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- Agenda item 3.** Presentation of the Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)
- Agenda item 4.** Content review of the Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)

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

For environmental and economy reasons, this document is printed in a limited number and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Evaluation of the implementation of SAP BIO

Preliminary draft report

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FOREWORD

During their Ordinary Meeting held in 2003 (Catania, Italy), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO). The SAPBIO was elaborated following a participative approach that included an evaluation at national and regional levels of the marine and coastal biodiversity as well as the identification of needs and priority actions by the riparian countries. It is made of principles, approaches, measures, targets, timetables and priorities for action to conserve biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. The core of the SAP BIO adopted in 2003 is made of a set of actions to be implemented at national and regional level, including 63 National Action Plans (NAPs) and 30 Regional Priority Actions (RPAs).

Since early 2004 to 2018, the Contracting Parties have been taking measures to implement the NAPs and contributed to achieve the RPAs in the framework of regional and bilateral cooperation. The SPA/RAC and other regional organisations contributed in the implementation of the SAP BIO at regional level and provided assistance to countries to carry out activities in relation to the objectives of SAP BIO.

Nowadays, fifteen years after the elaboration of the SAP BIO, it is necessary to make an in-depth evaluation of its implementation, with a view to provide recommendations to develop a new one, tailored to addressing current and future global, regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean. Therefore, the Contracting Parties approved the evaluation of SAP BIO implementation as a key output for the 2018-2019 biennium activities of UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC.

This report presents the first evaluation elements elaborated by the Secretariat with the help of a team of experts. It provides a first picture of the status of implementation of the SAP BIO priority actions. During the meeting to be held in Marseilles (13-14 February, 2018), the SAP BIO National Correspondents will be invited to review this first draft and provide their comments, remarks and inputs to further finalise the evaluation with the view of submitting it for consideration by the Thematic Focal Points meeting on Biodiversity, to be held on June 2019 at Portoroz, Slovenia.

Section 1: Evaluation of the implementation of Priority Action

INVENTORYING, MAPPING AND MONITORING MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Priority Action 1: Undertake a complete and integrated inventory (by sub-region) of sensitive Mediterranean coastal, wetland, and marine habitats

Status of implementation:

The **mapping of habitats** benefited from the use of GIS technologies that has made great progresses in many Mediterranean countries. Indeed, GIS and associated database are becoming a standard for recording and mapping the spatial distribution of sensitive habitats, analyse changes and develop indicators to propose management measures. The development of this tool is variable from country to country and varies for the different sensitive habitats. The most covered habitats are *Posidonia* meadows, wetlands, marine turtle nesting sites and recently rhodolith beds and coralligenous assemblages. Furthermore, regional or sub regional databases are being developed and include where possible specific habitats such as seagrass meadows

Sporadic mapping of sensitive habitat has been done in many Mediterranean countries. The most covered habitat is the *Posidonia* meadow for which map coverage was elaborated at national level in some countries (Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain) and is underway in specific areas for other countries (Algeria, Croatia, Montenegro, Tunisia, Turkey). Also, during the last ten years, initiatives were undertaken to collect data about deep-sea habitats and their associated species.

Portals available online were built thanks to the coordination of Regional Organisations. One example is the initiative launched for the Alboran sea where Spain, Morocco and Algeria are joining efforts to develop a portal (the Alboran Sea portal) covering multiple aspects of the marine environment and in particular providing elements for specific habitats, such as seagrass meadows and coralligenous formation. Another example is the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory (MWO) established in 2008 at the request of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) as a multi-partner project coordinated by Tour du Valat (TdV), the Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands, based in Arles, France.

Initiatives for capacity building were undertaken in relation to marine habitat mapping of countries. The MedkeyHabitat projects provided assistance to some South and East Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Montenegro, and Turkey) to build their capacity for marine habitat mapping. These projects benefited from the financial support of the MAVA Foundation and were implemented under the coordination of SPA/RAC in collaboration with a number of partner organisations (IUCN, OCEANA, WWF).

Checklists of species associated with each sensitive habitat were, to some extent, prepared in the EU Member States through development of interpretation manuals for marine habitats pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive. A similar interpretation tool was prepared by

SPA/RAC for the habitats listed in the Reference List of Habitats for inventorying sites of conservation interest. However, although some general checklists for marine and coastal species exist in some countries (e.g.: the checklist of marine species in all Italian seas, published in 2010 or the permanently updated of the French waters species check list by the MNHN in collaboration with the French agency for Biodiversity), such lists are still lacking for many other countries.

Habitats monitoring programmes have been developed in few countries, particularly for Posidonia meadows and coralligenous formations, but their implementation is limited.

In the western Mediterranean, the mapping of seagrass meadows and the installation of a monitoring system for its deeper extension have been completed for *Posidonia oceanica*.

Standard monitoring protocols were developed for Posidonia meadows, coralligenous assemblages and other sensitive habitats, but their use is still limited, for coralligenous formations or dark habitats, in particular due to the reduced number of specialists.

In the Southern and Eastern part of the Mediterranean, efforts are variable with good knowledge of seagrass coverage in Tunisia, limited in Libya and Egypt.

The long-term monitoring of habitat and species is expected to improve in the coming years in the Mediterranean thanks to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme being developed within the framework of the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention as well as the monitoring requirements set under the MSFD of the European Union. By the end of 2018, the national monitoring programmes in relation to the biodiversity Ecological Objectives of EcAp and the Descriptors of the MSFD are expected to be finalised and ready to be operational, pending availability of resources.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

The EU Member States benefit from EU funding or co-funding for inventorying and monitoring activities. EU has funded different programmes: the red list of habitats project for all European Seas, covering all the European Mediterranean countries; the allocation of ESI or EU IPA CBC funds with national co-funding for the Cross-border programme Croatia – Montenegro.

RAC/SPA assisted in development and partial implementation of habitat mapping with GEF's support for the MedMPA and MedKeyHabitats projects in particular.

Activities in some countries have been implemented through bilateral cooperation (e.g. 2011 project on start up of the Katič MPA in Montenegro, supported by Italian government).

GIZ supported implementation of the BIMR sub-project in the scope of the project Open Regional Fund for SEE / biodiversity.

MAVA foundation is concluding soon a programme in numerous countries in three priority areas (Alboran Sea, Sicily-Tunisia region and South-Eastern Aegean Sea) and has supported a deep-sea campaign in Lebanon in 2016.

Croatia started a marine habitats mapping project in 2018, with the support from the EU structural and investment funds (ESI) for the 2014-2020 financial period, which should result with detailed map of all marine habitats.

Main difficulties for implementation

Some countries usually report lack of financial and technical capacities for inventorying and monitoring, including lack of monitoring equipment. As a result, there is significant lack of data collection or processing and/or lack of organisation of existing data, particularly in the

non-EU countries, due to a lack of expertise. The lack of comprehensive baseline data is also reported among the difficulties faced by some countries, in particular in the south and east Mediterranean

Priority Action 2- Establish of a monitoring system of endangered and threatened species

Status of implementation:

During the last decade, several monitoring initiatives were launched in particular to monitor the populations and habitats of endangered species (monk seal, turtles, some marine bird species, Posidonia meadows, coralligenous assemblages, cetaceans, cartilaginous fishes, etc.) in the Mediterranean. Most of these initiatives are coordinated by international/regional organisations such as SPA/RAC that provide assistance (training programmes, funding, action plans, preparation of management plans for protected areas and species, etc.) and facilitation (an updated standardisation of monitoring methods of Marine Magnoliophyta, coralligenous and rhodoliths assemblages, organisation of conferences and workshops).

Monitoring activities of endangered species are mostly sporadic and implemented at national level.

At regional level, significant efforts have been made for inventorying and monitoring of cetaceans and sea turtles at regional level in the scope of the EU IPA Adriatic NETCET project, the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and LIFE EUROTURTLES project.

IUCN Red Lists have been developed at national levels. Conservation status pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive has been assessed in the EU MS 27 countries after the 2007 – 2013 reporting period.

Updating of regional Red List of cetaceans is pursued in the scope of ACCOBAMS.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

As already mentioned, the EU funds are being used for transboundary projects on inventorying and monitoring of seagrass beds, cetaceans and sea turtles in the region and more specifically in the Adriatic, such as IPA Adriatic transboundary programme or LIFE programme, or around Maltese Islands (<https://lifebahar.org.mt/life-bahar-for-n2k/>) or along the Spanish coast (Projects Indemares and Intemares); or in the Alboran sea, the Siculo-Tunisian channel and the South-Eastern Aegean Sea for seabirds, turtles and cetaceans under MAVA funding.

In the scope of ACCOBAMS a first comprehensive survey of cetaceans (plus other marine species) in most of the Mediterranean was carried out in 2018 – ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative project (ASI).

Main difficulties for implementation:

As with Activity 1 – lack of financial and technical capacities, in particular lack of specialists in certain fields. Lack of field data to be used as baseline information is also reported.

Priority Action 3- Promote the adequate monitoring and survey of the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas

Status of implementation:

Concerning the **Scientifically-based monitoring on effectiveness of MCPA**, monitoring of certain indicators to measure effectiveness is being implemented to some extent in the

MPAs. Since 2012 Croatia also performs periodical qualitative evaluations of management effectiveness based on the METT methodology (Management effectiveness tracking tool). At the regional level, MEDPAN and SPA/RAC are preparing a review of the status of marine protected areas including evaluation of the effectiveness, but less than 10% of the existing MPAs have a proper management plan and a proper implementation.

Adequate **management plans** for MPAs are developed in some countries (Croatia, Italy, France, Spain), based on specific guidelines and for their preparation, based on participatory mechanism similar to those using for EIA.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The main reported difficulties for implementation of monitoring programmes for the effectiveness of MPAs relate to the lack of financial and human resources.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Support from international and/or regional organisations: The UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) has been active in the region, as a collective effort of leading organizations (regional, international, non-governmental) and Mediterranean countries working towards protecting the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean Sea. Under this partnership, a WWF's project MedPAN South was implemented (2009 – 2012), including development of management plans for MPA's and capacity building to advance MPA management planning in numerous countries, using other countries lessons learned.

Priority Action 4- Identify, develop, and validate adequate biological and socioeconomic indicators to assess the ecological health of sensitive habitats and species, and to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures

All the activities included under SAPBIO for this Priority Action relate to indicators to be set for SAPBIO, in particular a regional strategy on SAP BIO indicators and a list of useful SAP BIO indicators. These activities could be now covered by the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme elaborated within the framework of the EcAp process. However, the developed indicators can only be used for the next phase of SAPBIO, provided it be adequately harmonised with the Ecological Objectives of the EcAp.

CONSERVATION OF SENSITIVE HABITATS, SPECIES AND SITES

Priority Action 5- Update, coordinate and enforce legislation to conserve biodiversity

Status of implementation:

All Mediterranean countries have adopted new or updated their legislation for protection or conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including species, habitats or sites, based on national, regional and/or international instruments. A list of the legal texts promulgated by the Mediterranean countries appears in the Annex to this report

Between 2010 and 2016, eleven countries have adopted a new legislation on protected areas, such as Morocco in 2010 and Algeria in 2011. During the same period, thirteen have established new administration such as MPA, Biodiversity, or Environment Agency or

Authority (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

Others have adopted a national strategy of guidelines for Marine and coastal protected areas, such as Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Egypt, Lebanon and Libya, reinforcing their activities to support their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) as recommended by the CBD.

In the Adriatic, all countries have adopted legislation regulating protection of species, habitats or sites and legislation is being harmonised with the EU standards even in the non-EU countries.

Achievement for enforcement

Nevertheless, the implementation is sometimes partial and incomplete, as the legal instrument has not been supported by decrees or regulations allowing the enforcement, precisising the mandate of administrations in charge of strict enforcement, concerning both land and sea conservation and management.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of coordination and cooperation between different administration governing the different relevant sectors of activities for the marine and coastal environment, lack of clear mandate for MPAs, reluctance to develop co-management practices and public private partnerships for conservation when necessary, sector-based lobbying, lack of human and financial capacities.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Support from SPA RAC and IUCN concerning the assessment of the existing legislation and supporting administration for Albania, Croatia and Montenegro

Transposition of the EU environmental community acquis is carried out in the scope of the EU supported projects for the Adriatic countries.

IUCN issued a synthetic document on international and regional instruments applicable to the Mediterranean region for marine and coastal conservation.

WWF provided support for developing management system in numerous countries.

Priority Action 6- Develop actions to conserve threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) Mediterranean species

Status of implementation:

The coordination of Action Plans is the responsibility of SPA/RAC, as they are the responsible authority for the follow up of the adopted conservation plan for the Mediterranean region. To-date, 8 conservation plans exist for marine species and habitats: monk seals, marine turtles, cetaceans, marine vegetation, marine birds, cartilaginous fishes, coralligenous and bio-concretion formation and dark habitats (another cover exotic species). For some of them, the coordination and cooperation is developed with a specialised organisation such as ACCOBAMS for cetaceans, Fishes with GFCM, marine birds with Birdlife or IUCN with endangered species and red list assessments.

Monitoring of species is sporadic and mostly done at national level, with some regionally implemented activities like monitoring of cetaceans, marine turtles or marine birds.

Cetaceans, marine turtles and birds have been covered for most part of the Mediterranean by an aerial and boat survey during the summer 2018 within the framework of the ACCOBAMS survey initiative, funded by numerous organisations (in particular MAVA foundation) and countries.

All over the years, the EU has been funding numerous projects such as for the marine turtles (IPA Adriatic NETCET project and LIFE EUROTURTLES project).

The cartilaginous fish appear to be the least known species among vertebrates. In addition, knowledge on numerous marine species is incomplete or inadequate for evaluating their status, habitat or rarity, such as the invertebrates or the deep corals.

In some EU member states species national monitoring programs are being established for certain species linked to implementation of the relevant EU Directives and in the scope of the EU MSFD implementation. In this context, species and habitats are being protected through establishment of Natura 2000 or other marine protected areas, as countries are enforcing the Habitats and Bird Directives.

Other countries have defined sites of ecological or biological importance, such as Morocco, being considered for future conservation and other countries are using their national strategy and relevant list of sites to be considered in the future.

National stranding networks for monitoring incidental mortality of marine species such as cetaceans, sea turtles and cartilaginous fish are organised in different countries, such as Croatia, Italy or Lebanon, with the support of SPA/RAC, GFCM and ACCOBAMS, all concerned by this threat.

For the legislation improvement and enforcement, please consult the section 5 just above.

Main difficulties for implementation: Lack of finances and capacities/expertise, particularly in some of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

The EU has provided important funding for research on species, habitat and management activities for protection and conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas. Other organisations have invested time, efforts and funding such as IUCN, WWF, OCEANA for the deep sea, MAVA for specific areas.

Priority Action 7- Develop Protect marine and coastal sites of particular interest

Status of implementation:

At the regional level, an important effort has been done for developing the network of marine protected areas, first in number, moving from 700 before 2010 to 1249 by end 2016, and some more since. Also in terms of surface area, moving from 4.5% in 2012 to more than 7% of the Mediterranean end of 2016. Considering only the territorial waters, the result is even more impressive, as altogether, the Mediterranean countries Marine Protected Areas cover more than 14%.

At the national level, end of 2016 only France and Monaco are over the 10% recommended by the Aichi target 11 and seven other countries (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Monaco,

Spain and Turkey) are between 9 and 10%. Other countries have also made significant progress.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of finance and capacities/expertise, particularly in some of the southern and eastern countries.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

In the last decade, several regional projects were implemented in the Mediterranean with support from GEF, from the EU, from bilateral donors (FFEM, French, German Italian and Spanish Cooperation, and from foundations such as MAVA, supporting the development of the networks in countries. UNEP/MAP, IUCN, MedPAN, WWF, SPA/RAC, OCEANA, BirdLife, and multiple other international and regional organisations have participated to the efforts for improving conservation, with specific focus on the weaknesses identified, management plans, capacity building, knowledge, monitoring and financing.

Priority Action 8 - Declare and develop new coastal and marine protected areas including in the high seas

Status of implementation:

In general, there is an increasing trend of identifying and setting up new marine and coastal protected areas according to specific criteria based on the biological importance, the representativeness and the connectivity between site, but the opportunistic approach remains the choice in some countries where negotiations are difficult to develop and opposition from sectorial groups is important.

Areas important for biodiversity conservation, including offshore and near shore areas, are identified at the national and at the regional level. At the regional level, a meeting organised under the auspices of the CBD took place in Malaga for the identification of Mediterranean Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA), and 17 sites were identified, 15 of them being confirmed in a follow up meeting.

With another approach, GFCM is encouraging the countries in developing Marine protected areas based on the management of fisheries, near shore, in the form of fisheries reserves taking into account the ecosystem approach and including the conservation of species or habitats in their objectives, and offshore, promoting the declaration of Fisheries Restricted Areas. In addition, following the CBD recommendations, GFCM promote the identification of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) in particular in relation with trawling activities.

ACCOBAMS, focusing on cetacean conservation, has also identified Critical Cetacean Ecosystem in all the Mediterranean and is encouraging the countries in declaring these sites or promoting a precautionary approach in relation with threatening activities (fisheries, noise, pollution, etc.).

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lengthy designation procedures. For marine areas outside the national jurisdiction, demanding bilateral or multilateral negotiation processes, particularly in context of existing disputes over boundaries in marine area.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Support from CBD, IUCN, GFCM and ACCOBAMS for recognition of some areas, particularly offshore, such as EBSA, CCH-IMMA and FRA. Support from the EU for projects at regional or sub-regional level.

Priority Action 9: Develop existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Status of implementation:

Evaluation of management effectiveness has shown that a limited number of marine and coastal protected areas were properly managed, having all the necessary facilities to develop, implement, review, monitor and evaluate their management plan, often due to a lack of proper legislation, funding, trained staff and enforcement of the regulations.

After completion of Natura 2000 network, Italy is focussing more on adequate management. Standardized measures for effective management of marine protected areas were developed in 2011 (in the scope of ISEA project) and are being implemented. In 2018 Croatia started a project on management of Natura 2000, with the support from ESI funds. The project will include preparation of management plans for certain marine Natura 2000 sites.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of legal and institutional framework

Lack of integrated decision between all the components/activities in and around a marine protected area (ICZM, Marine spatial planning and management)

Lack of participation of all relevant stakeholders

Lack of financial and human resources.

Lack of education and awareness

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

EU funding, UNEP/MAP, GEF, FFEM, European Commission, MAVIA Foundation, bilateral cooperation, NGOs and others.

All institutional international, regional and Mediterranean partners are involved.

ASSESSING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF THREATS ON BIODIVERSITY

Priority Action 10- Monitor of global trade and economic policies and trends from a Mediterranean perspective, to analyse their scope and probable effects on biodiversity

Status of implementation

In the scope of the EU (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) funded and WWF coordinated MedTrends project, an assessment was performed in 2016 on transnational economic growth in the Mediterranean to assess the capacity to face future environmental pressures and conflicts between economic sectors.

Plan Bleu, one of the regional activity centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan is looking at sectorial activities and their impacts on the environment. In addition meetings have been organised to value the Mediterranean ecosystems and species and others have concerned the blue economy and its importance in the Mediterranean.

Nevertheless, there is no comprehensive analysis for the Mediterranean as a whole but more at the sub regional level, such as the Adriatic, or for a set of countries, such as the European ones.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Limited information available

No real programme for the evaluation of the potential impacts of economic policies and trends on biodiversity.

Priority Action 11- Establish a regional monitoring programme following up the socio-economic impact of changes in biodiversity

The Plan Bleu has done some progress in this matter, but there are little results and visibility.

Priority Action 12- Assess the potential impact of climate change and rise in sea level on Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity

Status of implementation

In general, not much has been done on this issue, even if meetings have been held in Paris and Marrakech. The topic is more a political and economical issue for all countries. Countries are developing their National strategies for climate adaptation such as France, Italy or Croatia. Following the COP21 of the UNFCCC (Paris, France, 2015) most of the Mediterranean countries elaborated their first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that embody the efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Only a very limited number of them included the marine biodiversity among the issues addressed by the the adaptation component of their submitted NDC.

At the ground level, projects are looking at a better knowledge of the changes in temperature of water, sea level rise (monitoring in Venice and its lagoon, Italy), changes in species location, arrival and installation of exotic or invasive species, range reduction or extension of some ecosystems or species, changes in the timing and areas of reproduction, nursery.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Scarcity of data, limited financial, technical and human resources.

Need for a multi sectorial approach and inter-ministerial coordination

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Most the efforts deployed relate to the terrestrial environment. Indeed only a limited number of projects supported by international or regional organisations covered the impact of climate change on marine biodiversity (Climadapt EU project on adaptation concerning in particular Morocco Algeria and Tunisia and the MedSeA EU project on acidification).

Priority Action 13 - Assess the potential impact of threats on Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity

Status of implementation

Most Mediterranean countries are carrying out, for waters under their jurisdiction, assessments of the state of their marine environment, for all countries as part of their commitments to the Barcelona Convention and for European countries as part of implementing the European Directive on Marine Strategy (2008/56/EC), monitoring programmes and programmes of measures to achieve the Good Environmental status (GES).

The assessment of threats on marine and coastal biodiversity is not conducted in the Mediterranean according to a coherent and comprehensive approach. Indeed most of the activities in this field are conducted opportunistically according to the availability of funding. However, pollution hot spots areas have been identified through various analyses, such as MedTrends project assessment in 2016. MedTrends report also includes analysis of pressures from different economic sectors.

At wider Mediterranean level, underwater noise hot spots have been identified in the scope of ACCOBAMS implementation. A detailed overview was prepared in 2017 on underwater anthropogenic noise, impacts on marine biodiversity and mitigation measures in the south-eastern European part of the Mediterranean, focussing on seismic surveys, in the scope of OceanCare/DBU (German Federal Environmental Foundation)/NRDC (Natural resources defence council) project. The mapping of underwater noise in the Adriatic should start in 2019 in the scope of the EU Italy- Croatia Interreg SOUNDSCAPE project.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of financial resources to make the inventories is the main identified hindrance to the development of the assessment programmes.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Under the scope of ACCOBAMS, underwater noise hot spots were identified in the Mediterranean. With the support from EU funding, WWF coordinated implementation of the MedTrends project. NGO OceanCare implemented noise mitigation related actions in the region with support from German foundation DBU and in cooperation with NGO NRDC. In addition, thanks to the EU funding, already mentioned SOUNDSCAPE project on mapping and mitigation underwater noise in the Adriatic should start in 2019.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Second Cycle of the MSFD in the Mediterranean Sea, the quietMED project was launched to improve the level of coherence and the comparability as regards Descriptor 11 (underwater noise) of the MSFD by enhancing cooperation among Mediterranean Sea Basin countries. The Joint register of impulsive underwater noise in the Mediterranean Sea is among the main expected outputs of the Project. It is intended as a joint tool for providing and sharing information on anthropogenic impulsive sound in water.

During the two last years, an initiative supported by the MAVA Foundation was launched jointly by regional organisations (GFCM, SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife International,

MEDASSET) to assess the extent and impact of bycatch on threatened or endangered species (cetacean, turtles, birds, etc.). The Project covers three Mediterranean Countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey).

Priority Action 14 - Mitigate the direct impact of international trade in endangered species

Status of implementation

Most Mediterranean countries are parties to CITES, which requires checking of imports and exports of endangered species. In addition, EU Member States implement provisions from the relevant EU Wildlife trade regulation. Capacity building of CITES related authorities are implemented in some countries on regular basis, like in Croatia and Tunisia.

Several endangered Mediterranean marine species remain under significant pressure by the international trade, in particular through tourists. The most impacted species are turtles (shells), shellfish species, hippocampus and sea cucumbers.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The responsibility of controlling the transboundary trade in endangered species lies mainly with the customs authorities in each country. Their efficiency is varying from one country to another concerning the identification of endangered marine species.

Priority Action 15 - Control and mitigate the introduction and spread of alien and invasive species

Status of implementation

Knowledge about alien species is being improved in countries that are concerned with potential sources (Suez Canal and Gibraltar Strait) and in countries that are importing species for commercial purpose, such as aquaculture and aquarium. In some countries, permanent monitoring programmes are in place and national knowledge improved (Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Greece, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey). Nevertheless, there is a lack of concern, awareness and activity in numerous countries.

Given the particular significance of the invasion by non-indigenous species in the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean, the scientists of the region's countries deployed a particular effort to monitor the arrival of new species. In this context a big number of notifications and records of alien species were published. Furthermore, national monitoring programmes were developed and allowed the setting up of national and regional databases of alien species.

A Regional Strategy for the Management of Ballast waters was adopted under the Barcelona Convention. It aims at assisting countries and coordinating their efforts to minimise the introduction of non-indigenous species through Ballast Waters and sludge.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The most reported difficulties relate to the lack of human capacities (expertise), financial resources and the weakness of policy/legislation framework, in particular the absence of

specific legislation for Invasive Alien Species. However, the EU Member States are bound to solve issue of invasive alien species by the EU Regulation on invasive alien species.

Public support through divers, snorkelers or fishermen is not considered or slightly developed and the databases such as MAMIAS (SPA/RAC) or the applications such as MedMIS (IUCN-Med) are not known enough and used by all stakeholders. There is a need for promoting public participation on this matter (citizen science approach).

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Within the framework of the implementation of the "Action Plan concerning Alien Species and Species Introductions in the Mediterranean Sea" SPA/RAC assisted countries to collect data through "Rapid assessment of marine alien species in their waters (Albanian and Montenegro). Other organisations provided support to implement projects on monitoring and control of invasive alien species or for the management of introduction paths (IMO/GEF/REMPEC project GloBallast Partnership)

The efforts to eradicate Invasive marine species are still very low in the Mediterranean, expect for a very limited number of species.

Priority Action 16 - Control and mitigate coastal urbanization and construction of coastal infrastructure

Status of implementation

All Mediterranean countries adopted legislation on environmental impact assessment which contributed in mitigating impacts of urban development. Furthermore, strategic environmental assessments (SEA) are being performed, which enables assessment of physical plans, including coastal infrastructure. However, controlling coastal development remains a major challenge in all Mediterranean countries.

The adoption in 2008 of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol contributed in drawing the attention of decision makers to the importance of mitigating the impacts of coastal urbanisation. The protocol entered into force in March 2011, but as per December 2018, only ten countries and the European Union have ratified the protocol.

Maritime Spatial Planning is gaining attention in the region, in particular following the EU DIRECTIVE 2014/89/EU of July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, which should result with maritime spatial plans by 2021 in the EU Member States.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Although most of the Mediterranean countries have enacted legislation that allows to control the coastal urbanisation, important gaps are recorded as for the enforcement of the related provisions. The main difficulties faced relate to the strong pressure on the coastal area, particularly linked to tourism and urban sprawl.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Several Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMPs) were developed in particular with the assistance of the MAP components under the coordination of PAP/RAC.

Priority Action 17 - Control and mitigate the effect of changes in land use

The measures taken in most Mediterranean countries in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Impact Assessment and Integrated Coastal Zone Management contributed in mitigating the adverse consequences of coastal development on natural habitats. However, the changes in land use in the coastal zone are still reported as one of the main threats to biodiversity, in particular through the loss of habitats and habitats fragmentation.

The evaluation of the changes in land use and their impact on biodiversity requires detailed data that is not available in most of the Mediterranean countries. The monitoring programmes being developed within the framework of IMAP are expected to provide the required data to calculate the indicator 8.2.1 (Change of land-use) under the Ecological Objective 8 of EcAp (The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved).

Priority Action 18 - Promote eco-and soft tourism, control and mitigate impact of recreational activities

Status of implementation

The need for sustainable tourism has been widely recognised, at least at the strategic planning level. The MEET project (Mediterranean experience of Eco-Tourism) is developing activities in numerous protected areas of the region, funded by the European Union and implemented through IUCN-Med.

At another scale, DESTIMED, another European project developed by Federparchi-Italy, aims at building the pre-conditions for a Mediterranean destination management organization (DMO) that will harmonize quality standards and tools to monitor compliance, propose attractive ecotourism offers promoted through a lasting brand.

Numerous countries have developed their Tourism strategy with short, medium and long term objectives, each of them including options for soft or eco-tourism.

The EUROPARC's European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, as a type of eco-label, is awarding its eco-label to multiple protected areas in the Mediterranean countries of Europe. For control and mitigation of recreational activities, the EU countries may use the mechanism of appropriate assessment pursuant to the Habitats Directive and associated national legislation.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The strong pressure of mass tourism and its implications in terms of socioeconomic development continues to play against the promotion of eco and soft adoption of related for large development in sensitive areas.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Many organisation provided assistance to countries to promote new approaches for tourism and to better control and mitigate impact of recreational activities: IUCN-Med, Federparchi,

EUROPARC Federation, EU in (funding in the framework of ENPI CBCMed open to non-European countries).

Priority Action 19- Assess and elaborate of strategies to prevent the environmental impact of sources of pollution

Status of implementation

Desalination and the proliferation of floating plastic objects and debris were the main sources of pollution addressed by SAPBIO in 2003 under this Priority Action. Nowadays, given the increasing demand for water and the scarcity of this natural resource in many Mediterranean countries, for most of them, the desalination is a growing activity to support the development of water demanding sectors such as tourism or urban development in coastal areas. There is an evident increase in the number of countries using sea water desalination or having it among their options to avoid reduction in fresh water availability for local population and agriculture. However, its environmental impact, generated mainly by the brine production and its disposal, is not properly tackled in many countries. Indeed, while environmental impact assessment is required for the desalinisation plants, there is a lack of policy and guidelines for this activity and a strong need for scientific and technical information to reduce the potential impacts on biodiversity.

Concerning marine debris, the EU Member States developed, within the framework of the implementation of the MSFD implementation, action plans with programs of measures to achieve/maintain good environment status (GES). Measures address, among all, the issues of marine litter and noise.

During COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul, 2013) the Contracting Parties adopted the Marine Litter Regional Plan. Among its measures the plan recommends to remove marine litter in particular from specially protected areas and SPAMIs and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.

The issue of microplastic is gaining attention as a research topic in some Mediterranean countries. Research programmes are being undertaken to assess the extent of the issue and to better understand its environmental and health implications.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

UNEP-MAP developed the Marine litter MED 2016-2019 Project with financial support from the EU. It is aimed at assisting the Mediterranean Countries to prevent and manage Marine Litter through the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan, in synergy with the relevant work under UNEP/GPA Global Partnership for Marine Litter, the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the UfM H2020 initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean, the EU SwitchMed Programme.

Transboundary EU funded projects have been implemented to address marine litter issue, such as ML-REPAIR project, or regarding ghost-nets - DeFishGear project. ML-REPAIR is aimed at awareness raising and concrete cleaning actions in certain Natura 2000 sites. DeFishGear contributed to improve knowledge on presence of marine litter, actions aimed at

policy-makers and schemes to manage human activities. The EU Strategy for Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR) provided support from the EU funding to activities in relation to marine litter.

Priority Action 20- Control and regulation of aquaculture practices

Status of implementation

In accordance with the "Guidelines on allocated zones for aquaculture" (AZA) adopted in 2012 by GFCM (Resolution GFCM/36/2012/1), many Mediterranean countries launched initiatives to ensure further integration of aquaculture in their national marine spatial planning. This included the identification of specific zones to be reserved for aquaculture activities; the ultimate objective being to prevent conflicts among different users.

Concerning the environmental impacts of aquaculture, in most of the Mediterranean countries the setting up of fish farms is subject of the environment impact assessment. Furthermore, the Mediterranean countries that are EU members require regular monitoring of aquaculture sites in accordance with the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Priority Action 21- Assessment, control and elaboration of strategies to prevent impact of fisheries on biodiversity

Status of implementation

Some activities concerning by-catch mitigation have been implemented in the Mediterranean and a programme concerning interaction between fisheries and endangered species (cetaceans, sharks, turtles, seabirds) is underway in North Africa and Turkey with the participation of GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife International, MEDASSET and other local partners. The programme is financially supported by the MAVA Foundation.

Although there are no specific Mediterranean strategies to address the issues identified by SAPBIO in 2003 (conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable fish and invertebrates, by-catch, discard, and ghost-fishing, impact of trawling and other towed gear on critical habitats) a series of measures were taking within the framework of GFCM during the past ten years to mitigate the impact of fishing on biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable species.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The main reported difficulties reported relate to the lack of adequate cooperation between relevant sectors. Lack of human resources and difficulties regarding enforcement of legislation (control of by-catch) was also reported.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

The EU legislation and strategies support (MSFD, EUSAIR), accompanied with EU funding for projects such as IPA Adriatic NETCET, LIFE EUROTURTLES, INTERREG etc.

GFCM established new fishery restricted areas (FRAs) and developed Fisheries Management Plans for specific stocks of species in specific regions.

The relevance of interactions with fisheries was also recognised by ACCOBAMS with number of adopted resolutions, including the guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices.

DEVELOPING RESEARCH TO COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE AND FILL IN GAPS ON BIODIVERSITY

Priority Action 22- Improve and coordinate research on biodiversity

Status of implementation

Under this Priority Action, only regional actions were recommended by SAPBIO. None of the recommended actions were implemented, however a series of symposia were organised by SPA/RAC within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plans for the conservation of species and habitats. Concerning cetaceans, the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS is organising, on a triennial basis, a conference on the conservation of cetaceans in the South Mediterranean Countries (to date 4 conferences were organised).

Priority Action 23- Improve taxonomic expertise in the region

Only a limited number of initiatives were undertaken to improve the taxonomic expertise in the Mediterranean countries. The reported activities relate to the organisation of two regional trainings and the publication of three new taxonomic guides.

CAPACITY BUILDING – COORDINATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Priority Action 24- Achieve ‘clearing-house’ mechanism to focus on marine and coastal conservation activities

Status of implementation

Several countries have made available Clearing House Mechanisms (or platforms/portals of information) concerning biodiversity, species or habitats, marine or terrestrial with centralisation of data and associated GIS. Croatia, Egypt, France, Italy and Spain are some of the countries with a proper data collection, centralisation and availability, allowing to improve the preparation of EIA or SEA. Numerous other countries are developing such system, often starting from and areas or group of species then extended to more developed systems.

European countries data are centralized in the European Environmental Agency and the EUNIS database, based on the data provided by its regional centres.

In the scope of the GIZ Biodiversity information management project (BIMR) regional and national assessments were made on biodiversity data management in the non-EU SEE countries, guidelines for setting up the national nature protection information systems and GIS training was organised.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The main identified difficulties are linked to lacking financial and human resources, dispersion of information on biodiversity in different institutions at the national level and the lack of standardisation of mapping approaches that make difficult collating maps from different systems.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

UNESCO, UNDP, EU, AFD, GIZ are supporting CHM sometimes for specific topics under projects.

SPA-RAC and MedPAN have developed MAPAMED for marine and coastal protected areas.

MeDWET Observatory centralizes the data for Mediterranean wetlands.

GFCM-FAO has information on fisheries and fishes.

Priority Action 25- Coordinate and develop common tools to implement National Action Plans (NAPs)

SPA/RAC and other organisations developed guidelines, standard methodologies, Protocols and other technical tools to assist countries in implementing activities under their NAPs.

INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

Priority Action 26- Facilitate the access to information for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public

Status of implementation

Active public participation is ensured in some countries as common practice in development of species and protected areas management plans.

Public consultation is also practised in environmental impact assessment (EIA), Strategic environmental assessment procedures (SEA) and when applicable in the appropriate assessment pursuant to Habitats Directive.

In addition, adoption of legislation is a subject of public consultation, in particular for protected areas or fishery reserves declarations.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Even when possibility of public consultation exists, it is not adequately communicated to general public, particularly when it comes to project of regional relevance/impacts. Furthermore, for some legislation, plans are made available for consultations for a short period of time.

Priority Action 27- Promote public participation, within an integrated management scheme

No specific action reported other than those indicated for the Priority Action 26.

Priority Action 28- Conserving the traditional knowledge of the various actors

Some countries are trying to conserve traditional practices, in particular concerning the use of water, and to include the traditional exploitation of marine natural resources (traditional fishing or collecting techniques) in management plans as they support the conservation and sustainable exploitation of natural resources. However, only rare examples were reported in this context.

AWARENESS RAISING

Priority Action 29- Develop international collaboration in order to enhance regional public awareness

These activities are usually implemented as components of large projects. International and national NGOs are generally a good support for such activities through organising events, publishing documents and giving lectures in schools and for general public (Environment day, Ocean day, Dolphins day). However, only few examples of international collaboration are reported concerning regional public awareness enhancing.

Priority Action 30- Organise coordinated Mediterranean-level campaigns focusing on specific regional biodiversity issues (addressed both to specific stakeholders and to the general public)

Most of the regional organisations active in the field of marine biodiversity conservation reported about campaigns targeting specific or general public to raise awareness about the need for conservation of species or habitats. However, there is no coordination mechanism to avoid overlapping or duplication and to ensure a more balanced coverage of the Mediterranean areas.

Section 2: Identified gaps

Gaps, lacks or impeding factors	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Financial capacities	X	X	X	X	X		
Human resources / technical capacity	X	X	X	X	X		
Field infrastructure and equipment	X						
Biodiversity knowledge and expertise		X					
National biodiversity database	X		X	X	X	X	
Monitoring programmes for species		X					
IUCN Red List process	X						
Management plan preparation and implementation	X						
Management evaluation		X					
Indicators for management evaluation	X	X					
Legal/institutional assessment and review for MPAs		X	X				
Legislation enforcement and prosecution (level of fines in particular)			X				
Declaration of MPAs in territorial waters		X					
Declaration of MPAs offshore		X					
Clear mandate for MPAs		X					
Participation of all stakeholders		X	X				
Coordination at national levels (Ministries)		X	X				
Baseline and monitoring of socio economic policies impacts on biodiversity (regional)		X	X				
Baseline and monitoring of human activities impacts on biodiversity			X				
Co-management options including PPP							
Public consultation and information		X			X	X	X
Public awareness and education		X				X	
Communication campaigns on emerging issues							X

Section 3- Proposed approach for the elaboration of the new phase of SAPBIO (2021-20130)

The elaboration of the new SAPBIO for the period 2021-2030, comes during a pivotal period in the preservation of the environment in general and concerning biodiversity in particular. Indeed, new orientations have been decided in recent years to address the factors inducing climate change going from COP21 (Paris) to COP24 (Katowice) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, by 2020, the achievements towards the Aichi targets will be assessed at COP15 of the CBD, which will also have to adopt the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. During the two coming years (2019 and 2020) the process for drafting the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework will be conducted according to the guidance decided at COP14. This will coincide, for the Mediterranean, with the preparation period of a second phase for the SAPBIO.

It is therefore crucial to ensure the maximum level of harmonisation between the new orientations and priorities to be promoted under SAPBIO/Phase 2 and those that will be decided at global level within the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework while taking into account as appropriate the results of the assessment of the implementation of SAPBIO during the period 2003-2018 presented in Section I of this document. Furthermore, a high level of harmonisation should be ensured between SAPBIO/Phase 2 and other relevant frameworks at global and regional levels. A detailed Description of these frameworks and recommendations on how to ensure harmonisation and linkages with them is presented in Section II hereinafter.

One of the difficulties reported regarding the implementation of SAPBIO during the period 2004-2018 related to the complexity of the priorities and the cumbersomeness of the activities and NAPs. To ease its implementation, SAPBIO/Phase 2, while bringing a high level of ambitions, should be succinct, action-oriented and made of activities tailored towards realistic objectives that countries could reasonably achieve with the coordination of relevant International Organisations and the help of donors and funding agencies.

The following steps are proposed:

Step 1: assessment of the implementation of SAPBIO

Based on a draft assessment report prepared by SPA/RAC, the representatives of the countries will review the conclusions of the draft assessment during the workshop to be held on 13 and 14 February 2019 (Marseille). The workshop will also propose a preliminary roadmap for the elaboration of the SAPBIO/Phase 2 to be submitted to the next meeting of the SPA/RAC NFPs.

Step 2: Detailed roadmap

Elaboration of detailed roadmap with guidance for (i) the methodology to be followed, (ii) the identification of priorities and orientations, (iii) the meetings/workshops to be organised and

(iv) the timeframe for the elaboration of the draft new SAPBIO. The roadmap shall be reviewed by the NFPs and then submitted for adoption by the Contracting Parties

Step 3: Elaboration of the Draft new SAPBIO

A first draft of the new SAPBIO will be elaborated under the coordination of SPA/RAC and submitted for a consultation process involving the relevant organisations and secretariats of relevant regional agreements (GFCM, ACCOBAMS, European Commission, IUCN, etc.).

It is recommended to present the first draft for consultation with the potential donors to inform them about the main orientations and priorities and the funding needs that the implementation of the new SAPBIO will involve.

Since this Step 3 will take place in parallel with the meetings and workshops to be held by the Secretariat of the CBD for the elaboration of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, SPA/RAC should identify and participate to the most relevant of these meeting and workshops in order to ensure a maximum level of harmonisation between the new SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

The last activity in this step will be a meeting of the Contracting Parties representatives convened to review the first draft and where necessary amend it with the view of submitting it to the adoption process by the Contracting Parties. This meeting should take place after COP15 of the CBD planned for October 2020 and expected to adopt the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

Step 4: Adoption of the new SPABIO

The Draft new SAPBIO finalised during the Parties-representatives meeting held under Step 3 will be reviewed by the SPA/RAC Focal Points, the MAP Focal Points and submitted for adoption by the Contracting Parties.

Tentative calendar

Step 1: February 2019

Step 2: February – December 2019

Step 3: January 2020 – February 2021

Step 4: According to the calendar of meetings of NFPs and Contracting Parties

Section 4- Linking the new SAPBIO elaboration process with the on-going processes under MAP and other relevant international frameworks.

The new SAPBIO should be elaborated for the period 2021-2030 taking into account the orientations and priorities set within relevant frameworks at international and regional levels. The main identified frameworks to consider are described hereinafter with recommendations on how to ensure harmonisation of the new SAPBIO and where possible establish linkages between them and SAPBIO.

The post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework

COP 15 of the Parties to CBD is expected to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework whose preparatory process was agreed during COP14 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018). Actually, the preparation process started in 2018, in particular when the Executive Secretary of CBD invited Parties and observers to submit initial views on the aspects of the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 Vision and a possible structure.

A synthesis of the inputs received by the Secretariat of the CBD before its COP14¹ showed that the majority of submissions requested that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should not be less ambitious than the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or any other biodiversity-related plan or framework adopted under a multilateral environmental agreement.

To ensure that the elaboration of a new SAPBIO would gain from the process launched under the CBD for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework, SPA/RAC should follow the most important steps of the process to allow a maximum of harmonisation of the SAPBIO with the strategic orientations to be set at global level under the CBD. The participation of SPA/RAC to the following meetings is recommended: SBSTTA-23 (November 2019), SBSTTA-24 (May-June 2020), the relevant Regional Consultation workshops and online discussion forums that will be organised by the Secretariat of CBD in relation to the Post-2020 process.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations Organisation by the Head of States and Governments, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive and people-centred programme built to achieve a set of universal and Goals and targets addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Most of international environment related conventions and organisations use the Sustainable Development Goals set under this Agenda to guide their strategies and priorities.

As far as biodiversity is concerned, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that "social and economic development depends on the sustainable management

¹ CBD/COP/14/INF/16 – Preliminary synthesis and analysis of views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

of our planet's natural resources". It confirms the commitments to "conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife".

Given the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as policy driver, it is highly recommended to take its provisions and Goals (SDGs) into consideration when elaborating the new SAPBIO. Many of them are of particular relevance for biodiversity conservation (e.g: SDG4 for environmental education under SDG4, biodiversity planning under SDG17 or the adverse impacts of inappropriate subsidies under SDG8).

The EcAp process under the Barcelona convention

During their 17th Ordinary Meeting (February, 2012), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Decided to "initiate a process, involving scientists and policy makers, and when appropriate, other competent bodies/organizations/authorities, aiming at the gradual application of the ecosystem approach". The process (EcAp Process) included seven steps starting by defining the following ecological Vision for the Mediterranean: "A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations". To achieve the vision the contracting Parties agreed on the following goals:

- To protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status and allow for their sustainable use.
- To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to minimize impacts on and risks to human and/or ecosystem health and/or uses of the sea and the coasts.
- To prevent, reduce and manage the vulnerability of the sea and the coasts to risks induced by human activities and natural events.

A substantial progress has been made in the development of the EcAp process mainly through the definition of desired Good Environmental Status (GES), Ecological Objectives and indicators as well as the elaboration of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) aimed at providing information for the regular assessment of the progress towards the GES.

Given that at least three of the eleven Ecological objectives defined under the EcAp process are of particular relevance for biodiversity, the SAPBIO should be harmonised in its new orientations with the EcAp process. A clear added value could be gained by the full integration of the IMAP with the monitoring and evaluation component of SAPBIO.

The Marine Strategy of EU

The Marine Strategy is one of the thematic strategies adopted for the management of the environment in the EU member States. It was the subject of the Marine Strategy framework Directive (MSFD) adopted in June 2008 with the aim of protecting more effectively the marine environment across Europe, in particular through achieving "Good Environmental Status (GES)" in the marine environment by 2021, at the latest. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the Regional Seas covered by the MSFD. Given that many Mediterranean countries are not

EU members, an important effort was made to harmonise the implementation of MSFD with the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention.

The elaboration of the new phase of SAPBIO (2021-2030) should take into consideration the future development under MSFD, in particular for the Mediterranean EU member States. In this context, SPA/RAC should keep a watch on the main decisions that will be made as a follow-up of MSFD beyond 2021 and to take them into consideration in developing the new phase of SAPBIO. To this end it may keep regular contacts with its National Focal Points in the EU countries and in the European Commission.

Annex I: Relevant Legal Texts promulgated by the Mediterranean countries since 2003

Country	Legal text (since 2003)
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No. 81/2017 on protected areas.2017 - Regulation No. 95 date 14.2.2018 amending Regulation No. 686 date 29.7.2015 approving the rules, the responsibilities and the terms of procedure for the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and the transfer of the Environment Certificate.Date of text: 14 February 2018 - Regulation 547 date 9.8.2006 establishing the National Agency of Natural Resources, as amended.-2006 - Decision Nr.16 dated 4.1.2012 on the right for environmental information. 2012 - Regulation No. 1189 on the rules and procedures for the elaboration and implementation of the national programme for the environmental monitoring.2009 - Regulation No.8 dated 11.11.2009 on the managing measures for the sustainable exploitation of the fishery resources. 2009 - Law No. 9587 on biodiversity protection.2006 - Law No. 10006 on wild fauna protection. 2008 - Order No. 62 of 4 April 2016 approving the list of especially vulnerable wild bird species.2016 - Regulation No. 866 dated 10.12.2014 approving the lists of natural habitat types, plants, animals, and birds that are of interest for European Union.2014 - Guideline No.1 of 11 February 2016 approving the methodologies of registration, inventorying, and reporting on wild fauna species and their populations allowed for hunting. 2016 - Regulation No. 1 of 2013 on the internal functioning of the Protected Area Management Committee.2013 - Regulation No. 84 on the criteria used for establishing the biodiversity inventory network and monitoring.2009
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Décret exécutif n° 18-264 du 8 Safar 1440 correspondant au 17 octobre 2018 portant création du centre de recherche en environnement (C.R.E).Date of text: 17 October 2018 - Décret exécutif n° 18-255 du 29 Moharram 1440 correspondant au 9 octobre 2018 modifiant et complétant le décret exécutif n° 07-145 du 2 Joumada El Oula 1428 correspondant au 19 mai 2007 déterminant le champ d'application, le contenu et les modalités d'approbation des études et des notices d'impact sur l'environnement.Date of text: 09 October 2018 - Décret exécutif n° 15-207 du 11 Chaoual 1436 correspondant au 27 juillet 2015 fixant les modalités

	<p>d'initiation et d'Élaboration du plan national d'action environnementale et du développement durable (P.N.A.E.D.D).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Décret executif n° 07-145 du 2 Jomada El Oula 1428 correspondant au 19 mai 2007 déterminant le champ d'application, le contenu et les modalités d'approbation des études et des notices d'impact sur l'environnement.Date of text: 19 May 2007 - Arrêté du 9 Jomada Ethania1439 correspondant au 25 février 2018 fixant la période de fermeture de la pêche de l'espadon dans les eaux sous juridiction nationale.Date of text: 25 February 2018 - Arrêté du 3 Rabie El Aouel 1437 correspondant au 13 janvier 2016 fixant les conditions et les modalités d'élaboration du programme d'exploitation du corail.Date of text: 13 January 2016 - Décret exécutif n° 14-373 du Aouel Rabie El Aouel 1436 correspondant au 23 décembre 2014 portant création, organisation et fonctionnement de l'agence nationale de développement durable de la pêche et de l'aquaculture (ANDPA). - Arrêté du 14 Safar 1434 correspondant au 27 décembre 2012 modifiant et complétant l'arrêté du 6 Safar 1427 correspondant au 6 mars 2006 portant création d'un comité d'experts chargé d'assister la mise en œuvre du programme de formation et le suivi pédagogique des travailleurs en formation. - Décret exécutif n° 08-128 portant transformation du Centre national d'études et de documentation pour la pêche et l'aquaculture en Centre national de recherche et de développement de la pêche et l'aquaculture.Date of text: 30 April 2008
Bosnia -Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation on plastic bags compensation fees. Date of text: 09 January 2014 - Regulation on conditions and criteria to be met by the authorized carriers of the study on the environmental impact, the amount of fees, commissions and other costs arising in the process of environmental impact assessment.Date of text: 26 March 2012 - Regulation on the content and method of keeping the register of protected areas.Date of text: 01 November 2006 - Regulation on the content and method of preparation of the management plan for protected areas.Date of text: 13 October 2006 - Regulation on annual and half-year program of environmental inspection.Date of text: 22 November 2005 - Regulation on the establishment of information system for the protection of nature.Date of text: 2005 - Law on nature protection).Date of text: 27 February 2014

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law amending the Law on inspections of the Brcko District.Date of text: 20 June 2008 - Regulation determining the amount of compensation for damages caused to fish stocks.Date of text: 01 October 2005 - Regulation on the method, equipment and tools used in fishing.Date of text: 01 October 2005
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on the environmental protection.Date of text: 21 June 2013 - Regulation on the adoption of the Programme of measures for the protection and management of the marine environment and coastal area of the Republic of Croatia.Date of text: 28 September 2017 - Regulation on the Croatian marine and environmental agency's reference center for nature and nature.Date of text: 20 July 2017 - Regulation amending the Regulation on environmental impact assessment.Date of text: 05 January 2017 - Regulation on strictly protected species (Official Gazette 124/2013) - Regulation on the voluntary participation of organizations in the system of environmental management and independent evaluation (EMAS).Date of text: 24 June 2014 - Regulation on information and participation of the public and public concerned in environmental matters.Date of text: 29 May 2008 - Environmental Protection Act. 2007 - Regulation on strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes.Date of text: 04 June 2008 - Regulation on the Manner of Establishing Environmental Damage. 2008-11-27 - Regulation on measures for remediation of environmental damage and restoration programmes. 2008-12-09
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to Information which is Relevant to the Environment Law, 2004.Date of text: 30 April 2004 - Marine Strategy Law, 2011 (Law No. 18(I)/2011).Date of text: 25 February 2011
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolution No. 254 of 2013 creating a Fund to support the cooperative societies for fishers.Date of text: 2013 - Resolution No. 130 of 2007 on the fishing in the Mediterranean Sea.2007
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ordonnance n° 2017-80 du 26 janvier 2017 relative à l'autorisation environnementale Date of original text: 26 January 2017 (12 August 2018) - Loi n° 2016-1087 du 8 août 2016 pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages.Date of original text: 08 August 2016 (01 January 2017)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La loi n° 2015-992 du 17 août 2015 relative à la transition énergétique pour la croissance verte. Date of original text: 17 August 2015 (02 Novembre 2018) - Loi n° 2010-788 portant engagement national pour l'environnement. Date of original text: 12 July 2010 (27 January 2017) - Loi n° 2009-967 de programmation relative à la mise en œuvre du Grenelle de l'environnement. Date of text: 03 August 2009 - Loi du 20 juin 2016 pour l'économie bleue Date of text: 20 June 2016 - Loi n° 2016-368 du 30 mars 2016 autorisant l'approbation de l'accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'Etat du port visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée. Date of text: 30 March 2016 - Loi n° 2003-346 relative à la création d'une zone de protection écologique au large des côtes du territoire de la République .Date of text: 15 April 2003 - Décret n° 2014-348 du 18 mars 2014 relatif à la responsabilité civile des propriétaires de navires pour les dommages résultant de la pollution par les hydrocarbures. Date of text: 18 March 2014 - Décret no 2013-188 du 4 mars 2013 portant publication du protocole sur les registres des rejets et transferts de polluants se rapportant à la convention de 1998 sur l'accès à l'information, la participation du public à la prise de décision et l'accès à la justice dans le domaine de l'environnement Date of text: 04 March 2013 - Arrêté du 3 juin 2011 portant identification des catégories d'aires marines protégées entrant dans le champ de compétence de l'Agence des aires marines protégées. Date of text: 03 June 2011 - Arrêté du 8 juillet 2010 modifiant l'arrêté du 20 avril 2005 pris en application du décret n° 2005-378 relatif au programme national d'action contre la pollution des milieux aquatiques par certaines substances dangereuses. Date of text: 08 July 2010 - Décret n° 2008-457 du 15 mai 2008 relatif aux sites Natura 2000 et modifiant le code de l'environnement. Date of text: 15 May 2008 - Arrêté du 22 décembre 2006 portant modification de l'arrêté du 18 juillet 2000 réglementant le transport et la manutention des matières dangereuses dans les ports maritimes. Date of text: 22 December 2006 - Arrêté du 20 avril 2005 pris en application du décret n° 2005-378 relatif au programme national d'action contre la pollution des milieux aquatiques par certaines substances dangereuses. Date of text: 20 April 2005 - Décret n° 2005-378 relatif au programme national d'action contre la pollution des milieux aquatiques par certaines substances dangereuses. Date of text: 20 April 2005
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loi n° 2006-436 relative aux parcs nationaux, aux parcs naturels marins et aux parcs naturels régionaux.Date of text: 14 April 2006 - Ordonnance n° 2008-527 du 5 juin 2008 relative à la mise en oeuvre en Polynésie française et dans les îles Wallis et Futuna de la convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction du 3 mars 1973.Date of text: 05 June 2008 - Loi n° 2003-347 relative à la protection de l'environnement en Antarctique.Date of text: 15 April 2003 - Décret n° 2017-1321 du 6 septembre 2017 relatif à la composition de la Commission supérieure des sites, perspectives et paysages.Date of text: 06 September 2017 - Décret n° 2017-848 du 9 mai 2017 relatif à l'accès aux ressources génétiques et aux connaissances traditionnelles associées et au partage des avantages découlant de leur utilisation.Date of text: 09 May 2017 - Décret n° 2017-370 du 21 mars 2017 relatif aux comités régionaux de la biodiversité.Date of text: 21 March 2017 - Décret n° 2017-339 du 15 mars 2017 relatif au Comité national de la biodiversité.Date of text: 15 March 2017 - Décret n° 2017-300 du 8 mars 2017 relatif aux dispositifs de partage des positions visant à éviter les collisions des navires avec les cétacés dans les aires marines protégées Pelagos (Méditerranée) et Agoa (Antilles).Date of text: 08 March 2017 - Décret n° 2017-176 du 13 février 2017 relatif aux zones prioritaires pour la biodiversité.Date of text: 13 February 2017 - Décret n° 2017-65 du 24 janvier 2017 relatif au rattachement des parcs nationaux à l'Agence française pour la biodiversité.Date of text: 24 January 2017 - Arrêté du 15 novembre 2016 instituant une liste d'espèces protégées dans les eaux territoriales de l'île de Clipperton.Date of text: 15 November 2016 - Arrêté du 15 novembre 2016 relatif à la protection du biotope des eaux territoriales de l'île de Clipperton dénommée «aire marine protégée dans les eaux territoriales de l'île de Clipperton»Date of text: 15 November 2016 - Décret n° 2016-963 du 15 juillet 2016 portant création du parc naturel marin du cap Corse et de l'Agriate.Date of text: 15 July 2016 - Décret no 2015-424 du 15 avril 2015 portant création du parc naturel marin de l'estuaire de la Gironde et de la mer des Pertuis.Date of text: 15 April 2015 - Décret n° 2012-83 du 24 janvier 2012 relatif aux parcs naturels régionaux et portant diverses dispositions
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	<p>relatives aux parcs naturels marins et aux réserves naturelles. Date of text: 24 January 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrêté du 15 septembre 2012 modifiant l'arrêté du 23 avril 2007 fixant la liste des mammifères terrestres protégés sur l'ensemble du territoire et les modalités de leur protection. Date of text: 15 September 2012 - Arrêté du 24 octobre 2008 modifiant la liste des types d'habitats naturels et des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages qui peuvent justifier la désignation de zones spéciales de conservation au titre du réseau écologique européen Natura 2000. Date of text: 24 October 2008 - Arrêté du 19 avril 2007 modifiant la liste des espèces d'oiseaux qui peuvent justifier la désignation de zones de protection spéciale au titre du réseau écologique européen Natura 2000 selon l'article L. 414-1-II (1er alinéa) du Code de l'environnement. Date of text: 19 April 2007 - Décret n° 2006-1266 relatif à l'Agence des aires marines protégées et aux parcs naturels marins. Date of text: 16 October 2006 - Arrêté du 13 juillet 2005 modifiant l'arrêté du 16 novembre 2001 relatif à la liste des types d'habitats naturels et des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages qui peuvent justifier la désignation de zones spéciales de conservation au titre du réseau écologique européen Natura 2000. Date of text: 13 July 2005 - Arrêté du 20 décembre 2004 fixant la liste des animaux de la faune marine protégés sur l'ensemble du territoire national. Date of text: 20 December 2004 - Arrêté du 7 février 2003 relatif à la composition et aux modalités de fonctionnement de l'Observatoire national de la faune sauvage et de ses habitats. Date of text: 07 February 2003
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No. 4014 on the environmental licensing of works and activities, regulation of illegal constructions in connection with environmental stability and other provisions falling under the competence of the Ministry of Environment. , 2011 - Decree No. 107017 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment in compliance with Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Date of text: 28 August 2006 - Decision No. 11764/653 on public access to environmental information and repealing MJD No. 77921/1440/1995. 2006 - Decree No. 110/1205322 setting forth technical specifications for the development of studies for the delimitation of land areas falling under the "NATURA 2000" network – updating, description and delimitation of land habitat types in Sites of Community Importance. 2012

Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative Decree No. 195 implementing Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information.Date of text: 19 August 2005 - Legislative Decree of 16 June 2017, n. 104 Implementation of Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, pursuant to articles 1 and 14 of the Law 9 July 2015, n. 114.Date of text: 16 June 2017 - Act No. 132 establishing the national system for the protection of the environment, and regulating the functioning of the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).Date of text: 21 June 2016 - Law No. 221 of 2015 to promote measures regrading green economy and to reduce the overexploitation of natural resources.Date of text: 28 December 2015 - Legislative Decree No. 190 implementing Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy.Date of text: 13 October 2010 - Decree laying down the methods for the elaboration of prescriptions related to Environmental Impact Assessment provisions adopted at the State level.Date of text: 24 December 2015 - Decree concerning the national inventory of waste resulting from the extraction of mineral resources.Date of text: 16 April 2013 - Regional Act No. 5 on Environmental Impact Assessment.Date of text: 02 February 2010 - Regional Act No. 27 on the promotion, organization and development of information and education concerning sustainability.Date of text: 29 December 2009
Libya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No. 15 of 2003 on the protection and improvement of the environment.Date of text: 13 June 2003 - Declaration of a Libyan Fisheries Protection Zone in the Mediterranean Sea.Date of text: 24 February 2005 - Resolution No. 48 of 2013 to establish the apparatus for management and development of national parks.Date of text: 06 February 2013
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Development Act.Date of text: 10 July 2012 - Crimes Against the Environment Act.Date of text: 2012 - Maritime Spatial Planning Regulations, 2016 (N. 341 of 2016). - Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (N. 497 of 2010). - Implementation and Enforcement of Certain Fisheries Management Plans Order, 2013 (N. 354 of 2013). - Enforcement of Sea Fishing Conventions Order, 2011. - Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats (Amendment)

	<p>Regulations, 2013 (L.N. 322 of 2013).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations, 2004 (L.N. 236 of 2004).
Monaco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loi n° 1.446 du 12/06/2017 relative à la préservation du patrimoine national.Date of text: 12 June 2017 - Ordonnance Souveraine n° 67 portant application de la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction, adoptée à Washington le 3 mars 1973.Date of text: 23 May 2005
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La loi-cadre n° 99-12 du 6 mars 2014 portant charte nationale de l'environnement et du développement durable.Date of text: 06 March 2014 - Arrêté du ministre de l'agriculture, de la pêche maritime, du développement rural et des eaux et forêts n°1520-17 des 20 ramadans 1438 (15 juin 2017) relatif à l'interdiction temporaire de pêche de certaines espèces pélagiques.Date of text: 15 June 2017 - Arrêté du ministre de l'agriculture et de la pêche maritime n° 2818-16 du 20 hija 1437 (22 septembre 2016) relatif à l'interdiction temporaire de pêche dans certaines zones maritimes de l'Atlantique et de la Méditerranée.Date of text: 22 September 2016 - Loi n° 22-07 relative aux aires protégées.Date of text: 16 July 2010 - Dahir n° 1-14-84 du 20 octobre 2014 fixant les attributions de l'inspection de la marine royale dans les domaines de l'hydrographie, de l'océanographie et de la cartographie marine.Date of text: 20 October 2014 - Loi n°77-15 portant interdiction de la fabrication, de l'importation, de l'exportation, de la commercialisation et de l'utilisation de sacs en matières plastiques.Date of text: 07 December 2015
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loi n ° 21/2013 - Loi sur l'évaluation environnementale.Date du texte: 09 décembre 2013 - Loi n ° 8/2011 - Loi établissant des mesures pour la protection des infrastructures critiques.Date du texte: 28 avril 2011 - Loi n ° 26/2007 - Loi sur la responsabilité environnementale.Date du texte: 23 octobre 2007 - Décret-loi royal n ° 17/2012 - Mesures urgentes dans le domaine de l'environnement.Date du texte: 04 mai 2012 - Décret royal n ° 6/2018 - Création de la Commission interministérielle pour l'incorporation de critères écologiques dans les marchés publics.Date du texte: 12 janvier 2018 - Décret royal n ° 234/2013 - Règles d'application du règlement (CE) n ° 66/2010 du Parlement européen et du Conseil sur le label écologique de l'Union

	<p>européenne.Date du texte: 05 avril 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Décret royal n ° 776/2012 - Modifie le décret royal n ° 2.355 / 2004 sur la structure et les fonctions du Conseil consultatif de l'environnement.Date du texte: 04 mai 2012 - Loi n ° 42/2007 - Loi sur le patrimoine naturel et la biodiversité.Date du texte original: 13 décembre Ordonnance AAA / 1366/2016 - Déclare les zones spéciales de conservation (ZEC) des lieux d'importance communautaire de la région marine méditerranéenne du réseau Natura 2000 et approuve les mesures de conservation correspondantes.Date du texte: 04 août 2016 - Ordonnance AAA / 1351/2016 - Modifie le Décret royal n ° 139/2011 relatif à l'élaboration de la liste des espèces sauvages sous régime de protection spéciale et du catalogue espagnol des espèces menacées d'extinction.Date du texte: 29 juillet 2016 - Résolution du 20 novembre 2015 - Intègre dans le réseau des aires marines protégées de l'Espagne les zones de protection spéciale pour les oiseaux de mer du réseau Natura 2000.Date du texte: 20 novembre 2015 - Décret royal n ° 416/2014 - Plan sectoriel de tourisme lié à la nature et à la biodiversité 2014-2020.Date du texte: 06 juin 2014 - Décret royal n ° 1,015 / 2013 - Modifie les annexes de la loi n ° 42/2007, loi sur le patrimoine naturel et la biodiversité.Date du texte: 20 décembre 2013 - Loi n ° 10/2017 modifiant la loi n ° 5/1991, loi sur la protection des zones naturelles.Date du texte: 24 novembre 2017 - Loi n ° 5/2005 - Loi pour la conservation des espaces d'intérêt environnemental (LECO).Date du texte: 26 mai 2005
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Décret n° 2014-1848 du 20 mai 2014, fixant la composition et le mode de fonctionnement des commissions d'élaboration des plans de gestion des aires marines et côtières protégées.Date of text: 20 May 2014 - Décret n° 2004-2138 modifiant le décret n° 99-2130 fixant la composition et les modalités de fonctionnement de la commission consultative pour l'organisation de l'exercice de la pêche.Date of text: 06 September 2004 - Loi n° 2009-49 relative aux aires marines et côtières protégées.Date of text: 20 July 2009
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation on practice and research center of the Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University for ecological studies. 2018 - Regulation on strategic environmental assessment.Date of text: 08 April 2017 - Resolution on utilization and conservation of protected areas. 2017 - Decree No. 2016/9108 of the Council of Ministers on the

	<p>designation of some areas in Antalya as specially protected areas. 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regulation regarding the working procedures and principles of Higher Board of Environment and Local Environment Committees.2013- Regulation on usage for research and entrance in and out of the country of aquatic genetic resources.2015- Regulation on the protection and improvement of waters being habitat for trout and crab species.2014
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