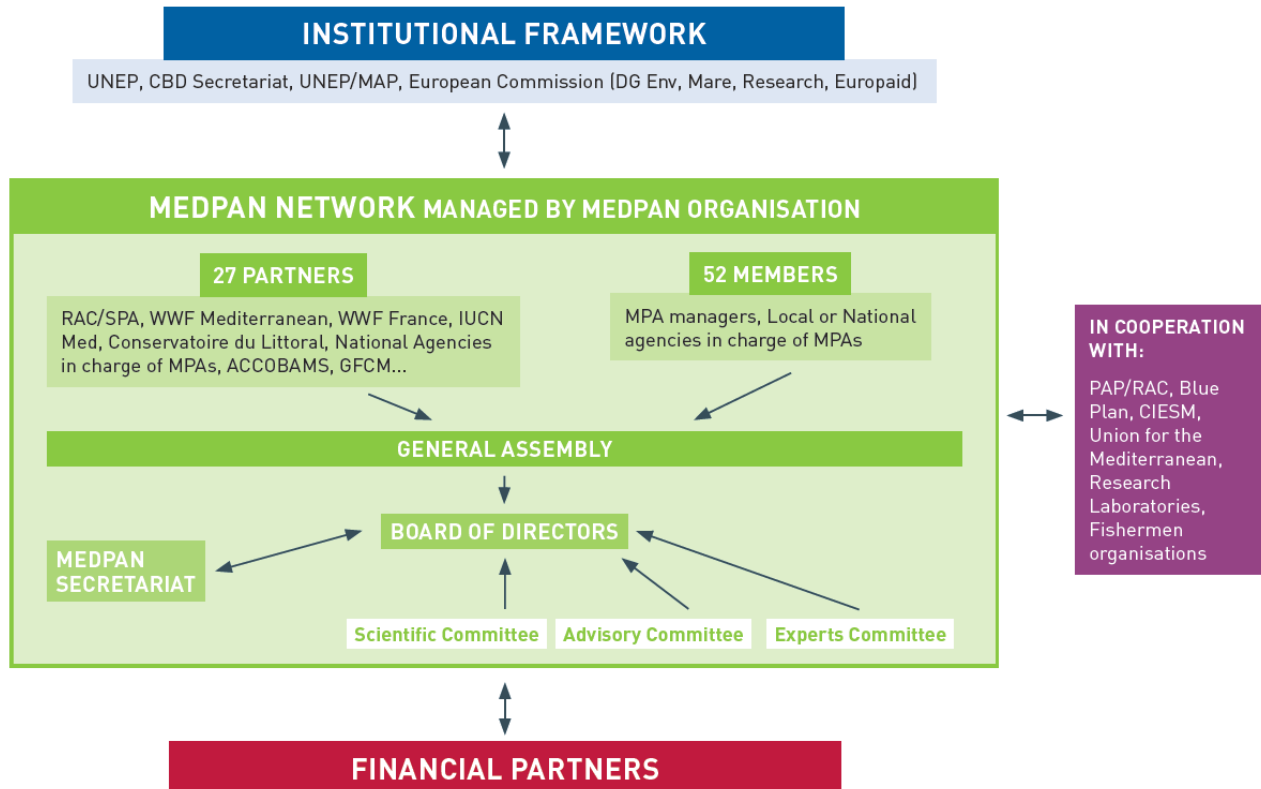
1.3.5 MedPAN

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of MedPAN. It's made of members and partners of MedPAN. It elects the Board of Directors whose main role is to recommend to the General Assembly the organisation's policies and general orientations, and oversees the proper application of the decisions taken. The General Assembly elects also the Advisory Committee that, on the requests of the Board of Director's, provides opinions and comments on the MedPAN strategic plans, action plans and budget allocations. ACCOBAMS, GFCM, RAC/SPA

and IUCN-Med are some of the members of the Advisory Committee of MedPAN that meets once a year.

The MedPAN has a permanent Secretariat responsible for the implementation of the strategy and yearly action plan decided by the General Assembly and for the day-to-day management of the activities.

MedPAN has also a Scientific Committee made of experts that provides opinions and advice regarding the scientific aspects of the MedPAN activities. MedPAN can also create some “expert groups” on some specific subjects (fisheries...).



1.4 Medium and long term strategies and programmes

1.4.1 ACCOBAMS

ACCOBAMS res 5.1 (2013) ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014-2025)

Almost 10 years later its entry into force, with 23 Parties and 36 Partners, ACCOBAMS has matured and become ready for evaluation whether invested efforts resulted in achievements in line with desired outcomes and how to adapt and strategically plan further work. In this regard, the 4th Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS agreed to develop the ACCOBAMS Strategy for the next 10 years period using the participatory approach (Resolution 4.24.). During this process, a need for synergy with other relevant strategic planning processes was taken into account. It particularly refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020; Aichi targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for the 2010 – 2020 period. The ACCOBAMS Strategy implementation period will also overlap with the "Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023", which was adopted in 2014 at the eleventh Conference of Parties by Resolution 5.1.

This Strategy aimed to Improve conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2023. In relation of our present purpose it stressed in particular the need

to develop synergies with the work programmes and strategies of other relevant Organisations, such as with the UNEP/CMS mother Convention and the development of the new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

The ACCOBAMS Strategy includes seven main elements: Analysis of present state of ACCOBAMS affairs, ACCOBAMS Mission, Vision, Objectives, Action plan, Implementation and financing, Monitoring and revision of the Strategy.

The SWOT analysis joined to the strategy underlines the partnerships with regional organisations representing fishermen and shipping, such as GFCM and IMO, and with regional agreements competent for marine biodiversity conservation such as Barcelona Convention. It underlines the opportunity to Complement the work with other regional nature conservation related organisations efforts to ensure more holistic conservation of marine biodiversity.

1.4.2 *GFCM*

In 2013, the GFCM launched its first Framework Programme (FWP) 2013-2018 aimed at constructing a regional and holistic vision of the management of marine capture fisheries and aquaculture. The FWP is intended to represent the foundation of a continuous process ensuring that fisheries and aquaculture play a key role in the sustainable development of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea from an economic, a social and an environmental point of view. In fact, the FWP has been envisaged as a platform that will promote sustainable development and cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea through multi-annual and multi-donor arrangements. It will also strengthen intra-institutional cooperation and coordination in matters relating to marine capture fisheries and aquaculture at regional level through the implementation of a series of work packages that will also involve partner organizations.

The Framework program is also considered an appropriate tool to exploit commonalities and build upon synergies between, *inter alia*, the GFCM and (i) partner organizations that have a sectorial competence on the Mediterranean and the Black Sea/on fisheries and aquaculture related matters, and (ii) FAO regional projects (AdriaMed, MedSudMed, EastMed, CopeMedII). Thus, within the remit of the FWP, as well as the different Memoranda of Understanding (see section 5 below) there are opportunities to optimize the use of resources and avoid duplications in accordance with the current need for efficient environmental governance.

The five work packages to which tailor specific activities by mean of extra-budgetary funds are WP01 - Governance: To improve governance and fisheries management in the GFCM Area consistent with an integrated maritime approach; WP02 - Data collection: To strengthen the capacity of national institutions in the field of data collection and supporting the establishment of regional databases and information systems; WP03 - Aquaculture: To promote the role of aquaculture for food security and economic growth; WP04 - Small-scale fisheries: To enhance the development of small-scale fisheries; WP05 - Cooperation: Supporting institutional and technical cooperation in the Southern Mediterranean and in the Black Sea.

In the frame of the GFCM FWP different activities have been developed since 2013 such as: the development of the new GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework to improve the collection and processing of data on fisheries in the regions; activities towards the establishment of sub-regional management plans for fisheries; activities related to the spatial approach to fisheries management, including the establishment of the GFCM working group on marine protected areas; a pilot study on European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*); organization of regional conferences on aquaculture and small-scale fisheries; workshops and a training course on stock assessment and age reading of elasmobranchs, etc. Recently, (April 2015), the ACCOBAMS and GFCM Secretariats launched a 2-year project that aims at improving the conservation of endangered

marine species, such as cetaceans, sea turtles, seabirds, and at promoting responsible fishing practices in the Mediterranean.

In addition to the FWP, the GFCM has an annual inter-sessional period which, following the decisions by the Commission at its annual session, focuses on undertaking the activities foreseen in the context of the functioning of the GFCM consistent with the mandate and objectives of the Commission.

1.4.3 *RAC/SPA*

Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

Confronted with the complexity and size of the pressure on marine and coastal biological diversity, the Contracting Parties judged that they needed a concerted strategy. In 2004, RAC/SPA launched the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO).

This was a process of diagnosis, consultation and assessment at national and regional level, backed by the GEF. It was designed as twin-track:

The first track analyses the state of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and stresses the main problems, lacuna and activities to plan for.

The second track involves 30 concrete strategic actions to guide countries over the fifteen following years in planning and implementing protection activities.

The Strategic Action Programme focuses on:

- Protecting species and habitats,
- Improving knowledge about marine and coastal biodiversity,
- Reducing negative impacts on biological diversity,
- Promoting sector-based policies that encourage biodiversity (tourism, agriculture, etc.),
- Adopting institutional and legal measures,
- Coordinating the biodiversity activities of the MAP centres.

Adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003, these actions should guide countries over the following fifteen years in planning and implementing protection activities; this will have repercussions for the whole of the Mediterranean.

The SAP BIO implementation is part of the activities within the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership).

Species and Habitats Actions Plans

Beginning at an earlier stage of the Barcelona Convention system and in particular in the Genoa Declaration in 1988 several Regional Action Plans were adopted in complement with the first Protocol for Specially Protected Areas (of 1982). As such these Action Plans, although not compulsory, involve all the Mediterranean Riparian States and the E.U. Currently these Action Plans cover species as well as key habitats (Monk Seal, marine turtles, cetaceans, marine vegetation, marine and coastal birds, cartilaginous fishes, Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions, habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena). Another Action Plan considers non-indigenous species.

Three are particularly focused on habitats conservation:

“Action plan for marine vegetation” (1999 revised in 2005). Although very related to spatial managements and conservation measures, as this plan is linked with coastal zone it will not be considered here.

“Action plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean” (2008, currently (2015-2016) being revised). This action Plan exclude bathyal assemblages of white corals and focus on coralline algal frameworks that grow in dim light conditions as such it is only quoted as some of the actions included may be helpful for our topic.

“Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemosynthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea” (Dark Habitats Action Plan - 2013), which is the more relevant for this Strategy.

This Action Plan encourage the Parties to:

- Conserve the habitats’ integrity, functionality (favourable state of conservation) by maintaining the main ecosystem services and their interest in terms of biodiversity through the establishment firstly of legislative measures, setting up MPAs in secondly and foremost the application and development of regulatory procedures to restrict or prohibit some human activities if they exist.
- Conserve the habitats’ integrity, functionality (favourable state of conservation) by maintaining the main ecosystem services and their interest in terms of biodiversity
- Encourage the natural restoration of degraded habitats via reduction of human origin impacts
- Improve knowledge about dark populations (e.g. location, specific richness, functioning, typology) through national and regional data and scientific work in accordance with the objective of establishing a summary of knowledge of dark populations and their distribution around the Mediterranean in the form of a geo-referenced information system.

To implement the plans, RAC/SPA has developed a Standard Data-entry Form for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest (SDF), developed by RAC/SPA, which can be used to identify potentially good sites for the establishment of MPAs devoted to protect coralligenous/maërl assemblages, etc.

MedKeyHabitat project

This programme closely linked to the action plans cited just before. He is devoted to the mapping of key marine habitats in the Mediterranean and promoting their conservation through the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs).

The EcAp process

In 2011, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have committed to progressively apply Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities with the goal of effecting real change in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

The 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (2013) adopted the Decision IG.21/3 on the “Ecosystem Approach including adapting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets” (the EcAp Decision) Expressed the agreement on regionally common targets, lists of indicators to achieve GES in the Mediterranean, and an integrated list of Mediterranean GES, targets and indicators.

The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. As such, it is the guiding principle to all policy implementation and development undertaken under the auspices of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention.

EcAp also refers to a specific process under the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, as its Contracting Parties have committed to implement the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean with the ultimate objective of achieving the good environmental status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast. This process aims to achieve GES through informed management decisions, based on integrated quantitative assessment and monitoring of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Mediterranean.

Mainstreaming EcAp into the work of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and achieving the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through the EcAp process have been supported by the EU-funded project entitled “Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean by the Contracting Parties in the Context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols” (EcAp-MED project 2012-2015).

Project activities and outputs were delivered by a team composed of all UNEP/MAP components under overall guidance of the Coordinating Unit, but they could not have been achieved without the overall ownership (and leadership) of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. Partner Organisation like ACCOBAMS and GFCM are evolved in the drafting of some of the key indicators of the Approach.

Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea (2009)

In 2009, the 16th COP of the Barcelona convention adopted the Decision IG.19/3 “Regarding a regional working programme for the coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean including the High Sea”. This decision requested SPA/RAC "in coordination with the partner organizations, to support countries with technical and, where possible, financial assistance to undertake the activities in the programme of work”. It called on the MAP Secretariat and SPA/RAC “to strengthen links with existing regional fisheries organizations (CGPM, ICCAT) and other relevant organizations in order to ensure sustainable management of resources, including on the high seas, as appropriate.”

This working programme is a three-step hierarchical planning approach, which begins at the large scale and focuses in on ever-smaller scales.

At the widest scale, in this case that of the Mediterranean Basin, the baseline for designing an ecological network will involve the identification of large scale ecological units. The purpose of this is to recognize ecological distinctions between different parts of the Sea, and ensure that something that is called a “Mediterranean Network of MPAs” is truly comprehensive and representative of all of its sub-regions.

At the next scale, priority conservation areas should be identified within each ecological unit. These areas would not constitute MPAs themselves, but would be focal areas for individual MPA networks.

Once such priority conservation areas are identified, the task of identifying sites to develop true ecological networks can be initiated.

Individual MPAs within these networks should protect what is ecologically most important – i.e., they should focus on habitats where a concentration of ecological processes results in a high diversity of species. To become a network, it will be important not only to establish MPAs to protect these key areas, but also to maintain the ecological linkages between these areas

In fact the main topic in the Decision was the proposal of criteria for site selection. This decision must be re-examined in light with the current EBSAs process for the Mediterranean Sea.

The MedMPAnet project (a component of the MedPartnership project)

The MedMPAnet Project a regional project aiming at the development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) network through the boosting of MPA creation and management. It includes 12 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. It is a 5 year-project (2010-2015) during which an important set of activities were implemented:

- Pilot projects on the identification and planning of new MPAs and proposals for financial sustainability mechanisms;
- Establishment of priority activities to create MPAs, identification of stakeholders and potential partnerships required and characterization of marine sites suitable to become MPAs;
- Experience-sharing and capacity-building to improve the management of new/existing MPAs in the Eastern and Southern part of the Mediterranean;
- Communication on the project outcomes and achievements, and public awareness raising.

UNEP/MAP Draft Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021

This strategic document focuses on 6 main themes:

- Core theme 1: Land and Sea-based Pollution;
- Core theme 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
- Core theme 3: Land and Sea Interaction and Processes;
- Cross-cutting theme 1: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);
- Cross-cutting theme 2: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
- Cross-cutting theme 3: Climate Change Adaptation;

It is intended to be collaborative based on participation and partnerships; and knowledge generating and sharing.

In the strategy the biodiversity component aims inter alia at:

- Facilitating the implementation of the 2009 just above mentioned working program with a particular emphasis to the processes leading to the establishment of marine protected areas in the open seas by the concerned neighbouring countries, therefore allowing the management of Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJs), mainly through the declaration of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) as provided for by the SPA/BD Protocol, while taking into account the UN global process for the conservation of ABNJs.
- Setting-up and implementing monitoring programmes for key species and habitats to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) for the biodiversity related ecosystem approach based Mediterranean ecological objectives, as provided for in the MAP/EcAp.

In order to improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, it look for the enhancing of the collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components, as relevant and necessary. Memoranda of understanding and joint work programmes are to be developed with key partners, which are also consulted and involved in the preparation of important decisions and policies.

This biodiversity component contains some outputs concerning spatial based management and conservation measures like the technical assistance and common tools for the conservation of biodiversity with the aim to achieve the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean. Focusing on the drafting of guidelines, and methodological tools.

The component related to natural resources includes the development of mapping of coastal and marine environmental pressures at regional and local levels.

Recently (may 2015) a draft “**Towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas by 2020**” was prepared, which was mainly devoted to guide the national implementations of the SPA and BD Protocol.

A special place should be dedicated to the UNEP/MAP-CBD EBSAs process.

In the frame of the regional meeting related to the identification the EBSAs, the Mediterranean was able to merge all the data and maps drafted from many years by the scientific Communities in the frame of the very active Mediterranean organisations.

In summary, when considering the EBSA process, the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas have significant importance for the following reasons, *inter alia*:

- They comprise a vast set of coastal and marine ecosystems that deliver valuable benefits to all its coastal inhabitants;
- They are recognized as one the world’s 25 top biodiversity hotspots, defined as areas with rich biodiversity, a large number of endemic species (species unique to the region), and critical levels of habitat loss;
- Rapid urban sprawl is noteworthy, where the region’s population is concentrated near the coasts and more than a third live in coastal administrative entities totalling less than 12% of the surface area of the Mediterranean countries, which brings various threats and impacts to the coast and the sea;
- The Mediterranean Sea is a good example of a region where particular and specific responses to global changes have been observed. Its relatively small size, high biodiversity, temperate climate and semi-enclosed nature make it a place where the effects of climate change will be exacerbated. Its semi-enclosed nature prevents rapid water exchange and therefore makes it more sensitive to temperature and pH variations. Together with the high degree of pressure exerted by densely populated coastal areas, this makes the Mediterranean Sea an especially vulnerable place (IUCN, 2013); and
- The region meets as a whole almost all of the EBSA criteria: uniqueness, naturalness, vulnerability, fragility and sensitivity, which can be found at many scales throughout the Mediterranean.

1.4.4 IUCN-Med

In accordance with the vision, the following strategic objectives provide strategies on the areas identified as important for cooperation between Mediterranean partners and the IUCN Marine programme in the region:

Knowledge and Guidelines: Considering that the lack of knowledge is one of the major issues for the management and conservation of the marine environment, in particular for decision making process, guidelines are essential for administrations for fulfilling their mandate and practitioners for implementing sustainably their activities. This Strategic Objective includes: Improving knowledge and/or providing guidelines for the sustainable development of selected activities at sea.

Governance: The international conventions and agreements and in particular the Barcelona Convention, the GFCM and ACCOBAMS are key players in the Mediterranean region regarding the conservation of the marine environment and the sustainable use of its resources.

High seas areas management within the Mediterranean Basin relies mainly on these institutions; however, they need support from all organisations and countries for implementing activities and raise capacity and awareness.

The IUCN-Med's marine strategy targets issues at the sub-regional level and at the with the view of improving the marine and coastal governance at various levels.

Marine Protected Areas Networks: To better evaluate the efforts of each country towards its commitments and to reconsider the existing network in term of representativity at the national, sub regional and regional levels, it is highly recommended to consider all conservation area in the Mediterranean region listed under several classifications and networks at the international level included in national waters. Under this Strategic Objectives, the IUCN-Med marine strategy aims at strengthening the networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at various levels (regional, sub-regional, national and local) and under different classifications.

Marine Managed Areas: A marine managed area is an area that has been identified, is considered for specific activities and is covered by specific legislation or regulations to be implemented by a specific administration. Although the principal objective is not conservation of nature and natural resources but the regulation of an activity, the exclusion of extractive use or other threats can have an important impact on the species or features present in the area. Administrations in charge of resources or activities management in the marine environment are often unaware of their rights and duties in relation with national legislation and international agreements to which their country is Party. This Strategic Objective of the IUCN-Med marine strategy aims at ensuring that existing Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) are identified and the related institutional responsibilities clearly defined and mitigation and adaptation mechanisms are proposed.

Marine Protected Areas Management and National Capacity: Improving and implementing MPAs management plans and national capacity for management.

In many Mediterranean countries there are significant weaknesses in the management of marine protected areas, mainly due to a lack of options for enforcement and of the limited management capacity at the national level. A revision of the legal provisions and institutional mechanisms and proposals for their improvement will assist in increasing the options for the managers to enforcing existing regulations.

Marine Biodiversity: Through this Strategic Objective, the IUCN-Med marine strategy aims at reducing the loss of marine biodiversity, based on a better knowledge and evaluation. Indeed, as part of the commitment from countries to reduce or halt the loss of biodiversity, activities in the marine environment can be based on the revision of the status of the species (Red List), on a better implementation of the existing action plans, on improvement of knowledge on resilience and adaptation of species as changes are occurring due to human impacts and climate change and through training of national staff for biodiversity knowledge and monitoring.

1.4.5 *MedPAN*

The MedPAN network has developed a 2013-2017 strategy, based on the Statutes of the MedPAN organisation, the expectations of members and partners of the network as well as the challenges faced by Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas.

The 2013-2017 strategy is broken down into 3 strategic components and the 5 major transversal interventions areas of the MedPAN network.

The 3 strategic components:

- Be a network for knowledge, information, anticipation and synthesis
- Develop the life of the network, the exchanges between its members and their capacity to effectively manage their MPAs in link with the other players in their territories.
- Reinforce the sustainability, prominence, governance and resources of the MedPAN network.

The 5 major transversal interventions areas of the MedPAN network:

- Scientific strategy
- Capacity Building
- Communications strategy
- New funding mechanisms dynamic
- Consolidation of the Secretariat and the governance of the MedPAN network

The activities undertaken under the 3 Strategic Axis aim at achieving the following strategic objectives:

Strategic objectives - Axis 1:

- Providing information on MPAs and the status of the Network to support the creation of MPAs and to maintain the Network
- Ensuring multi-thematic scientific information sharing to support the Network
- Providing support to strengthen inventories and monitoring actions in and around MPAs
- Fostering the link between researchers and managers, the innovation within MPAs and capitalize

Strategic objectives - Axis 2:

- Optimize the managers' capacity-building measures and strengthen the interactivity and mutual learning between the MPA stakeholders
- Support the actions led by the MPAs
- Sustain the Network, share the news and topics relevant for MPA managers

Strategic objectives - Axis 3:

- Ensure the Network is well represented and visible
- Federate, facilitate and strengthen the partnerships of the MedPAN Organization
- Strengthen the internal governance of the MedPAN Organization and the functioning of the Secretariat
- Develop sustainable funding for the Network while supporting the development of local and national MPA funding mechanisms

1.5 Current Frameworks of cooperation

1.5.1 Institutional bases of cooperation for each organisation

ACCOBAMS, GFCM Agreement and SPA/BD Protocol (and the Barcelona Convention), although they are separate legal instruments have more or less the same Parties. To ensure harmonization and avoid overlapping and duplication, these Parties requested their Secretariats to establish frameworks for cooperation/consultation and regular exchange of information.

1.5.1.1 ACCOBAMS

The ACCOBAMS Agreement results from consultations between the Secretariats of the three Conventions: the *Barcelona Convention** on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the

Mediterranean Coast (and its new application Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean adopted on 10 June 1995), the *Bonn Convention** on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the *Bern Convention** relative to the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, The *Bucharest Convention** on the protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution joined the group of Conventions later.

The first inter-convention consultations held in Athens on 26 and 27 October 1992 bore essentially on the mechanisms of cooperation, coordination and transmission of information on Cetaceans between the Secretariats of the three above-mentioned Conventions (Barcelona Convention, Bonn Convention, Bern Convention) and all organizations involved in implementing the Action Plan on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas of the UNEP/MAP.

This inter-convention spirit was maintained in the whole preparatory process is still alive. As stated in the Agreement text, ACCOBAMS was aimed to promote and facilitate co-operation among States, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and the non-governmental sector for the conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, the waters, which interconnect these seas, and the contiguous Atlantic area.

The same text recognizes clearly the others Organisations relevant for the ACCOBAMS goals and granted them the right to participate as observers in the Meeting of the Parties.

In order to build upon existing institutions The Agreement created the function of sub-regional coordinating units and by resolution entrust RAC/SPA in this task for the Mediterranean. Tasks, which include the establishment of a sub-regional directory of important areas for cetaceans.

In the same context, the ACCOBAMS, while underlining the need for the Parties to co-operate to create and maintain a network of specially protected areas to conserve cetaceans, through its Conservation Plan included in the Agreement text stated, for the Mediterranean, that such specially protected areas should be established within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, 1976, and its relevant protocol. At the first MOP, 2002, Resolution 1.4 entrusted RAC/SPA with the duties of a Sub-regional Coordinating Unit and mandated the Secretariat to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Centre.

For assessing and managing a human-cetacean interactions ACCOBAMS requires the Parties in co-operation with relevant international organizations to collect and analyze data on direct and indirect interactions between humans and cetaceans in relation to *inter alia* fishing, industrial and touristic activities.

The Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS was formerly, in the final act of negotiation and then in the first meeting of the Parties, by Resolution 1.3, entrusted to CIESM through its expert group on marine mammals in cooperation with ECS and IWC and IUCN-Med. The 5th Meeting of the Parties (2013) decided to share the duties between IUCN-Med and CIESM and organized a rotation of the presidency of the Scientific Committee on 3 yearly base.

In order to avoid overlapping of the Barcelona Convention cetaceans action Plan and ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention, in their 13th Conference, in 2005, recognized that common obligations relating to cetaceans under the SPA/BD Protocol are fulfilled, for the ACCOBAMS Parties, by the implementation of ACCOBAMS and ask for further synergies between RAC/SPA and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat regarding the implementation of the Action Plan.

In this context, ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA have jointly published two main guidelines drafted by the ACCOBAMS scientific Committee related to the establishment and management of specially protected areas devoted to cetaceans conservation and have collaborated in the revision process of the Cetacean Action Plan by the RAC/SPA, as the ACCOBAMS sub-regional Coordination Unit, which will be proposed for adoption to the Barcelona Convention COP19 in February 2016.

1.5.1.2 GFCM

The base for cooperation of GFCM with other Organizations and institutions relies in Article 16 of its Agreement and stated:

- The Commission shall cooperate with other international organizations and institutions in matters of mutual interest.
- The Commission shall seek to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations and institutions, including entering into memoranda of understanding and partnership agreements.

Consistent with this provision, there are currently 11 memoranda of understanding in place between the GFCM. These include: the one with ACCOBAMS, the one with IUCN-MED, the one with MedPAN and the one with UNEP-MAP. Therefore, the GFCM as a framework for cooperation with each of the other four actors involved in this strategy.

Furthermore, the GFCM, in its measures for conservation species registered in the SPA and Biodiversity protocol annexes and ACCOBAMS, brings a very powerful legal conservation measure and cooperation. It focuses particularly on sharks, skates, rays, monk seal, marine turtles, cetaceans and sea birds.

GFCM has developed close relations with CBD for cross-sectoral cooperation related to VMEs and EBSAs.

GFCM has adopted Resolution GFCM37/2013/1 on area-based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in the GFCM convention area and in coordination with the UNEP/MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs.

1.5.1.3 RAC/SPA

Being part of the Barcelona Convention system, RAC/SPA has close link with the others Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of MAP and the Coordination Unit.

As such, we will just underline others MAP components and their potential for our topic.

The Blue Plan Centre, pilots some studies relevant for the economical impact of protected areas: Like the Economic study of the impacts of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean (2013) or the Guidelines for national Economic and Social Analysis of Mediterranean marine ecosystem (2015).

MEDPOL is involved in marine pollution but manage wider thematic issues for the whole MAP context like the EcAp process.

REMPEC links also with IMO, its Co-manager. Beside the topic of the accidental risks the REMPEC manage the MAP Guidelines Concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean.

The PAP/RAC: The Priority Action Programme centre particularly in charge of the support to the Parties in implementing the Protocol for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Its goals are mainly costal but some of the tools developed could be relevant for our study. In particular the CAMPs (Coastal Area Management Programmes) present and integrated pilot field experiences where all the MAP components act together with the local stakeholders to build a management plan for a limited zone. From 1990-2013, 18 CAMPs were developed al around the Mediterranean coasts. New generation of CAMPs, to promote land-sea integration and use of MSP, also addressing trans-boundary aspects, as appropriate, are foreseen in the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (2016-2021).

The Barcelona Convention contains the general basis for cooperation and coordination between MAP structures and others relevant Organizations and asks to ensure the necessary coordination with other international bodies which the Contracting Parties consider competent, and in particular, to enter into such administrative arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of the secretariat functions.

The SPA/BD Protocol contains also requirements related to the cooperation and coordination by its Parties and by the RAC/SPA on species protection.

The Parties are engaged to ensure the necessary coordination with other international bodies, which the Contracting Parties consider competent, and in particular, to enter into such administrative arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of the secretariat functions.

And they shall consult, when necessary, among themselves and with competent international organizations with a view to identifying, planning and undertaking scientific and technical research and monitoring programmes necessary for the identification and monitoring of protected areas and species and assessing the effectiveness of measures taken to implement management and recovery plans.

The RAC/SPA is entrusted in assisting the Parties, in cooperation with the competent international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in:

- Establishing and managing specially protected areas in the area to which this Protocol applies;
- Conducting programmes of technical and scientific research as provided for in Article 20 of this Protocol;
- Conducting the exchange of scientific and technical information among the Parties as provided for in Article 20 of this Protocol;
- Preparing management plans for specially protected areas and species;
- Developing cooperative programmes pursuant to Article 21 of this Protocol;
- Preparing educational materials designed for various groups.

It is also in charge of cooperating with regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection of areas and species, provided that the specificity of each organization and the need to avoid the duplication of activities are respected

As explained in the process of designating SPAMIs, the consultation and coordination processes are facilitated by the inclusion, in the standard Annotated Format for SPAMIs proposal, of a preliminary declaration of intention stating their intention of the proponent Country(ies) to conduct consultation processes with the neighbouring Parties concerned. Through this declaration, the Contracting Party may as appropriate request SPA/RAC and MAP Secretariat assistance to facilitate the consultation process including with relevant international or regional organizations.

1.5.1.4 MedPAN

Through its 2013-2017 strategy, the activities carried out by the network are the result of a strong coordination between its members (MPA managers themselves) and partners (RAC/SPA, GFCM, IUCN-Med, WWF, ACCOBAMS, Conservatoire du Littoral...) so as to ensure effectiveness and reach.

Through its Advisory Committee made of the main regional organizations working on MPAs, MedPAN contribute to a better coordination of activities at Mediterranean level.

MedPAN is also coordinating a regional project funded by the FFEM with WWF and Conservatoire du Littoral.

1.6 Existing MoUs and others institutionalized links

The existing cooperation tools (in chronological order)

	<i>ACCOBAMS</i>	<i>GFCM</i>	<i>RAC/SPA</i>	<i>IUCN-Med</i>	<i>MedPAN</i>
<i>ACCOBAMS</i>		2012	Sub-region coordination 2010 – 2014 2016 (through UNEP-MAP)	2010 & 2014	2012 ; 2014 - 2016
<i>GFCM</i>			2012 (through UNEP-MAP)	2014	2012 ; 2016
<i>RAC/SPA</i>				2013 (UNEP-MAP)	2010, 2014
<i>IUCN-Med</i>					2010 ; 2012 ; 2013 ; 2014
<i>MedPAN</i>					

2002 - ACCOBAMS institutional links

ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA have strong institutional arrangements as from the beginning RAC/SPA was entrusted as Subregional Coordinating Unit by the first meeting of ACCOBAMS Parties. The functions are described in the ACCOBAMS' text and included in the MoU signed in 2015.

ACCOBAMS scientific Committee includes IUCN, CIESM, CMS, IWC and European Cetacean Society.

2002 - ACCOBAMS partnership

ACCOBAMS has granted the label of “**ACCOBAMS Partners**” to organisations that share the ACCOBAMS goals and declare their wishes to collaborate. This Partnership is regulated by an Resolution, which granted special facilities to more than 40 NGOs and Institutions playing a significant role in the relevant activities of the Agreement.

2004 - ACCOBAMS /IUCN-Med

From the entry into force of the Agreement IUCN-Med is full member of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS and his role was enhanced in 2013 as co chair and future chair in the following triennium.

Resolution 2.22 urges the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS to liaise with IUCN-Med, in order to find the ways and the means to strengthen their link and, as far as relevant, to establish a memorandum of understanding to this end.

The relation between both Organisations includes also assessments of the conservation status for the cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea (Red List assessment).

2004 - The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem UNEP-MAP

Although it is not a typical MoU, some of its components are devoted to the implementation of the SAP BIO. The MedPartnership is a collective effort of leading environmental institutions and organizations together with countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea to address the main environmental challenges that Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems face.

One of its components is related to spatial based management and conservation measures aiming to maintain the long-term function of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem through the implementation of an ecologically-coherent network of protected areas for the sustainable use of renewable marine resources.

- Its Sub-component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network (*Executing partners WWF-MedPO and RAC/SPA*) aims to promote the creation, perpetuation and operation of a Mediterranean ecological network of Marine Protected Areas. For this purpose it require identifying and planning new MPAs to expand the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness; improving management of marine protected areas; ensuring the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks.
- Its Sub-component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches, ~~is~~ *Executing partner FAO*). The main aim of this sub-component is to promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches.

The activities of this sub-component focus on:

- Implementing the Ecosystem approach to fisheries management at regional and subregional levels;
- Addressing bycatch of regionally important species at a fleet level;
- Supporting fishermen participation in monitoring and management of coastal MPAs.

2010 MoU MedPAN/RAC/SPA

This MoU is particularly related to Mediterranean MPA joint database.

2010 – MoU MedPAN / IUCN Med

The parties AGREE to cooperate in the following areas:

- Strengthening of scientific evidence on issues of common interest, especially on natural resources and biodiversity, and jointly develop as appropriate new fields of investigations or innovative approaches, especially in relation to ecosystem services, sustainable development and reduction of poverty.
- Collaborating for the formulation of sustainable development frameworks and guidelines;
- Developing collaboration to MedPAN activities:
 - o Development of a common database of Mediterranean marine protected areas;
 - o Preparation jointly of documents (reports, statements) on the situation of Mediterranean marine protected areas in the light of the international objectives;
 - o Organisation jointly of conferences on Mediterranean marine protected areas;
 - o Coordination of a call for projects;
 - o Organisation of thematic exchange experience and training workshops (on priority themes identified jointly);
 - o Development and publication of management tools on the priority themes identified jointly and development of an overall structure and common branding and layout for the series of guidebooks;

- Development of a support system to improve the capacity of marine protected area managers in each of the Mediterranean countries;
 - Communication on Mediterranean marine protected areas and the network with managers, socio-professional stakeholders, the wider public and authorities in Mediterranean countries;
 - Representation of the network of marine protected areas within various bodies and international conferences and in particular at the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Joining efforts for the improvement of governance of the Mediterranean;
 - Working together on the identification and implementation of tools for sustainable development such as the Ecosystem Approach, Protected Areas, Integrated Coastal Zone Management,
 - Developing and reinforcing communication partnerships on subject of common interest

2012- MoU MedPAN/IUCN Med

The first MoU is related to preparation of the 2012 Status report on Mediterranean MPAs, 2020 roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs and 2012 Mediterranean MPA Forum in Antalya. It was updated in 2016, year of the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum in Tangier.

2012 - MoU ACCOBAMS/GFCM

The MoU between ACCOBAMS and GFCM was signed in 2012 its general aims are:

- Collection and assessment of information relating to the conservation of cetaceans in a manner that enables to build upon existing interactions between ACCOBAMS and the GFCM
- Promoting, within the respective mandates, the elaboration of measures contributing to the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- Assessment of human-cetacean interactions, including fishing and aquaculture;
- Collaborating in undertaking assessments of human-cetacean interactions, including by launching joint initiatives to raise awareness about the need to mitigate the negative impacts of such interactions
- Cooperation, Mitigation of the impacts of human-cetacean interactions, including fishing and aquaculture, for better habitats protection and natural resources management
- Developing the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, as well as any other activities for the conservation of cetaceans, so to address possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. tourism, marine renewable energies, etc.);
- Research, monitoring, collection and dissemination of information
- Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including through joint research initiatives, and ensure dissemination of any information relating thereto.
- Development of capacity building activities (e.g. training programmes, dissemination of relevant information, building awareness, etc.)
- Collaborating in the elaboration, including external fundraising, of joint projects for the implementation of activities of common interest in relation to this MoU.

Organizational arrangements

- Yearly bilateral consultations on matters of common interest
- Invitation of Relevant international organizations and relevant initiatives/projects may be invited to join such consultations
- Promotion, contacts, exchange of information and joint activities at national level between their focal points
- Collaboration to be carried out, as appropriate, through joint elaboration, fundraising for and implementation of projects on specific issues of common interest.

- Identification, as appropriate, focal points within their internal organizational structure to coordinate cooperation under this MoU
- Facilitation, within their global knowledge network and to the extent possible, of mutual access to relevant information and body of work as well as dissemination between them.
- Joint missions and the hosting of joint training activities and information sessions.

2012 - MoU GFCM/UNEP-MAP

The general aims of this MoU is to respond to current and newly emerging issues in the realm of the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems, and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources.

The areas of cooperation covers the:

- Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources;
- Mitigation of the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species by the use of best available techniques in fisheries and the development of sustainable aquaculture;
- Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands);
- Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning, and integrated coastal zone management, and other integrated zoning approaches, with a view to mitigate cumulative risks due to reduced access and availability of space affected by multiple and increasing conflictive uses;
- Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation.

Organizational arrangements

- Bilateral consultations on matters of common interest, in accordance with an agenda agreed in advance by them, aiming also at the development/review of their joint activities. Relevant international organisations and relevant initiatives/projects may be invited by both Parties to join such consultations that will take place at least once per year
 - Encouragement of bilateral meetings at desk-to-desk and at expert level and convened on an *ad hoc* basis, as deemed necessary by the Parties to address priority matters regarding the implementation of activities in specific areas, countries and regions.
 - The Parties will consider the possibility of joint missions and the hosting of joint training activities and informal sessions. In this context, they will:
 - Ensure timely and adequate flow of scientific information and analysis between parties, such as stock assessments in the context of development of policy proposals, such as possible amendments to Annex II and III of the SPA/BD protocol.
 - Ensure coordination and synergies in the implementation at regional and, to the extent possible, national level, of commitment undertaken by the parties.

The Parties will encourage, and where possible promote, contacts, exchange of information and joint activities at national level between their focal points, particularly in those countries where the focal points for the Contracting Parties are not the same activities taking care of safeguarding the confidentiality of the information and documents that have this character

2012-2013 MoU MedPAN/RAC/SPA

This MoU is particularly related to Mediterranean MPA joint database, 2012 Status report on Mediterranean MPAs, 2020 roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs and 2012 Mediterranean MPA Forum in Antalya.

2012-2013 MoU MedPAN/ACCOBAMS

This MoU is particularly related to 2012 Status report on Mediterranean MPAs and 2012 Mediterranean MPA Forum in Antalya.

2012 MoU MedPAN/GFCM

This MoU is also related to 2012 Status report on Mediterranean MPAs and 2012 Mediterranean MPA Forum in Antalya.

2014 - MoU ACCOBAMS/RAC/SPA

Signed in 2014, this MoU was designate to define the modalities of collaboration between the two Secretariats in particular regarding the functions of the ACCOBAMS's Subregional Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean entrusted to RAC/SPA.

This MoU asks the RAC/SPA, *inter alia* to facilitate, in consultation with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and Secretariat, the preparation of a series of international reviews or publications, to be updated regularly, including:

- reports on the status and trends of populations, as well as gaps in scientific knowledge;
- a subregional directory of important areas for cetaceans; and
- a subregional directory of national authorities, research and rescue centres, scientists and non-governmental organizations concerned with cetaceans.

The MoU contains a 2014-2016 Working program, which includes:

- The evaluation of the effectiveness of marine protected areas containing critical habitats for cetaceans.
- The continuity of the collaboration between ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA on the development of the manual regarding cetacean conservation for MPAs managers.
- The regular updating of a list of areas containing critical habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region (including high Sea);
- The Evaluating effectiveness of protected areas containing critical habitats for cetaceans using existing initiatives;
- The participation of RAC/SPA in the steering committee for the development and for the fundraising to implement the program "ACCOBAMS Survey initiative" aiming at evaluating the abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area.
- And also:
- The contribution to the implementation of the project on the mitigation of the impacts of fishing activities on cetaceans and other threatened marine species;
- The collaboration on the preparation of the species conservation plans that are considered as necessary by the Scientific Committee;
- The implementing of the cetacean conservation modules in the existing postgraduate programs.

2014 - MoU GFCM/IUCN-Med

Signed in May 2014 this MoU provides a framework to facilitate collaboration in key issues, namely:

- The promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources;
- Mitigation of the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on marine habitats and

- species;
- Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean;
- Integrated maritime policy; and
- Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation.

2014 – MoU UNEP-MAP /IUCN (HQ)

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a more specific framework of cooperation and understanding, and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the biodiversity, species conservation, governance, environmental law, information management, finance and regional cooperation.

2014-2017 MoU MedPAN-RAC/SPA

This MoU is particularly related to the preparation of the 2016 Status Report and Mediterranean MPA Forum as well as joint organization of trainings, workshops and review of the MPA joint database.

2014 - MoU IUCN-Med/MedPAN

Signed in November 2014 this MoU focused the collaboration in the following areas:

- Strengthening of scientific evidence on issues of common interest, especially on natural resources and biodiversity, and jointly develop as appropriate new fields of investigations or innovative approaches, especially in relation to ecosystem services, sustainable development and reduction of poverty;
- Collaborating for the formulation of sustainable development frameworks and guidelines;
- Developing collaboration to MedPAN activities:
 - Development of a common database of Mediterranean marine protected areas-MAPAMED;
 - Preparation jointly of documents (reports, statements) on the situation of Mediterranean marine protected areas in the light of the international objectives;
 - Organisation jointly of conferences on Mediterranean marine protected areas (the Mediterranean MPA Forum)
 - Organisation of thematic exchange experience and training workshops (on priority themes identified jointly);
 - Development and publication of management tools on the priority themes identified jointly and development of an overall structure and common branding and layout for the series of guidebooks
 - Development of a support system to improve the capacity of marine protected area managers in each of the Mediterranean countries;
 - Communication on Mediterranean marine protected areas and the network with managers, socio-professional stakeholders, the wider public and authorities in Mediterranean countries;
 - Representation of the network of marine protected areas within various bodies and international conferences and in particular at the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Barcelona Convention.
 - Joining efforts for the improvement of governance of the Mediterranean;
 - Working together on the identification and implementation of tools for sustainable development such as the Ecosystem Approach, Protected Areas, Integrated Coastal Zone Management,
 - Developing and reinforcing communication partnerships on subject of common interest;

- Joining efforts for contributing and assessing the Mediterranean MPA roadmap until 2020.

Organizational arrangements

- Working together on activities of common interest related to MedPAN activities,
- Answering jointly to calls for proposals and call for tenders relative to fields of common interest in the Mediterranean from cooperation agencies, European Commission, Union for the Mediterranean and foundations in order to put in place cooperation mechanisms.
- Committing themselves to analyse together their proposals to be submitted and looking for maximising their efficiency and coordination.
- Organization, participation in and collaboration on joint initiatives, that may include research and conservation projects, reports, seminars, conferences or other processes related to the programmes of work;
- Collaboration in the publication and dissemination, in relevant international fora, of experience and achievements in conservation of resources and sustainable development;
- Exchange of information on technical issues of common interest; and
- Dissemination of awareness of the Parties' activities within their respective networks

2015 - MoU ACCOBAMS/RAC/SPA/IUCN-Med (2010 and 2014)

Related to the fundraising for the ACCOBAMS Wide Mediterranean Cetaceans Survey (monitoring of cetaceans abundance and distribution).

2015 - MoU ACCOBAMS /UNEP-MAP

It was further presented for endorsement to the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the *Barcelona Convention* and its Protocols in February 2016.

2015 – Agreement ACCOBAMS, WWF-France and GIS3M

For the development of ACCOBAMS interactive database (<http://accobams.geo2i.com/>)

2016- MoU MedPAN/GFCM.

It was signed in March 2016

2016 - MoU MedPAN/ACCOBAMS

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat and MedPAN have established this Memorandum of Collaboration aimed at promoting a representative network of MPAs, in particular for the conservation of cetacean critical habitats, and at developing joint activities for building capacities of MPAs managers.

1.7 Potential contributions of each relevant organisation for spatial based management and conservation measures.

Each Organization has its own mandate, specificities and tools, which not only serve for spatial based management and conservation measures but also for species protection and ecosystem services sustainability. As such some concerted actions could also be foreseen in relation of listing of species in annexes of relevant conventions. A good example is the CITES where, commercially exploited marine species, Article XV.2 (b) obliges the Secretariat to consult inter-governmental bodies having a function in relation to species proposed for inclusion in (or deletion from) Appendix I or II, especially with a view to obtaining scientific data these bodies

may be able to provide and to ensuring co-ordination with any conservation measures enforced by such bodies.

1.7.1 ACCOBAMS

Cetacean species conservation

Establishing the basis for the determination of Cetacean important areas

Establishing the guidelines for management of specially protected areas devoted to Cetaceans

Establishing guidelines for tourist observation of cetaceans

Establishing guidelines for noise

Establishing guidelines on management of cetacean populations

Capacity building

Assistance to Countries

Research and monitoring

Noise and biodiversity monitoring in the EcAp environmental quality indicators

Bycatch

Ship strikes

Marine debris

Networking

Roster of experts

Interactive database

1.7.2 GFCM

Fisheries management, including fishing effort capacity restrictions, spatio-temporal restrictions, technical measures related to fishing gears and selectivity, etc,

Distribution, status, biology and ecology of exploited marine populations

Distribution, status, biology and ecology of species vulnerable to fishing

Identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) to fishing

Status of habitats and ecosystems

Establishing FRAs

Establishing VMS

Capacity building

Assistance to Countries

Research and monitoring

Networking

Roster of experts

Scientific publications

Bycatch in the EcAp environmental quality indicators

1.7.3 RAC/SPA

Establishing and managing SPAs and SPAMIs

Species conservation

Habitats conservation

EcAp

MAPAMED (managed jointly with MedPAN)

Assistance to Countries

Capacity building

Networking

Establishment of guidelines and technical tools

Research and monitoring

Databases on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity features

Roster of experts

1.7.4 *IUCN-Med*

IUCN specialist commissions

Roster of experts

Scientific publications concerning the marine environment, its knowledge and its governance

Technical support to countries for identification, selection, declaration and management of sites

Innovative approaches for marine governance

National strategy for marine protected areas

Development of geoportal or platform

Red List of marine species or habitats (national or regional levels)

Biodiversity management, including exotic species

1.7.5 *MedPAN*

MAPAMED (managed jointly with RAC/SPA)

Networking with MPA managers

Technical Support for a better implementation of management measures at MPA level

1.8 Analysis of the commonalities of the five concerned organisations

In anticipation of the next phase, the analysis of commonalities presented hereinafter concerns the involvement of the 5 organisations regarding the spatial based management and conservation measures. For each organisation, it identifies the Mandate, origin, role and activities in relation to the following steps of the spatial conservation process; it may be further elaborated in consultation with the five organisations:

- Elaboration of national regional strategies and legal instruments
- Knowledge and data collection
- Elaboration of designation files
- Consultation process
- Designation of conservation areas and measures

Analysis of commonalities in the field of **Elaboration of strategies and legal instruments**

Elaboration of strategies and legal instruments		
	At national level	At regional level
ACCOBAMS	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement, conservation plan, relevant decisions of MoPs</p> <p>Role: implementation facilitation, assistance, capacity building, and model legal measures.</p> <p>Activities: Assistance to countries in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaborating National Action Plans for the Conservation of endangered species (cetaceans) - Developing national legislation regarding protected areas 	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement, conservation plan, relevant decisions of MoPs</p> <p>Role: harmonisation, normalisation of measures and guidelines, coordination with IOs</p> <p>Activities: Guides lines on: acoustic deterrent devices, commercial Whales-Watching, Specially protected areas, man-made noises, facilitation for scientific research, exceptions granting for captures and harassment, ship strikes, Elaboration of Conservation Plans for Bottlenose Dolphin and short-beaked Dolphin</p>
CGPM	<p>Mandate origin: Commission binding Resolutions</p> <p>Role: promotion of sustainable use of marine living resources</p> <p>Activities: Annually adopted by the Commission at its session</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Commission binding Resolutions</p> <p>Role: promotion of sustainable use of marine living resources</p> <p>Activities: Annually adopted by the Commission at its session</p>
RAC/SPA	<p>Mandate origin: SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO UNEP/MAP CoPs acting as Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols</p> <p>Role: Assist the SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p> <p>Activities: Assistance to countries in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaborating National Action Plans for the Conservation of endangered species and habitats (Monk seal, turtles, cetaceans, birds, elasmobranches, marine vegetation, etc) - Developing national legislation regarding protected areas - Elaborating national strategies for MPAs 	<p>Mandate origin: SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO UNEP/MAP CoPs acting as Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols</p> <p>Role: Assist the SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaboration and coordination of Regional Action Plans - Elaboration of the regional programme of work on Protected Areas
IUCN-Med	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Assistance to countries in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing national legislation regarding protected areas - elaborating national strategies for MPAs 	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: follow up of global and regional recommendations and resolutions Legal analysis and assessment on MPAs, Fisheries, ICZM, Institutional analysis and assessment Deep sea strategy Red list of species – review of national and international red list of species Red list of habitats or ecosystems Green list of protected areas</p>
MedPAN	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>	<p>RAC/SPA, WWF...)</p> <p>Role: guides lines and technical tools, regular assessment of status of MPAs, networking at technical level, representation of MPAs at European, Mediterranean and International levels</p> <p>Activities: knowledge coordination on MPAs (database...), communication and representation of MPA managers, technical support of MPAs (trainings, workshops, call for small projects...)</p>

Analysis of commonalities in the field of **Knowledge and data collection**

	Inventory of sites of special interest	Conservation status of species, including threats
ACCOBAMS	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Assistance to countries in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying areas of interest for cetaceans - Collaboration with the CBD in establishment of Mediterranean EBSAs 	<p>Mandate origin: CST</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration with IUCN in assessing the conservation status of Mediterranean cetacean populations
CGPM	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement and DCRF</p> <p>Role: collect and analyse data for the purpose of sustainable management of fisheries</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asses the state of marine living resources -Identify VMEs 	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement and DCRF</p> <p>Role: collect and analyse data for the purpose of sustainable management of fisheries</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Asses the state of marine living resources</p>
RAC/SPA	<p>Mandate origin: SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO UNEP/MAP CoPs acting as Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Regional Action Plans</p> <p>Role: Assist the SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Assistance to countries in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identifying areas of conservation interest - pre-identifying areas suitable to be declared as open sea-SPAMs by the concerned neighbouring countries - Collaboration with CBD and IUCN in the identification of EBSAs in the Mediterranean 	<p>Mandate origin: SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO UNEP/MAP CoPs acting as Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Regional Action Plans</p> <p>Role: Assist the SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Encouraging the development and availability of scientific data on Mediterranean threatened species;</p> <p>Elaboration of guidelines for the management and conservation of threatened species.</p>
IUCN-Med	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Assistance to countries in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing national legislation regarding protected areas - Collaboration with the CBD and RAC/SPA in establishment of Mediterranean EBSAs 	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Encouraging the development and availability of scientific data on Mediterranean species;</p> <p>Promoting regional conservation tools, especially Red Lists or Actions Plans, that can guide conservation actions;</p> <p>Facilitation of expert workshops for the assessment of conservation status of marine endangered species (marine mammals, turtles)</p> <p>Collaboration with IUCN in assessing the conservation status of Mediterranean cetacean populations</p>
MedPAN	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role: data collection and updating (GIS, data on management of MPAs)</p> <p>Activities: establishment and management together with the RAC/SPA of the Mediterranean MPA database : MAPAMED ; monitoring protocols database online.</p>

Analysis of commonalities in the field of **Elaboration of proposal for spatial and conservation and measure files**

	Inventory of sites of special interest	Conservation status of species, including threats
ACCOBAMS	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Assistance to countries in defining cetacean critical habitats</p>	<p>Mandate origin: MoP, CST</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Relation with CMS and CITES for establishing of Annexes' amendments</p>
CGPM	<p>Mandate origin: COPs</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Managing the process of designation of feasible FRAs</p>	<p>Mandate origin: COPs</p> <p>Role: multiannual management plan</p> <p>Activities: Managing the process of designation of feasible FRAs</p>
RAC/SPA	<p>Mandate origin: SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO UNEP/MAP CoPs acting as Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Regional Action Plans</p> <p>Role: Assist the SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p> <p>Activities: Managing the process of designation and periodic evaluation of SPAMIs Collaboration with CBD for the EBSAs identification</p>	<p>Mandate origin: SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO UNEP/MAP CoPs acting as Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Regional Action Plans</p> <p>Role: Assist the SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p> <p>Activities: Consultation with CGPM for the amendment of Annex II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol</p>
IUCN-Med	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>
MedPAN	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Canyons Seamounts</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>

Analysis of commonalities in the field of **Consultation process**

	Inventory of sites of special interest	Conservation status of species, including threats
ACCOBAMS	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement Role: Activities: Assistance to countries in: relation with the scientific community and specialized Organizations.</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Action Plan Role: Activities: Consultation with GFCM on mitigation of incidental catches of Cetaceans Consultation with Industries (in relation with CMS and IWC) for the identification of threads, monitoring for emerging threads, mapping of threads</p>
CGPM	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement and MoU Role: Improve synergies Activities: with ACCOBAMS, IUCN-MED, MedPAN and UNEP-MAP carry out activities foreseen in the MoU</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement and MoU Role: Improve synergies Activities: with ACCOBAMS, IUCN-MED, MedPAN and UNEP-MAP carry out activities foreseen in the MoU</p>
RAC/SPA	<p>Mandate origin: Role: Activities: consultation with GFCM on SPAMI designation</p> <p>Assistance to countries in: facilitation of consultation between countries (open sea-SPAMIs)</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Role: Activities:</p> <p>-Consultation with countries and GFCM on the amendment of annex I and II to SPA/BD Protocol.</p>
IUCN-Med	<p>Mandate origin: Role: Activities: Assistance to countries in: facilitation of consultation between countries</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Role: Activities:</p>
MedPAN	<p>Mandate origin: Role: Activities:</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Role: Activities: consultation of several organizations at local, national and regional levels to elaborate the 2020 roadmap and 2013-2017 MedPAN strategy</p>

Analysis of commonalities in the field of **Designation of conservation areas and measures**

	Inventory of sites of special interest	Conservation status of species, including threats
ACCOBAMS	<p>Mandate origin: MoPs, scientific Committee</p> <p>Role: guides lines</p> <p>Activities: Establishment of the map of zones of importance for cetaceans</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>
CGPM	<p>Mandate origin: Agreement</p> <p>Role: conservation and management measures, including FRAs</p> <p>Activities: elaborate scientific advice and use it for the purposes of adopting binding recommendations on Members</p>	<p>Mandate origin: Commission and SAC, relations with ICCAT</p> <p>Role: establishment of fishing quotas</p> <p>Activities: elaborate scientific advice and use it for the purposes of adopting binding recommendations on Members</p>
RAC/SPA	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Assistance to countries in:</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>
IUCN-Med	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities: Assistance to countries in:</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>
MedPAN	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>	<p>Mandate origin:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Activities:</p>

1.9 Why now? New opportunities

Requests for collaboration incitation between pertinent organisations is not new, let's recall inter alia that Mediterranean Action Plan was the first of the Regional Seas Programmes of UNEP and that in 1974 focus inter alia on the strengthening of collaboration mechanisms to address common regional objectives, partnerships and co-ordinated regional implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, global and regional initiatives by United Nations Agencies.

Since recent times, and more close to our concerns, several very valuable attempts have been made to propose important zones for Mediterranean biodiversity management clustering biodiversity and live resources indexes, anthropogenic threats. Some kept in scientific literature, others brought for consideration in Intergovernmental fora. In the meantime several initiatives have drafted priorities areas for biodiversity and marine resources sustainable managements in the region, establishing GIS overlapping biodiversity data and threats.

From maps and inventory we have to move to management and conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, including the challenge of reaching the achievement of international objectives such as the Aichi target 11 of the CBD or Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a wide understanding of its meaning and its positive impact on marine resources availability. It is worthy to be noted that marine conservation and management trends have intensively extended worldwide to the need to preserve biodiversity and live resources in areas located in the pelagic and deep-sea domains. It is well established that deep sea ecosystems are very sensitive to human impacts and the recovery capacity for the demersal and benthic communities has to be measured in most cases at the scale of centuries (i.e. irreversible at human scale). While human activities in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction are strongly increasing, the monitoring of their impacts are absent in practice, while even the geographical identification of the deep sea biodiversity values are at very early stage for most of the Regions.

UNEP's mandate on the conservation of the marine biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) has not been explicitly recognized. However, the Mediterranean, together with other few UNEP coordinated Regional Seas, clearly include ABNJ in their geographic coverage.

The GFCM, over the last years, has been addressing issues related to marine protected areas *sensu latu* especially as a tool for fisheries management. In line with the vulnerable marine ecosystem (VMEs) concept promoted by FAO and its International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas, GFCM has already implement deep-sea resources management by establishment four fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) and the prohibition of bottom-trawling activities in waters below 1000 meters.

With Resolution 69/292, the GA has decided to develop an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. However, UNEP/DELC is willing to explore if the international law community might launch, during the time needed for the completion of the work under the aegis of UNCLOS, further initiatives on protection of living marine resources and biodiversity in ABNJ. On that sense, UNEP has been advocating for regional approaches to be included in a future legal instrument, considering that such regional approaches should be combined with any global mechanism in applying area-based management tools, including marine protected areas and in

coordinating and regulating sector activities. Such UNEP's regional approach to ABNJ is envisaged to be based on the Regional Seas programmes and Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs). Cooperation among relevant such bodies within concrete regions would no doubt provide valuable experiences applicable to the sustainable use of live marine resources and preservation of biodiversity.

Furthermore, the final report of the Global Ocean Commission (2014) recommended that a move be made from RFMOs to Regional Ocean Management Organisations (ROMOs) where more integrated management can take place. No doubt, highly migratory species and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems can be much benefitted through this step forward.

At Mediterranean regional scale, UNEP/MAP and its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, through the EC funded project MedOpenSeas, already selected twelve priority areas in the pelagic and deep-sea domain supported by the advice of the organizations concerned by the current joint strategy development. Those areas were endorsed in an extraordinary meeting of SPA FP held in Istanbul in 2010. Some key consultation meetings followed from 2011 to 2015 on the establishment of SPAMIs in five out of those twelve agreed priority areas in the Mediterranean: Gulf of Lions, Alboran Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Sicily Channel and the Tunisian Plateau. For all those priority sites thematic reports, containing compiled and new scientific data, were elaborated (specifically thematic reports on cetaceans, seabirds and fisheries, with emphasis in elasmobranchs; as well as overall ecology reports). Notwithstanding their interest, these multiple initiatives kept the stakeholders in a non-decision situation.

Also recently, integrating the global reflexions on Ecosystem Based Management, the main Mediterranean biodiversity related bodies gathered around the concept of Ecological or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) developed in the Convention on biological Diversity as a sound understanding of the most ecologically and biologically important ocean areas that support healthy marine ecosystems. In a joint CBD-UNEP/MAP meeting in Malaga, Spain (2014), a proposal listing 17 descriptions of EBSAs for the Mediterranean was drafted and then almost wholly endorsed (15 out of 17 ones) by the 2014 CBD Conference of the Parties. EBSAs are expected to be better managed through diverse adequate tools, and actions coordinated through a joint strategy may support that need in the Mediterranean.

Another opportunity for cooperation in the field of marine conservation and management is given by the Directive 2014/89/EU, entered into force in September 2014. It applies to the European Union Member States, eight of them riparian to the Mediterranean Sea. It requires cross-border cooperation between those Member States sharing a sea and promotes co-operation between the EU Member States and third countries on their actions with regard to Marine Spatial Planning.

Step by step, the major Mediterranean organisation has concluded bilateral approaches, which covers quite the whole available tools for fostering spatial based management and conservation measures. Together, they are already involved in two processes under the frame of UNEP/MAP: The SAP BIO and EcAp.

Currently every one also has its own Strategy in which none have omitted to include the need of an effective cooperation among them all respectful of their own main missions, conservation or marine resources sustainable management and benefiting of their respective tolls and knowledge.

As such, involved organisations can, today, rely on clear decisions on where they have to act. They are ready for a common wording and a common requirement for a common advocacy to

draft spatial based management and conservation measures in the frame of EBM for the reduction of cumulative impacts and to propose them to their respective stakeholders.

2. Guiding document: Steps towards joint proposals for the establishment and management of area based measures in open and deep Mediterranean Sea at multinational level.

Considering the respective prerogatives, potentials and tools of the five concerned organisations as analysed in the Section 1 of this document, a step-by-step approach for establishing spatial based management and conservation measures is proposed.

Although each organisation has its own goals and priorities, the proposed approach will ensure a high level of complementarities, harmonisation and synergy of their action regarding the establishment of area based conservation/management measures. Indeed, the five organisations may have different level of interest to geographical areas or to conservation/management topics. The main challenge of the joint strategy would be therefore to define clear steps that take into account the mandate of each organisation and ensure a smooth overlapping of the procedures required by the governance frameworks of these organisations. For this purpose the five concerned organisations will engage themselves in a strategical Alliance by a common declaration and cooperate through a join Committee.

Considering the legal and institutional requirements for the establishment of area-based conservation and management measures and taking into account the goals and mandates of the five organisations the following nine steps are proposed for elaborating joint proposals for the establishment and management of area-based measures at multinational level:

A) Attempt to collect basic information and identify priority areas that shall be protected or managed, and fall mainly within the responsibility of the technical bodies of the organizations and their secretariats.

- STEP 1 : identification of the area and/or measures (rationale, available knowledge and data collection on biodiversity and human activities).
- STEP 2 : Identifying and fulfilling the gaps in information.
- STEP 3 : Focused preliminary description of human activity and stakeholders in the area.

B) Initiation of the process of protecting a specific area, and shall be launched by an interested party within one or more of the organizations part of this strategy.

- STEP 4 : Declaration of intent/interest.

C) Insurance, within each of the organizations involved in the process, that the requirements towards the designation of a given protection figure are met.

- STEP 5 : Elaboration of designation files.
- STEP 6 : Consultation process.
- STEP 7 : Finalization of the designation files including the agreed area based conservation and management measures.
- STEP 8: Official designation of SPAMI and/or FRA or other area based conservation and/or management measures.

D) Address of the required follow up actions to be taken, in coordination among the different organizations.

- STEP 9: Follow-up: Coordination in order to ensure that suitable measures for the conservation and management of these areas are implemented and adapted to any new challenge.

In parallel an analysis of the existing Protected Areas will be conducted to check the potential of complementarities between the available tools of the organisation.

2.1 STEP 1: Identification (rationale, available knowledge and available data collection)

Rationale: The bases for the identification of open and deep Mediterranean Sea zones in need for spatial conservation and management measures are quite well defined in many parts of the Mediterranean. Although some scientific gaps exist, and should be filled, they will not impede the establishment of common initial proposals.

At the joint CBD-UNEP/MAP meeting in Malaga, Spain, descriptions of 17 Ecological or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) were defined. The CBD listed so far 15 of them in the EBSA repository from which several cover deep and open seas.

GFCM has its area-based management tool: fisheries restricted area (FRA), which have an important role to play in connection with the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), according to UNGA resolution 61/105 on sustainable fisheries and following instruments

The Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) are identified within the framework of ACCOBAMS. Although they have quite well being included in the EBSAs process some case may appears isolate from any already existing context. In itself CCH is not a tool for conservation, as ACCOBAMS recognizes clearly that the tools of the Barcelona Convention are relevant for its purpose. However, ACCOBAMS relies also on a set of decisions of its Parties some of which (concerning one or several species) are geographically focused⁴.

Objective(s): Build on the available knowledge and the outcomes of the relevant initiatives to identify priority actions agreed by the five organisations, in full consultation with their relevant governing bodies or structures.

Activities and expected output(s): Step 1 will be dedicated to take stock of the results of the relevant initiatives and to identify priority areas of common interest to be considered for the next Steps (2 to 8). In this context the following activities will be undertaken:

- Merge the EBSAs criteria and those of area-based management tools for the protection of VMEs;
- Based on existing sets of criteria for identification of sites, prepare a common one for the Mediterranean;
- Define how to prioritize areas in need for action, also having regard of Climate change vulnerability; and
- Look for a common understanding between the five organisations on Environmental Impacts Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments (SIAs) taking into account cumulative effects.

⁴Pursuant to Resolution 4.5, further work on areas of importance for cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area based on the Critical Cetacean Habitats (CCH) is ongoing through a threat based management approach. The objective is to gather information that can be mapped, not only on cetaceans but also on the marine environment, human activities, threats and existing MPAs.

Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) represent an international effort currently undertaken by the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Area Task Force (MMPA TF). ACCOBAMS is collaborating in the development of IMMAs based on CCHs, as they represent an added value to CCH since they address the management aspects related to the conservation of Cetacean.

At this level several commitments should be clear:

- Identification of metadata;
- Sharing the available data in a consistent form and focused on the goals;
- Reassessment of available data;
- Common identification of the gaps;
- Dispatching of the gaps filling between the competent organisations.

Lead structure: From this level, networking between the concerned organisations through a consultative committee may be foreseen. This committee, as far as necessary, could rely on a joint experts' working group analysing the work available from scientific institutions/organisations (see annex 1).

2.2 STEP 2: Fulfilling the gaps in information

Rationale: The knowledge of the high sea zones and the deep sea areas being scarce and very limited, there is a clear need for developing and implementing joint programmes aimed at fulfilling the gaps in knowledge and providing rationale elements for designation of conservation measures in clearly delimited areas. All designation of EBSAs and FRAs require a scientific assessment and therefore some scientific data characterizing the area exist. Within the strategy, and taking into account the common set of criteria and guidelines mentioned above, there could be however a need to expand the current knowledge and datasets, including also information on current management measures and potential management gaps.

Objective(s): Collect baseline information on the biological and ecological features of the candidate area highlighting the endangered and/or sensitive species and habitats. The ultimate objective is to provide scientific evidence of important biodiversity and socio-economical values presence in sites delimited within a priority area of common interest.

Activities and expected output(s): Assist the concerned countries in developing field surveys to collect data and information about the marine components and uses to support the designation process, in particular the delineation of the sites to be protected and the conservation and management measures.

Cooperation: The regional organisations may play a significant role in facilitating the collaboration among the concerned countries in designing the surveying programmes and in fundraising.

Lead structure: The Committee.

Possible Partners: The scientific institutions of the concerned countries and organisations and in particular the MedPAN scientific committee

2.3 STEP 3: Focused preliminary description of human activity and stakeholders in the Area

Rationale: In order to identify a first set of concerned countries and stakeholders a preliminary description of status (such as EEZ) activities in each candidate area, focusing on the ultimate objective(s), should be made available by the relevant organisation(s).

Objective(s): to identify the concerned organisations and to identify the relevant stakeholders in order to build a participative approach. To identify the best intergovernmental tools available for the purpose.

Activities and expected output(s): drafting a concrete descriptive document including the major human activities to be managed in order to smooth human interactions with the sites chosen within a priority area of common interest. To dispatch the draft and lobby the Countries that may be concerned.

Lead structure: The Committee

Possible Partners: The scientific institutions of the concerned countries and organisations, other Mediterranean or Worldwide intergovernmental bodies (CMS, FAO, UfM, ...), International Agencies and International Environmental Foundations.

NB: step 2 and 3 are very related and may be merged in some cases.

2.4 STEP 4: Declaration of intent/interest

Rationale: the official process for the proposal of a spatial managed area should come from countries; to launch the process as such a declaration of intent/interest should be published. For SPAMI, Decision IG.20/7 of the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention provided for a "preliminary declaration" in order to raise the general awareness and collected support or concerns from Countries.

Objective(s): To gain support at the national, regional and international levels for the declaration of interest for specific areas. To gain the support of other international Agreements relevant to the Mediterranean.

Activities and expected output(s): To liaise with interested Countries and help them to draft a declaration of intent or any other kind of document provided by the institutional decisions of the member States. The identification of one or more States to advocate for the project and lead the process may be an upmost way to progress.

Lobbying countries, including towards a possible declaration of intent, or any other outcome document, which could be presented to the respective decision meetings: Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (through UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA); Meeting of the Parties to the ACCOBAMS, and GFCM Session. A collection of the results of a first round of consultation among the concerned Countries, including the possible/expected bottleneck of the proposal.

Lead structure: The Committee

Possible Partners: Parties, members Countries and contacts of the five organisations.

2.5 STEP 5: Elaboration of designation files

Rationale: The different ways to present the technical component of proposals will be merged in order for each organisation to find its own way in achieving the files presentation but keeping a common proposal description. The objectives of the conservation and management measures, as well as the zoning and a schematic management plan (if relevant), will be proposed during this step and discussed in the consultation process.

Objective To prepare a technical document describing the state of the art, existing management measures, general aim of the new protection status and roadmap for the consultation towards joint management measures?

Activities and expected output(s): Once the concerned Countries have transmitted to the Secretariats the Declaration of Intent or other relevant document, the concerned organisations will facilitate the drafting of the proposal file, taking into account if necessary the advice provided by their technical subsidiary bodies, and in accordance with their respective format and procedure. One of the key issues will be the delineation of the area, which can be unique for the whole concerned organisations or alternatively a patchwork of overlapping parts as in the wider concept of "biosphere reserves".

Lead structure: At this step a joint experts' working group may be useful in order to concentrate the process on the main human activity(ies) to be managed. This will be done in close relation to Res. GFCM/37/2013/1 "on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of FRAs, in the GFCM convention area and coordination with the UNEP-MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs" or with ACCOBAMS for geographically focused management or conservation plans.

2.6 STEP 6: Consultation process

Rationale: Consultation among concerned countries⁵, as well as consultation with relevant international/regional organisations are required to revise the draft designation files and to build a wide consensus for the designation of the candidate area.

Objective : To facilitate the review of the draft designation file by concerned countries and inputs by relevant international/regional organisations, and to prepare a technical document describing the state of the art, existing management measures, general aim of the new protection status and roadmap for the consultation towards joint management measures.

Activities and expected output(s): Using the draft designation file prepared in Step 5, each organisation, mandated in the framework of the Declaration of intent, will

⁵ The special case of areas beyond national jurisdiction should be considered

undertake the necessary consultation process as required by its relevant procedures.

The governance bodies of the Barcelona Convention, GFCM and ACCOBAMS provide the platform for further official consultations.

In addition to the official process, the partner organisations will endeavour to support domestic advocacy processes through dissemination of information and by catalysing the harmonization of positions of various ministries.

In the process of consultation the knowledge on the area and the socio-economical factors will be regularly improved.

Lead structure: The Committee

2.7 *STEP 7 Finalization of the designation files including the agreed area based conservation and management measures*

Rationale: The views and opinion expressed during the consultation process conducted under Step 6 should be taken into consideration to finalise the area base conservation and management measures. An efficient sharing of information among the involved organisations will allow identifying the measures applicable to the area.

Objective: drafting of the final proposal in the format required by the relevant organisation.

Activities and expected output(s): The designation files will be amended taking into account the results of Step 6. The output of Step 7 will be the final version of the designation files or management measures ready to be submitted to final stages of designation by the Contracting Parties of the relevant Agreement.

Lead structure: ACCOBAMS, RAC/SPA, GFCM

2.8 *STEP 8: Official designation of SPAMI and/or FRA or other management measures*

Once the area based measures defined and/or the sites delimited, where possible and needed, proposal for designation as MPAs by countries, SPAMI or FRA or geographically delimited measures could be established. In this case, the relevant procedure of each country or organisation will have to be followed. Other kind of needed or pertinent (e.g. OMM/P.S.S.A.) spatial management measures can also be advocated toward relevant international organisation or concerned States.

2.9 *STEP 9: Follow-up: Coordination in order to ensure that suitable measures for the conservation and management of these areas are implemented and adapted to any new challenge.*

Rationale: to ensure that the management measures are implemented and that they are still adapted to face the threats.

Objective: Follow up and external evaluation of officially declared conservation and management measures related to the five involved organisations.

Activities and expected output(s): participation to the regular institutional evaluation processes of each organisation and if relevant to propose a new common arrangement to this aim. Draft recommendation to the concerned States.

Lead structure: The Committee established in Step 1.

Possible partners: Other maritime organizations skilled/mandated for monitoring / surveillance

3. The joint cooperation strategy for enhancing UNEP/MAP cooperation on spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity with regional partners through SPA/RAC

Considering the need of facilitating effective conservation and sustainable use of the Mediterranean marine biodiversity, as required by their respective mandates and with special emphasis on open sea¹ areas, including deep sea² (herein after referred to as “open sea”);

Recognising that the challenges facing marine ecosystems, including in Mediterranean open seas, require effective monitoring and development of spatial-based protection and management measures;

Recalling the common vision, the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and the Good Environmental Status descriptions and targets, as defined in the Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the Ecosystems Approach (Decisions IG. 17/6, IG. 20/4, IG. 21/3 and IG. 22/7);

Considering the on-going work for the establishment of an instrument on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

Building on, where available, the bilateral Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Partners, and in particular those addressing spatial-based management and conservation measures;

The Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), and the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) through its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), herein after referred to as “the Partners”, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), agree on the following Joint Cooperation Strategy:

3.1 Objectives

The overall aim of the Joint Cooperation Strategy is to contribute to the achievement of SDG 14, in particular 14.2, 14.5, 14.7 to be achieved in the Mediterranean; and that the application of the precautionary principle and of the Ecosystem Approach is strengthened in a coordinated manner.

In particular, the objectives of the Joint Cooperation Strategy are that:

- (1) the conservation and the sustainable use of the open sea in the Mediterranean are ensured through the best available knowledge and the application of the precautionary principle and the Ecosystem Approach;
- (2) the activities undertaken by the concerned Partners in relation to the spatial-based management and conservation in the open sea in the Mediterranean are harmonised and complement each other.

3.2 Areas of Cooperation

The Partners, in line with the individual mandates, strategies and Programmes of Work of their respective Organizations will cooperate to:

- (1) Collect and exchange information to identify priority areas that could be protected or managed in a coordinated manner;
- (2) Identify and fulfil gaps in information still needed to initiate the process of protecting a specific area;
- (3) Assist interested countries in a coordinated manner in declaring intent/interest of protecting a specific area and on the process to do so;
- (4) Assist interested countries in a coordinated manner to:
 - (i) elaborate the designation files;
 - (ii) undertake national consultation processes in case need be;
 - (iii) finalize the designation files including the agreed area based conservation and management measures;
 - (iv) undertake the official designation of SPAMI and/or FRA or other area-based conservation and/or management measures;
- (5) Address follow up actions in a coordinated manner

3.3 Modalities of Cooperation

A Coordination Committee is established under this Joint Cooperation Strategy, made of a representative of each Partner and with the rotating Chairing among the Secretariats, with the following roles and responsibilities:

- (i) Steer the strategic process and develop options for the Areas of Cooperation, as described in point 2 above;
- (ii) Establish a time frame for implementing the strategic action described under point 2 above, and agree on role-sharing among the Partners, in line with their mandates and comparative advantages;
- (iii) Foster and promote coordinated outreach, public awareness and scientific research and observation, and liaise with other appropriate organisations (such as IMO);
- (iv) Facilitate the information among Partners on new areas registered, as well as on any change regarding the border or status of an area previously registered;
- (v) Advise the regular established evaluation processes of the status of the areas;
- (vi) Undertake, after common consultation, other tasks as may be deemed appropriate in line with the individual mandates, strategies and Programmes of Work of their respective Organizations.

3.4 Implementation Aspects

The practical arrangements for the implementation of this Cooperation Strategy, including financing of the modalities and areas of cooperation will be discussed in the first meeting of

the Coordination Committee, in line with the Partners' mandates and financial rules. If necessary, joint efforts will be undertaken to mobilize resources for activities foreseen under point 2, without additional financial burden to the respective Organizations of the Partners.

3.5 Reporting

Each Partner will inform its respective governing body on the implementation of this Joint Cooperation Strategy.

3.6 Participation

This Joint Cooperation Strategy is open for the participation of any other relevant and interested International or Regional Organization, provided its participation is approved by all the Partners.

¹ Open sea: Term adaptation to the Mediterranean Sea from "Open ocean" defined by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission as a non-legal term commonly understood by scientists to refer to the water column beyond the continental shelf, in other words, non-coastal. Open ocean may occur in areas within national jurisdiction in States with a narrow continental shelf (GFCM: SAC13/2011/Inf.10) UNESCO. 2009. *Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS) – Biogeographic Classification*. Paris, UNESCO-IOC. (IOC Technical Series, 84.)

²) Deep sea: Sea water column below 200 m. It is a fully aphotic zone (GFCM: SAC13/2011/Inf.10). UNESCO. 2009. *Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS) – Biogeographic Classification*. Paris, UNESCO-IOC. (IOC Technical Series, 84.)

4. ANNEXES

4.1 *Relevant Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions*

In yellow those related to cooperation

In blue those related to spatial management and conservative measures

4.1.1 ACCOBAMS

Res.	Title
1.4	Establishing the sub regional co-ordination unit for the Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
1.7	Establishment of a supplementary conservation grants fund
2.2	Strengthening links with UNEP and CMS
2.11	Facilitation of scientific research campaigns and programs
2.12	Guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices
2.13	Pelagic gillnets
2.16	Assessment and impact assessment of man-made noise
2.21	Assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area
2.22	Relation with IUCN
2.25	Prey depletion
2.30	Recognising the important role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in cetacean conservation
3.8	Strengthening collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
3.10	Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals in the ACCOBAMS area
3.13	Dolphin interaction programmes
3.19	IUCN red list of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
3.22	Marine protected areas for cetaceans
3.23	Commercial whale-watching: towards a label
4.7	Commercial cetacean-watching activities in the ACCOBAMS area
4.8	Contribution from ACCOBAMS to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
4.9	Fisheries interactions with cetaceans
4.13	Conservation of the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin
4.14	Climate change
4.15	Marine Protected Areas of importance for cetacean conservation
4.17	Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area
4.19	Model measures for the conservation of cetaceans
4.20	Strengthening the status of ACCOBAMS Partners
4.24.	ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2013-2023)
A/4.1	Amendments: Extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope
5.1	ACCOBAMS long term strategy 2014-2025
5.2	Work programme 2014-2016
5.8	Rio + 20: perspectives for the ACCOBAMS
5.9	ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative
5.10	Commercial Cetacean Watching in the ACCOBAMS Area
5.11	Ships Strikes on Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
5.12	Work towards a Conservation Plan for Fin Whales in the Mediterranean Sea
5.13	Conservation of Cuvier's Beaked Whales in the Mediterranean
5.15	Addressing the impact of Anthropogenic Noise

4.1.2 *GFCM*

GFCM Resolution and recommendations

Rec. GFCM/39/2015/4	on management measures for piked dogfish in the Black Sea
Rec. GFCM/39/2015/3	on the establishment of a set of measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in turbot fisheries in the Black Sea
Rec. GFCM/39/2015/2	on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom trawling fisheries of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily, pending the development and adoption of a multiannual management plan
Rec. GFCM/39/2015/1	establishing further precautionary and emergency measures in 2016 for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and GSA 18)
Rec. GFCM/38/2014/1	amending Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 and on precautionary and emergency measures for 2015 on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM GSA 17
Res. GFCM/38/2014/1	on Guidelines on VMS and related control systems in the GFCM area of competence
Rec. GFCM/37/2013/2	on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea
Rec. GFCM/37/2013/1	on a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM-GSA 17 (Northern Adriatic Sea) and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in GSA 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea)
Rec. GFCM/37/2013/1	on Guidelines on the management of fishing capacity in the GFCM area
Res. GFCM/37/2013/1	on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in the GFCM convention area and coordination with the UNEP-MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs
Rec. GFCM/36/2012/3	On fisheries management measures for conservation of sharks and rays in the GFCM area
Rec. GFCM/36/2012/2	On mitigation of incidental catches of cetaceans in the GFCM area
Rec. GFCM/36/2012/1	On further measures for the exploitation of red

	coral in the GFCM area
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/2	On the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM Competence Area
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/3	On reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in fisheries in the GFCM Competence Area
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/4	On the incidental by-catch of sea turtles in fisheries in the GFCM Competence Area
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/5	On fisheries measures for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>) in the GFCM Competence Area
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/7 (b)	ICCAT Recommendation [10-06] on Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/7 (c)	ICCAT Recommendation [10-08] on Hammerhead sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
Rec. GFCM/35/2011/7(d)	ICCAT recommendation [10-09] on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries
Rec.GFCM/35/2011/7(e)	ICCAT Recommendation [07-07] on reducing the incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries
	on the management of fishing capacity
Rec. GFCM/34/2010/2	
Rec. GFCM/34/2010/4(c)	concerning the Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area
Res. GFCM/33/2009/1	on the management of demersal Fisheries in the GFCM area
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/1	On the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) in the Gulf of Lion
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/2	on a minimum Mesh Size in the codend of demersal trawls nets
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/7	Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the GFCM area
Rec. GFCM/32/2008/2	concerning the recommendation [07-01] by ICCAT on Mediterranean swordfish
Rec. GFCM/31/2007/4	On the Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals
Rec. GFCM/31/2007/3	on the 40 mm square mesh size in codend of trawl nets exploiting demersal resources
Rec. GFCM/31/2007/1	on the mesh size of trawl nets exploiting demersal resources
Rec. GFCM/30/2006/8(b)	concerning the Recommendation [05-05] to amend the Recommendation [04-10] concerning the conservation of Sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
Rec. GFCM/30/2006/3	On the establishment of fisheries restrictive

	areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats
Rec. GFCM/29/2006/2	on the establishment of a closed season for the dolphinfish fisheries based on fishing aggregation devices (FADs)
Rec. GFCM/29/2006/1	on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic
Rec. GFCM/29/2005/3(a)	concerning the Recommendation [03-04] relating to Mediterranean swordfish
Rec. GFCM/29/2005/1	on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater pelagic

4.1.3 *IUCN*

MEDITERRANEAN RESOLUTIONS (11) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (7)

Code	WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope
WCC 2012 Res 050 - WCC-2012-Res-050 - Resolution	2012 Jeju	Protection of Mediterranean submarine canyons PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, Marine, Ecosystems, Pollution, Species, Environmental governance	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe France, Spain
WCC 2012 Res 032 WCC-2012-Res-032 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Action to recover the Atlantic bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) population in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, Private sector, Trade	Global, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea
WCC 2012 Rec 174 WCC-2012-Rec-174 Recommendation	2012 Jeju	Offshore oil drilling in the Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	Energy, Extractive industries/mining, Marine, Environmental governance, ScienceResearch , Disasters	West Europe, Mediterranean Sea Spain, Portugal
WCC 2008 REC 121 - 4.121 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Increasing the pace and scale of conservation in the Mediterranean Biome PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Ecosystems, Species, Infrastructure, International agreements and processes	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
WCC 2008 RES 064 4.064 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Integrated coastal management in the Mediterranean – the Barcelona Convention PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Land	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
WCC 2008 RES 046 4.046 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Artisanal fishing organizations active in the sustainable management of the	Fisheries, Ecosystems, Marine, Protected areas, Environmental	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe

Code	WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope
		Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	governance, Gender	
WCC 2008 RES 028 4.028 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Action for recovery of the East Atlantic and Mediterranean population of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, ScienceResearch	Global, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, West Europe
WCC 2008 RES 023 4.023 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean Monk Seal <i>Monachus monachus</i> PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Protected areas	Global, Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
WCC 2004 RES 070 3.070 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	Environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea from the risk of maritime traffic PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Pollution, International agreements and processes	West Europe, Mediterranean Sea
WCC 2004 RES 052 3.052 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	Protected areas in the Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, Agriculture, Fisheries, Marine, Human well-being/development	West Europe, Mediterranean Sea
WCC 2004 RES 039 3.039 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	The Mediterranean mountain partnership PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Ecosystems, International agreements and processes, Sub-national, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	West Europe, Mediterranean Sea
WCC 2004 RES 034 3.034 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	Strengthening the action of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Pollution, Transboundary, Climate change	West Europe, Mediterranean Sea

Code	WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope
WCC 2000 REC 090 - 2.90 Recommendation	2000 Amman	Convention on the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Mediterranean Environment against pollution PDF: English / Español / Français	International agreements and processes, Marine, Pollution	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
GA 1994 REC 092 19.92 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Establishment of a Marine Sanctuary for Large and Small Cetaceans in the Ligurian Sea, Western Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Protected areas, Species	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
GA 1994 REC 060 19.60 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Mediterranean High Seas Driftnets PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
GA 1972 RES 009 11.9 Resolution	1972 Banff	Oil exploration in the Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	Extractive industries/mining, Pollution, Marine	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
WCC 1996 RES 088 1.88 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Proposed Inclusion of Corso-Liguro-Provençal Basin in the Future List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (ASPIM) PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, International agreements and processes, Marine, Species	Mediterranean Sea, European Union (EU), West Europe
WCC 1996 RES 014 1.14 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Sustainable Development of Islands and Coastal States in the Mediterranean PDF: English / Español / Français	Human well-being/development, Marine, Law	Mediterranean Sea, West Europe

MARINE WITH GLOBAL APPLICATION

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 2012 Res 136 WCC-2012-Res-136 - Resolution	2012 Jeju	Effective strategy and actions to address the worsening problem of petrochemical plastic and other solid wastes PDF: English / Español / Français	Pollution, Ecosystems, Marine, Human well-being/development, Law, Environmental governance, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Cities, Private sector	Global
WCC 2012 Res 080 WCC-2012-Res-080 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Mitigating the impacts of recreational diving on the marine environment PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Law, Species, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Science Research , Private sector, Environmental governance, Human well-being/development	Global
WCC 2012 Res 079 WCC-2012-Res-079 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Protection of the deep ocean ecosystem and biodiversity from the threats of sea bed mining PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Extractive industries/mining, Ecosystems, Environmental governance, Indigenous peoples/local communities, Law	Global, Pacific Ocean Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Nauru, Solomon, Vanuatu, Tonga
WCC 2012 Res 078 WCC-2012-Res-078 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Conservation of marine phytoplankton PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Law, Science Research	Global
WCC 2012 Res 077 WCC-2012-Res-077 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Promoting Locally Managed Marine Areas as a socially inclusive approach to meeting area-based conservation and Marine Protected Area targets PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Protected areas, Indigenous peoples/local communities, Fisheries, Climate change	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 2012 Res 076 WCC-2012-Res-076 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Accelerating the global pace of establishing marine protected areas and the certification of their effective management PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, International agreements and processes, Protected areas, Species, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	Global
WCC 2012 Res 075 WCC-2012-Res-075 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Strengthening policies relating to the sea and oceans PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Law, International agreements and processes, Protected areas, Environmental governance, Species	Global
WCC 2012 Res 074 WCC-2012-Res-074 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Implementing conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Climate change, Law, International agreements and processes, Protected areas, Sustainable use, Environmental governance, Fisheries, Private sector, Extractive industries/mining	Global
WCC 2012 Res 059 WCC-2012-Res-059 Resolution	2012 Jeju	The importance of adaptation and disaster risk reduction in coastal areas PDF: English / Español / Français	Ecosystems, Disasters, Marine, Cities, Economics, Infrastructure, Climate change, Indigenous peoples/local communities, Private sector, Environmental governance	Global
WCC 2012 Res 057 WCC-2012-Res-057 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Conserving island biodiversity and supporting human livelihoods PDF: English / Español / Français	Ecosystems, Marine, International agreements and processes, Climate change, Invasive species, Environmental governance	Global, European Union (EU)
WCC 2012 Res 056 WCC-2012-Res-056 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Enhancing connectivity conservation through international networking of best practice management PDF: English / Español / Français	Ecosystems, Human well-being/development, Protected areas, International agreements and processes, Marine, Law, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Environmental governance, Climate change	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 2012 Res 055 WCC-2012-Res-055 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Consolidation of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems PDF: English / Español / Français	Ecosystems, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Land, Marine, Water, Environmental governance	Global
WCC 2012 Res 035 WCC-2012-Res-035 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Facilitating protection through the establishment of protected areas as specified by Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, International agreements and processes, Marine, Indigenous peoples/local communities, Environmental governance, Land	Global
WCC 2012 Res 033 WCC-2012-Res-033 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Increasing the attention given to the conservation of fungi PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Ecosystems, Land, Marine, Human well-being/development, ScienceResearch	Global
WCC 2012 Res 031 WCC-2012-Res-031 Resolution	2012 Jeju	Precautionary tuna management through target and limit reference points and improved drifting Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Fisheries, Marine, Trade, Sustainable use, International agreements and processes, Private sector, ScienceResearch	Global
WCC 2012 Rec 172 WCC-2012-Rec-172 Recommendation	2012 Jeju	Development of renewable energy and biodiversity conservation PDF: English / Español / Français	Energy, Climate change, Marine, Infrastructure, Environmental governance, ScienceResearch	Global
WCC 2012 Rec 170 WCC-2012-Rec-170 Recommendation	2012 Jeju	To enhance the community procedures to improve the management of coastal fishing PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Population, Human well-being/development, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Economics, Indigenous peoples/local communities, Environmental governance, Cities, Sub-national	Global, Africa Senegal, Guinea Bissau

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 2012 Rec 169 WCC-2012-Rec-169 Recommendation	2012 Jeju	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, International agreements and processes, Ecosystems, Environmental governance, Economics, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Private sector	Global
WCC 2012 Rec 144 WCC-2012-Rec-144 Recommendation	2012 Jeju	Conservation and management of Threatened sharks PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Trade, Economics, Fisheries, Environmental governance, ScienceResearch , International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2012 Rec 140 WCC-2012-Rec-140 Recommendation	2012 Jeju	Reversing the crisis of the decline in turtle survival PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Water, Marine, Ecosystems, International agreements and processes, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, International agreements and processes, Trade, Invasive species, Law	Global
GA 1966 RES 009 9.9 Resolution	1966 Lucerne	A checklist of important uninhabited or relatively undisturbed islands PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Population	Global
GA 1966 RES 018 9.18 Resolution	1966 Lucerne	UN control of whale resources PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species	Global
GA 1963 RES 032 8.32 Resolution	1963 Nairobi	Resolution on the blue whale PDF: English / Español / Français	Fisheries, International agreements and processes, Marine, Species	Global
GA 1963 RES 030 8.30 Resolution	1963 Nairobi	Resolution on the conservation of the green turtle PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine	Global
GA 1963 RES 029 8.29 Resolution	1963 Nairobi	Resolution on marine turtles PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Trade	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 2008 REC 129 - 4.129 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Strengthening the integrated management of coastal areas PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Population, International agreements and processes, Environmental governance, Protected areas, Catchment	Global, European Union (EU)
WCC 2008 REC 117 - 4.117 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Flag State responsibility regarding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	Global
WCC 2008 REC 116 - 4.116 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Fisheries management by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Protected areas, ScienceResearch	Global
WCC 2008 REC 115 - 4.115 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Non-lethal utilization of whales PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Trade, Law, International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2008 REC 114 - 4.114 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Global policy against shark finning PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Trade	Global
WCC 2008 REC 113 - 4.113 Recommendation	2008 Barcelona	Conserving migratory and oceanic sharks PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Trade, International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2008 RES 080 4.080 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Mobilizing action to build resilience and assist adaptation to climate change of coral reefs and marine ecosystems and people that depend on them PDF: English / Español / Français	Climate change, Marine, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	Global
WCC 2008 RES 067 -	2008	Advancing island conservation and	Marine, Species, International agreements and	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
4.067 Resolution	Barcelona	sustainable livelihoods PDF: English / Español / Français	processes, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	
WCC 2008 RES 066 - 4.066 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Improving the governance of the Mediterranean Sea PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Land, International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2008 RES 062 - 4.062 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Enhancing ecological networks and connectivity conservation areas PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, Ecosystems, Infrastructure, Water, Marine, Climate change, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	Global
WCC 2008 RES 045 - 4.045 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Accelerating progress to establish marine protected areas and creating marine protected area networks PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Ecosystems, Protected areas, International agreements and processes, Law	Global
WCC 2008 RES 031 - 4.031 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Achieving conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, International agreements and processes, Protected areas, Environmental governance, Fisheries	Global
WCC 2008 RES 028 - 4.028 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Action for recovery of the East Atlantic and Mediterranean population of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, ScienceResearch	Global, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, West Europe
WCC 2008 RES 027 - 4.027 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Relationship between fisheries and great whales PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Fisheries, International agreements and processes, Protected areas, ScienceResearch	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 2008 RES 023 - 4.023 Resolution	2008 Barcelona	Conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean Monk Seal <i>Monachus monachus</i> PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Protected areas	Global, Mediterranean Sea, West Europe
WCC 2004 REC 116 - 3.116 Recommendation	2004 Bangkok	Shark finning PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, Sustainable use, Trade, Economics, International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2004 REC 100 - 3.100 Recommendation	2004 Bangkok	Reef-fish spawning aggregations PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries	Global
WCC 2004 REC 099 - 3.099 Recommendation	2004 Bangkok	The protection of seamounts, deep-sea corals and other vulnerable deep-sea habitats from destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling, on the high seas PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Law, International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2004 REC 098 - 3.098 Recommendation	2004 Bangkok	Conservation and sustainable management of high-seas biodiversity PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Protected areas, Law, International agreements and processes, Fisheries, ScienceResearch , Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	Global
WCC 2004 RES 077 - 3.077 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	Urgent measures to secure the survival of the critically endangered Western Gray Whale <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Extractive industries/mining, Transboundary	Global China, Japan, Russian Federation, Korea (Republic of)
WCC 2004 RES 068 -	2004	Undersea noise pollution	Marine, Species, Fisheries, Extractive	Global, European

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
3.068 Resolution	Bangkok	PDF: English / Español / Français	industries/mining, ScienceResearch , Protected areas, Pollution	Union (EU)
WCC 2004 RES 067 3.067 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	Strengthening stakeholder participation in fisheries management PDF: English / Español / Français	Fisheries, Environmental governance, Law, Marine	Global
WCC 2004 RES 066 - 3.066 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	The protection of seamounts, deep-sea corals and other vulnerable deep-sea habitats from destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling, on the high seas PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, International agreements and processes, Ecosystems, Law	Global
WCC 2004 RES 064 - 3.064 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	Conservation and sustainable management of high-seas biodiversity PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Law, International agreements and processes, Fisheries, ScienceResearch , Environmental governance	Global
WCC 2004 RES 048 - 3.048 Resolution	2004 Bangkok	IUCN Guidelines for protected area management categories PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, Environmental governance, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Marine	Global
WCC 2000 REC 091 - 2.91 Recommendation	2000 Amman	Ocean pollution by oil PDF: English / Español / Français	Extractive industries/mining, Energy, Pollution, Marine, International agreements and processes, Law	Global
WCC 2000 REC 078 - 2.78 Recommendation	2000 Amman	Promoting sustainable fisheries PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Human well-being/development, Economics, Science Research	Global
WCC 2000 RES 065 - 2.65 Resolution	2000 Amman	Incidental capture of marine turtles by pelagic longline fisheries	Marine, Fisheries	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
		PDF: English / Español / Français		
WCC 2000 RES 056 - 2.56 Resolution	2000 Amman	Land-use policies and legal tools for coastal conservation PDF: English / Español / Français	Land, Law, Marine, ScienceResearch	Global
WCC 2000 RES 021 - 2.21 Resolution	2000 Amman	IUCN Marine Component Programme PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, IUCN governance	Global
WCC 2000 RES 020 - 2.20 Resolution	2000 Amman	Conservation of marine biodiversity PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Law, Fisheries, Protected areas, International agreements and processes	Global
WCC 2000 RES 017 - 2.17 Resolution	2000 Amman	Climate and energy PDF: English / Español / Français	Climate change, Energy, Private sector, Marine, Land	Global
WCC 1996 RES 077 - 1.77 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Marine Pollution and MARPOL PDF: English / Español / Français	International agreements and processes, Marine, Pollution, Invasive species, Fisheries	Global
WCC 1996 RES 076 - 1.76 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Implementation of the UN Fish Agreement and Other Marine Biodiversity Instruments and Initiatives PDF: English / Español / Français	International agreements and processes, Marine, Fisheries, Pollution, Environmental Law, Environmental governance, Science and research	Global
WCC 1996 RES 052 - 1.52 Resolution	1996 Montreal	Indigenous Peoples and Marine and Coastal Areas PDF: English / Español / Français	Indigenous peoples/local communities, Marine, Sustainable use, Environmental governance	Global
WCC 1996 RES 040 - 1.40 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Multi-Species Management of Aquatic Resources PDF: English / Español / Français	Sustainable use, Marine, Fisheries, Species	Global
WCC 1996 RES 037 - 1.37 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Marine Protected Areas PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, Marine	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
WCC 1996 RES 032 - 1.32 Resolution	1996 Montreal	Ecotourism and Protected Areas Conservation PDF: English / Español / Français	Protected areas, Marine, Indigenous peoples/local communities, Private sector	Global
WCC 1996 RES 018 - 1.18 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Aquaculture PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Agriculture, Human well-being/development	Global
WCC 1996 RES 017 - 1.17 Recommendation	1996 Montreal	Coastal and Marine Conservation and Management PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Law, International agreements and processes, Protected areas, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Ecosystems	Global
WCC 1996 RES 016 - 1.16 Resolution	1996 Montreal	Fisheries By-Catch PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, International agreements and processes, Trade	Global
WCC 1996 RES 015 - 1.15 Resolution	1996 Montreal	Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species	Global
GA 1994 REC 064 19.64 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species	Global
GA 1994 REC 063 19.63 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Commercial Whaling PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, International agreements and processes, Law	Global
GA 1994 REC 062 19.62 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Marine and Fresh-water Mammal By-Catch in Fisheries PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species	Global
GA 1994 REC 061	1994	By-Catch of Non-Target Species	Marine, Fisheries, Species, ScienceResearch	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
19.61 Recommendation	Buenos Aires	PDF: English / Español / Français		
GA 1994 REC 058 19.58 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Competitions Promoting the Indiscriminate Taking of Species PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Species, Sustainable use, Law	Global
GA 1994 REC 056 19.56 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Global Fisheries PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1994 REC 055 19.55 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Sustainable Marine Fisheries PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Fisheries, Sustainable use	Global
GA 1994 REC 047 19.47 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Marine Pollution PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Pollution	Global
GA 1994 REC 046 19.46 Recommendation	1994 Buenos Aires	Marine and Coastal Area Conservation PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Indigenous peoples/local communities	Global
GA 1990 REC 037 18.37 Recommendation	1990 Perth	Sea turtle ranching PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Trade, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1990 REC 036 18.36 Recommendation	1990 Perth	Large scale pelagic drift net fishing PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Sustainable use, Fisheries	Global
GA 1990 REC 035 18.35 Recommendation	1990 Perth	Protection of small cetaceans PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global Japan
GA 1990 REC 034	1990 Perth	Cetacean conservation and the	Marine, Species, Fisheries, International	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
18.34 Recommendation		International Whaling Commission moratorium PDF: English / Español / Français	agreements and processes	Norway, Russian Federation, Japan, Brazil, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
GA 1990 REC 033 18.33 Recommendation	1990 Perth	Training of coastal and marine environment managers PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, Protected areas	Global
GA 1990 REC 025 18.25 Recommendation	1990 Perth	Methods for capturing and/or killing of terrestrial or semi-aquatic wild animals PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Sustainable use	Global
GA 1988 RES 047 17.47 Recommendation	1988 San José	Sea Turtles PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, Pollution, ScienceResearch , Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, International agreements and processes	Global United States of America
GA 1988 RES 046 17.46 Recommendation	1988 San José	Whaling PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global Korea (Republic of), Japan, Iceland, Norway
GA 1988 RES 038 17.38 Recommendation	1988 San José	Protection of the coastal and marine environment PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Ecosystems, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication, ScienceResearch	Global
GA 1988 RES 037 17.37 Recommendation	1988 San José	Strengthening marine activities PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, IUCN governance, Education, capacity building, public awareness, communication	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
GA 1988 RES 023 17.23 Recommendation	1988 San José	Environmental law and the sea PDF: English / Español / Français	Environmental Law, Marine, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1988 RES 021 17.21 Recommendation	1988 San José	Pollution and marine debris PDF: English / Español / Français	Pollution, Marine, Fisheries, Ecosystems, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1984 RES 030 16/30 Resolution	1984 Madrid	Whaling PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global Portugal, Japan, Brazil, Russian Federation
GA 1984 RES 019 16/19 Resolution	1984 Madrid	NGO partnership with IUCN on marine conservation initiatives PDF: English / Español / Français	IUCN governance, Marine	Global
GA 1984 RES 015 16/15 Resolution	1984 Madrid	Liability and compensation for oil spills from vessels PDF: English / Español / Français	Extractive industries/mining, Marine, International agreements and processes, Pollution	Global
GA 1984 RES 014 16/14 Resolution	1984 Madrid	Ocean disposal of radioactive wastes PDF: English / Español / Français	Pollution, Marine, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1984 RES 013 16/13 Resolution	1984 Madrid	Land based sources of marine pollution PDF: English / Español / Français	Pollution, Marine, International agreements and processes, Environmental governance	Global
GA 1984 RES 012 16/12 Resolution	1984 Madrid	Environmental law of the sea PDF: English / Español / Français	Environmental Law, Marine	Global
GA 1984 RES 011 16/11 Resolution	1984 Madrid	Deep sea mining and the establishment of protected areas in the deep ocean PDF: English / Español / Français	Extractive industries/mining, Marine, Protected areas	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
GA 1981 RES 029 15/29 Resolution	1981 Christchurch	Action points PDF: English / Español / Français	IUCN governance, Land, Forests, Marine, Species, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1981 RES 019 15/19 Resolution	1981 Christchurch	Large and small cetaceans PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1981 RES 018 15/18 Resolution	1981 Christchurch	Deep sea mining and establishment of protected areas of the ocean PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Protected areas, Extractive industries/mining, Environmental Law, Ecosystems	Global
GA 1978 RES D 14.d Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Moratorium on commercial whaling PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Fisheries, International agreements and processes	Global
GA 1978 RES 009 14.9 Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Marine atlases PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Ecosystems, Law	Global
GA 1978 RES 008 14.8 Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Marine oil tankers - pollution PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Pollution, Species, Ecosystems	Global
GA 1978 RES 007 14.7 Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Incidental take PDF: English / Español / Français	Species, Marine, Fisheries	Global
GA 1978 RES 006 14.6 Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Deep sea mining PDF: English / Español / Français	Extractive industries/mining, Marine, Species, Ecosystems	Global
GA 1978 RES 002 14.2 Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Ecological knowledge and conservation PDF: English / Español / Français	ScienceResearch , Land, Marine	Global
GA 1978 RES 010 14.10 Resolution	1978 Ashkhabad	Ocean trenches PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Pollution	Global

WCC / GA	Title	Keywords	Geographic scope	Implementation area
GA 1975 RES 003 12.3 Resolution	1975 Kinshasa	Conservation of critical coastal marine habitats PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Protected areas	Global
GA 1975 RES 002 12.2 Resolution	1975 Kinshasa	Marine Parks PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Ecosystems, Protected areas	Global
GA 1972 RES 016 11.16 Resolution	1972 Banff	Conservation of marine resources PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Species, Fisheries	Global
GA 1972 RES 011 11.11 Resolution	1972 Banff	Marine parks and reserves PDF: English / Español / Français	Marine, Protected areas	Global

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