UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.4

UNEP

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

17 November 2020
Original: English

Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs)

Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020

Agenda item 4: EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects to Boost IMAP Implementation

ECAP-MED III Project Document

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020

MEA Secretariat DG ENV GPGC PCA

Project Document

Support to Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and to delivery of data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in synergy with the EU MSFD (EcAp-MED III)

Project Objective & Executive Summary:

The objective of the EcAp MED III Project is to contribute to the assessment of the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and to the delivery of a data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in order to measure the progress towards achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES).

Building on the outcome of EcAp MED I and EcAp MED II projects, the EcAp MED III project will support the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in line with 2023 MED QSR Roadmap milestones at national, sub-regional and regional level with a particular focus on southern Mediterranean countries namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.

The EcAp MED III project will support the delivery of a data-based 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) through support to the implementation of national IMAPs in the respective countries; strengthen IMAP data management through the expansion of the IMAP Info-System covering the entire scope of IMAP Common Indicators. It will also support harmonized assessment at national level through the preparation of national assessment factsheets. The EcAp MED III project will also contribute to strengthening of the Science-Policy interface (SPI) at national and regional levels for IMAP implementation and delivery of 2023 MED QSR.

The EcAp MED III project activities will be implemented by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and MAP Regional Activity Centres, in line with their respective mandates and areas of expertise. The EcAp MED III project provides an important contribution to the implementation of UNEP/MAP 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and 2020-2021 Programme of Work adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21), and of several other COP Decisions related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and IMAP. It is expected that this project will be an important contribution to the new Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2027), strengthening the foundations for data collection, integrated monitoring and regional assessment with the objective of assessing the progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea.

The delivery of EcAp MED III project activities will be done in synergy with EU MSFD implementation work. It relates directly and contributes to Sustainable Development Goal number 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and several SDG indicators. It also contributes to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation as well as to the 2014 Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change.

The EcAp MED III Project is expected to be implemented over a period of 36 months, from September 2020 to August 2023, with an overall budget of USD 2,494,790 including EC allocation of USD 2,200,000 and co-financing from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of USD 294,790.

SIGNATURES	
Name of project manager who drafted this project document **Daria Mokhnacheva**	**Submission** Signature: Date:_____/_____/20__
Name of MEA Secretariat Coordinator/Focal point: **Tatjana Hema**	**Clearance** Signature: Date:_____/_____/20__
MEA Secretariat Head of Branch managing the Project: **Tatjana Hema**	**Sign Off** Signature: Date:_____/_____/20__
MEA Secretariat Executive Secretary/Director level: **Gaetano Leone**	**Approval** Signature: Date:_____/_____/20__

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABNJ	Area Beyond National Jurisdiction
BAC	Background Assessment Criteria
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
APAL	Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (Coastal Protection and Planning Agency, Tunisia)
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CI	Common Indicator
CIESM	Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée (International Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea)
CNL	Commissariat National du Littoral (National Coastal Commission, Algeria)
CNRS-L	Centre National de Recherche Scientifique - Liban (National Centre for Scientific Research - Lebanon)
COP	Conference of Parties
CORMON	Correspondence Group on Monitoring
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCRF	Data Collection Reference Framework
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DPSIR	Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact and Response
EAC	Environmental Assessment Criteria
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EC	European Commission
EcAp	The Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment (in the framework of the Barcelona Convention)
EcAp-MED II project	EU (GPGC) funded project on the "Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the European Union EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)"
EcAp Roadmap	Roadmap agreed in Decisions IG.17/6, IG.20/4 and IG.21/3 of the Barcelona Convention COP15, COP17 and COP 18 respectively, to implement the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (Egypt)
EGA	Environment General Authority (Libya)
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
ENI SEIS II SOUTH Project	Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the ENP South region - SEIS Support Mechanism
EO	Ecological Objective
EU	European Union

FAFA	Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement
FRA	Fisheries Restricted Area
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
GIS	Geographical Information System
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GPGC	Global Public Goods and Challenges
Green MED III	European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) South regional environment and water programme 2018-2022
HCEFLCD	Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification (High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, Morocco)
Horizon 2020 Initiative	The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution.
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LBS	Land-based sources
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria
IMAP-MPA project	"Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through an Ecologically Representative and Efficiently Managed and Monitored Network of Marine Protected Areas" project funded under Green MED III
IMELS	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
INFO/RAC	Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre
INPA	Israel National Park Authority
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN ROWA	International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated or Unreported (fishing)
LBS	Land-based Sources
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
Marine Litter MED	EU funded Project assisting the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MedPAN	Network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean
MedPartnership	Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem
MED POL	Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme
MED QSR	Mediterranean Quality Status Report
MedMPA Network project	EU (DG NEAR) funded project "Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas"
MEER	Ministère de l'Environnement et des Énergies Renouvelables (Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Algeria)
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme
ML	Marine Litter

MLRP	Marine Litter Regional Plan
MoE	Ministry of Environment (Lebanon)
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NIS	Non-indigenous species
OECM	Other Effective areas-based Conservation Measure
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PAGoDA	Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement
Plan Bleu	Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PoW	Programme of Work
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SAP BIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region
SAP MED	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land Based Activities
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPA/BD	Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
SPAMI	Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP
SPI	Science-policy interface
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
TRIX	TRophical IndeX for marine systems
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan
UNEP/MAP Components	UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Regional Activity Centers and MED POL Programme
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Table of Contents

Project Summary

Table 1: Project Information

Identification	<Insert Umoja no: XXX>				
Project Title	Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts in synergy with the EU MSFD (EcAp-MED III)				
DG ENV GPGC Strategic Priority	GPGC Priority Area 1 – Component 4: International environment and Climate governance				
MEA Secretariat Executive Head managing project	Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP				
Name of Supervisor of MEA Secretariat Project Manager	TBC				
Name of MEA Secretariat person(s) who drafted the ProDoc	Daria Mokhnacheva		QSR Programme Management Officer	Coordinating Unit	
	Jelena Knezevic, Mehdi Aissi, Marko Prem, Arthur Pasquale, Antoine Lafitte, Giordano Giorgi, Lorenza Babbini		Programme Officers	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, PB/RAC (Plan Bleu) (Members of the UNEP/MAP EcAp Task Force[1])	
MEA Secretariat Project Manager and Org. Unit/Division or Region	New staff member to be hired	Level P3	UNEP/MAP CU	Project/XB	100%, 36 months
Project Assistant	New staff member to be hired	Level G5	UNEP/MAP CU	Project/XB	50%, 36 months
Other Members of the Project team	New staff member to be hired	Biodiversity expert Local contract	SPA/RAC	Project/XB	50% for 32 months
	New staff member to be hired	Coastal expert Local contract	PAP/RAC	Project/XB	30% for 30 months
	New staff member to be hired	IT expert Local contract	INFO/RAC	Project/XB	100% for 30 months
	New staff member to be hired	SPI expert Local contract	Plan Bleu	Project/XB	20% for 24 months
MEA Secretariat Fund Management Officer	Lydia Eibl-Kamolleh, Administrative/Fund Management Officer, Lydia.Eibl-Kamolleh@un.org Kumiko Yatagai, Administrative/Fund Management Officer, kumiko.yatagai@un.org				
EC DG ENV Task Manager	Marijana Mance				
MEA Secretariat Programme of Work	2020-2021; 2022-2023				

[1] EcAp TF coordinates the implementation of IMAP and will play an important role for the delivery of 2023 MED QSR. The Task Force is coordinated by the QSR Programme Officer and led by the Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

MEA Secretariat Sub-programme	Governance; Land and Sea-Based Pollution; Biodiversity and Ecosystems; Land and sea interaction and processes; Integrated coastal zone management
MEA Secretariat PoW Expected Accomplishment(s)	Strategic Outcomes: 1.4: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making; 2.4 Marine Pollution Monitoring and assessment; 2.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub- regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building; 3.4 Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats; 3.5 Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity -related national legislation; 4.4 Monitoring and assessment (Land and Sea Interaction and Processes); 5.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines (Integrated Coastal Zone Management); 5.4 Monitoring and assessment (Integrated Coastal Zone Management)
Indicator of the EA(s) to which the project contributes to	9. (a) Number of countries updating and implementing national IMAP-compatible monitoring and assessment programmes; (b) Number of IMAP Common Indicators populated with data for 2019-2020; 10. Number of reports, factsheets and other scientific publications produced by the MAP System; 11. (a) Number of Info/MAP services provided; (b) Number of data set and/or data services made available through Info/MAP platform; 13. Number of communication products released
Most relevant MEA Secretariat PoW Output(s) to which project primarily contributes	1.4.1. Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach and published addressing inter alia status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run. These assessments include climate change-related; 1.4.3. Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp-based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including GES common indicators fact sheets, and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into Info/MAP platform; 1.4.4. Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific institutions, knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications; 1.5.1. Info/MAP platform and platform for the implementation of IMAP fully operative and further developed, connected to MAP components' information systems and other relevant regional knowledge platforms, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public; 2.4.1: National pollution and litter monitoring programmes updated to include the relevant pollution and litter IMAP indicators, implemented and supported by data quality assurance and control; 2.4.3: Marine pollution assessment tools (in depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator factsheets) developed and updated for key pollutants and sectors within EcAp; 2.5.1 Training programmes and workshops in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies, compliance with national legislation; 3.4.1: Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts;

	3.4.3 Common indicators on biodiversity and non-indigenous species monitored through IMAP in MPAs and SPAMIs, and relevant data sets established; 3.5.1 Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented, including pilots to support efforts aimed at MPA/SPAMI establishment and implementation; 4.4.2. National coast and hydrography monitoring programmes developed and updated to include the relevant IMAP common indicators, interactions and processes; 5.2.2 Methodological framework for land and sea interactions, considering in particular MSP and ICZM, developed and applied; 5.4.1 Fact sheets for ICZM indicators developed to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal and marine resources management measures.
Link to relevant SDG Goals, target(s) and SDG indicator(s)	SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and the following associated indicators: INDICATOR 14.1.1: Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density (Target 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution); INDICATOR 14.2.1: Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches; INDICATOR 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels; INDICATOR 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas INDICATOR 14.A.1: Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology (Target 14.A: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the intergovernmental oceanographic commission criteria and guidelines on the transfer of marine technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing states and least developed countries)
Type/Location	Regional, National
Region *(delete as appropriate)*	Africa, Europe, West Asia (Mediterranean, with a focus on Southern Contracting Parties)
Names of Countries	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia
Date of EC Task Manager approval of project	<Insert date of EC task manager's approval of project full-fledged proposal (email) - dd/mm/yyyy>
Tentative project budget (USD)	2,494,790 USD (including PSC and co-financing[2])
EC Allocation incl. 7% programme support costs (USD)	2,200,000 USD (including PSC)
Co-financing Amount (USD)	294,790 USD in line with UNEP/MAP POW 2020-2021
Co-financing Sources	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)
Total Amount of Co-financing (USD)	294,790 USD
Name of External Executing Partners	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

[2] PSC is only applied to the EC contribution, and not to the co-financing amounts.

	Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC)
	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)

Table 2: Project Duration

Total duration in months: (*36 months*)	Expected start and end date[3]: (*01/09/2020 – 31/08/2023*)	Project actual start and end date[4]: (*dd/mm/yyyy*)
Expected Mid-term Review or evaluation date (if project spans over more than one biennium *(01/03/2022*)	Terminal Evaluation date: *(01/03/2023)*[5]	

Table 3: Budget Summary

In USD currency

[3] *Tentative start date to be entered by project manager/proponent*
[4] *Project actual start date is the date of project approval by EC task manager (day/month/year)*
[5] *Any terminal evaluation must commence at least 6 months before project end date*

TYPE OF FUNDING	SOURCE OF FUNDING	Details	Year 1 (4 months)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 (8 months)	Total (USD)
CASH	Environment Fund activity budget		-	-	-	-	-
	Regular Budget activity budget		-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL EF/RB BUDGET		-	-	-	-	-
	Extrabudgetary Funding (posts + non-post+PMC)	Secured (European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA)	147,235	801,285	851,168	256,386	**2,056,074**
		PSC (7%)	10,306	56,090	59,582	17,947	**143,925**
		Unsecured XB funding					-
		XB Sub-total	**157,542**	**857,375**	**910,750**	**274,333**	**2,200,000**
	TOTAL XB BUDGET		**157,542**	**857,375**	**910,750**	**274,333**	**2,200,000**
IN-KIND	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)/OTA post and activities costs	As per co-financing table	29,977	94,930	94,930	74,953	**294,790**
	Regular Budget post costs						-
	Other (include name of donor)						-
	TOTAL IN-KIND BUDGET		**29,977**	**94,930**	**94,930**	**74,953**	**294,790**
TOTAL UNEP/MAP MANAGED PROJECT BUDGET		PROJECT CASH BUDGET + UNEP/MAP IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION	187,518	952,305	1,005,680	349,286	**2,494,790**

Project Justification

1 Problem and Situation Analysis

Towards the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, and in the framework of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention legal and institutional framework, the European Union has been supporting the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Roadmap adopted by COP 15, Almeria, Spain, in 2008 (Decision IG.17/6) and complemented by COP 17, Paris, France, in 2012 (Decision IG.20/4), through specific projects, with a focus on the needs of the Southern Mediterranean countries.

The EcAp MED I project (2012-2015) 'The implementation of EcAp 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 Protocol' achieved strong country ownership, with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention agreeing on a specific governance system to implement the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap which was adopted by COP 15, Almeria, Spain, in 2008 and revised and complimented by COP 17, Paris, France, 2012.

EcAp MED I had a positive impact for the mainstreaming of EcAp into the overall policies of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and in the creation of a strong country-ownership in each of the Contracting Parties. This was reflected both in the 2016-2017 Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention adopted at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/20) and in the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1), which both aim to achieve the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

The EcAp MED I project's major delivery was the agreement on the main elements of the Regional Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, which was adopted by IMAP Decision, IG.22/7 by COP19 in Athens, February 2016. The implementation of IMAP will enable the Mediterranean Countries to monitor and assess, for the first time, the status of the Mediterranean sea and coast in an integrated manner through a consolidated set of parameters and Common Indicators (hereinafter referred to as CI), which cover three clusters: i) Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries); ii) Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants); iii) Coast and Hydrography[6].

The EcAp MED I project was linked closely to the general work on EcAp at UNEP and cooperation was achieved through the coordination of efforts with other Regional Seas Programmes. EcAp MED I was also closely related to EU-funded FP7 projects in the region, to the Horizon 2020 Initiative of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for a Clean and Healthy Mediterranean, and to the EU funded SEIS I project.

With a view to securing continued support for implementation of the EcAp Roadmap, and more specifically for the integrated IMAP by the Southern Mediterranean, the GPGC-financed project 'The Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive', the EcAp MED II project (2,7 million EUR), was launched in 2015 and implemented until December 2019.

The main notable deliverables of the ECAP MED II project included the development of national integrated monitoring programmes in line with regional IMAP CIs in all beneficiary countries for biodiversity and

[6] The full list of IMAP Ecological Objectives and Common Indicators is provided in Annex H. Clusters are grouped as follows: Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries): EO1, EO2, EO3, EO4 (to be developed further); ii) Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants): EO5, EO9, EO10, EO11 (to be developed further); iii) Coast and Hydrography: EO7, EO8 and EO6 (to be developed further).

Non-Indigenous Species (NIS), marine pollution and litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) and coast and hydrography; specific country capacity assessments with regard to needs for IMAP implementation; a funding strategy which focuses on the Southern Mediterranean and makes an analysis of potential available funding resources to further EcAp implementation efforts in the region; enhanced Science-Policy interface (SPI), together with delivery of policy documents and recommendations to the attention of the Contracting Parties; the development of a data management system (IMAP Info System) at pilot level; and the development of a NIS sub-regional monitoring programme.

The EcAp MED II project added value to, built upon, and strengthened the outputs of the EcAp MED I. The EcAp MED II project was instrumental and facilitated the Southern Mediterranean countries work to develop IMAP-compatible national monitoring programmes (herein after referred to as national IMAPs), in line with the relevant COP 19 IMAP Decision (IG.22/7). Tables in Annex I provide an overview of the progress on national monitoring programmes achieved under EcAp MED II project in the seven beneficiary countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) respectively for the Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries), Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants), and Coast and Hydrography clusters.

The **current** IMAP Pilot Info System, delivered under the EcAp MED II project is designed for 11 CIs of IMAP, namely CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23[7], and will be the primary platform for data management and reporting deriving from the implementation of the National IMAPs for these CI. It will receive and collate data and information from each Contracting Parties for systematic reporting to the MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat in line with the relevant COP Decisions. The IMAP Pilot Info System has been tested for several CIs by 10 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia and Spain), which allowed to identify and resolve system use issues, and prepare it for full operationalization.

During the period 2016-2019, the database of UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme was updated with new datasets related to eutrophication (Egypt (2012 - 2015), France (2013-2016), Israel (2013, 2015, 2017, 2018 (received 2 days ago), Montenegro (2016-2018), Morocco (2013-2015), Slovenia (2016-2018), Tunisia (2013-2014), Turkey (2014-2015)) and contaminants (Cyprus (2015, only biota); France (2015-2016), Israel (2015, 2017), Montenegro (2016-2018), Morocco (2016-2018), Slovenia (2016-2018) and Turkey (2014 -2015)).

These datasets, as well as data reported earlier, have been quality checked in the format of Metadata templates applied on MED POL IV and prepared for upload by INFO RAC into IMAP Info System in the format of Data Dictionaries approved for CI 13, CI 14 and CI 17. Data from the MED POL datasets have been subsequently uploaded into the IMAP Pilot Info System. A call has been issued in 2020 for the online reporting by the Contracting Parties of all pending data flows in the IMAP Pilot Info System in line with the newly approved IMAP Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for the CI currently supported by the system, as part of UNEP/MAP PoW implementation.

The EcAp MED II outputs include, in line with the results of the national capacity assessments of the beneficiary countries for IMAP implementation, an EcAp Funding Strategy developed to indicate potential funding sources in the Southern Mediterranean region. The EcAp Funding Strategy highlighted that after the initial period of IMAP implementation (2016-2019), additional support shall be necessary for national in-situ operational implementation of IMAP and for the facilitation of sub-regional cooperation. It also recognized that although there is country ownership of IMAP implementation at national level, there are actual on-the-ground implementation needs required for the generation of monitoring data as well as their reporting.

[7] Please refer to Annex H for full description of IMAP Common Indicators.

From IMAP-related meetings organized by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system as part of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap governance mechanism (EcAp Coordination Group, Correspondence Groups for Monitoring, Correspondence Groups for GES and Targets), it has been stressed and reiterated that there are needs for additional capacity building, continued support and for exchanging/sharing best practices in the region among all Contracting Parties, with the view to boosting the implementation of national IMAPs, enhancing region-wide coherence and delivering quality assured data.

Furthermore, recommendations have been made from the above-mentioned meetings which call for the regional partners to have an enhanced level of involvement in strengthening regional cooperation for the implementation of the EcAp Roadmap and implementation of IMAP. Such cooperation will also serve well when addressing the implementation needs of 2030 Agenda relating to SDG 14.

Continued support is needed to address the knowledge challenges and gaps identified in the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR), which was the first holistic assessment prepared and published by UNEP/MAP on the status of marine and coastal environment in relation to Good Environmental Status (GES) for the various EcAp-based Ecological Objectives and IMAP CIs adopted in the framework of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

Decision IG.23/6 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 20, Albania 2017), acknowledged the achievements and lessons learnt during the 2017 MED QSR process, requested the Secretariat to make all possible efforts to overcome the challenges identified during the preparation of the 2017 MED QSR, and recommended general directions for the development of a successful, data-based and quantitative 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR). These directions are summarized as follows:

- harmonization and standardization of monitoring and assessment methods;
- improvement of availability and ensuring of long time series of quality assured data to monitor the trends in the status of the marine environment;
- improvement of availability of harmonized marine environment state assessment datasets, including access to data stored in other databases to which some of the Mediterranean countries regularly contribute;
- improvement of data accessibility with the view to improving marine knowledge in the Mediterranean and ensuring that the IMAP Info System is operational and continuously maintained up to date and expanded to accommodate data submissions and/or sharing by all Contracting Parties for all the mandatory IMAP CIs.

Mandated by the same COP Decision, the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap was prepared in 2018, and accompanied by a Needs Assessment, approved by COP 21 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in December 2019, Naples, Italy (Decision IG.24/4).

The 2023 MED QSR vision aims to achieve an integrated drivers, pressures, state, impact and response (DPSIR)-based GES assessment, developed on consolidated and quality-assured monitoring data sets, reported and processed through a fully operational IMAP Info System that is interoperable with national and other regional monitoring and reporting networks.

The 2023 MED QSR process highlights the following key priority needs to be addressed:

1. Scale(s) of monitoring, assessment and reporting to be agreed upon, to enable comparable assessment of the available data sets and lead to clear conclusions on environmental status for the different elements (e.g. species, habitats) assessed per assessment area;

2. Necessary methodological tools and assessment criteria to be agreed on to allow and promote integrated assessment of GES, aligned as far as possible with MSFD methods;

3. Full implementation of IMAP to be achieved, with data generation throughout the Mediterranean;

4. Fully operational SEIS-based IMAP Info System to be put in place to support timely reporting of the Contracting Parties;

5. Monitoring Protocols and Data Quality Assurance and Quality Control for IMAP CIs are to be made available to guide Contracting Parties;

6. National capacity and knowledge gaps are to be addressed to ensure region-wide coherence and data availability;

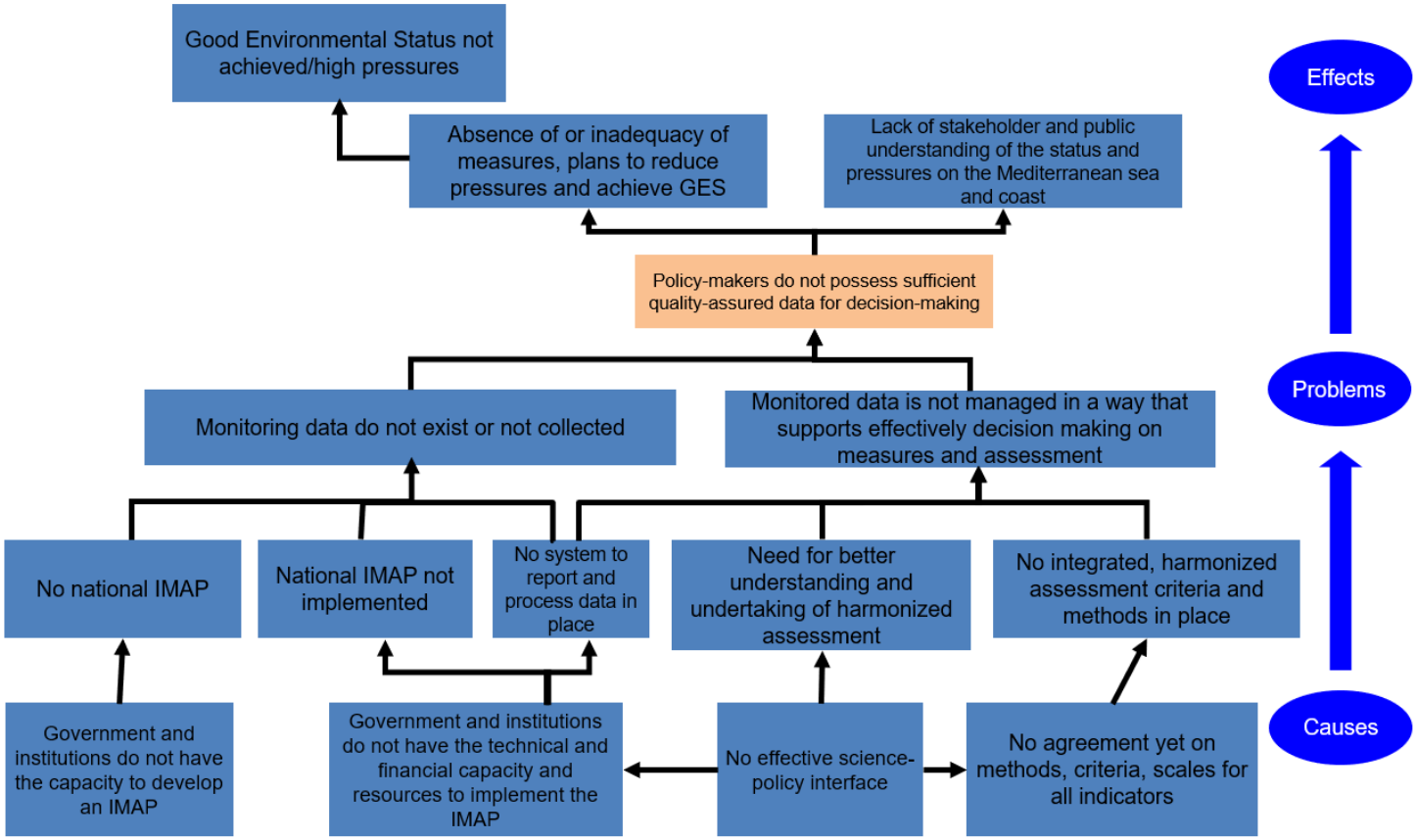
7. Regional partners and projects to be able to provide inputs deriving from their projects and/or work to IMAP implementation and 2023 MED QSR in a coordinated manner; and

8. Regular, effective (and more frequent) regional coordination with the Contracting Parties to be put in place.

The EcAp MED III project aims to further the achievements of the EcAp MED II Project. It focuses on supporting the structure and technical capacities at national and regional levels needed for implementing IMAP and the delivery of several 2023 MED QSR Roadmap outputs and milestones based on the structured approach established to cope with the challenges noted in the 2017 MED QSR, in addition to the solutions identified for the specific challenges highlighted during the implementation of EcAp MED II. These elements will be elaborated in each of the proposed EcAp MED III outcomes in section three of this document (please also refer to 'Annex K - EcAp MED III and QSR Roadmap Implementation Timeline' attached to this project document).

Through its comprehensive approach focusing on capacity strengthening, sub-regional and regional cooperation, the project will bring benefits to a variety of stakeholders, including policy makers at local and national levels, national institutions responsible for the implementation of IMAPs, scientific community, data experts and scientists, while strengthening the general outreach and visibility in support of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap in the Mediterranean. The EcAp MED III project is expected to support delivery of data-based Quality Status Report 2023, create conditions and provide a substantive contribution for a possible update of IMAP (development of additional indicators or adjustment of existing ones, upgrade of candidate indicators to mandatory indicators, upgrade of assessment criteria, update of definitions of GES, progress on integrated assessment methodologies) to be presented for consideration and adoption by the governing bodies of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system in the 2022-2023 biennium.

Figure 1. EcAp MED III Problem Tree


Good Environmental Status not achieved/high pressures
Absence of or inadequacy of measures, plans to reduce pressures and achieve GES
Lack of stakeholder and public understanding of the status and pressures on the Mediterranean sea and coast
Policy-makers do not possess sufficient quality-assured data for decision-making
Monitoring data do not exist or not collected
Monitored data is not managed in a way that supports effectively decision making on measures and assessment
No national IMAP
National IMAP not implemented
No system to report and process data in place
Need for better understanding and undertaking of harmonized assessment
No integrated, harmonized assessment criteria and methods in place
Government and institutions do not have the capacity to develop an IMAP
Government and institutions do not have the technical and financial capacity and resources to implement the IMAP
No effective science-policy interface
No agreement yet on methods, criteria, scales for all indicators
Effects
Problems
Causes

2 Relevance

2.1 Relevance to Regional, National or Subnational Priorities

The EcAp MED III project is in line with the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2016-2021, with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2020-2021 adopted at 21st Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21) in 2019 (Decision IG.24/14), as well as with the following COP Decisions: IG.17/6 (COP 15, 2008); IG.21/3 (COP 18, 2013); IG.22/7 (COP 19, 2016); IG.23/6 (COP 20, 2017); and IG.24/4 (COP 21, 2019).

This project is also in line with regional commitments in relation to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach[8] and will also contribute to supporting the achievement of Aichi Targets in the Mediterranean region, as well as regional and national commitments made in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources" (SDG 14) in particular.

The EcAp MED III outcomes will rely on strong sub-regional cooperation supported through dedicated project activities. This will be done through the establishment of sub-regional groups involving both the beneficiary project countries and the other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (at no cost to the EcAp MED III Project) to support the implementation of IMAP in the same sub-region. The project is also conceived as mutually supportive and complementary to other important initiatives in the region. To amplify the effectiveness of the EcAp MED III project, the outcomes and outputs have been designed with a view to harnessing the previous and ongoing efforts achieved by other programmes and projects implemented by UNEP/MAP, as outlined in section 4 below, namely the ENI SEIS II South project, QUIETMED II, IMAP-MPA, and the GEF funded MedProgramme as well as other relevant EU funded MSFD projects MED REGION, ActionMed, IDEM, INDICIT. The project will feed the agenda of the Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMONs') meetings and will contribute to the implementation of the MSFD. The results of the project will be shared periodically as part of UNEP/MAP work on the implementation of Ecosystem Approach Roadmap to the MSCG and other technical groups established under MSFD in relation to the Mediterranean part of regular regional discussions.

The EcAp MED III project relates directly to Sustainable Development Goal number 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and the following associated targets and indicators:

Targets	**Indicators**
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	**14.1.1** Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density
14.2	**14.2.1**

[8] The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Ecosystem Approach Implementation Roadmap at COP 15 in 2008 in Almeria, Spain, in line with decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with the Johannesburg Plan of Action (2002). The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources. It promotes conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in an equitable way. The EcAp Implementation Roadmap adopted at COP 15 includes seven steps and is subject to a 6-year cycle of review and update. EU-funded projects such as EcAp-MED I, EcAp-MED II, ENI SEIS and MedMPA Network, have been instrumental in ensuring a consistent and harmonized implementation of the EcAp Roadmap with a particular focus on IMAP implementation.

Targets	**Indicators**
By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	**14.4.1** Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	**14.5.1** Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
14.A Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the intergovernmental oceanographic commission criteria and guidelines on the transfer of marine technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing states and least developed countries	**14.A.1** Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology

2.2 Relevance to MEA Secretariat and EU Strategies

Since 2008 UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention has integrated the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) as an overarching principle of its work in synergy with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), with the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast[9].

This project is thus fully in line with the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention, as outlined in the "Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean" (MAP Phase II) adopted in 1995, the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2016-2021 adopted in 2016 (Decision IG.22/1) and its strategic outcomes related to monitoring and evaluation, and with the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2020-2021 adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties in 2019 (Decision IG.24/14).

[9] It is the guiding principle for its overall work in line with Decision IG.21/3 and the core of the current UNEP/MAP 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy (Decision IG.22/1; UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 so called MTS).

EcAp MED III aims at supporting the implementation of IMAP as adopted through Decision IG.22/7 (COP 19, 2016), which represents one of the most significant decisions taken under the Barcelona Convention process in the last ten years. The project will also support the implementation of several other key decisions related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean, including Decision IG.17/6 related to the adoption of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (COP 15, 2008); Decision IG.21/3 related to the integrated list of GES definitions and related targets (COP 18, 2013); Decision IG.23/6 (COP 20, 2017) which endorsed the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and set the basis for the development of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap and Needs Assessment, and Decision IG.24/4 on Assessment Studies (COP 21, 2019) through which the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap was endorsed.

Considering the mandate of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat in supporting the implementation of these decisions, its 40-year strong experience in supporting Contracting Parties directly towards addressing pollution and supporting efforts towards the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, its wide-ranging technical expertise, notably through MED POL and MAP Components, as well as its strong network of partners, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and MAP Components are strongly positioned to deliver successfully the results expected from this project and to harness the expertise and partnerships required to support the effective implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and IMAP in the Mediterranean.

The project also contributes to efforts supporting the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the related Decision on good environmental status of marine waters adopted in 2017 by the European Commission (Decision 2017/848/EU), by supporting a harmonized approach to monitoring and assessment across the Mediterranean basin, including through collaboration with other important initiatives in the region, such as the MEDREGION project.

3 Project Results

3.1 Theory of Change

In line with the EcAp MED III objectives, the design of the project asserts that by supporting and accelerating action in selected countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia) in defining, through highly participatory processes, and implementing integrated monitoring and assessment plans for the three clusters, the project will advance the operational approach to IMAP in a national, sub-regional and regional context and make it a strong tool for policy elaboration and update and assessment of effectiveness of national policies related to the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. It will also support these countries to comply with reporting requirements under the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system.

For the purposes of monitoring and assessment, the Mediterranean is divided into four sub-regions. Through the EcAp MED III, sub-regional cooperation will cover these four sub-regions: East, West, and Central Mediterranean Sea, and the Adriatic Sea.

The Theory of Change (Figure 2 below) illustrates the project design and emphasizes the concept of IMAP in relation to MAP and EU objectives (e.g. MSFD implementation, 2023 MED QSR, 2030 Agenda) that rely upon country contribution of information and data, as well as a good level of coordinated cooperation. In addition, the Southern Mediterranean will benefit from improved health conditions.

The **overall objective** of the EcAp MED III project is to support the effective implementation of the IMAP in the Mediterranean and contribute to the assessment of the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and

to the delivery of a data-based 2023 Quality Status Report, in order to measure and enable the progress towards achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES).

To achieve this objective, the EcAp MED III project will be structured along two key outcomes, as described in detail below.

All outputs and activities of EcAp MED III will be delivered through effective cooperation with beneficiary countries, and through their provision of available human resources and enhanced capacities including on project management as well as the utilization of their existing technical monitoring resources. Such an approach will be key to ensure the sustainability of the project results. MSFD relevant policy and scientific developments will be taken into account during the project implementation to ensure consistency. The Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention that do not fulfill the eligibility criteria of GPGC financing will be encouraged to participate in the various activities under all outputs on a no-cost basis for the EcAp MED III Project, with the support from the PoW budget, as was the case also in the previous editions of the EcAp project. In particular, activities under Outcome 2 (progress on assessment methodologies, SPI and QSR development) will be mostly done at regional level, thus benefiting to all Contracting Parties.

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

The outputs for this outcome will include activities that build upon the achievements of the EcAp MED II project for the operational on-the-ground implementation of national IMAPs, and completion of the IMAP Info System to allow the data upload, sharing and interoperability and processing for **all mandatory IMAP Common Indicators (CIs)** as explained in detail under output 1.4 below. Overall, the outputs and activities under this outcome will aim to:

a) support the beneficiary Mediterranean countries[10] in their respective IMAP implementation

b) enable the conditions necessary for reporting quality assured data on 12 IMAP CI (1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 and CCI 26) by the concerned countries[11].

Output 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected CIs in eligible countries based on national IMAP i.e., on a one-to-one basis, with a focus on biodiversity, and pollution (including marine litter) as per proposed Table 1 below (non-indigenous species (NIS) related activities are covered under Output 1.2, and coast and hydrography is covered under Output 1.3);

Specific activities/deliverables:

Under this output technical and financial support will be provided to the implementation of national IMAPs of the seven beneficiary countries for a minimum of 12 indicators per beneficiary country addressing the Biodiversity cluster (focusing on EO1), and the Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants) clusters (the NIS component of the Biodiversity cluster and the Coast and Hydrography cluster are addressed respectively through outputs 1.2 and 1.3 below). Activities will include:

[10] Direct project beneficiary countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia

[11] This refers to the 11 CI already supported by the IMAP info system (1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23), and also includes one of the candidate indicators on 'Underwater Noise', the work on which will be done through collaboration and financial support from other relevant projects executed by ACCOBAMS and other partners. The full description of IMAP CI is provided in Annex H.

1.1.1. Design concrete monitoring plans (complementing monitoring programmes) per country, specifying monitoring sites/transects, their respective CIs, selected methodologies and protocols for their measurements, quality assurance and reporting schemes, costs of implementation and other elements necessary to build, support and implement a reliable process for implementation of monitoring activities of the project.

Specification of these concrete monitoring plans will be done by fully taking into account the complementarities with monitoring sites/transects selected within the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project; and the guidance provided in CI Factsheets as approved by the EcAp Coordination Group;

1.1.2. Prepare and support implementation of field survey programmes per each beneficiary country (combining and applying specific monitoring plans). This includes the definition and provision of related procurement services, laboratory chemicals and small equipment, which are required for the implementation of the agreed concrete monitoring plans ensuring full synergy to the extent possible and cost effectiveness with similar services provided under the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project.

This will be also supported by offering capacity building support to IMAP national teams for routine sampling, on new monitoring techniques, handling of data, their recording and reporting standards in line with IMAP requirements and CI factsheets. The latter will be done in conjunction with activity 1.1.3 below;

1.1.3. Organize national and sub-regional validation meetings/workshops. The activities indicated in points 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 above will be done at the national level and validated by national meetings/workshops with relevant institutions responsible for IMAP implementation.

Technical support to this process will be provided by MAP Secretariat and respective MAP components through thematic regional consultancies. This validation will be done at cluster level i.e. Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity separately per each monitoring sites/transects and then across the clusters and monitoring sites/transects. This process will be also supported by sharing of best practices through CORMON regional level as well as workshops at sub-regional level (see outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 of this project);

1.1.4. Prepare national assessment factsheets for the selected indicators.

Based on data delivered from the implementation of the specific monitoring plans under output 1.1, data coming from IMAP-MPA project execution, 2017 MED QSR data and other sources, the national IMAP teams will prepare and deliver national assessment factsheets for the selected indicators to be validated in national meetings/workshops as indicated in activity 1.1.3 above. This will be done in line with existing assessment methodologies, as well as with relevant methodologies developed and approved as part of outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of this project and of activities under the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work.

Table 3.1 below indicates the concrete activities to be undertaken under output 1.1 at the level of the two clusters addressed under this output (Pollution and Litter; and Biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species) in each beneficiary country.

The implementation of the above activities will lead to the delivery of IMAP monitoring data for selected CIs, prepare respective national assessment, enhance national marine environment monitoring practices, through analysis of present practices and gaps and development of recommendations on more optimal monitoring practices, improve quality assurance protocols, review and strengthen national monitoring networks, and integrate monitoring networks across the IMAP clusters. The outcome of this work will feed the CORMON meetings of all clusters and will be shared at regional and sub-regional levels as well as through SPI-related activities in the pilot countries as appropriate (see outputs 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.2.3).
The data deriving from monitoring activities will be also used to feed the work at regional and sub-regional level in defining assessment criteria, monitoring scales as well as enhanced integrated and joint monitoring (see outputs 2.1.1-2.1.4) including their discussion and review by CORMONs.

Table 3.1: Provisional proposal for CI addressed under Output 1.1:

Biodiversity Cluster	CI 3, 4 and 5, addressing only mammals. The monitoring of the other species (marine turtles and seabirds) will be covered under IMAP-MPA Project.
Pollution and Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster	CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. With regards CI 19 and CI 20, the plan is to undertake a baseline assessment. CI 22 Beach litter (macro and micro-litter), Both CI 23 Sea Floor macro-litter (Trawler); CI 23 floating microlitter (manta net); floating macro/mega-litter (visual observations) will be supported through IMAP-MPA Project.

Output 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented; continuation of the work undertaken in EcAp MED II on the joint sub-regional pilot monitoring plan on NIS in order to support the implementation of monitoring programmes for seven agreed species of the sub-regional monitoring programme on NIS in collaboration with GFCM. Support a baseline sub-regional assessment for the entire list of NIS in the IMAP in the Mediterranean.

Specific activities/deliverables:

This output will focus on CI 6 under Ecological Objective 2 (Non-Indigenous Species), and will focus on the Eastern Mediterranean Sub-Region to support the follow up and implementation of the initial work and recommendations of the EcAp MED II project.[12]

1.2.1. Implement the joint monitoring and assessment programme for NIS at national and sub-regional levels (East Mediterranean sub-region) for seven agreed species and support the reporting of the results and related data in the IMAP Info System;

1.2.2. Support a baseline national, sub-regional and regional assessment for the entire list of NIS;

[12] The Eastern Mediterranean sub-region encompasses three beneficiary countries of this project (Egypt, Israel, and Lebanon), as well as three non-beneficiary countries (Cyprus, Greece and Turkey). Activities in non-beneficiary countries will be implemented by GFCM. Subject to availability of funding, a new sub-regional pilot could be designed for the Central Mediterranean region (covering Tunisia and Libya as beneficiary countries).

1.2.3. Develop national/sub-regional assessment factsheets for NIS based on the results of joint monitoring and baseline study.

Output 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for the Coast and Hydrography Cluster - CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring CI 16 in at least one area per beneficiary country.

Specific activities/deliverables:

1.3.1. Provide technical support to data monitoring and processing for CI 16 in line with IMAP monitoring practices, including reporting, in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (in at least one area per beneficiary country);

1.3.2. Develop methodology and conduct baseline assessment for CI 15 in all eligible countries;

1.3.3. Prepare a report on lessons learned to be discussed at sub-regional/CORMON meetings

The results of this output will feed sub-regional meetings/workshops and the work of CORMON on Coast and Hydrography (outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) as well as output 2.2.3 on SPI.

Output 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Specific activities/deliverables:

1.4.1. Upgrade the hardware and software (HW&SW) platform to support data collection and data consultation with web GIS platform and dashboards;

1.4.2. Develop Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) for all IMAP CIs that have not been included in current IMAP Pilot Info System (CI 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 20), harmonized with MSFD standards wherever possible, and implement the related data flows[13];

1.4.3. Assess the capacity, compatibility and interoperability with IMAP Info System of National information systems for the IMAP CI based on analysis of national data collection systems at country level;

1.4.4. Define and implement Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures for application in the IMAP Info System for the full set of Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) of IMAP CIs (EO3 not included);

1.4.5. Provide dedicated support to beneficiary countries to use the IMAP Info System and collect, transfer and validate data using data flows on the final set of CIs;

1.4.6. Implement the IMAP Data sharing Policy and optimize IMAP Info System operations for the receipt and hosting of reported data and information for the project beneficiary countries.

[13] The inclusion of EO3-related IMAP common indicators in the IMAP Info System will be considered as part of ongoing discussions related to the bilateral cooperation with GFCM in the framework of the Roadmap for GFCM-INFO/RAC cooperation.

The above summarized outputs and related activities under Outcome 1 aim to boost IMAP implementation in beneficiary countries and at sub-regional level. This will in turn support the participating countries in their provision of quality assured data for selected CIs aiming at achieving:

- Minimum 3 sets of data on selected IMAP CI under EO5, EO9 and EO10 reported by the Contracting Parties (2021 and 2022);
- Minimum 1 set of data on selected CI under EO1 and EO2 reported by Contracting Parties (2021/2022);
- Minimum 1 set of data for CI 16 and 1 baseline assessment for CI 15 under EO7 and EO8 reported by the Contracting Parties (2021/2022); and
- National assessment factsheets prepared by country teams for the CIs monitored under this project (outputs 1.1-1.3) and already included in the IMAP Info System (CI 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23). Baseline assessment prepared for CI 19 and CI 20;

Executing/Partner Agencies:

UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC

Geographical scope:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.

Approach and methodology:

The focus of this outcome is placed primarily on the in-situ and operational aspects of IMAP implementation in the Southern Mediterranean countries. The EcAp MED III Project will support sampling and data processing from monitoring stations to be selected among those included in the respective national IMAPs that were prepared with the support of and during EcAp MED II project.

Tables attached as Annex I to this Project Document show the overall analysis made of the national IMAPs for the three clusters and data sets availability, based on which a first selection of the CIs to be supported through EcAp MED III project is proposed in table 3.1 above, subject to final validation by the respective countries during the inception phase of the Project implementation. The selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects will also be further validated in consultation with the beneficiary countries during the inception phase of the project as described under activity 1.1.1.

The EcAp MED III project will have a strong and natural interaction with the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project which started in January 2020. Both projects will be complementary in supporting the Southern Mediterranean countries implementing national IMAPs but with clear specificities. The efforts that will be undertaken through the IMAP-MPA project will primarily focus on the integration aspects at pilot level of IMAP implementation. It will deliver high quality integrated assessment datasets generated from the collection of monitoring data for CIs representing each of the three clusters, in one pressure and two non-pressure pilot areas per country, i.e., two in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and one area subjected to high pressure resulting from human activity.

A combination of in-situ real time data and modeling and earth-observation tools will be promoted for each of the three IMAP Clusters, based on the methodologies already recommended within the existing CI guidance factsheets.

For the Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries) cluster:

For the Biodiversity Cluster, the EcAp MED III project will focus on the monitoring of CI 3, 4, 5 and 6. The monitoring of CI 3, 4 and 5 will be conducted with technical support from SPA/RAC, in close collaboration with the IMAP-MPA project, which will focus on marine reptiles and seabirds monitoring, while EcAp MED III will address marine mammals. Transect lines will be elaborated, when appropriate, to set up monitoring systems for marine species, i.e., marine turtles, seabirds, marine mammals and NIS in an integrated manner with marine litter and underwater noise. Those indicators are technically monitored through a fixed transect line in the identified offshore area. Stations over the transect lines will be fixed to proceed with monitoring the additional relevant indicators related to the other IMAP clusters: Pollution and litter; and Coast and hydrography. A provisional proposal of monitoring sites is provided in table 3.2 below, suggested in full consideration of monitoring site selection for the IMAP-MPA project; the final selection of monitoring sites will be confirmed and validated by the respective countries during the inception phase of the project implementation.

Regarding species monitoring within the agreed CI 3, 4 and 5 (marine mammals), the EcAp MED III project will establish an initial assessment that will provide description of the population and its status in the concerned countries, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS. The monitoring will be carried out through vessel or aerial based visual survey method following the endorsed protocol on line-transect distance sampling.

Regarding the monitoring and assessment of EO2 focusing on Non-Indigenous Species (NIS), CI 6, the monitoring work will focus on the East Mediterranean sub-region (Egypt, Lebanon and Israel covered by the project, and Cyprus, Greece and Turkey supported by GFCM) [14], building on the EcAp MED II project results. The EcAp-MED II project supported the development of a joint UNEP/MAP-GFCM Sub-Regional Pilot Study for the Eastern Mediterranean on Non-Indigenous Species in Relation to Fisheries (Sub-Regional Pilot) and of a Sub-Regional IMAP/DCRF-compatible monitoring implementation plan in relation to selected fish species. The monitoring plan presented the common sub-regional approach on: i) the sources of data to be used; ii) the main observation platforms needed; iii) proposed sub-indicators and iv) list of NIS Fish species to be monitored on sub-regional level. It was submitted to UNEP/MAP and GFCM governing bodies in 2019, who made recommendations for its further implementation. Under EcAp MED III, seven agreed fishery-related non-indigenous species that are particularly invasive will be monitored mainly in MPAs and hotspots of introduction (Ports and their surrounding areas, docks, marinas, aquaculture installations, heated power plant effluents sites, offshore structures). To be able to specify further GES and to understand the full extent of NIS present in the region, a baseline assessment will also be developed for the entire list of NIS at national, sub-regional and regional levels in collaboration with GFCM and the IMAP-MPA project. Cooperation with all relevant regional partners, such as JRC, will be ensured (output 1.2).

Table 3.2: Provisional proposal for monitoring sites for cetaceans and NIS, deriving from the National Monitoring Programmes on biodiversity and NIS.

		Algeria	**Morocco**	**Tunisia**	**Libya**	**Egypt**	**Lebanon**	**Israel**
Aerial survey For CIs 3, 4, 5 (cetaceans)		**Whole coastline using aerial survey if authorized, including MPAs**		**Whole coastline using aerial survey if authorized, including MPAs and**		**Whole coastline using aerial survey, if authorized, including**		**Whole coastline using aerial survey, if authorized, including**

[14] Subject to availability of funding, a new sub-regional pilot could be designed for the Central Mediterranean region (covering Tunisia and Libya as beneficiary countries).

		Algeria	**Morocco**	**Tunisia**	**Libya**	**Egypt**	**Lebanon**	**Israel**
		and high-pressure areas		**high-pressure areas**		**MPAs and high-pressure areas**		**MPAs and high-pressure areas**
Boat survey for Cis3, 4, 5 (cetacean) and RAS for CI 6 (NIS)	**MPAs**	1. Rachgoun	1. Al Hoceima 2. Jbel Moussa	1. Zembra, Zembretta and Jebel El Haouaria 2. Kerkennah Islands 3. Kuriat islands 4. La Galite archipelagos	1. Ain El Ghazala 2. Farwa Lagoon	1. Sallum Bay	1. Palm Islands 2. Tyre Coast	1. Gdor MPA 2. Rosh Hanikra MPA
	High Pressure	1. Algiers bay	1. Alboran 2. Med Tangier Port	1. Gulf of Tunis 2. Gulf of Gabes 3. Monastir bay	1.Gulf of Sirte 2.Gulf of Tobruk	1. Nile Delta 2. Port Said	1. Beirut Bay	1. Haifa Port 2. Akko bay

For the Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants) cluster:

For this cluster, the monitoring of CI on Eutrophication (EO5) and Contaminants in sediments (EO9) is at a relatively more advanced stage compared to the other CI indicators of the Pollution Cluster. The project will support the complementary monitoring of CI 13 and 14 along with CI 17 and 18, including through complementary external financial resources to be allocated from the core budget of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean Trust Fund, MTF). The monitoring of contaminants in biota, as well as and biomarkers monitoring is more challenging and requires special attention. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing literature and data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or other relevant Institutions and Partners. The monitoring of CI 21 related to bathing water quality will also be supported. A list of candidate monitoring sites for CIs under EO5 and EO9 is provided in table 3.3 below. The project budget is not sufficient to undertake monitoring in all 17 proposed monitoring stations identified below. The exact number of monitoring stations to be supported under the EcAp MED III project will be defined during the inception phase of the project implementation in consultation with the countries, and in consideration of additional resources that could be provided in the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and budget.

Table 3.3: Candidate monitoring sites for Pollution (EO5, EO9)[15]

Algeria	**Morocco**	**Tunisia**	**Libya**	**Egypt**	**Lebanon**

[15] There are no provisions under this project for financial support to Israel for the implementation of this cluster of IMAP.

6 monitoring stations in Mostaganem and Bejaia areas: ECMO-L ECMO-C3 EMO-C2 EBE-C1 ECBE-C2 ECBE-L	3 monitoring stations in Tanger area: EO5-11 EO5-12 EO5-13	2 monitoring stations in Golfe de Hammamet area: S8-H S9-H	2 monitoring stations in the vicinity of Kaam river mouth: EO5-4-1 EO5-4-3	3 monitoring stations in Abu Qir West area: Me 20 Me 20_2 Me 20_3	2 monitoring stations in Beirut region: Manara 1 Manara 2

For Marine Litter (EO10), the project will support the monitoring of CI 22 Beach litter (macro and/or micro-litter) in up to two locations per beneficiary country, to be defined further in consultation with the countries during the inception phase of the project implementation. The monitoring of CI 23 (Sea Floor macro-litter – Trawler; floating microlitter – manta net and floating macro/mega-litter – visual observations) will be supported by the IMAP-MPA project, which will complement datasets collected under EcAp MED III to support the overall assessment of EO10 for the 2023 MED QSR.

For the Coast and Hydrography cluster:

For CI 15, the project will support the development of the methodology to collect data and define the baseline for the assessment of the location and extent of habitats impacted by hydrographic alterations, including specification of installations and identification of monitoring locations. The methodology will be based on the existing guidance factsheet for CI 15, which specifies assessment criteria. Given that CI 15 concerns the development of new structures, with no specific set location, there are no fixed monitoring stations for CI 15 and the monitoring needs to be based on the site selection for the new structure. Stations that exist for certain hydrographic parameters (such as currents, and waves, which are measured by buoys) are not always relevant to CI 15 since these can be in positions that differ from the locations of planned structures. Other hydrographic parameters are not measured through 'fixed' stations (such as bathymetry which is done by sonar). Therefore, country-level consultations and work will be conducted with country teams, in order to obtain information on the planned structures/installations that would cause hydrographic alterations and potentially impact marine habitats as a consequence, and to identify specific sites for monitoring of CI 15. The information collected will provide the baseline for future monitoring of CI 15.

In relation to EO8 Coastal ecosystems and landscapes, monitoring of CI 16 will be supported in six beneficiary countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia)[16] based on the guidance factsheet for CI 16. CI 16 monitoring will be conducted by national teams with technical support from PAP/RAC, using remote sensing data (satellite, aerophoto) and possible field verification if required. The length of the coastline to be covered by the monitoring exercise will be defined in consultation with the countries during the inception phase of the project implementation. This first set of data for the coastlines of eligible countries obtained through this project will provide a baseline for CI 16.

IMAP Info System:

As indicated in the section above, the EcAp MED III project will provide technical support to upgrade the platform, to develop Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) for the additional CIs (not included

[16] Israel has recently completed monitoring for CI 16 and therefore will not be covered by the project, however the results of the monitoring conducted by Israel will be included in the 2023 MED QSR.

up to now in the IMAP Pilot Info System under the EcAp-MED II project), ensuring their compatibility with DSs and DDs developed within the current IMAP Pilot Info System, and to support the implementation of data flows for all remaining CIs. An analysis will be conducted of the project beneficiary countries to assess their capacity, compatibility and interoperability potential with the IMAP Info System. Specific training sessions will periodically be provided to support beneficiary countries in their use of the new information system, including its quality assurance aspects, and skills for the interfacing of the IMAP Info System operationally with the national information systems. All activities will be led by INFO/RAC with additional substantive input from other relevant MAP components.

Discussions related to bilateral cooperation with the GFCM through the implementation of the GFCM-INFO/RAC Roadmap will continue, to ensure a mechanism for the sharing of fisheries data (EO3) into the IMAP Info System. It is expected that by 2021, GFCM will be providing access to the data collated by them for recording directly in the IMAP Info System, which will then be used for the development of the 2023 MED QSR. This activity will be carried out with reference to the IMAP Data Management Policy initiated under the EcAp MED II project. This process will also ensure that EO2 (CI 6) Non-Indigenous Species data will be fully incorporated into the process of reporting for the entire region.

Activities related to one of the candidate indicator of 'Underwater Noise' (CI 26), including support to the establishment of national monitoring programme, reporting in the IMAP Info System and assessment work, are considered for implementation under this project in consultation and coordination with ACCOBAMS and building on the results of the QUIETMED projects, on the understanding that funding will be made available from QUIETMED II and other relevant projects. The Meeting of CORMON on Pollution Monitoring organized in April 2019 considered the Guidance factsheets for the two Candidate CIs on Noise developed by ACCOBAMS in cooperation with MED POL, indicating the need to continue building on the results of the ongoing project QUIETMED II ending in December 2020, and for the work of the Technical Group on Underwater Noise under the MSFD to complement the IMAP implementation.

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

This outcome will address two main components: a) support to the work on assessment component of IMAP with a focus on scales of assessment and monitoring b) boost science policy interface at sub regional and national levels and strengthen the collaboration with partner organizations for IMAP implementation and delivery of the 2023 MED QSR.

Outputs under this outcome will aim to build a higher level of common understanding with a view to making further progress on the development of the assessment criteria for GES at regional and sub-regional levels, thus benefiting not only project beneficiary countries, but also the entire Mediterranean region. The activities and outputs under this outcome will be correlated with the ocean-related components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as implementation progresses and develops.

2.1 Support the work on scales of monitoring and assessments

In line with 2023 MED QSR milestones the following outputs and activities will support work on the appropriate scale of Monitoring and Assessment Scales and the reporting of data:

Output 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP CIs agreed/progressed

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.1.1.1. Undertake in-depth analysis of knowledge gaps related to scales of assessment for all mandatory CIs of IMAP, except those related to the Biodiversity cluster covered under the IMAP-MPA project;

2.1.1.2. Propose updated/new scales of assessment for all mandatory CIs as applicable;

2.1.1.3. Prepare GIS atlas for scales of monitoring and scales of assessment to be integrated into IMAP Pilot Info System;

2.1.1.4. Develop a proposal on integrated assessment scales as appropriate across clusters;

2.1.1.5. Undertake a desk review of available data sources, best practices and methodologies in the Mediterranean and under MSFD for the monitoring and assessment of seafloor damage for review by CORMONs in view of supporting the development of Common Indicators under EO6.

All outcomes of activities 2.1.1.1.-2.1.1.5. will be submitted for discussion and review at the level of CORMONs and as need be at sub regional meetings/workshops.

Output 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/baseline values proposed/updated for the IMAP CIs included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise) [17]; The latter will be in done in consultation with ACCOBAMS, QUIETMED II Project and the EU MSFD TG Noise;

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.1.2.1. Update/upgrade and develop assessment criteria using trend and threshold approach as appropriate for 10 CI already included in the IMAP Info System (CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23);

2.1.2.2. Develop guiding documents for the application of assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for all IMAP clusters at the national level;

2.1.2.3. Test integrated assessment approaches/methodologies, including approaches to interrelate pressures/impacts/state of the marine environment, developed by UNEP/MAP (document WG.467/7 and other relevant UNEP/MAP documents in the process of elaboration, as appropriate) in three pilot areas based on the results and data coming from output 1.1 of ECAP MED III project and data coming from IMAP-MPA project monitoring activities. and taking into account the outcome of activities 2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4 and 2.1.2.1-2.1.2.2;

2.1.2.4. Based on the outcome of testing under activity 2.1.2.3, adjust and further develop IMAP methodology on integrated assessments for discussion at CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group meetings, in view of the preparation of thematic assessment products for the 2023 MED QSR under activity 2.2.5.2;

[17] As indicated under Outcome 1, activities related to one candidate indicator on Noise (CI 26) (including implementation, reporting in the IMAP Info System, capacity building and assessment) will be included in the EcAp MED III project based on availability of external funding, in coordination with ACCOBAMS and building on the results and resources available under the QUIETMED and other relevant projects.

Output 2.1.3 Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.1.3.1. Support organization of regular regional and sub-regional expert group meetings/workshops in order to share experience between countries and provide an opportunity to connect national-level expertise and progress with regional processes; this activity will be implemented in conjunction with output 2.2.3 of this project, and to the extent possible, meetings will be organized back-to-back with CORMON meetings under activity 2.1.4.1;

Output 2.1.4 Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries.

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.1.4.1. Support organization of CORMONs (for all three clusters as well as integrated CORMON meetings) to review and support the deliverables under this outcome; this will be done in conjunction with MAP PoW related activities as well as output 2.2.3 of this project; at no cost for participation of non-eligible country representatives;

2.1.4.2. Support the participation of experts from country and sub-regional teams in CORMON meetings under each cluster to bring the results of their work to CORMON meetings and benefit from the discussions on cross-cutting issues.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC

Geographical scope:

Four sub-regions: East, West, and Central Mediterranean Sea, and the Adriatic Sea

Approach and methodology:

Activities will include the preparation of analysis, review and development of proposals for updated methodologies, and the development of guiding documents relating to scales of assessment, as well as assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for CIs (as applicable) through consultation with and support from country teams and expert sub-groups established under the project, which will be facilitated through regional and sub-regional meetings.

For activities related to the identification of scales of assessment and reporting, the focus will be on the Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries), and Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants) clusters and integration between clusters, and will be closely linked, and

add value to, activities conducted under the IMAP/MPA project as well as by MED POL in the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021.

With regards to the work on assessment criteria, thresholds, and baseline values, for the Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants) cluster, the focus will be on providing support for the adjustment of regional/sub-regional assessment criteria to national specificities, where such an approach is relevant, as well as testing of proposed GES integrated assessment methods at regional and sub-regional level, as required by the Meetings of MED POL Focal Points and EcAp Task Force Group.

For the Coast and Hydrography cluster, for CI 16, the GES, targets and measures cannot be expressed quantitatively (as a threshold value) but due to country specific circumstances (socio-economic, cultural, historical) should be defined by the countries themselves. In doing so the Contracting Parties will take their spatial development and planning policies into account, as well as the legal obligations of the Barcelona Convention, in particular the ICZM Protocol. The Guidance Factsheets include only suggestions of general GES definition and Proposed target(s) as examples.

To achieve a region-wide coordination, the work will be guided by the respective Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMONs) established under the MAP Barcelona Convention system. In addition, three sub-regional coordination meetings will be organized back-to-back with the CORMONs to allow exchange of lessons learned between the countries for each cluster (one-to-one meetings for the monitoring and assessment of each of the clusters: Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries); Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants); and Coast and Hydrography bringing together experts engaged in national-level activities in each beneficiary country).

These sub-regional coordination meetings will also allow to address key cross-cutting issues encompassing both monitoring and assessment topics across the three clusters, and focusing upon the specifics of sub-regional assessments as follows:

- Addressing the need for further adjustment/development, as well as harmonization of the monitoring protocols and assessment methodologies. These protocols will be in line with IMAP and will also involve further exchange of sub-regional best practices; and
- Undertaking of detailed discussions for the further development of common assessment criteria and their input as part of the sub-regional package of information for the 2023 MED QSR.
- Definition of the minimum national data needed to further progress in setting background, reference and boundary values
- Definition of assessment criteria and thresholds for a number of CI at regional/sub-regional levels
- Undertaking of a potential revision of nested areas as appropriate for CI/EOs

Every effort will be made to facilitate such a regional/sub-regional cooperation through regular regional/sub-regional online meetings.

The work will be undertaken under the overall coordination of the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and will be technically led by the respective components of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system in close collaboration with respective regional partners (ACCOBAMS, GFCM, etc.) and relevant MSFD projects. Each of the regional partners and relevant MSFD Projects will also be invited to the sub-regional/regional expert groups. Strong participation of expert networks (scientists and representatives of decision makers) established at national, sub-regional and regional levels, identified as part of the SPI-related activities under the EcAp MED II project, will be ensured by Plan Bleu as part of output 2.2.2 below. This approach will ultimately aid in the mobilization of joint actions and initiate further specific cooperation agreements for IMAP implementation and those required for 2023 MED QSR.

2.2 Boost regional cooperation and SPI including at national level

The activities of this outcome will rely upon the creation of, or strengthening of existing, national and regional networks of scientists and policy makers for IMAP implementation in the Mediterranean. The goal is to add value to the achievements of the EcAp MED II and strengthen the national and regional networks for EcAp Roadmap implementation. The activities and outputs under this outcome will factor in the related 2023 MED QSR milestone related to 'Outreach and visibility'. In addition, the outcome will directly support the development of the 2023 MED QSR.

Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held;

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.2.1.1. Develop and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the 2023 MED QSR

2.2.1.2. Develop and implement a collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan for the 2023 MED QSR; this will be done building on the mapping of projects and institutions conducted under output 2.2.3;

Output 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level;

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.2.2.1. Identify relevant existing SPI related frameworks, processes and institutions at national level;

2.2.2.2. Provide inputs to CORMONs and EcAp CG meetings on issues related to regional/sub-regional topic-specific SPI work (back to back with CORMONs organized under outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) to share best practices on:

- scales of assessment and integrated assessment issues, including the operational application and testing of approaches for mapping interrelations between sectors, activities, pressures, impacts and state for each cluster and across clusters;
- compatible use of remote sense techniques and delayed modes with conventional real time in situ data collection for all three clusters;

2.2.2.3. Develop ToRs and set up 2 national SPI pilots in 2 beneficiary countries to support the implementation of IMAP;

2.2.2.4. Organize national thematic events/workshops in line with the respective country priorities and needs preferably on scale of assessment, integrated assessment and use of new monitoring techniques included remote sensing. Results of activities related to i) output 1.2 for the Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries) cluster, ii) output 1.3 for the Coast and Hydrography cluster, and iii) testing of approaches for mapping interrelations between sectors, activities, pressures, impacts and state for the Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants) cluster will contribute as case studies for these national events;

2.2.2.5. Undertake a desk review of existing literature with the view to identify and propose an emerging list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean, to be also supported by the results and data coming from implementation of monitoring programmes on the ground; this activity will be

done in conjunction with activity 2.2.3.1 below and with activities related to the Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants) cluster;

Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a timeline for regional data sharing between partners;

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.2.3.1. Map sources of data and partners to address 2023 MED QSR data gaps, and establish mechanisms and a timeline for data sharing, technical advice and peer review; this activity will be implemented in conjunction with and building on the results of outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2;

Output 2.2.4: Develop and publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23. This should include the chapter on the assessment of fish stocks and bycatch indicators to be prepared in collaboration with GFCM;

Specific activities/deliverables:

2.2.4.1. Define the methodology, outline, structure and contents of the 2023 MED QSR;

2.2.4.2. Collect and analyze data per each IMAP cluster to support the development of the 2023 MED QSR, prepare thematic assessment products, and prepare 2023 MED QSR content in line with agreed assessment and aggregation methodologies;

2.2.4.3. Establish a web-based platform to host the contents of the 2023 MED QSR online, including procurement, design, content management and maintenance;

2.2.4.4. Review, revise and finalize 2023 MED QSR for publication and for presentation at COP23 in two languages (including editing, layout, translation and printing).

Executing/Partner Agencies:

UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC and PB/RAC

Geographical scope:

Regional and Sub-regional
National: Two beneficiary countries to be selected for national SPI pilots during the project inception phase

Approach and methodology:

The request for a stronger SPIs has been repeated in several meetings and decisions by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, e.g., the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast (IMAP, Decision IG.22/7 of COP 17), and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework Programme (RCCAF). In addition, the strengthening of SPI also features in the biannual UNEP/MAP Programme of Work. The Contracting Parties are calling for efforts to structure relationships between decision-makers and scientific communities by creating scientific committees and expert groups with an

advisory role to support policymaking processes in the implementation of coastal and marine policies. This will help support policymakers to find solutions to ocean sustainability changes.

The EcAp MED II output delivered a policy-oriented report that proposes a design of a strengthened SPI for IMAP and EcAp with people (human component, networks, collaboration), environmental policies, monitoring plans and strategies and data collection and sharing process with the following operational SPI recommendations which provide a frame for future actions to support countries in the full implementation of EcAp and its IMAP:

- SPI is a real need perceived by scientists and decision makers
- Need to sustain and structure SPI along with its structure and processes
- Identification of priority Science needs and Policy gaps for monitoring
- Need for a clear definition of temporal and geographical scales for monitoring and assessment
- Priority to be done according to the Risk-Based Approach for monitoring
- A list of barriers and opportunities for an effective SPI
- Key features of the Regional Sea SPI experiences, as well as national and sub national experiences
- Most suitable characteristics for sustainable SPIs beyond the life-time of the project, including the need for explicit identification and targeting of mutually beneficial interactions
- More effective data gathering, management and sharing
- Making the science-policy interface more 'fit-for-purpose'

The EcAp MED III project will ensure the uptake of these results and will address some of the above recommendations at national and regional levels.

Activities under this outcome will seek to create well-structured science-policy interfaces at national and regional level, in order to provide the scientific evidence base necessary for effective policy formulation, and regional cooperation and coordination for IMAP implementation.

At the national level, the output seeks to place an emphasis on the significance of SPI, thereby also helping to 'root' SPI firmly as part of the consultation process at the national level in two beneficiary countries. Building on existing national capacities and aiming at sustaining SPIs based on mutually beneficial interactions, this will enable the establishment of IMAP network of scientists and scientific institutions and policy makers at country level to ensure and maximize the multidisciplinary aspects of national IMAP implementation and enhance its sustainability beyond the life span of the project. Pilot national science-policy interfaces will thus be established in two countries, with the aim to support specific activities under the three clusters implemented under this project and to pilot at the national level the results of the technical and methodological work conducted at regional level (i.e. in line with outcome 1 and outputs 2.1.1-2.1.4 above). The two countries will be selected in consultation with the Project Steering Committee during the inception phase of the project implementation.

At the regional level, the project will support the creation, coordination and maintenance of a dedicated SPI regional network, or scientific pools of experts, for IMAP implementation in the Mediterranean for each cluster, which will bring together entities and associated experts already established through IMAP implementation, CORMONs and EcAp/MSFD related Projects.

In this way, the data, information and methodologies collated through the other outputs and referenced from other EcAp/MSFD projects in the region, can be interpreted and applied to best inform the policy

formulation process. The network will ensure that a dialogue is encouraged and supported to strengthen and optimize the policy makers' knowledge needed for the implementation of the EcAp in the region, and to ensure that science and research efforts in the region respond to policy needs.

This action will also include an analysis of the key developments seen in IMAP and EcAp-related scientific projects for optimal and effective regional contribution into 2023 MED QSR.

One dedicated regional/sub-regional SPI sessions will be organized in relation to all three IMAP Clusters (Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries); Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants); Coast and Hydrography) in close connection with the integrated CORMON meeting in 2023, gathering scientific experts and representatives of Contracting Parties in charge of IMAP implementation at the national level to address priority topics identified by Contracting Parties during the implementation of the project, in order to support the delivery of all outputs of the EcAp MED III project. This will add value to the technical work and discussions related to assessment and integration undertaken at CORMON level, by identifying and bringing in additional relevant national and regional scientific expertise, thus contributing to building the capacity of the MAP system and national institutions by connecting them with the broader scientific community in the region. In particular, priority topics addressed through the SPI workshop will include the results of the work on scales of assessment, approaches to integrated assessment and the operational application and testing of methodological approaches for mapping the interrelations between sectors, activities, pressures, impacts and state of marine environment. Discussions may also address monitoring approaches, including proposals for compatible use of remote sense techniques and delayed modes with conventional real time in situ data collection.

The target audience for participation in the SPI activities under the EcAp MED III project will include leaders of relevant scientific projects, as well as other known experts in the field of coastal and marine ecology and conservation, nominated national policy experts involved in IMAP monitoring in addition to the members of the EcAp Coordination Group.

Key partners will also include those organizations with whom UNEP/MAP has Memoranda of Understanding, e.g., GFCM, ACCOBAMS and other key international and regional organizations, e.g., IMO as well as relevant interested UNEP/MAP partners, e.g. WWF and MedPAN and relevant MSFD/EcAp related projects.

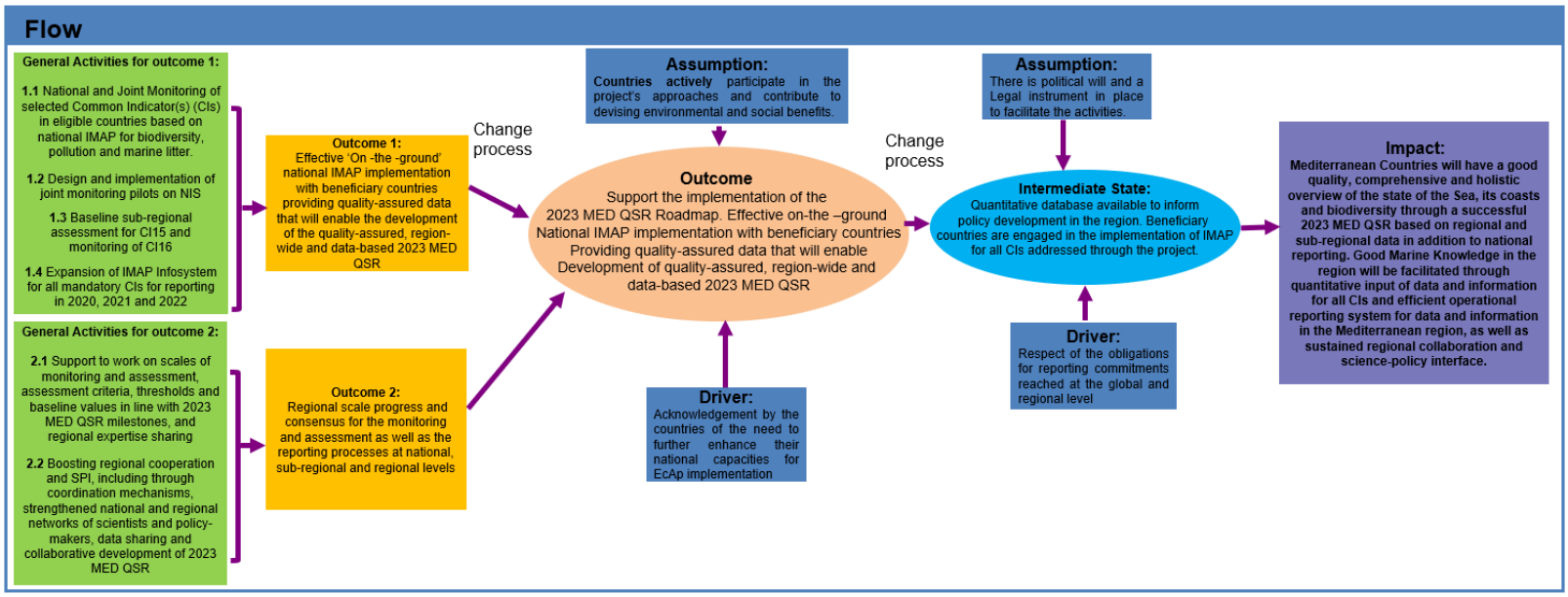
Discussions resulting from the SPI component of the project could, in addition, provide a forum which can refer to, reflect upon and if possible, contribute at a regional level towards other key relevant international processes, e.g., the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) process, and facilitate the dialogue required for effective collaboration towards global goals and Implementation Plan for Ocean Science Decade. As the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, through UNEP Regional Seas, contributes to these discussions and has pointed out the need for a better recognition of the work at regional level through Regional Seas, on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ globally, the UNEP/MAP could play a key role in sharing the recommendations and results of the SPI component of EcAp MED III in regional and global processes. The SPI component of EcAp MED III project could showcase the added value of the regional dimension to enhanced knowledge of marine ecosystems and conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and generally ocean governance, specifically on the need to ensure interoperability between the future global data and information system and the regional databases.

The deliverables of Outcome 2.2 aim primarily to achieve a coordinated and well-structured network of Science and Policy experts and stakeholders in the necessary dialogue required for maintaining an up-to-date approach to project implementation, and even more importantly overall in ensuring a cutting-edge knowledge-based approach to IMAP implementation in the region. The overall results of activities under this outcome will bolster the regional and national networks for IMAP implementation, and in turn provide a firm basis to contribute to the ocean-related 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development components with

regards to ocean governance which includes monitoring and assessment including SPI as one of its core components.

Overall, Outcome 2 will directly result in the delivery and publication of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, based on the methodological, analytical and assessment work conducted at regional and sub-regional level, and bringing in the expertise of the regional and national SPI networks established under the project. The methodology, outline, structure and contents of the 2023 MED QSR will thus be defined building on the results of activities under outputs 2.1.1-2.1.4 and on the work delivered under the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work, and will be discussed and reviewed at regional level through CORMONs and EcAp Coordination Group meetings. Specific activities under this outcome will also include data collection, processing and analysis, preparation of thematic assessment products, graphics and maps, and the drafting of the 2023 MED QSR with support of partners and external experts from each IMAP cluster for the preparations of the contents and expert review. The project will also support the development of a dedicated interactive online interface to host the 2023 MED QSR results online, which will include visualization products and tools to present the assessment results. The existing 2017 MED QSR online contents will be linked to the new interface, and compatibility and links with other relevant internal and external web platforms will be ensured to the extent possible (IMAP Info System, World Environment Situation Room, UNEP Global Environmental Monitoring System, MapX, WISE Marine etc). The final 2023 MED QSR will thus be available online as well as in printed form in two languages, and will be presented at the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2023. A dedicated communication and visibility strategy will ensure its wide dissemination, including through the development of specific targeted communication products.

Figure 2. EcAp MED III Theory of Change diagram



3.1.a Link to stakeholders' priorities

During the initial phase of the IMAP implementation (2016-2019), the Contracting Parties have made significant efforts towards the design of their respective national monitoring programmes addressing to the extent possible all IMAP clusters.

At the regional level, progress is noted with regard to the update of the pollution assessment criteria and thresholds; development of factsheets for all IMAP CIs, their assessment as part of the 2017 MED QSR; establishment of a pilot information system for 11 selected IMAP CIs; enhanced science-policy interface with regard to IMAP implementation and enabling the conditions for addressing in an harmonized manner a number of cross-cutting issues related to scale of reporting assessment and integrated assessment of GES.

The EU funded projects namely EcAp-MED II and the 'ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism' have contributed to the development of a 'Shared Environmental Information System' for IMAP and H2020 indicators. These are fully complementary and establish a close link between state and impact indicators (IMAP indicators) with drivers and pressures (H2020 indicators). This will support the regular production and sharing of quality assessed environmental data, indicators and information. As such, both sets of CIs will allow for an integrated assessment of GES. Population with data and their upload in IMAP and SEIS information systems will facilitate the future preparation of integrated assessment reports based on DPSIR approach, thus filling the data gap for MED 2023 QSR consistent with the relevant recommendations and guidance provided by Decision IG.23/6 on the 2017 MED QSR (COP 20, Albania 2017).

While the above-outlined progress is a great achievement for the region, especially in relation to the development of national integrated monitoring programmes, which cover new geographical areas; further capacity and resources are required to ensure their implementation on the ground. Implementation of IMAP on the ground through the undertaking of monitoring pilots will need substantial additional resources, as well as require capacity building and training workshops based on country specific needs but maintaining to the extent possible common regional sub-regional approaches. In addition, integrated monitoring at national and sub-regional level covering more than one IMAP cluster remains a challenge.

Various funding mechanisms were identified through the EU funded EcAp-MED II project in its delivery of the 'EcAp Funding Strategy'. This strategy analyzed and identified the available resources for key requirements in IMAP on the ground implementation including the specific needs of Southern Mediterranean countries. The proposed activities outlined in this project proposal aim to ensure that additional support is provided for the national implementation of IMAP, and for the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on three clusters: Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries); Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants), and Coast and Hydrography by the seven eligible Contracting Parties. Funding is also needed to enable the development and implementation of integrated monitoring programmes at the sub-regional level which address the same above-mentioned IMAP clusters, and particularly in areas which are known to be under human activity pressure. To do so, the project will enhance the level of capacity in each country to facilitate the implementation of the system and the report of reliable data for the IMAP CIs, and then support the implementation of a harmonized monitoring and assessment of IMAP CIs of the three clusters (Biodiversity (including Non-Indigenous Species and Fisheries); Pollution and Litter (including Eutrophication and Contaminants); and Coast and Hydrography).

3.1.b Gender and cross-cutting considerations

The project focuses primarily on national and regional governance and capacity building in the area of marine environment monitoring and assessment and does not have direct impacts on the population at this stage. Gender considerations have therefore limited relevance in the context of the project. At the same time, gender equality and gender mainstreaming will be consistently considered and encouraged whenever

relevant throughout the project implementation, in line with relevant UN guidelines. This will for example include ensuring gender balanced participation in meetings, sensitization of project partners at national and regional level in order to ensure gender balanced nomination and representation of experts in discussions and activities, including trainings and capacity building activities. Gender considerations will become more significant once the implementation of IMAP results in the development of marine environment management policies which may have a direct impact on women and men, their well-being and access to resources, which is currently beyond the scope of this project. The same applies to indigenous people's knowledge, poverty alleviation and economic livelihoods.

3.2 Logical Framework

Table 4 MEA Secretariat Logical Framework

Relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) in the Programme of Work: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making		
1. Project Outcome	**Indicators**	**Relevant Subprogramme Expected Accomplishment and Indicator**
Outcome 1: Effective 'On the ground' national IMAP implementation with beneficiary countries providing quality assured data for the development of a quality-assured, region-wide and data-based (Evidence-based) 2023 MED QSR	1.1 Number of countries with operational national IMAPs [Target: additional 7, baseline: 7] 1.2 Number of IMAP Common Indicators (CIs) monitored and quality assured reported per beneficiary country [Target: 12, baseline: 7] 1.3 Number of stakeholders/institutions or coordinating bodies involved in national IMAP implementation per beneficiary country [target: at least three, baseline: 1] 1.4 Number of CIs covered by a quality assured reporting system in place through IMAP Info System [Target: at least 17, baseline: 11] 1.5 Number of sets of data on IMAP CIs reported to IMAP Info System by the end of the Project [target: minimum 3 new datasets for EO5, EO9 and EO10 CI, minimum 1 new dataset for EO1, EO2, EO7, EO8, baseline: number of datasets as described in the 2017 MED QSR] 1.6 Number of baseline sub-regional and regional assessment [target: 1 for NIS and 1 for CI15, baseline: 0] 1.7 Number of CI national assessment factsheets per beneficiary country [target: at least 8, baseline: existing guidance factsheets and information in 2017 MED QSR] 1.8 IMAP Info System operational with a functional data policy in place [target: Info System fully operational for at least 17 CI, baseline: Pilot Info System covering 11 CI]	2020-2021 UNEP/MAP PoW: 1.4 Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making Relevant PoW indicators: 9. (a) Number of countries updating and implementing national IMAP-compatible monitoring and assessment programmes 9. (b) Number of IMAP CIs populated with data for 2019-2020 11. (b) Number of data set and/or data services made available through Info/MAP platform

Project milestones that show progress towards achieving the project outcome	**Expected Milestones**
M1 Monitoring plans, survey programmes and methodologies prepared and validated	**March/April 2021**
M2 First set of data on IMAP CIs monitored and reported by Contracting Parties	**September 2021**
M3 Progress shared and reviewed through national and sub-regional meetings for all clusters	**April 2022**
M4 Second set of data on IMAP CIs monitored and reported by Contracting Parties	**September 2022**

M5 National CI assessment factsheets prepared and validated by national workshops and baseline assessment validated by national/sub-regional workshops shared with the Secretariat	**March/April 2023**
M6 Final reports on monitoring implementation shared with the Secretariat including considerations about possible adjustments of national IMAPs	**August 2023**

2. Project Outputs	**Indicators**
A) Output 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP.	Indicators: 1.1.1 Number of monitored and assessed IMAP CIs per beneficiary country 1.1.2 Number of national quality assurance and quality control programmes prepared 1.1.3 Number of sets of data reported to IMAP Info System per country 1.1.4 Number of national institutions involved in the process 1.1.5 Number of assessment factsheets at national and sub-regional and/or regional level Target: 1.1.1 12 per each project beneficiary country (baseline: 0) 1.1.2 Minimum one per CI per country (baseline: 0) 1.1.3 Minimum 3 for EO5, EO9, EO10; minimum 1 for EO1 (baseline: number of datasets as described in the 2017 MED QSR) 1.1.4 Minimum 2 per cluster per country (baseline: 1) 1.1.5 Minimum 6 national and 6 sub-regional/regional assessment factsheets (one national and one sub-regional/regional per CI) (baseline: existing guidance factsheets and information in 2017 MED QSR)

Project output Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Specific monitoring plans designed; field survey programme prepared, validated by country teams; and legal agreements concluded to provide technical support to countries	**February 2021**
M2 National and sub-regional validation meetings/workshops organized for each country to discuss results of first monitoring exercise, make recommendations for next monitoring exercise, and disseminate the final outcome of the project	**December 2020-February 2021; December 2022, June 2023**
M3 Set of data reported by countries on IMAP Info System following the implementation of survey programme	**September 2021, September 2022**
M4 National assessment factsheets and baseline assessments prepared for CI as specified in the monitoring plan	**November 2021, October 2022**
M5 Progress reports prepared and submitted to Project Steering Committee and to UNEP on output 1.1	**February/August 2021, February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

B) Output 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented;	Indicators: 1.2.1 Number of joint (sub-regional) monitoring pilots designed and implemented 1.2.2 Number of countries participating in joint sub-regional monitoring programmes 1.2.3 Number of species monitored under sub-regional monitoring programmes on NIS 1.2.4 Number of baseline sub-regional assessment for NIS 1.2.5 Number of sets of data on NIS reported to IMAP Info System

	Target: 1.2.1 1 pilot implemented in East Mediterranean sub-region (baseline: 1 pilot designed in East Mediterranean sub-region) 1.2.2 3 countries (baseline: 0) 1.2.3 7 agreed species (baseline: 0) 1.2.4 1 Baseline assessment for the 7 agreed NIS for the East Mediterranean sub-region, and 1 regional baseline for the entire list of NIS (baseline: 0) 1.2.5 Minimum 1 set of data on 7 agreed NIS reported to IMAP Info System per participating country (to allow sub-regional analysis) (baseline: 0)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Joint monitoring programmes on NIS conducted for the agreed 7 species implemented in the East-Mediterranean sub-region	**February/March 2022**
M2 NIS Monitoring data reported in the IMAP Info System	**March-June 2022**
M3 Baseline national, sub regional and regional assessments finalized in collaboration with GFCM and assessment factsheets submitted for reviewed by CORMON	**December 2022, March/April 2023**
M4 Progress reports prepared and submitted to Project Steering Committee and to UNEP on output 1.2	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022; February/August 2023**

C) Output 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring of CI 16 in at least one area per beneficiary country.	Indicators: 1.3.1 Number of baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 1.3.2 Number of sets of data reported for CI 16 1.3.3 Number of reports presenting lessons learned Target: 1.3.1 At least 1 per sub-region for CI 15 (baseline: 0) 1.3.2 At least one for each of the 6 beneficiary countries (baseline: 0) 1.3.3 1 report (baseline: 0)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Methodology for baseline sub-regional assessment of CI 15 defined and reviewed by CORMON	**March/April 2021**
M2 National meetings conducted to support the monitoring country teams in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia monitoring, including data collection and processing for CI 16	**August 2021**
M3 Baseline sub-regional assessment for CI 15 conducted and submitted for CORMON review	**February/March 2022**
M4 Quality assured data from monitoring of CI 16 in 6 countries reported to IMAP infosystem	**August 2022**
M5 Final baseline national and sub-regional assessment factsheets for CI 15 and CI 16 prepared for CORMON review	**December 2022**
M6 Sub-regional meeting organized to review results, share lessons learned and discuss knowledge gaps and next steps; lessons learnt, and main findings concluded for CORMON review	**March/April 2023**

M7 Progress reports prepared and submitted to Project Steering Committee and to UNEP on output 1.3	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022; February/August 2023**

D) Output 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022.	Indicators: 1.4.1 Percentage of mandatory CIs of IMAP included in IMAP Info System 1.4.2 Number of countries supported to facilitate quality assured reporting of monitoring data 1.4.3 IMAP Data policy availability 1.4.4 Number of Data flows implemented Target: 1.4.1 100% (all mandatory CIs included – EO3 not included) (baseline: 65%) 1.4.2 5 additional countries (baseline: 10) 1.4.3 IMAP Data policy available and reviewed by CORMONs (baseline: roadmap available) 1.4.4 Data flows for all the IMAP CIs (EO3 not included) implemented and IMAP Info System completed and fully operational (baseline: Pilot Info System available for 11 CI)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 IMAP Pilot Info System upgraded to support data collection and data consultation with web GIS platform and dashboards	**June 2021**
M2 Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) prepared, reviewed and finalized for CI 3, 4, 5 (Biodiversity cluster) for CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group review	**March/April 2021, June 2021**
M3 Draft and final Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) prepared, reviewed and finalized for CI 18, 19, 20 (Pollution cluster) for CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group review	**March/April 2021, June 2021**
M4 IMAP data policy drafted and finalized for CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group review	**March/April 2021, June 2021**
M5 Analysis of national data collection systems of beneficiary countries completed, and national systems interfaced with IMAP Info System and presented for CORMON review	**June 2022**
M6 QA/QC for all CI procedures prepared/finalized for submission to CORMON	**April/December 2022**
M7 National workshops organized to provide technical support to monitoring country teams to implement IMAP data reporting, two countries/workshops per year	**2021, 2022, 2023**
M8 IMAP Info System completed and fully operational, allowing upload, inter-operability and processing of data, collected according to the approved Data Standards, for all CIs (EO3 not included) from all Contracting Parties, made available from the implementation of IMAP in the framework of ongoing MAP and external projects, as well as through MSFD reporting obligations	**December 2022 - February 2023**
M9 Progress reports prepared and submitted to Project Steering Committee and to UNEP on output 1.4	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022; February/August 2023**

Project Outcome	**Indicators**	**Relevant Subprogramme Expected Accomplishment and Indicator**

Outcome 2: Regional scale progress and consensus for the monitoring and assessment as well as the reporting processes at national, sub-regional and regional levels	2.1 Availability of analysis and proposal of updated scales of monitoring and assessment [target: analysis available, baseline: information provided in CI guidance factsheets] 2.2 Number of CIs with updated/new assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values [target: at least 10, baseline: existing Pollution/Marine litter assessment criteria] 2.3 Number of regional expert meetings and CORMONS [target: at least one sub-regional meeting, one CORMON per cluster per year and 2 integrated CORMONS, baseline: 7 CORMONS organized between 2017-2019] 2.4 Number of local, national and regional experts/actors mobilized/involved [target: at least 130, baseline: 130 experts involved in EcAp MED II and 2017 MED QSR] 2.5 Availability of communication and visibility strategy for 2023 MED QSR [target: 1 strategy, baseline: 0] 2.6 Number of national SPI pilot networks established [target: 2, baseline: 0] 2.7 Number of SPI workshops organized [target: 1 regional back to back with CORMON and 2 national, baseline: 5 SPI workshops under EcAp MED II project] 2.8 Availability of 2023 MED QSR [target: 2023 MED QSR published, baseline: 2017 MED QSR]	2020-2021 UNEP/MAP PoW: 1.4 Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making Relevant PoW indicators: 7. Number of regional programmatic and policy instruments developed 8. Number of joint activities with partners 9. (a) Number of countries updating and implementing national IMAP-compatible monitoring and assessment programmes 9. (b) Number of IMAP CIs populated with data for 2019-2020 11. (b) Number of data set and/or data services made available through Info/MAP platform

Project milestones that show progress towards achieving the project outcome	**Expected Milestones**
M1 Key partners, institutions, frameworks and projects mapped, and collaboration mechanisms established and presented for review by CORMONs	**March/April 2021**
M2 Knowledge gaps for each IMAP CI and cluster analyzed, and updated monitoring and assessment scales proposed	**March/April 2021**
M3 Updated monitoring and assessment scales and criteria for 10 CI prepared and related guidance factsheets updated	**April 2022, March/April 2023**
M4 Guiding documents for the application of assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values prepared	**August 2022**
M5 National and regional SPI workshops held back to back with relevant national and regional meetings	**April 2022, March/April 2023**
M6 Integrated GES assessment methodologies tested and further adjusted	**April 2022 and March/April 2023**
M7 Outcome of work at national and regional level presented to CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group	**April 2022, March/April 2023, August 2023**
M8 2023 MED QSR prepared and published	**August 2023**

Project Outputs	**Indicators**	
E) Output 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP CIs agreed/progressed	Indicators: 2.1.1.1 Number of CI analysed with regards to knowledge gaps with focus on assessment scales 2.1.1.2 Number of CI covered by monitoring and assessment scales 2.1.1.3 Availability of proposal on integrated scales of assessment Target: 2.1.1.1 At least 5 CI (baseline: analysis provided in CI guidance factsheets) 2.1.1.2 At least 5 CI (baseline: as provided for in respective CI guidance factsheets) 2.1.1.3 Proposal on integrated scales of assessment submitted to CORMON (baseline: document WG.467/7)	
Project output Milestones:		**Expected Milestone**
M1 Analysis of knowledge gaps for each IMAP CI and cluster, as appropriate, conducted and presented for review by CORMON, desk review on seafloor damage undertaken to inform development of EO6 common indicators		**December 2020, March/April 2021**
M2 Updated monitoring and assessment scales proposed for all mandatory CIs for review by CORMON and finalized		**March/April 2021, April 2022**
M3 Proposal on integrated scales of assessment across clusters defined and finalized for review by CORMON		**April 2022, March/April 2023**
M4 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.1.1		**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**
F) Output 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP CIs included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)	Indicator: 2.1.2.1 Number of CIs with updated/new assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values Target: 2.1.2.1 10 IMAP CIs and one candidate indicator (Noise) (baseline: existing assessment criteria for Pollution/Marine litter CI)	
Project Milestones:		**Expected Milestone**
M1 Proposal for new/updated assessment criteria prepared for review by CORMON and discussion at regional and sub-regional expert group meetings		**November 2020, March/April 2021, April 2022, March/April 2023**
M2 Updated guidance factsheets reflecting agreed assessment criteria prepared for review by CORMON		**April 2022, March/April 2023**
M3 Guiding documents for the application of assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values at national level developed		**April 2022, December 2022**
M4 MAP methodology on integrated GES assessment adjusted/further developed for CORMON review, taking into account results of testing at pilot scale (national/sub-regional level) and the final proposal of integrated scales of assessment		**March/April 2023**

M5 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.1.2	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

G) Output 2.1.3: Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria	Indicator: 2.1.3.1 Number of regional and sub-regional expert group meetings Target: 2.1.3.1 At least one regional expert group meeting per cluster, and one per sub-region per cluster, per year back to back with CORMON (baseline: regional and sub-regional meetings conducted under EcAp MED II project)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Key partners and institutions at national and sub-regional level responsible for project activities mapped and proposed for discussion with national teams	**December 2020**
M2 Country teams and sub-regional expert groups established for joint monitoring and work on scales of assessment	**December 2020, March/April 2021**
M3 Sub-regional expert group meetings held (back to back with CORMONs) to review the deliverables of the project at national and sub-regional levels, and outcome of national/sub-regional level meetings reported to CORMON and considered for the preparation of 2023 MED QSR	**March/April 2021, April 2022, March/April 2023**
M4 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.1.3	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

H) Output 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries	Indicator: 2.1.4.1 Number of CORMON meetings organized and supported Target: 2.1.4.1 At least one per cluster per year and two integrated (baseline: 7 CORMON meetings between 2017-2019)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 One integrated CORMON held to launch EcAp MED III project and to consider the main cross-cutting elements of project implementation	**November 2020**
M2 CORMONs held for each cluster to review deliverables of the project, to share information and build synergies with other relevant projects implemented by MAP or external partners, and to review sub-regional work	**November 2020, March/April 2021, April 2022, March/April 2023**
M3 Sub-regional meetings held back to back with CORMON	**March/April 2021, April 2022, March/April 2023**
M4 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.1.4	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

J) Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the	Indicator: 2.2.1.1 Availability of communication and visibility strategy for 2023 MED QSR

MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held	2.2.1.2 Availability of a collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan for the 2023 MED QSR Target: 2.2.1.1 Communication and visibility strategy available (baseline: none) 2.2.1.2 Collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan available (baseline: none)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Main elements for communication and visibility strategy and Partnership Plan for 2023 MED QSR prepared in collaboration with partners and finalized for review by CORMON	**November 2020**
M2 Communication and visibility strategy for 2023 MED QSR	**September 2021/September 2023**
M3 Collaboration mechanism established, and communication and visibility strategy implemented in collaboration with partners and status reported to CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group	**April 2022, March/April 2023, August 2023**
M4 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.2.1	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

K) Output 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level	Indicators: 2.2.2.1 Number of national SPI pilot networks established 2.2.2.2 Number of SPI workshops organized Target: 2.2.2.1 2 pilot national SPI networks established (baseline: 0) 2.2.2.2 2 national SPI workshops and 1 regional SPI workshop (baseline: 5 regional PSI workshops under EcAp MED II project)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Specification of 1-2 pilot national SPI networks defined taking into account IMAP and country priorities	**June 2021**
M2 2 national SPI workshops held in line with pilot specifications and their results shared at regional/sub-regional meetings	**April 2022, September 2022, March/April 2023**
M3 1 regional/sub-regional SPI workshop addressing priority issues held back to back with CORMON	**March/April 2023**
M4 Outcome of SPI work at national and regional level presented to CORMON and EcAp Coordination Group	**April 2022, March/April 2023, August 2023**
M5 Proposal on emerging priority contaminants prepared and finalized for review by Pollution cluster CORMON and expert groups	**April 2022, March/April 2023**
M6 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.2.2	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

L) Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a timeline for regional data sharing between partners	Indicator: 2.2.3.1 Availability of agreement and timeline with regional partners for data sharing Target: 2.2.3.1 Agreement and timeline for data sharing available (baseline: none)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Data sources to address 2023 MED QSR data gaps mapped based on activities under outputs 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.4	**March/April 2021**
M2 Tasks and timeline for data sharing and assessment established with partners and implemented	**August 2021 - August 2023**
M3 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.2.3	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

M) Output 2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23. This should include the chapter on the assessment of fish stocks and bycatch indicators to be prepared in collaboration with GFCM	Indicator: 2.2.4 Availability of 2023 MED QSR Target: 2.2.4 2023 MED QSR published (baseline: 2017 MED QSR)

Project Milestones:	**Expected Milestone**
M1 Methodology, outline, structure and contents for 2023 MED QSR defined and proposed for discussion and review by CORMON	**November 2020 - March/April 2021**
M2 Requirements for expertise and consultancies for the elaboration of 2023 MED QSR defined, bilateral arrangements made and tasks defined with partners, and implemented	**June 2021 – August 2023**
M3 First draft of 2023 MED QSR prepared and presented for review by CORMON	**April 2022**
M4 Final draft of 2023 MED QSR, including maps, graphics and web-based platform, prepared and presented for review by CORMON	**March/April 2023**
M5 2023 MED QSR finalized, including editing, layout, translation, printing, and final web-based platform	**August 2023**
M6 Progress report prepared and submitted to PSC and UNEP on output 2.2.4	**February/August 2021; February/August 2022, February/August 2023**

4 Project implementation arrangements

4.1 Governance

Following the institutional set up of the EcAp-MED I and EcAp MED II projects and other EU-funded projects (e.g. Marine Litter MED, IMAP-MPA), the Project will be implemented by UNEP/MAP under the leadership of the Coordinating Unit, which will be responsible for its coordination, management, monitoring, and overall supervision. The UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit will be responsible for the preparation of financial reports, annual substantial reports, organization of Steering Committee Meetings, development of the project work plans, and the related mitigation and risk management plans and manage its implementation evaluation process. In addition, UNEP/MAP will provide a substantive role through its MAP Components which will provide their technical, substantive and supervision capacities to the project in line with their specific mandates approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Legal agreements and project funds will be managed under the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) between the EC and UNEP. The contractual framework "Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement" (PAGoDA) will be structured according to the proposed hierarchy:

- UNEP/MAP: Executing Agency / Project Manager
- UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme (activities related to implementation of IMAP cluster on "Pollution and Litter");
- SPA/RAC (activities related to the biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) component of IMAP implementation);
- PAP/RAC (activities related to the Coast and Hydrography component of IMAP implementation);
- INFO/RAC (activities related to the IMAP Info System);
- PB/RAC (activities related to the Science Policy Interface component of the project)

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be composed of a full time Project Manager and a part time Project Administrative Finance assistant. The Project Manager's role will be to ensure an effective implementation of all project's activities and technical oversight of the project in close coordination with Project executing partners and their technical experts.

The PMU hosted by UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, will be responsible for:

- Project execution;
- Follow up and harmonization of the activities and the work of Project Partners;
- Reporting to UNEP and EC;
- Convening annual Project Steering Committee meetings;
- Drafting, implementation and follow up of the legal agreements with Partners for executing activities;
- Developing and implement activities related to Gender parity
- Communicate and disseminate project activities;
- Manage project budget; and
- Undertake steps needed to closure of the projects and related reporting.

In order to ensure timely delivery of multiple tasks, project management and fund management, strong coordination needs of the project, as well as close links with ecosystem approach related activities under the

UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2020-2021, the PMU will be established at UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit in Athens, Greece.

Regional Activity Centres (RACs) will have programme/project officers working as project managers of their respective activities. RACs will also nominate responsible officers for their respective activities[18].

Where necessary, all divisions will recruit consultants to assist needed activities, in line with applicable UNEP/MAP rules.

The Project will be guided by a Steering Committee.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC will have overall responsibility for project activities. It will provide strategic guidance and oversight and approve the work plans and budgets. The members of the PSC will include a representative of European Union – the Head of Unit ENV C.2 and the Project Coordinator on the Commission side; the chair of EcAp Coordination Group; and from UNEP/MAP Secretariat's side, the UNEP/MAP Coordinator (Chairperson) and the QSR Programme Officer. The Project Manager will serve as Secretary of the Steering Committee.

The PSC will meet annually. Additional meetings based on the requirements of the Project may be convened exceptionally. The meetings will be convened by the Chairperson. For emergency issues the PSC may conduct its business electronically. The agenda and supporting documentation will be prepared and disseminated by the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit (Project Manager). PSC members may make requests for items to be included on the agenda. A quorum of the PSC will consist of all the committee members.

The primary responsibilities of the PSC will be to:

- Oversee the project execution;
- Provide overall strategic guidance and ensure coordination among all the project's components as well as of the activities implemented at national level;
- Provide overall supervision for project implementation;
- Oversee the implementation of the project Communication Plan;
- Review and endorse the Annual Work Plan and Budget; ensure their conformity with the requirements of the Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme (GPGC) and with the current project description; ensure the quality of project documents to receive funding from the GPGC;
- Ensure that appropriate consultative processes take place with key stakeholders at the regional level in order to avoid duplication or overlap between the Fund and other funding mechanisms;
- Approve the reporting mechanism for the project.

EcAp Task Force

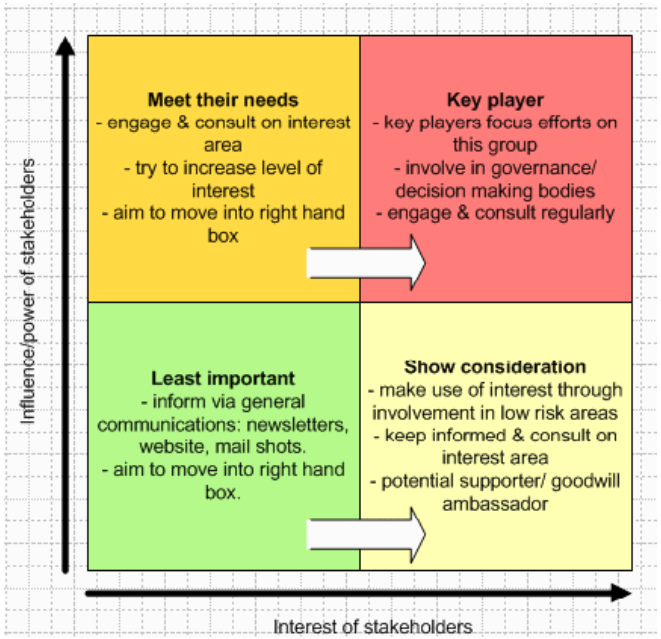
[18] Under Decision IG.19/5, "Mandates of the Components of MAP", all components/Regional Activity Centres are part of UNEP/MAP, the current project proposal does not describe the respective components as partner organizations, but rather showcases unity for the implementation of the project as the UNEP/MAP system. At the same time, to ensure full transparency, under the budget proposal of the project, the respective UNEP/MAP used, foreseen legal instruments are showcased with specializing core undertakings of the various components.

The UNEP/MAP EcAp Task Force has been created as an informal communication and coordination channel, with the overall aim to enhance the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system. The EcAp Task Force is composed of technical-level MAP component representatives (one representative each from MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu and REMPEC), and is coordinated by the QSR Programme Officer and led by the Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP. The implementation of the EcAp MED III project will be supported and reviewed by the EcAp Task Force to enhance consistency with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and ensure full technical relevance and quality of project products.

4.2 Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders Information

UNEP/MAP relies on and has close ties with numerous internal and external stakeholders who are instrumental in ensuring the ongoing success of initiatives and resource efficiency approaches. Challenges to effectively engage partners and stakeholders include accurately identifying the issues on the table, credibility of the process, impartiality of facilitation and coordination body and vision and commitment of key stakeholders. Different level of engagement will be established: low that involves of exchange of ideas and perceptions through consultative seminars and interviews with the objective to contribute inputs to the process; medium that requires proactive participation in meetings and workshops; and high which is based on key stakeholders' engagement also in management of the process. The table below summarizes key stakeholders and their roles in this project.



A-High power, /high interest over the project= Key player
B-High power/ low interest over the project =Meet their needs
C-Low power/ high interest over the project= Show consideration
D-Low power /low interest over the project= Least important

Table 5 Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders	Explain the power they hold over the project results/implementation and the level of interest	Did they participate in the project design, and how[19]	Potential roles & responsibilities in project implementation	Changes in their behaviour expected through implementation of the project
Type A: *High power / high interest = Key player*				
National institutions responsible for	Successful achievement of results directly depends on the capacity of these	Project design based on exchanges with	Direct implementation and/or consultative role for all activities.	Improved capacity to implement IMAPs.

[19] The full project design process needs to be explained in Annex E.

IMAP implementation	stakeholders to implement the national IMAPs.	national institutions during the implementation of EcAp MED II.		
Type B: *High power/ low interest over the project =Meet their needs*				
National policy/decision makers	The sustainability of project results will depend on the interest of these stakeholders in taking the results forward and encouraging follow up at national and regional level beyond project duration (eg. developing measures based on data collected). The success of results may also depend on their interest and involvement, as they can provide political support for stronger involvement of key institutions and actors.	Project design based on UNEP/MAP-BC system priority areas of work identified through consultations with and meetings of governing bodies (Bureau, MAP FP, COP21)	Steering and consultative role for strategic decisions.	Higher interest and political support to promote the activities and results achieved under the project.
Type C: *Low power/ high interest over the project= Show consideration*				
Scientists/experts data users and MAP partners (including international/regional institutions, other Regional Seas)	These stakeholders may have some power of influence on the project activities and results based on their expertise in relevant areas, particularly if SPI is strengthened. Their interest in the project relates to the fact that it provides an opportunity to promote existing tools in marine data monitoring and assessment; and to obtain more robust evidence to support their own assessment/analytical and advocacy work.	Recommendations received from such stakeholders during SPI activities under EcAp MED II were taken into account when designing this project.	Key role to play in SPI-related activities.	Stronger engagement in supporting national monitoring and assessment and informed decision-making.
Type D: *Low power /low interest over the project= Least important*				
General public, civil society	Limited power over the project, except in terms of exercising pressure on decision makers for stronger action. The level of interest may be insufficient due	NA	No direct role/responsibilities	Greater awareness and responsible behaviour thanks to improved communication and awareness raising;

	to limited understanding and awareness of key issues, due to limited communication and environmental education.			greater involvement of the public in environmental campaigns.

Partners

The proposed project is structured mainly to build on the achievements and outputs of the EcAp-MED II and other relevant projects.

It is going to be implemented in close cooperation with other relevant EU and other donors (including GEF)-funded, ongoing/planned, projects in the region.

The Project Steering Committee will review the following items related to partnerships during all meetings:

- Cooperation activities undertaken to ensure synergy. Close cooperation and no-duplication between undertaken and planned activities of respective projects, initiatives and programmes will be ensured by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the PSC will be informed regularly on the complementarities;
- Possibility of developing joint work plans and activities or meetings; and
- List of relevant projects, partners work, activities to follow (where specific cooperation efforts are needed).

As from the date of the current project document conclusion, the following partners were identified, based on the need for their respective coordination efforts during project implementation (with specifics indicated by each partner, as required) and involvement in project activities execution as appropriate:

Table 6 Partners' information

Partners' information				
Partner	Expertise	Strength	Agreed roles/responsibilities in project implementation	Date of MEA partnership approval/ Due diligence process
Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean region (MED POL)	A component of the UNEP MAP Secretariat responsible for the work related to the implementation of the Protocol on Land-based Sources, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, the Dumping Protocol, and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol.	The mission, scope of action and MED POL's longstanding experience of in providing technical support and leading and implementing multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean related to	MED POL will support the national implementation of IMAP and the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on Pollution and Marine Litter, and contribute to cross-cutting activities.	N/A

	MED POL helps Mediterranean countries to formulate and implement on-going monitoring programmes on pollution, including measures for controlling pollution, and to develop action plans aimed at eliminating pollution of land-based origin.	pollution monitoring, places it in an ideal position to commit as an active key partner in the EcAp MED III project.		
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)	The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in Tunis in 1985 through a decision taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It aims to contribute to the protection and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value, including threatened species and ecosystems. Its core mission is to assist the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in order to meet their obligations under the SPA/BD Protocol which concerns Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. In this context, the main activities of SPA/RAC include the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas, conducting scientific and technical research, preparing educational material, creating and updating databases, elaborating guidelines and studies, implementing training programmes, exchanging information, and cooperating with regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.	The mission, scope of action and SPA/RAC's longstanding experience of in leading and implementing multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean, places it in an ideal position to commit as an active key partner in the EcAp MED III project.	SPA/RAC will ensure that additional support is provided for the national implementation of IMAP and for the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on biodiversity and NIS.	1991 Host Country Agreement MAP Components mandates, including the mandate of SPA/RAC, were reaffirmed by COP16 Decision IG.19/5 (Marrakesh, Morocco).
Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)	Established in 1977 as one of the six Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). PAP/RAC's mission is to support Mediterranean countries on their path towards sustainable coastal development. Contracting Parties defined the PAP/RAC's mission with their decision and that is to provide support to	The mission, scope of action and PAP/RAC's longstanding experience of in leading and implementing multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean, places it in an ideal position to commit as an	PAP/RAC will support SPA/RAC to ensure that additional support is provided for the national implementation of IMAP and for the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on coast and hydrography.	1996 Host Country Agreement MAP Components mandates, including the mandate of PAP/RAC, were

	Mediterranean countries to ratify and implement the ICZM Protocol, as well as to implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The principal activity of PAP/RAC is the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). This approach to managing coastal zones is recognized as the way forward for the sustainable development since the 1992 Rio Conference for its ability to provide solutions to the complex environmental, social, economic and institutional problems of the coastal zones. Moreover, PAP/RAC supports the countries realized through several lines of activities, including on-the-ground coastal area management programmes, capacity building support (training, workshops, consultations), awareness raising and technical support to development of methodologies, policy and legal documents.-	active key partner in the EcAp MED III project.		reaffirmed by COP16 Decision IG.19/5 (Marrakesh, Morocco).
Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC)	The objective of the Plan Bleu/RAC is to contribute to raising awareness of Mediterranean stakeholders and decision makers concerning environment and sustainable development issues in the region, by providing scenarios and outlook analysis to assist in decision-making. In this respect and through its dual functions as an regional Observatory of the environment and sustainable development and a centre for systemic and prospective analysis, the PB/RAC's mission is to provide the Contracting Parties with assessments of the state of the environment and development of the Mediterranean and a solid basis of environmental and sustainable development data, statistics, and indicators to support their action and decision making process.	The mission, scope of action and PB/RAC's longstanding experience of in supporting multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean, places it in an ideal position to commit as an active key partner in the EcAp MED III project.	PB/RAC will support the implementation of activities related to the Science Policy Interface component of the project.	1977 MAP Components mandates, including the mandate of Plan Bleu, were reaffirmed by COP16 Decision IG.19/5 (Marrakesh, Morocco).

Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)	The objective of INFO/RAC is to contribute to collecting and sharing information, raising public awareness and participation and enhancing decision-making processes at the regional, national and local levels. In this context, the mission of INFO/RAC is to provide adequate information and communication services and infrastructure technologies to the Contracting Parties to implement the Barcelona Convention's Article 12 on public participation and Article 26 on reporting, as well as several articles related to reporting requirements under the different Protocols, thus strengthening MAP information management and communication capabilities. With a view to ensuring availability of coherent and scientifically sound environmental knowledge, INFO/RAC strives for close cooperation with other key environment institutions and international bodies working on environmental data and information management, to progressively move towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).	The mission, scope of action and INFO/RAC's longstanding experience of in supporting multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean, places it in an ideal position to commit as an active key partner in the EcAp MED III project.	INFO/RAC will support the implementation of activities related to the IMAP Info System.	2009 - 16th COP UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.19/8 Annex II MAP Components mandates were reaffirmed by COP16 Decision IG.19/5 (Marrakesh, Morocco).
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)	The objective of REMPEC is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships(2016-2021), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2016, which key objectives and targets are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The Centre will also assist the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international	The mission, scope of action and REMPEC's longstanding experience of in leading and implementing multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean, its past contributions to EcAp MED II project and its extensive thematic expertise place it in an ideal position to contribute to the implementation of the EcAp MED III project.	Provision of thematic expertise in relation to CI 19 assessment, and contributions to 2023 MED QSR in relation to sea-based sources of pollution and waste (from ships and offshore activities), support with securing external partners' involvement, in particular IMO.	MAP Components mandates were reaffirmed by COP16 Decision IG.19/5 (Marrakesh, Morocco).

	assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol.			
Algerian Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy (MEER)	The Algerian Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy is the ministry responsible for defining environmental policies, setting priorities and implementing initiatives within a context of sustainable development in close collaboration with national and international development partners.	Main competent authority in Algeria with the mandate to support the implementation of IMAP.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Algeria for Biodiversity and NIS	
Algerian Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, represented by the National Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)	The National Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD) is an element of the system implemented by the Algerian State to assess environmental policy as part of the National Environmental Strategy (NES) and the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PNAEDD).	Supports the Environmental Information System in Algeria	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Algeria for Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography	
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency is the ministry responsible for defining environmental policies, setting priorities and implementing initiatives within a context of sustainable development in close collaboration with national and international development partners.	Main competent authority in Egypt with the mandate to support the implementation of IMAP. Its Environmental Protection Fund, which is used to support incentives to institutions and individuals engaged in activities and projects directed to environmental protection purposes, could support the sustainability of EcAp-related activities in the future.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Egypt for Biodiversity and NIS, Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography	
Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA)	The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is the governmental body responsible of the management and protection of the MPAs in Israel		Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Israel for Biodiversity and NIS	

Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Institute (IOLR)	Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute (IOLR) is an Israeli national research institution devoted to aquatic science. Established in 1967, its mission is to generate knowledge for the sustainable use and protection of Israel's marine, coastal and freshwater resources.	IOLR conducts research in the fields of physical oceanography, marine biology, marine biotechnology, limnology (lake science), and mariculture (saltwater fish farming), addressing issues of national, regional and global importance. In addition to supporting addressing key knowledge gaps, IOLR can also play a key role in SPI-related activities, contributing to bringing science to support policy development.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Israel for Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography	
Lebanese Ministry of Environment (MoE)	The Lebanese Ministry of Environment is the ministry responsible for defining environmental policies, setting priorities and implementing initiatives within a context of sustainable development in close collaboration with national and international development partners.	Main competent authority in Lebanon with the mandate to support the implementation of IMAP	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Lebanon for Biodiversity and NIS	
Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS)	Since its establishment in 1962, the National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L) is serving the scientific community in Lebanon covering all scientific disciplines. Its main objective is to encourage scientific research and support human resources development along the general scientific policies adopted by the government. Established as the central public institution in charge of science policy-making under the authority of the President of the Council of Ministers and granted administrative and financial autonomy.	The CNRS has two major functions that can contribute to the implementation of EcAp-MED-III as well as to the sustainability of its activities in the future: Advisory Function: The CNRS draws the general outline of the National Science Policy and formulates proposals and suggestions to the government and carries out surveys and inventories of on-going research activities in private	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Lebanon for Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography	

		and public institutions in the country. Executive Function: Consists in the implementation of the National Science Policy. To achieve this objective, the CNRS initiates, encourages and coordinates research. In addition, it leads and organizes scientific research activities within its defined work programs and research centers.		
Libyan Environment General Authority (EGA)	The Environment General Authority of Libya is a scientific, regulatory and advisory body concerned with environmental affairs with respect to conservation of biological resources, environmental pollution, and sustainable development and integrated planning of the community. The EGA was established under the General People's Committee for Health and Environment in 2000. The EGA is an independent autonomous institution which exercises its duties to protect and improve the environment.	EGA is the main competent authority in Libya in charge of environmental monitoring, analysis and testing, and the main UNEP/MAP partner institution in Libya.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Libya for Biodiversity and NIS, Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography	
Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment	The Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment is in charge of implementing policies in the areas of energy, mines and geology, as well as sustainable development, ensuring effective management and development of natural resources, and supporting policy-relevant data and information management in the area of energy and mining.	The Ministry supports monitoring and the establishment of data bases in the area of energy and mines, of relevance to monitoring pollution. It also supports the coordination between key agencies and actors as well as capacity building.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Morocco for Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography	

Moroccan National Laboratory for Pollution Research and Monitoring (LNESP)	LNESP is the main state laboratory in charge of supporting the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment in Morocco in the area of pollution monitoring and control. LNESP provides support on key technical and scientific aspects around major environmental issues.	LNESP is the main competent authority in charge of marine and coastal pollution monitoring.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Morocco for Pollution and Marine Litter	
Tunisian Agency for Coastal Protection and Management (APAL)	APAL was founded in 1995 with the task of implementing the state policy of Tunisia in the field of coastal protection in general and the public maritime domain in particular. Its main areas of concern are: The management of coastal areas and monitoring of management operations by ensuring their compliance with rules and standards established by laws and regulations related to the development of these areas, their use and occupation; Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations relating to coastal and maritime public domain; The development of studies related to coastal protection and enhancement of natural areas and development of research, studies and expertise required; The observation of the evolution of coastal ecosystems through the establishment and operation of specialized computer systems.	APAL is the main competent authority responsible for monitoring, assessment and research in the area of coastal ecosystems in Tunisia.	Competent Authority for IMAP implementation in Tunisia for Pollution and Marine Litter as well as Coast and Hydrography and Biodiversity/NIS	
European Environmental Agency (EEA)	The European Environment Agency provides sound, independent information on the environment for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public. In close collaboration with the European Environmental Information and Observation Network (Eionet) and its 32 member countries, the	EEA holds a strong expertise in thematic and integrated environmental assessments to support environmental management processes, environmental policymaking and assessment, as well as citizen participation.	Expertise sharing in the area of assessment methodologies, and contribution to project SPI activities	

	EEA gathers data and produces assessments on a wide range of topics related to the environment.			
EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency)	The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) provides technical expertise and operational assistance to improve maritime safety, pollution preparedness and response and maritime security.	EMSA has extensive knowledge as well as technical capacity for monitoring marine pollution through satellite surveillance.	Expertise sharing, data exchange and consultations for activities related to the baseline assessment of CI 19 related to oils spills	
ESA (European Space Agency)	ESA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the exploration of space and support to the development of Europe's space capability, science and technology, to promote economic growth in Europe.	ESA has extensive technical capacities in satellite Earth Observation, including on several parameters related to marine pollution and the state of marine ecosystems and coasts.	Expertise sharing, data exchange and consultations for activities related to the baseline assessment of CI 19 related to oils spills and monitoring and assessment work on CI 13, CIs 22 and 23, as well as certain aspects of CI 17.	
Joint Research Centre (JRC)	The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the European Commission's science and knowledge service which employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to EU policy.	The JRC has a strong thematic scientific expertise and a network of specialized scientists, whose scientific advice will be important at various stages of the project.	Scientific advice for the design of methodologies for monitoring and assessment as necessary during the project.	
The Commission Expert Group on Strategic Coordination for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSCG) and its working groups (in particular, WG DIKE and TG DATA, and WG GES)	The Commission Expert Group on Strategic Coordination for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSCG) was established to coordinate the working groups supporting the implementation of the MSFD, as well as other activities under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). The Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) supports a consistent and comparable approach across all marine regions by the Member States with respect to Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the MSFD. The Working Group on Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange (WG DIKE) supports Member States with their data	The MSCG and the WGs have extensive expertise in issues related to data management, reporting and assessment, key guidance documents, as well as access to data reported by EU Member States, which will be key to a successful achievement of the 2023 MED QSR.	Contribution to the reporting and assessment components of the project, and support in efforts to align IMAP and MSFD reporting and assessment methodologies.	

	reporting obligations. It is supported by and oversees a Technical Group on Data (TG Data).			
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	The main objective of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best- practices 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 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 formulates and recommends appropriate measures, including to establish fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) 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.	The GFCM, whose work as the regional fisheries management organization in the region, especially in relation to Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), is of key importance in relation to the quantitative collection and recording of Fisheries data which includes information on NIS in the Region. In addition, their work on fisheries monitoring (in line with their monitoring framework, so-called DCRF) can be complementary to the biodiversity and NIS monitoring undertaken by UNEP/MAP in line with IMAP. It is of key importance thus to follow the respective work of GFCM and ensure cooperation as much as possible in these areas, as well as to present project outputs, results to respective GFCM meetings.	The partnership with GFCM will be strengthened under this project in order to support activities related to data management and assessment for CIs related to EO2 and EO3, through close collaboration with INFO/RAC and SPA/RAC.	MoU signed in 2012
Agreement on the Conservation of	The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and	ACCOBAMS leads the work on cetacean monitoring and	ACCOBAMS will support activities related to monitoring of biodiversity	

Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)	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.	has developed the part of IMAP using respective candidate CIs. Close cooperation, follow-up on this work stream of ACCOBAMS will be as such of key importance during project implementation. SPA/RAC, implementing Partner of the present project, is the Mediterranean Sea Sub-regional Coordinating Unit of the ACCOBAMS Agreement. A close cooperation exists between SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS, materialized in joint annual working programmes.	and noise-related indicators, through the existing collaboration with SPA/RAC.	
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)	Governmental research organisation operating under the supervision of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of Greece. The HCMR comprises three Research Institutes: the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (IMBBC), the Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters (IMBRIW) and the Institute of Oceanography (IO).	The HCMR coordinates the MEDREGION (Support Mediterranean Member States towards the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive new GES Decision and programmes of measures and contribute to regional/subregional cooperation) project funded by the European Commission - DG Environment, with the aim of providing support to the Member States for the implementation of the second cycle of the Framework Directive on the Marine Environment Strategy	Synergies and complementarities between EcAp MED III and MEDREGION will be ensured, with regards to assessment tools and methodologies, and to ensure a harmonized approach to monitoring and assessment across all Mediterranean countries (EU Member States and non-members). More specifically, the EcAp MED III Project and its Component II on assessment will be informed by and benefit from the progress made during the MEDREGION on assessment methodologies, threshold values and interrelations of pressures.	

		(2008/56 / EC). In this capacity, HCMR coordinates a partnership composed of institutes, research centers and competent authorities for the Marine Strategy belonging to the Member States of the "Mediterranean Sea" region.		

The project will also make sure that synergy and coherence are enhanced as much as possible with relevant EU policies and Directives, including EU Environmental Policy, EU Marine Policy and MSFD, EU Biodiversity policy with Birds and Habitats Directive and Natura 2000, EU Integrated Maritime Policy and MSP Directive and related policies.

As of the date of conclusion of the current project document, the following **projects** were identified, with whose work, activities, specific coordination efforts will be necessary during the project implementation (with specifics indicated by each project, as required):

- **IMAP-MPA Project:** The project aims to consolidate, integrate and strengthen the ecosystem approach (EcAp) for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and their sustainable development. This will be done through the monitoring and assessment of environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, including MPAs, in a comparative and integrated manner. The project also proposes to enhance MPA management through coordinated implementation of the MAP Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, as well as enhance the integration of the Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in this process. The IMAP-MPA Project will strengthen IMAP implementation and further develop the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, inter-connected, effectively managed and monitored MPAs. This will be achieved through improving national monitoring biodiversity-related governance and policies; preparing and implementing management plans for MPAs and improving MPA management with targeted actions.

  Relevance to the EcAp MED III project: IMAP-MPA and EcAp MED III projects will follow-up on the existing country specific capacity assessments to further the lessons learnt during the implementation of the EcAp-MED II Project. Close coordination, synergies and complementarities between the two projects will therefore be ensured for higher effectiveness and cost-sharing. The projects will support complementary monitoring of CI, as presented in detail in Annex I to this project document, to ensure that as many data sets as possible are obtained to support the development of the 2023 MED QSR. To the extent possible, monitoring sites will be selected on the basis of complementarity as well as cost-effectiveness between the two projects. At the same time, IMAP-MPA will focus on monitoring in one pressure and two non-pressure pilot areas per country, i.e., two in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and one area subjected to high pressure resulting from human activity, whereas EcAp MED III will seek to extend monitoring to other representative areas as identified by the national country teams during the project inception phase. The projects will also complement each other in activities related to assessment

methodologies: while EcAp MED III will focus on the development of methodologies at the regional level through regional cooperation, the IMAP-MPA project will primarily focus on the integration aspects at pilot level of IMAP implementation. The results of pilot implementation under IMAP-MPA both in terms of monitoring and assessment will be taken into account in EcAp MED III activities related to integrated assessment methods.

- **GEF MedProgramme**
  Child Project 1.1: The Project aims to update TDA including gender assessment, report on progress to impacts, develop an offshore monitoring strategy and identification of 20 locations for the offshore reference monitoring stations in relation to pollution and develop a data sharing policy for the Mediterranean.

  Relevance to the EcAp MED III project: The work under Child Project 1.1 is highly relevant to the project. The gender assessment undertaken by it can serve as key element for future IMAP implementation, while the offshore pollution monitoring data can and should be compared with data collected and analyzed under the EcAp MED III project to ensure full assessment results of the state of the marine environment (including in MPAs). The data sharing policy for the Mediterranean to be developed under the Child Project 1.1. will also need to be followed, reflected on by the current project.

- **MED REGION Project:** The project aims to support the competent authorities of the EU Member States by addressing their cooperation needs to implement the MSFD. As such, the EcAp MED III will be informed by the progress made during the MED REGION as well as benefit from the proposed monitoring and assessment methodologies which result. Being aimed at completing the gaps in monitoring data in the Mediterranean, with a focus on assessing the distribution, intensity and effects of the key pressures, as to improve the data/information collection for the regional GES assessment, MED REGION will support the updated monitoring programmes of EU Member States to be aligned and coherent to the IMAP process.
  As a result, the EcAp MED III Project and its Component II on assessment will be informed by and benefit from the progress made during the MED REGION, on:
    - the proposed assessment methodologies;
    - development of threshold values to implement GES Decision
    - efforts towards updated, improved and more complete (sub)regional assessment;
    - interrelation of the pressures – based descriptors (D5, D8, D10) with the status of the ecosystem components;
    - interrelation of the monitoring programmes with PoMs;

  Both projects could benefit well through collaboration on data and information matters in EU and non-EU adjacent maritime areas (thereby also potentially facilitating Maritime Spatial Planning and sustainability initiatives in the region). Ultimately collaboration will facilitate a best practice approach to data management, data integrity and facilitate the adoption of a harmonized approach, to the extent possible, for the monitoring and assessment of as many indicators as possible both in European, non-European and adjacent maritime areas. Tools developed in the framework of the recent DG ENV funded project (MEDCIS http://medcis.eu) and followed in the current MEDREGION will be referenced so that the products of these projects will be adjusted through consultation, to their specific country needs, as the project is ongoing and has a specific mandate to support Mediterranean EU and non-EU states towards the implementation of the MSFD and EcAp new GES Decision (and Programmes of Measures) and contribute to regional/sub-regional cooperation.

A harmonized and standardized approach within IMAP implementation at all levels, especially with regards to data management and assessment methodology, as well as alignment as far as possible with implementation of MSFD, will contribute to a successful 2023 MED QSR.

Past projects:

- **GEF Adriatic Project:** The project entitled "Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning (GEF Adriatic)" aimed to restore the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea through implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and improve sub-regional management capacity through Marine Spatial Planning. Main planned outputs of the project are as follows:

  - Updated assessment of the characteristics of GES of the Adriatic Sea;
  - Proposal of the programme of measures to achieve Good Environmental Status;
  - Methodological framework for the establishment of national marine and coastal monitoring programme towards GES;
  - Updated sub-regional data base on marine and coastal areas and biologically important marine areas;
  - Marine Spatial Plan in selected sub-regional area;
  - Guidance for implementation of Marine Spatial Planning at sub- national level;
  - Information, Communication, and Outreach Strategy;
  - Stakeholder involvement, public participation strategy and stakeholders' training programmes; and
    The GEF Adriatic Project covered Albania and Montenegro, with the budget of USD 1,817,900, with timeframe of 2017-2019.

  ***Relevance to the EcAp MED III project*:** As the GEF Adriatic aimed to build on IMAP monitoring data to lay down grounds of MSP at sub-national level between two Mediterranean countries, lessons learnt from this project could be built on during the implementation of the EcAp MED III project.

- **ENI SEIS II South Project:** The "Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the ENP South region - SEIS Support Mechanism" project aimed at further supporting the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative in the ENP South region during the period 2016-2019. The overarching objective is to ensure coherence and harmonization of environmental reporting at regional level in support of more efficient policy-making. The main project outputs are as follows:

  - The H2020 indicator set is stabilized, refined and complemented in order to serve multiple purposes, as well as to ensure that the progress of achieving H2020 objectives is properly measured, while also contributing to assessing compliance with commitments under the Barcelona Convention;
  - The in-country processes for organizing sharing of data sets underlying the H2020 indicators are stabilized;
  - The infrastructure for reporting offered by the EEA ('Reportnet 3') and UNEP (UNEP/MAP InfoMAP platform, including the MED POL Info-system) is more widely used; and

- Indicator-based H2020 report(s) and assessments are produced in line with good practices from the EU region. This will be complemented by similar reports developed for the EU and West Balkan countries under the upcoming MSFD reporting cycle (2018) in order to come up with a comprehensive picture of the whole Mediterranean region and align the various reporting processes.
  Participating countries in this EU funded project are: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, with a budget of 1,800,000 EUR, over 2016-2019.

***Relevance to the EcAp MED III project*:** There is one common indicator between IMAP and the ENI SEIS II South Project developed Horizon 2020 indicators related to eutrophication. It is important to ensure that outputs of the ENI SEIS II South Project related to this specific indicator are reflected in the Project implementation. In case the two projects overlap in timeframe, ENI SEIS II South Project experts would be welcomed to present key outcomes of the project during respective regional, sub-regional workshops of the EcAp MED III project. The EcAp-MED II project outcomes could be also presented in respective ENI SEIS II South Project meetings and in case of country interest, organization of joint meetings would be scheduled.

- **Marine-Litter MED Projects:** The ML MED project aimed to: i) Support UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties to prevent and manage marine litter (ML) through the Marine Litter Regional Plan (MLRP) implementation; ii) Progress towards achieving marine litter GES targets; and iii) Coordination with the other European Regional Seas. It also supported the implementation of IMAP candidate Common Indicators 24 in synergy with EU funded INDICIT I and II projects.

  Relevance to the EcAp MED III project:
  As the next phase of this project is under development (**Marine Litter MED II Project**), synergies will be ensured between activities of the two projects from their design throughout their implementation. Marine Litter MED II will directly contribute and complement EcAp MED III towards the delivery of a data-based 2023 MED QSR, with focus on Marine Litter **Candidate** Common Indicators, assessment on micro plastics and monitoring and assessment of riverine inputs of marine litter. Specifically the EcAp MED III and the Marine Litter MED II projects will support the monitoring of CI under EO 10 (Marine Litter) in a complementary way, focusing on CI 22 (Beach litter) by EcAp MED III and CCI 24 (Ingested litter) ML MED II respectively (while monitoring of CI 23 (Seafloor macro-litter and floating micro-litter) will be supported under the IMAP-MPA project). The Marine Litter MED II project will contribute to enhancing national capacities on monitoring and assessing CCI 24 and addressing pressures/sources and impacts, which will in turn contribute to the 2023 MED QSR with quality assured data addressing pressures and effectiveness of measures in line with COP 20 Decision on 2017 MED QSR. The project will also contribute to assessing knowledge and data gaps for the riverine inputs of marine litter in the Mediterranean and the main uses and sources of microplastics in the region, which will also contribute to the 2023 MED QSR and complement marine litter related knowledge generated through EcAp MED III (and IMAP-MPA).

The EcAp MED III Project Steering Committee will be encouraged to review the list of relevant projects during each of its meeting.

The Project Manager (UNEP/MAP) shall report to each Steering Committee Meeting with regard to ongoing cooperation efforts with the above projects.

5 Communications and Learning

5.1 Communication strategy

The project will promote the visibility of the project activities at the widest possible international, regional and national levels and through appropriate tools and events. The attached Project Communication and Visibility Plan (Annex J) outlines specific activities and communication products to be delivered throughout the project duration by UNEP/MAP, including MAP Components, who will also play a key role in supporting communication and visibility activities, under the coordination of the UNEP/MAP Communication Task Force. The project communication and visibility plan and strategy may be revised and refined further by the Project Steering Committee during the inception phase of the project.

In addition, a strong communication component will be ensured through a dedicated communication strategy to be developed for the 2023 MED QSR, and through other communication activities aligning the project implementation with other relevant UNEP/MAP products and assessments, as well as with UNEP-MAP Information and Communication Strategy.

All project activities and deliverables will follow the EU Guidelines for communication and visibility of EU-funded projects.

5.2 Knowledge Management

This project will build on the lessons learned during the implementation of the EcAp MED I and EcAp MED II projects. In particular, a final evaluation of the EcAp MED II project conducted in the last quarter of 2019 provided valuable insights and recommendations which will feed into the design and implementation of EcAp MED III project activities, particularly with regards to implementation modalities, roles and technical capacities of different partners involved.

In addition, the project will utilize the knowledge built by UNEP MAP through a number of other relevant projects, listed in section 4.2 (Partners) above, as well as based on the experience in monitoring and assessment of pollution built by MED POL over the past 40 years. The project will also take into account the lessons learned and the expertise built by other Regional Seas Programmes, in particular the work on integrated monitoring and assessment conducted under OSPAR and HELCOM.

By relying on strong partnerships with key institutions at country level and in the region, the project will ensure the utilization of existing expertise at national and regional level. The strong SPI component of the project will further contribute to effective knowledge management and use of data, information and methodologies collated through EcAp and MSFD-related projects in the region, by supporting national and regional networks of entities and experts involved in the national IMAP implementation and other relevant projects.

In turn, the EcAp MED III project will bring valuable lessons on national IMAP implementation, in particular to be derived from the pilot testing of common indicators newly added in the IMAP Info System and from the full operationalization of the IMAP Info System. It is expected that the project will help to build and demonstrate good practices in terms of monitoring and assessment methods and tools, data management, and

SPI. The IMAP Info System will play a key role in supporting access to and dissemination of data, methodologies and other key data, knowledge and assessment products delivered through this project. The 2023 MED QSR delivered as a key product of the work of the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties will be supported by this project and will in itself constitute an important contribution to knowledge management efforts in the region by bringing together available data, sources and assessment of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast.

6 Resource Mobilization and Cost Effectiveness

6.1 Resource Mobilization

This project will be co-funded with Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) resources to cover the cost of participation of the Contracting Parties which are not eligible for EU funding under this project. Synergies and complementarities will be ensured with other projects such as IMAP-MPA, MedProgramme, Marine Litter MED II and others.

Table 7 Donor Action Plan Template (Co-financing plan), detailed by partner

Partner/Donor	Project(s)/Funds	RM target	Action	Responsible	Timeline/ Deadline	Status
UNEP/MAP – Coordinating Unit	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)	USD 104,210	Staff costs	UNEP/MAP CU	2020-2023	Confirmed
	Overhead Trust Account (OTA)	USD 11,900	Staff costs	UNEP/MAP CU	2020-2023	Confirmed
UNEP/MAP - MED POL	MTF	USD 45,000	POW activity 2.4.1.4	UNEP/MAP CU, MED POL	2020-2021	Confirmed
	MTF	USD 42,110	Staff costs	UNEP/MAP CU, MED POL	2020-2023	Confirmed
SPA/RAC	MTF	USD 15,000	POW activity 3.4.1.1	SPA/RAC	2020-2021	Confirmed
PAP/RAC	MTF	USD 10,000	POW activity 4.4.2.2	PAP/RAC	2020-2021	Confirmed
	MTF	USD 66,570	Staff costs	PAP/RAC	2020-2023	Confirmed

Please also refer to Annex B.2 for detailed co-financing table.

6.2 Cost-effectiveness

The project budget will be largely allocated to operational activities, as well as to support a full time Project Manager (UNEP/MAP P3 level) and half time (50%) Project Assistant (G5). In-kind contributions provided by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat through additional staff support (including the QSR Programme Officer) will further contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the project (as outlined in Table 7 above and in the separate co-financing table in Annex B).

Furthermore, the project has been designed in close connection with the UNEP/MAP 2020-2021 Programme of Work (POW), to ensure synergies and complementarities between the two. Where MTF funding has been allocated to the POW, activities conducted under the POW through MTF will either directly contribute to the project through co-financing as outlined in Table 7 above. Other relevant activities under the PoW and the project will be implemented in a coordinated way to support as much as possible full IMAP implementation throughout the region and the delivery of the 2023 MED QSR, as outlined in the Table 7.b below. POW activities related to IMAP implementation and 2023 MED QSR delivery which had been planned with the

view of receiving external funding support through projects have been integrated and reflected in the EcAp MED III project proposal as relevant, in full consideration of other ongoing activities and projects in the region, and in a way to complementing those. As such, complementarities have been ensured with other projects implemented by UNEP/MAP and other actors in the region, as presented in the section Partners above (p.51-66), in a way to ensure a comprehensive approach to IMAP implementation and 2023 MED QSR delivery in the region.

Finally, the mandate granted to UNEP by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as the long-standing in-house expertise available within the UNEP/MAP Secretariat through its MED POL programme and other Components (SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, PB/RAC) constitute another important comparative advantage of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat as lead implementing agency for this project.

Table 7.b Complementarities between UNEP/MAP 2020-2021 PoW and EcAp MED III

UNEP/MAP PoW 2020-2021 activities	EcAp MED III project activities	Responsible party; supporting entities
1.4.1.1 Undertake actions defined in 2023 MED QSR roadmap related to IMAP cluster on Pollution toward integrated assessment of GES	2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4	CU, MED POL; all MAP components; EcAp TF
1.4.1.2 Support the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR by capitalizing on the results of SoED 2019, MSSD Dashboard and MedECC assessment report	2.2.4.2	Plan Bleu; CU, MAP components
1.4.3.1: Support the coordinated implementation of IMAP at regional, sub regional and national levels d) Actions of QSR 2023 roadmap related to all IMAP components with regards to scales of monitoring and assessment, data quality assurance and integrated assessment of GES developed as per agreed timelines	2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4	CU; MAP components, EcAp TF
1.4.4.2 Contribute to strengthen Science Policy Interface in the Mediterranean with regards to IMAP implementation and for feeding the knowledge gap to promote effective measures to achieve GES	2.2.1.1-2.2.4.2	All MAP components
1.5.1.2 Complete IMAP Info System development for all IMAP Common Indicators and further develop data dictionaries, information standards and quality controls	1.4.1-1.4.6	INFO RAC; CU, all MAP components
2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML	1.1.1; 2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4	MED POL; CU, EcAp TF
2.4.1.2: Consolidate data dictionaries and data standards for all IMAP CI related to pollution and apply data quality control schemes	2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4	MED POL; CU, EcAp TF

2.4.1.3: Undertake harmonized and coordinated quality assurance programmes (contaminants, ML, eutrophication) at regional, sub-regional and national levels	2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4; 2.1.2.1-2.1.2.4; 2.1.4.1-2.1.4.2; 2.2.4.1-2.2.4.2	MED POL; CU, EcAp TF
2.4.1.4: Harmonize and standardize the monitoring and assessment methods of pollution and marine litter in line with IMAP	2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4; 2.1.2.1-2.1.2.4; 2.2.4.1-2.2.4.2	MED POL, CU, EcAp TF
2.4.3.1: Update thematic assessment products related to pollution and marine litter cluster of IMAP	1.1.4; 2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4; 2.2.4.2	MED POL; REMPEC, CU, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu
2.5.1.1 Support countries in the implementation of IMAP with a particular focus on scales of assessment, offshore monitoring, integration of indicators towards GES and joint monitoring	1.1.1-1.1.4; 2.1.1.1-2.1.1.4; 2.1.2.1-2.1.2.4	MED POL; CU, EcAp TF
3.4.1.1 Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts.	1.1.1-1.1.4; 1.2.1-1.2.3; 2.1.4.1-2.1.4.2	SPA RAC; CU, EcAp TF
3.4.3.1 Cooperate at sub-regional level to test joint monitoring activities in (a) selected area(s), thus supporting countries to implement joint monitoring programmes in line with IMAP recommendations in MPAs/SPAMIs.	1.2.1-1.2.3	SPA RAC; CU, MED POL, EcAp TF
3.5.1.1 Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented, including pilots to support efforts aimed at MPA/SPAMI establishment and implementation.	1.1.3, 1.2.1, 2.1.3.1	SPA RAC; CU, MAP components
4.4.2.2: Support implementation of national IMAPs Coast and Hydrography cluster	1.3.1-1.3.3; 2.1.4.1	PAP RAC; CU, EcAp TF

7 Monitoring Plan

The Project will follow UNEP standard processes and procedures and the General conditions of the agreement annexed to the agreement signed with the European Commission. Reporting is an integral part of the UNEP Project Manager's responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.

A progress and financial report together with a request of payment will be submitted to the contracting authority on a yearly basis. The progress report will have to cover the same period than the financial report.

Every yearly report, whether progress of final, shall provide a complete account of all relevant aspects of the implementation of the Action for the period covered. The report shall describe the implementation of the action according to the activities envisaged in the description of the action as well the degree of achievement of its results (Outcomes and outputs) as measured by corresponding indicators. The report shall be drafted such a way as to allow monitoring of the objectives and the means envisaged and employed. The report will as well describe the problems encountered and the actions taken to overcome the difficulties (more detailed on the report content are indicated in the article 3.7 from the General conditions).

The project will as well send intermediary 6 monthly narrative reports. Those reports should be simple and will serve as basis for coordination discussions with the Task Manager in charge of the project. This report should not be accompanied by a financial report.

Administrative financial reports

Administrative and financial evaluation is to be conducted according to the UN Rules and Regulations and includes a terminal project evaluation.

The project manager will regularly communicate with project partners to follow up with them on project expenditures. Project partners will submit financial reports to the project manager based on the schedule outlined in the project documents agreed. A final expenditure account will be prepared jointly with the project manager within 90 days of the end of the project.

Table 8 Project Monitoring Plan and Budget

Monitoring Plan and Budget									
Outcome level	*Indicator-based Evidence & Measurement*								
	Indicator	*Baseline*	*Target*	*Variables*	*Data sources*	*Data collection methods*	*Frequency*	*Budget*	*Responsible office/staff*

Outcome 1: Effective 'On the ground' national IMAP implementation with beneficiary countries providing quality assured data for the development of a quality-assured, region-wide and data-based (Evidence-based) 2023 MED QSR	1.1 Number of countries with operational national IMAPs 1.2 Number of IMAP Common Indicators monitored and quality assured reported per beneficiary country 1.3 Number of stakeholders/institutions or coordinating bodies involved in national IMAP implementation per beneficiary country 1.4 Number of CI covered by a quality assured reporting system in place through IMAP Info System 1.5 Number of sets of data on IMAP Common Indicators reported to IMAP Info System by the end of the Project 1.6 Number of baseline sub-regional and regional assessment 1.7 Number of CI national assessment factsheets per beneficiary country 1.8 IMAP Info System operational with a functional data policy in place	1.1 Baseline: 7 1.2 Baseline: 7 CI 1.3 Baseline: 1 1.4 Baseline: 11 CI 1.5 Baseline: number of datasets as described in the 2017 MED QSR 1.6 Baseline: 0 1.7 Baseline: existing guidance factsheets and information in 2017 MED QSR 1.8 Baseline: Pilot Info System covering 11 CI	1.1 7 countries 1.2 12 CI 1.3 At least three 1.4 At least 17 CI 1.5 minimum 3 new datasets for EO5, EO9 and EO10 CI, minimum 1 new dataset for EO1, EO2, EO7, EO8 1.6 1 for NIS and 1 for CI15 1.7 At least 8 1.8 Info System fully operational for at least 17 CI	**Quantitative:** Number of countries Number of CI Number of stakeholders Number of data sets Number of assessments Number of factsheets **Qualitative:** Functionalities of IMAP Info System	Reports from countries; UNEP/MAP project progress tracking tools; UNEP/MAP Partnership Portal; IMAP Info System	Desk review of documents and reports; national and regional stakeholder meetings; regular reporting requirements; qualitative assessment of IMAP Info System functionalities	Quarterly, Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU/Project Manager, with support from MAP Component project officers
Output level	*Indicator-based Evidence & Measurement*								
	Indicator	*Baseline*	*Target*	*Variables*	*Data sources*	*Data collection methods*	*Frequency*	*Budget*	*Responsible office/ staff*

Output 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP.	1.1.1 Number of monitored and assessed IMAP Common Indicators per beneficiary country	0	12 per each project beneficiary country	Number of CI in the IMAP Info System	IMAP Info System	Review of IMAP Info System data	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and INFO/RAC
	1.1.2 Number of national quality assurance and quality control programmes prepared	0	Minimum one per CI per country	Number of QA/QC programmes	IMAP Info System, national IMAPs	Desk review	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with MED POL and INFO/RAC
	1.1.3 Number of sets of data reported to IMAP Info System per country	Number of datasets as described in the 2017 MED QSR	Minimum 3 for EO5, EO9, EO10; minimum 1 for EO1	Number of data sets reported to IMAP Info System	IMAP Info System	Review of IMAP Info System data	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with INFO/RAC and relevant thematic components
	1.1.4 Number of national institutions involved in the process	0	Minimum 1 per cluster per country	Number of institutions	Reports and communications from governments; UNEP/MAP tracking tools and Partnership Portal	Desk review of documents	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and relevant thematic components
	1.1.5 Number of assessment factsheets at national and sub-regional and/or regional level	Existing guidance factsheets and information in 2017 MED QSR	6 national and 6 sub-regional/regional assessment factsheets	Number of documents/ factsheets	Documents submitted by countries/ consultants	Desk review of documents	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and relevant thematic components
Output 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented (NIS);	1.2.1 Number of joint (sub-regional) monitoring pilots designed and implemented	1 pilot designed in East Mediterranean sub-region	1 pilot implemented in East Mediterranean sub-region	Number of pilot monitoring missions	Reports from missions and from countries	Desk review of reports	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and SPA/RAC
	1.2.2 Number of countries participating in joint sub-regional monitoring programmes	0 countries	3 countries	Number of countries	Reports from missions, meeting participant lists	Desk review of documents	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and SPA/RAC
	1.2.3 Number of species monitored under sub-regional monitoring programmes on NIS	0 species	7 agreed species	Number of species	Reports from monitoring missions, IMAP Info System	Desk review of documents	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and SPA/RAC

	1.2.4 Number of baseline sub-regional assessment for NIS	0 baseline	1 Baseline assessment for the 7 agreed NIS for the East Mediterranean sub-region, and 1 regional baseline for the entire list of NIS	Number of assessments	Assessment report/document, IMAP Info System	Desk review of document and IMAP Info System documents	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and SPA/RAC
	1.2.5 Number of sets of data on NIS reported to IMAP Info System	0 set of data	Minimum 1 set of data on 7 agreed NIS reported to IMAP Info System per participating country (to allow sub-regional analysis)	Number of data sets	IMAP Info System	Desk review of IMAP Info System data	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC
Output 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring CI 16 in at least one area per beneficiary country.	1.3.1 Number of baseline sub-regional assessments for CI15	0	At least 1 per sub-region for CI15	Number of assessments	Assessment report/document, IMAP Info System	Desk review of document and IMAP Info System documents	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and PAP/RAC
	1.3.2 Number of sets of data reported for CI16	0	At least one for each of the 6 beneficiary countries	Number of data sets	IMAP Info System	Desk review of IMAP Info System data	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and PAP/RAC
	1.3.3 Number of reports presenting lessons learned	0	1 report	Number of reports	Document submitted by consultant	Desk review of document	Once at the end of project	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and PAP/RAC
Output 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022.	1.4.1 Percentage of mandatory common indicators of IMAP included in IMAP Info System	65%	1.4.1 100% (all mandatory CIs included – EO3 not included)	Number/percentage of common indicators included in IMAP Info System	IMAP Info System	Desk review of IMAP Info System data	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and INFO/RAC

	1.4.2 Number of countries supported to facilitate quality assured reporting of monitoring data	10	5 additional countries	Number of countries	Mission reports, meeting reports and list of participants, UNEP/MAP project activity tracking tools, IMAP Info System	Desk review of documents	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and INFO/RAC and thematic components
	1.4.3 IMAP Data policy availability	Roadmap available	IMAP Data policy available and reviewed by CORMONs	Data policy document	Working document	Desk review of document	Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU
	1.4.4 Number of Data flows implemented	Pilot Info System available for 11 CI	Data flows for all the IMAP CIs (EO3 not included) implemented and IMAP Info System completed and fully operational	Number of data flows	IMAP Info System and INFO/RAC tracking tools	Desk review	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU and INFO/RAC
Outcome level	*Indicator-based Evidence & Measurement*								
	Indicator	*Baseline*	*Target*	*Variables*	*Data sources*	*Data collection methods*	*Frequency*	*Budget*	*Responsible office/staff*

Outcome 2: Regional scale progress and consensus for the monitoring and assessment as well as the reporting processes at national, sub-regional and regional levels	2.1 Availability of analysis and proposal of updated scales of monitoring and assessment 2.2 Number of CIs with updated/new assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values 2.3 Number of regional expert meetings and CORMONS 2.4 Number of local, national and regional experts/actors mobilized/involved 2.5 Availability of communication and visibility strategy for 2023 MED QSR 2.6 Number of national SPI pilot networks established 2.7 Number of SPI workshops organized 2.8 Availability of 2023 MED QSR	2.1 Baseline: information provided in CI guidance factsheets 2.2 Baseline: existing Pollution/Marine litter assessment criteria 2.3 Baseline: 7 CORMONS organized between 2017-2019 2.4 Baseline: 130 experts involved in EcAp MED II and 2017 MED QSR 2.5 Baseline: 0 2.6 Baseline: 0 2.7 Baseline: 5 SPI workshops under EcAp MED II project 2.8 Baseline: 2017 MED QSR	2.1 analysis available 2.2 at least 10 2.3 at least one sub-regional meeting, one CORMON per cluster per year and 2 integrated CORMONS 2.4 at least 130 experts/actors 2.5 1 strategy 2.6 2 national pilots 2.7 1 regional and back to back with CORMON 2 national 2.8 2023 MED QSR published	Number of documents (analyses, communication plans, QSR) Number of CI Number of meetings/workshops Number of stakeholders Number of pilots Number of factsheets	Reports from meetings; documents repositories; UNEP/MAP project progress tracking tools; UNEP/MAP Partnership Portal; mission reports	Desk review of documents and reports	Quarterly, Biannual	0 (included in staff time)	PMU/Project Manager, with support from MAP Component project officers
Output level	*Indicator-based Evidence & Measurement*								
	Indicator	*Baseline*	*Target*	*Variables*	*Data sources*	*Data collection methods*	*Frequency*	*Budget*	*Responsible office/ staff*
Output 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP	2.1.1.1 Number of CI analysed with regards to knowledge gaps with focus on assessment scales	Analysis provided in CI guidance factsheets	At least 5 CI	Number of CI	Analytical documents/reports produced by consultants	Desk review of documents	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with relevant thematic components
	2.1.1.2 Number of CI covered by monitoring and assessment scales	As provided for in respective CI guidance factsheets	At least 5 CI	Number of CI	Reports on scales produced by consultants	Desk review of documents	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with relevant thematic components

Common Indicators agreed/progressed									
	2.1.1.3 Availability of proposal on integrated scales of assessment	Document WG.467/7	Proposal on integrated scales of assessment submitted to CORMON	Document on integrated scales of assessment	Working documents produced by consultants/ components and submitted to CORMON	Desk review of documents	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with relevant thematic components
Output 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP Common Indicators included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)	2.1.2.1 Number of CIs with updated/new assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values	Existing assessment criteria for Pollution/Marine litter CI	10 IMAP CIs and one candidate indicator (noise)	Number of CI	Reports and guiding documents on assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values produced/updated by consultants	Desk review of documents	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with relevant thematic components
Output 2.1.3 Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria	2.1.3.1 Number of regional and sub-regional expert group meetings	Regional and sub-regional meetings conducted under EcAp MED II project	At least one regional expert group meeting per cluster, and one per sub-region per cluster, per year, back to back with CORMON	Number of meetings	Meeting reports	Desk review of documents	Quarterly	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with relevant thematic components
Output 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level	2.1.4.1 Number of CORMON meetings organized and supported	7 CORMON meetings between 2017-2019	At least one per cluster per year and two integrated	Number of meetings	Meeting reports	Desk review of documents	Annually	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with relevant thematic components

for the beneficiary countries									
Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held	2.2.1.1 Availability of communication and visibility strategy for 2023 MED QSR	None	Communication and visibility strategy available	Communication and visibility strategy document	UNEP/MAP document repository	Desk review of document	Biannually	0 (included in staff time)	PMU
	2.2.1.2 Availability of a collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan for the 2023 MED QSR	None	Collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan available	TORs for collaboration mechanism, Partnership Plan document	UNEP/MAP document repository and Partnerships Portal	Desk review of documents	Biannually	0 (included in staff time)	PMU
Output 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level	2.2.2.1 Number of national SPI pilot networks established	0	2 pilot national SPI networks established	Number of national pilot networks	TORs, meeting reports, national progress reports	Desk review of documents	Biannually	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with Plan Bleu
	2.2.2.2 Number of SPI workshops organized	5 regional PSI workshops under EcAp MED II project	2 national SPI workshops and 1 regional SPI workshop	Number of workshops	Meeting/ workshop reports, press releases	Desk review of documents	Biannually	0 (included in staff time)	PMU with Plan Bleu
Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a time-line for regional data sharing between partners	2.2.3.1 Availability of agreement and timeline with regional partners for data sharing	None	Agreement and timeline for data sharing available	Number of documents outlining tasks and timelines	UNEP/MAP document repository	Desk review of documents	Biannually	0 (included in staff time)	PMU
Output 2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23.	2.2.4.1 Availability of 2023 MED QSR	2017 MED QSR	2023 MED QSR published	Publication and online platform	UNEP/MAP document repository and website/web-platform	Desk review of documents and website	Once at the end of project	0 (included in staff time)	PMU

Risk Management & Safeguards

8 Risk Management

Table 6 Project Risk Log

	Risk Description/ Analysis	Category	(I) Impact Severity 1-5	(L) Likely-hood 1-5	I x L Overall Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions	By When/ Whom?
1	• Late disbursement of funds related to the project activities implementation • Long procedure leading to the signature of project agreements and related addenda • Complexity of UMOJA 2 system leading to delays or inability of countries to record and report on financial implementation • Administrative failures in processing project implementation.	Financial and administrative	3	4	12	• Send any report and request of payment in time to avoid late payment. • Previous exchange of report with the EU task manager to avoid suspension of the report due to qulaity problems. • Review activities implementation calendar • Prioritize activities	Project starting period / Donor, Implementing and Executing/Managing Agencies (UNEP, UNEP/MAP, EU)

2	• Political instability • Unpredictable effects of the COVID-19 epidemic crisis • Change in priorities: countries turning away from environmental protection to immeditae or short-term priorities • Lack of commitment from countries • Turnover of governmental staff	Political/ Economic	5	3	15	• Look for national authorities support through alternative channels (MAP Focal Points, Ministers, Diplomatic channels, MAP or SPA/RAC partners at country level) • Visit the country and meet governmental officials in order to re-establish the contact and smoothen the communication and collaboration flow • Redirect activities to more stable and committed countries • Redirect or re-design activities in line with COVID-19 related impacts	At any time during the project delivery / Responsible project team member from UNEP/MAP, RACs and beneficiary countries
3	• Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas • Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards	Security	5	3	15	• Redirect activities to safer countries/areas	At any time during the project delivery / Responsible project team member from UNEP/MAP or RACs
4	• Potential negative gender-relevant/balanceed impacts	Social	3	3	9	• Ensure gender-balanced participation throughout project implementation.	At any time during the project delivery / Responsible project team member from UNEP/MAP, RACs and beneficiary countries.
5	• Bad weather conditions during field survey/monitoring activities	Natural / Environmental	4	3	12	• Find alternative activities to be executed until good weather conditions are re-established (snorkelling, near-shore prospection, coastal/terrestrial study, sample analyses, laboratory work, data processing, training of local partners, meetings/interviews with local stakeholders, etc.) • Plan a complementary field survey	At any time during the project delivery / Responsible project team member from UNEP/MAP or RACs

Project Sustainability

9 Sustainability, Uptake and Replicability

Sustainability

The sustainability of this project will be primarily ensured through the strong national ownership and alignment with national decisions and priorities of the countries in the region, which are embedded in the strong regional political and legal framework under the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention System. The national IMAPs translate specific obligations of Contracting Parties established by several Articles of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and Decisions of the Contracting Parties related to monitoring, including the obligation of reporting on IMAP implementation at the national level. These legal commitments should ensure the continued implementation of the IMAP by the countries. In addition, the alignment of the IMAP with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 14 and related targets which the governments have committed to should also encourage the sustainability of IMAP implementation, as a tool to support these important global commitments.

This project builds and capitalizes on the institutional, financial and capacity building measures and tools that were developed under EcAp MED II, which created a strong basis for further implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme at the national level for each of the Southern Mediterranean States, as well as at the regional level. The EcAp MED III project will support further implementation and application of these measures and tools, with the aim to ensure their continuity and sustainability in the long term, fully taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of EcAp MED II, and the resulting recommendations regarding the sustainability, uptake and replicability of its results.

This will be achieved through further national and regional capacity building and development of consolidated, harmonized guidance tools, which will contribute to strengthening national institutional capacities to fully implement IMAP at the national level. The shared IMAP Info System will be instrumental in that regard by enabling harmonized and standardized data reporting, processing and management in the long term by the countries, including through technical support provided by relevant UNEP/MAP experts and Components.

The efforts made to ensure synergy with the European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) will further contribute to the sustainability and replicability of the measures and tools developed under this project at the level of the entire region.

After the finalization of the project, there will be a value-added benefit provided for the sustainability of each of the project components as each is embedded fully in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and in specific Decisions in relation to the implementation of the EcAp Roadmap and IMAP, which ensure the continuous commitment of Contracting Parties to these processes. As such, all activities executed during the project will benefit from the continuous support provided through the mechanisms of the MAP/Barcelona Convention.

Strengthening cooperation with environmental authorities in beneficiary countries will undoubtedly be pivotal for the implementation of this project and will help to guide the country specific implementation processes. Coordination with all concerned stakeholders (governmental departments, the scientific community, civil society organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders), that were involved in the previous EcAp MED II piloting of the consultation and endorsement process will ensure that all levels of stakeholder will have the benefit of participation and instill again a sense of country ownership which can support the process of IMAP implementation in a solid and sustainable manner. National partners are already identified in the EcAp II funding strategy analysis and following the guidelines for the preparation of the country specific EcAp monitoring programme for biodiversity and NIS (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.430/Inf.3), and the SPI component of this project will play a major role in ensuring their full involvement.

To ensure a high level of coherence and coordination of the monitoring activities to be undertaken as part of IMAP at national level, it was recommended to establish a national committee (IMAP National Committee). Considering the specific context prevailing in the country, the IMAP National Committee will coordinate the elaboration of the national IMAP and act as a steering committee for the implementation phases, including data compilation and reporting. Considering the wide range of expertise required, the IMAP National Committee might establish thematic working groups mirroring, as appropriate, the 3 clusters (Pollution and Litter, Biodiversity and NIS, and Coast and Hydrography). This will enable optimal conditions for higher project sustainability beyond project cycle.

Uptake

The aim of this project is to further strengthen the basis for future national implementation of IMAPs. The expectation is that through strengthened national capacities and stronger SPI networks, the work on refining and improving methodologies and tools will continue at national and regional level beyond the project span, gradually involving new experts and actors in efforts towards achieving GES.

As an often-cited and recognized example of effective regional seas governance, UNEP/MAP will play an important role in spreading the knowledge and expertise built through this project for its possible uptake and replication in other regions.

Replicability

The project will build on a strong basis of tools, methodologies and systems put in place during the EcAp MED II project and other relevant projects and will support their implementation at national level.

Further tools and guidance documents developed as part of the EcAp MED III project for the remaining Common Indicators not covered under EcAp MED II will allow a full operationalization of IMAP in the region, including through joint integrated monitoring pilots, which will provide a basis for further replication in the region, including by extending monitoring to offshore areas.

The IMAP Info System will be further expanded, allowing Contracting Parties to report data on a regular basis in the future.

Assessment methodologies and tools developed at the sub-regional and regional levels will also support future assessment efforts in a harmonized way across the Mediterranean.

In addition, the networks of scientists and policy makers created and strengthened as part of this project will support continued exchange of expertise and production of science to support decision-making both at national and regional levels.

The methods, tools and approaches implemented under this project will offer an example of effective marine environment governance and coordination, which can inform efforts in other regions, particularly under other Regional Seas Programmes. The lessons learned from this project will be shared widely through UNEP/MAP and its partners networks in order to support their replication elsewhere.

10 Evaluation Plans

Evaluation Plan

Terminal evaluation

As part of the overall project management, UNEP/MAP will conduct an independent final evaluation of the Programme that will cover all components and will review the projects' performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency and, determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. This final evaluation will be conducted towards the end of the implementation period and the evaluation report will be annexed to the final report of the project.

The funds for evaluation of activities are included in the project budget, and will cover a desk study, online data collection, and a representative number of missions to conduct face-to-face interviews.

The evaluation will use the indicators defined in the log-frame matrix as indicators on to what extent the project contributes to the global consensus and promotion of tools and training approaches, in striving towards global consensus.

Furthermore, the evaluation will be gender sensitive in line with the gender strategy for the action and the action description.

Additional Information

Annex A Completed ProDoc checklist

	Project Manager Daria Mokhnacheva QSR Programme Officer	Head of Branch Tatjana Hema Deputy Coordinator	PRC – *Not Applicable for this project*
Project Summary Table 1	☑	☑	-
Table 2	☑	☑	-
Table 3	☑	☑	-
1 Project Justification 1 Problem and Situation analysis	☑	☑	-
2 Project strategic relevance 2.1 To UN Environment	☑	☑	-
2.2 To national and regional plans	☑	☑	-
3 Project Results 3.1 Theory of Change	☑	☑	-
3.2 Logical Framework	☑	☑	-
4 Project Implementation 4.1 Governance	☑	☑	-
4.2 Stakeholder analysis	☑	☑	-
5 Communication and Learning 5.1 Communication strategy	☑	☑	-
5.2 Knowledge management	☑	☑	-
6 Resource Mobilization and Cost Effectiveness 6.1 Resource mobilization	☑	☑	-
6.2 Cost-effectiveness	☑	☑	-
8 Monitoring Plan	☑	☑	-
8 Risk Analysis	☑	☑	-
9 Sustainability Replicability and Uptake	☑	☑	-
10 Evaluation Plan	☑	☑	-
Annex A ProDoc Checklist	☑	☑	-
Annex B Budget	☑	☑	-
Annex C Workplan/Activities	☑	☑	-
Annex D ESERN disclosure	☑	☑	-
Annex E Project design process	☑	☑	-
Annex F Draft donor agreements	NA	NA	-
Annex G Gender Marker Self-Assessment	☑	☑	-

Annex B Budget /Proof of secured funds

1. Project budget

The detailed budget is provided in the separate excel table 'Annex B.1 – EcAp MED III Project Budget'

Type of funding	Sponsor/donor or Unsecured funding	Project Output	1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs (USD)	2. Contractual Services (USD)	3. Travel (USD)	4. Equip-ment Vehicles and Furni-ture (USD)	5. Operating and Other Direct Costs (USD)	6. Supplies Com-modities and Mater-ials (USD)	7. Transfers and Grants Issued to Imple-menting Partner (IP) (USD)	Subtotal (USD)	PSC (7%)	Total (USD)
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	A) Output 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP	37,383						442,056	**479,439**	33,561	**513,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	B) Output 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented							32,710	**32,710**	2,290	**35,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	C) Output 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring for CI 16							123,364	**123,364**	8,636	**132,000**

		in at least one area per beneficiary country										
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	D) Output 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022							401,869	**401,869**	28,131	**430,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	E) Output 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP Common Indicators agreed/progressed	14,019		4,673				9,346	**28,037**	1,963	**30,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	F) Output 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP Common Indicators included in the current IMAP Pilot	23,364		4,673				71,963	**100,000**	7,000	**107,000**

		Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)										
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	G) Output 2.1.3: Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria		14,019	4,673				37,383	**56,075**	3,925	**60,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	H) Output 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries		9,346	32,710				72,897	**114,953**	8,047	**123,000**

In-kind MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund	H) Output 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries		30,000	40,000					**70,000**	NA	**70,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	J) Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held								**0**	0	**0**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	K) Output 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level							74,766	**74,766**	5,234	**80,000**

Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	L) Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a time-line for regional data sharing between partners								**0**	0	**0**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	M) Output 2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23	23,364	37,383					23,364	**84,112**	5,888	**90,000**
Cash	European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA	Overall project management	495,327	5,607	23,364		36,449			**560,748**	39,252	**600,000**
In-kind MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund/OTA	Overall project management	224,790							**224,790**	NA	**224,790**
		TOTAL	**818,248**	**96,355**	**110,093**	**-**	**36,449**	**-**	**1,289,720**	**2,350,865**	**143,925**	**2,494,790**

2. Co-financing

Entity	Source	Title	Amount in USD	Description	EcAp MED III project activity
SPA/RAC	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) - UNEP-MAP PoW 2020-2021	3.4.1.1 Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts.	15,000 USD	Organization of CORMON meeting (travel, venue, conference service costs to cover eligible countries)	2.1.4.1, 2.1.4.2
MED POL	MTF staff costs	Head of MED POL (Programme officer)	11,900 USD	2% staff time (P4 level) over 36 months	Staff costs
	MTF staff costs	MED POL Monitoring and Assessment Programme officer	30,210 USD	6% staff time (P3 level) over 36 months	Staff costs
	MTF - UNEP/MAP PoW 2020-2021 SB-013476.02.24.14	Activity 2.4.1.4: Harmonize and standardize the monitoring and assessment methods of pollution and marine litter in line with IMAP d) CORMON meetings on pollution and marine litter held annually and online working groups established	45,000 USD	Organization of CORMON meeting (travel, venue, conference service costs to cover eligible countries)	2.1.4.1, 2.1.4.2
PAP/RAC	MTF staff costs	Deputy Director	34,320 USD	13% staff time over 36 months	1.3.1-1.3.3
	MTF staff costs	Programme officer	22,260 USD	14% staff time over 36 months	1.3.1-1.3.3
	MTF staff costs	Financial assistant	4,950 USD	3% staff time over 36 months	1.3.1-1.3.3
	MTF staff costs	Administrative assistant	5,040 USD	3% staff time over 36 months	1.3.1-1.3.3

	MTF - UNEP/MAP PoW 2020-2021	Activity 4.4.2.2: Support implementation of national IMAPs Coast and Hydrography cluster	10,000 USD	Organization of CORMON meeting (travel, venue, conference service costs to cover eligible countries)	2.1.4.1
UNEP/MAP CU	MTF staff costs	Coordinator	23,020 USD	3% staff time (D1 level) over 36 months	Staff costs
	MTF staff costs	Deputy Coordinator	20,770 USD	3% staff time (P5 level) over 36 months	Staff costs
	MTF staff costs	QSR Programme officer	60,420 USD	12% staff time (P3 level) over 36 months	Staff costs
	OTA	Admin/Fund Management Officer	11,900 USD	2% staff time (P4 level) over 36 months	Staff costs
Total amount of co-financing			**294,790 USD**		
Percentage of total project budget* **as approved by the EC through the project CN submitted in January: 2,200,000 USD*			13.40%		

3. Evidence of secured funds

Please refer to **Annex B.3.1 Minutes of the 8th PSC Meeting** and **Annex B.3.2 UNEP/MAP COP 21 Decision IG. 24/14 "Programme of Work and Budget for 2020–2021"** provided separately.

Annex C Project workplan / Activities

Table 9: Project Work Plan

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	A) Project Output: 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP.	**Project Management Unit (PMU), MED POL, SPA/RAC**	**APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL, GFCM, ACCOBAMS**												
1.1.1	Design concrete monitoring plans for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity	PMU/MED POL	GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL, ACCOBAMS	x	x	x									
		SPA/RAC		x	x	x	x								
1.1.2	Prepare and support implementation of field survey programmes for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity	PMU/MED POL	GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL ACCOBAMS		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		SPA/RAC		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
1.1.3	Organize national and sub-regional validation meetings/workshops and provide technical support through thematic regional consultancies	PMU/MED POL	GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL		x	x							x		x
		SPA/RAC	APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL, GFCM, ACCOBAMS		x	x							x		~~x~~
1.1.4	Prepare national assessment factsheets for the selected indicators (CI 13, 14, 17, 21, 22, 23)	PMU	MED POL, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL						x	x	x	x			
	B) Project Output: 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented	**SPA/RAC**	**GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE,**												

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
			HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL, INFO/RAC												
1.2.1	Implement Joint Monitoring and Assessment programme on NIS at national and sub-regional level and reporting of results through IMAP Info System	SPA/RAC	GFCM, INFO/RAC		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
1.2.2	Support a baseline national, sub regional and regional assessment for NIS	SPA/RAC	GFCM			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
1.2.3	Develop national and sub-regional assessment factsheets	SPA/RAC	GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL							x	x	x	x	x	
	C) Project Output: 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring for CI 16 in at least one area per beneficiary country	**PAP/RAC**	**INFO/RAC, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL**												
1.3.1	Provide technical support to data monitoring and processing for CI 16 including reporting in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia	PAP/RAC	INFO/RAC, ONEDD, EEAA, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
1.3.2	Develop methodology and conduct baseline assessment for CI 15 in all eligible countries	PAP/RAC	ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
1.3.3	Prepare a report on lessons learned to be discussed at sub-regional/CORMON meetings	PAP/RAC	ONEDD, EEAA, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL									x	x	x	x
	D) Project Output: 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022.	**INFO/RAC**	**MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, EEA, WG DIKE**												
1.4.1	Upgrade hardware and software (HW&SW) platform	INFO/RAC		x	x	x	x								

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
1.4.2	Develop Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) for CORMON review and approval, and implement data flows (EO3 not included)	INFO/RAC	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
1.4.3	Assess the capacity, compatibility and interoperability with IMAP Info System of National information systems	INFO/RAC	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
1.4.4	Define and implement QA/QC procedures	INFO/RAC	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC					x	x	x	x	x	x		
1.4.5	Provide dedicated support to beneficiary countries to use IMAP Info System	INFO/RAC	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1.4.6	Implement IMAP data policy	INFO/RAC	CU, MAP components	x	x	x	x	x	x						
	E) Project Output: 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP Common Indicators agreed/progressed	**MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC**	**GFCM, ACCOBAMS, Birdlife, Medasset, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL**												
2.1.1.1	Undertake in-depth analysis of knowledge gaps related to scales of assessment for all mandatory CI as applicable	MED POL	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL	x	x	x	x								
2.1.1.2	Propose updated/new scales of monitoring and assessment for all mandatory Common Indicators as applicable	MED POL	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL			x	x	x	x	x	x				
2.1.1.3	Prepare GIS atlas for scales of monitoring and scales of assessment to be integrated into IMAP Pilot Info System	PMU/MED POL	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE,							x	x	x			

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
			HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL												
2.1.1.4	Develop a proposal on integrated assessment scales as appropriate across clusters	MED POL	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2.1.1.5	Undertake a desk review of available data sources, best practices and methodologies in the Mediterranean and under MSFD for the monitoring and assessment of seafloor damage	CU, PAP/RAC	SPA/RAC, IFREMER, GFCM, EEA	x	x	x	x								
	F) Project Output: 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP Common Indicators included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)	**MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC**	**GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife, Medasset, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL, QUIETMED II, EEA, WG DIKE, WG GES**												
2.1.2.1	Update/upgrade and develop assessment criteria using trend and threshold approach as appropriate for 10 CI already included in the IMAP Info System (CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23)	MED POL	GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
		SPA/RAC	GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife, Medasset, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
		PAP/RAC	ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL		x	x									

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2.1.2.2	Develop guiding documents for the application of assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for all IMAP clusters at the national level	MED POL	GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL						x	x					
		SPA/RAC	GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife, Medasset, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
		PAP/RAC	ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL				x	x	x	x	x	x			
2.1.2.3	Test integrated assessment approaches/methodologies, including approaches to interrelate pressures/impacts/state of the marine environment	MED POL	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife, Medasset, ONEDD, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE,						x	x	x	x	x		
2.1.2.4	Adjust and further develop IMAP methodology on integrated assessments	MED POL	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL									x	x	x	x
	G) Project Output: 2.1.3: Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and	**PMU, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC**	**EEA, Medregion, MSFD TG, UNESCO-IOC, Ifremer, Agence de**												

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria	**Plan Bleu**	**l'Eau RMC, DG ENV (JRC/ CMC), CIESM, national universities**												
2.1.3.1	Support organization of regional/sub-regional expert group meetings to share experience between countries	PMU/MED POL	Plan Bleu, EEA, MEDREGION, MSFD TG, UNESCO-IOC			x									
		SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu, EEA, MEDREGION, MSFD TG, UNESCO-IOC								x				
		PAP/RAC	Plan Bleu, EEA, MEDREGION, MSFD TG, UNESCO-IOC											x	
	H) Project Output: 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries	**MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC**	**INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, PMU/CU**												
2.1.4.1 2.1.4.2	Support organization of CORMONs (for all three clusters as well as integrated CORMON), with participation of experts from country and sub-regional teams	MED POL	INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, PMU/CU		x	x	x				x			x	x
		SPA/RAC	INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, PMU/CU		x	x	x				x			x	x
		PAP/RAC	INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, PMU/CU		x	x	x				x			x	x
	J) Project Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held	**PMU/CU**	**INFO/RAC MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, Plan Bleu, UNEP HQ, external partners**												
2.2.1.1	Develop and implement a communication and visibility strategy/plan for 2023 MED QSR	PMU/CU	INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, UNEP HQ, external partners	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2.2.1.2	Develop and implement a collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan for the 2023 MED QSR	PMU/CU	Plan Bleu, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	K) Project Output: 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level	**Plan Bleu**	**MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, UNESCO-IOC, Ifremer, Agence de l'Eau RMC, DG ENV (JRC/ CMC), CIESM, national universities**												
2.2.2.1	Identify relevant existing frameworks, processes and institutions at national level	Plan Bleu	PMU, MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, UNESCO-IOC		x	x	x								
2.2.2.2	Provide inputs to CORMONs and EcAp CG meetings on issues related to regional/sub-regional topic-specific SPI work	Plan Bleu	PMU, MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC			x	x				x			x	x
2.2.2.3	Develop ToRs and set up 2 national SPI pilots in 2 beneficiary countries	Plan Bleu	PMU, MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC		x	x	x								
2.2.2.4	Organize national thematic events/workshops in line with the respective country priorities and needs	Plan Bleu	MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, EEA, MedRegion, MSFD TG								x				
2.2.2.5	Undertake a desk review of existing literature with the view to identify and propose an emerging list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean, to be also supported by the results and data coming from implementation of monitoring programmes on the ground	PMU	MED POL, GFCM, APAL, EGA, MoE, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL							x	x	x	x	x	
	L) Project Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a time-line for regional data sharing between partners	**PMU/CU**	**MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, EEA, EC, UNESCO-IOC**												

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2.2.3.1	Map sources of data and partners to address 2023 MED QSR data gaps, and establish mechanisms and a timeline for data sharing, technical advice and peer review	PMU/CU	MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, EEA, EC, UNESCO-IOC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	M) Project Output 2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23. This should include the chapter on the assessment of fish stocks and bycatch indicators to be prepared in collaboration with GFCM	**PMU/CU**	**MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu, ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL, GFCM, EEA, EC, UNESCO-IOC**												
2.2.4.1	Define the methodology, outline, structure and contents of 2023 MED QSR	CU/PMU	MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
2.2.4.2	Collect, analyse data, prepare thematic assessment products and 2023 MED QSR including maps and graphics	CU/PMU	ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, HCMR, EEA					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		MED POL						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		SPA/RAC						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		PAP/RAC						x	x	x	x	x	x		
		INFO/RAC						x	x	x	x	x	x		
		Plan Bleu								x	x	x	x		
2.2.4.3	Establish a web-based platform to host the contents of the 2023 MED QSR online, including procurement, design, content management and maintenance	CU/PMU	MAP components, UNEP/GRID							x	x	x	x	x	x
2.2.4.4	Review, revise and finalize 2023 MED QSR publication and present it at COP23 in two languages (including editing, layout, translation and printing)	CU/MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, Plan Bleu,	ONEDD, EEAA, IOLR, CNRS, EGA, MMEMWE, APAL, GFCM,									x	x	x	x

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1]	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
			EEA, EC, UNESCO-IOC												

1: Must be the Division/Organisational Unit responsible for delivering Project Outputs (all activities below a Project Output fall under that Responsible Division).

Annex D Environmental Social and Economic Review Note

I. Project Overview

Identification	*Insert Project ID# from Programme Framework Table*
Project Title	Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts in synergy with the EU MSFD (EcAp-MED III)
Managing Division	UNEP/MAP
Type/Location	Regional, National
Region	Africa, Europe, West Asia (Mediterranean, with a focus on Southern Contracting Parties)
List Countries	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia
Project Description	Building on EcAp MED I and EcAp MED II projects, the EcAp MED III project will support the implementation of IMAP monitoring, assessment and reporting in line with 2023 MED QSR Roadmap milestones at national, sub-regional and regional level with a particular focus on southern Mediterranean countries namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia. The EcAp MED III project will also strengthen IMAP data management through the expansion of the IMAP Info-System covering the entire scope of IMAP Common Indicators. It will also support harmonized assessment at national level through the preparation of national assessment factsheets for the respective IMAP Common Indicators and delivery of a data-based 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR). The EcAp MED III project will also contribute to strengthening of the Science-Policy interface (SPI) at national and regional levels for IMAP implementation and delivery of 203 MED QSR.
Estimated duration of project:	36 months
Estimated cost of the project :	USD 2,200,000 (including PSC, excluding co-financing)

II. Environmental Social and Economic Screening Determination

A. Summary of the Safeguard Risks Triggered

Safeguard Standard Triggered by the Project	Impact of Risk[20] (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (L, M, H)
SS 1: Biodiversity, natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources	1	1	L
SS 2: Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes	1	1	L
SS 3: Safety of Dams	1	1	L
SS 4: Involuntary resettlement	1	1	L
SS 5: Indigenous peoples	1	1	L
SS 6: Labor and working conditions	1	1	L
SS 7: Cultural Heritage	1	1	L
SS 8: Gender equity	1	1	L
SS 9: Economic Sustainability	1	1	L
Additional Safeguard questions for projects seeking GCF-funding (Section IV)			

B. ESE Screening Decision[21] (Refer to the UNEP ESES Framework (Chapter 2) and the UNEP's ESES Guidelines.)

Low risk ■ Moderate risk☐ High risk☐ Additional information required ☐

C. Development of ESE Review Note and Screening Decision:

Prepared by: Name: Daria Mokhnacheva Date: 14/07/2020

Safeguard Advisor: Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Manager: Name: _____ Date: _____

D. Recommended further action from the Safeguard Advisor:

[20] Refer to UNEP Environment, Social and Economic Sustainability (ESES): Implementation Guidance Note to assign values to the Impact of Risk and the Probability of Risk to determine the overall significance of Risk (Low, Moderate or High).

[21] **Low risk**: Negative impacts negligible: no further study or impact management required.
Moderate risk: Potential negative impacts, but less significant; few if any impacts irreversible; impact amenable to management using standard mitigation measures; limited environmental or social analysis may be required to develop a ESEMP. Straightforward application of good practice may be sufficient without additional study.
High risk: Potential for significant negative impacts, possibly irreversible, ESEA including a full impact assessment may be required, followed by an effective safeguard management plan.

Annex E Design process

The project design process has been coordinated by the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit in close consultation with the relevant MAP Components through regular meetings and communications with the Ecosystem Approach Task Force throughout the different phases of project development, starting from the elaboration of the Concept Note in the last semester of 2019, which was subsequently approved by the 8th ENRTP-GPGC Programme Steering Committee Meeting on 29th of January 2020.

Following the approval of the Concept Note, a dedicated meeting with MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC and Plan Bleu took place on 12-13 February in Athens, Greece, to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the EU-funded projects addressing Ecosystem Approach and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean. The Meeting discussed the concrete details of implementation of the recently launched IMAP-MPA project and the design of the EcAp MED III project proposal, ensuring complementarity and synergies between the two projects. The Meeting served in particular to define EcAp MED III project activities and concrete deliverables per country, discuss the selection of monitoring stations for proposal to the national authorities, and define regional-level activities required in order to support the implementation of the IMAP, 2023 MED QSR Roadmap and the development of the data-based 2023 MED QSR. The Meeting also included preliminary discussions on the budget allocation for specific activities and outputs, taking into consideration possible complementary sources available under the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (in particular MTF). The elements were subsequently refined through several rounds of contributions and revisions of the draft project proposal and agreed in the regular meetings of the EcAp Task Force in March, April, May and June 2020. In line with UNEP internal procedures, the project budget and co-financing proposal have been coordinated with the UNEP/MAP Administrative Unit and the UNEP Programme Management Unit (Brussels), and the Communication and Visibility Plan has been coordinated with the UNEP/MAP Communication Unit and the MAP Components.

National stakeholders in project beneficiary countries were also informed of the project design process through correspondence, and their specific needs further identified as part of consultations undertaken under the IMAP-MPA project implementation, which allowed to further identify complementary activities to be covered by EcAp MED III, and refine the proposal of monitoring sites.

In addition, as part of the design process, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat also informed and consulted external partners in order to plan possible joint activities, ensure synergies with ongoing projects and identify possible expert support for monitoring and assessment activities (including GFCM, HCMR, INDICIT-II, EEA, participants to the "The Mediterranean Sea We Need for the Future We Want" Regional Workshop for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030).

Annex F Draft donor agreements

Not applicable

Annex G Gender Marker Self Assessment

Code	Meaning	Criteria
0	Gender-blind	Gender relevance is evident but not at all reflected in the project document.
1	Gender partially mainstreamed	Gender is reflected in the context, implementation, logframe, ***OR*** the budget
2a	Gender well mainstreamed	Gender is reflected in the context, implementation, logframe, ***AND*** the budget
2b	Targeted action on gender	*The principle purpose of the project is to advance gender equality.*
N/A	Not applicable	A gender analysis reveals that the project does not have direct interactions with and/or impacts on people, therefore, gender is considered not applicable.

A gender analysis reveals that the project does not have direct interactions with and/or impacts on people, therefore, gender is considered not applicable. Nonetheless, gender considerations will be consistently taken into account, in line with relevant UN guidelines all through the project implementation.

ANNEX H List of IMAP Ecological Objectives (EOs) and Indicators

Ecological Objective	IMAP Indicators
EO 1 Biodiversity	
Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions.	Common Indicator 1: Habitat distributional range (EO1) to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute
	Common Indicator 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1)
	Common Indicator 3: Species distributional range (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)
	Common Indicator 4: Population abundance of selected species (EO1, related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)
	Common indicator 5: Population demographic characteristics (EO1, e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)
EO 2 Non-indigenous species	
Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem	Common Indicator 6: Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (EO2, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species)
EO 3 Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish	
Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock	Common Indicator 7: Spawning stock Biomass (EO3);
	Common Indicator 8: Total landings (EO3);
	Common Indicator 9: Fishing Mortality (EO3);
	Common Indicator 10: Fishing effort (EO3);
	Common Indicator 11: Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) or Landing per unit of effort (LPUE) as a proxy (EO3)
	Common Indicator 12: Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species (EO1 and EO3)
EO 4 Marine food webs	

Alterations to components of marine food webs caused by resource extraction or human-induced environmental changes do not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability	To be further developed
EO 5 Eutrophication	
Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.	Common Indicator 13: Concentration of key nutrients in water column (EO5);
	Common Indicator 14: Chlorophyll-a concentration in water column (EO5)
EO 6 Sea-floor integrity	
Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats	To be further developed
EO7 Hydrography	
Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems.	Common Indicator 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7) to also feed the assessment of EO1 on habitat extent
EO 8 Coastal ecosystems and landscapes	
The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved	Common Indicator 16: Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures (EO8);
	Candidate Indicator 25: Land use change (EO8)
EO 9 Pollution	
Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health	Common Indicator 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater)
	Common Indicator 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9)
	Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9);

	Common Indicator 20: Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood (EO9);
	Common Indicator 21: Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards (EO9)
EO 10 Marine litter	
Marine and coastal litter do not adversely affect coastal and marine environment	Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);
	Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor (EO10);
	Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (EO10)
EO 11 Energy including underwater noise	
Noise from human activities cause no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems	Candidate Indicator 26: Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low, and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceed levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animal
	Candidate Indicator 27: Levels of continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate

ANNEX I Country-Level IMAP Implementation Analysis

Country-level IMAP implementation for Biodiversity and NIS indicators		
	IMAP MPA	**EcAp MED III**
Algeria		
National monitoring programme adopted in May 2018, with agreement to monitor and assess the status of the 6 common indicators on biodiversity and NIS component during the second phase of IMAP (2019-2021). This set of indicators will be monitored in two coastal areas among the 4 hereafter listed sites: Jijel, Rachgoun island, Agueli island and Bay of Bou Ismail. One dataset on the common indicators 1 and 2 regarding marine habitats is available within the MAVA funded "MedKeyHabitat II Project" for Rachgoun island (2019). In order to ensure the delivery of at least two sets of data for each IMAP cluster to the 2023 MED QSR, the IMAP MPA project will provide an additional data set on habitats.	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities.
Egypt		
National monitoring programme adopted in October 2017, including the set of agreed common indicators related to biodiversity and NIS. A short list of species was adopted in order to be monitored at least in two areas: Al Sallum area and the Nile Delta. There are no data sets available for any of the indicators in Egypt. Preliminary studies on sea birds and marine reptiles nesting sites are ongoing within the MAVA funded projects and Action Plan activities. The IMAP MPA project is considered as the first initiative to monitor and assess the stats of benthic habitats in the protected area of Al Sallum. Indicators on marine reptiles and sea birds will be also monitored by the IMAP MPA project in order to ensure one data set useful for the 2023 MED QSR. For the purpose of monitoring and assessment, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) will be the national institution leading the implementation of the national IMAP in Egypt.	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5, 6. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities. With regard to CI 6, the focus will be a) to support the monitoring of seven agreed species of the sub regional monitoring programme on NIS in collaboration with GFCM. b) undertake a baseline sub-regional assessment for the entire list of NIS of the IMAP
Israel		
Israel developed its national monitoring programme in June 2019, including the whole set of the agreed common indicators related to biodiversity and NIS. Regular monitoring is conducted by national institutions, covering the whole coastline. INPA (Israel nature and national parks protection	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5, 6. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats

authority) will lead the implementation of the monitoring activities in the selected areas of monitoring: Rosh Hanikra; Shakmoona; Gador.		with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities. With regard to CI 6, the focus will be a) to support the monitoring of seven agreed species of the sub regional monitoring programme on NIS in collaboration with GFCM. b) undertake a baseline sub-regional assessment for the entire list of NIS of the IMAP
Lebanon		
Lebanon adopted its national monitoring programme in January 2018, during a dedicated national workshop. Participants agreed to cover the monitoring of the whole common indicators related to biodiversity and NIS. Data about CI1&2 is available in some stations within the Deep-Sea Lebanon. Data on sea turtle and sea birds nesting sites is also available within the MAVA funded projects. Additional set of data will be made available within the IMAP MPA Project. The EcAp MEDIII project will provide data about marine mammals and NIS common indicators. Monitoring areas will cover the Palm islands MPA, Tyre MPA and the Beirut bay. The Ministry of environment will lead the implementation of the IMAP in close collaboration with the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS).	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5, 6. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities. With regard to CI 6, the focus will be a) to support the monitoring of seven agreed species of the sub regional monitoring programme on NIS in collaboration with GFCM. b) undertake a baseline sub-regional assessment for the entire list of NIS of the IMAP
Libya		
Libya adopted its national monitoring programme in April 2017, and agreed to cover the whole set of common indicators related to biodiversity and NIS. At least two monitoring areas will be selected among the following three potential sites: Ain el Ghazela, Farwa lagoon and Gulf of Sirte. No data sets are available. The IMAP MPA project will provide the first set of data and the EcAp MEDIII will provide additional data particularly on marine mammals and NIS. The MAVA funded projects (turtle and species) will contribute to delivering quality assured data on marine turtles and sea birds.	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities. The design of a sub-regional pilot for CI6 monitoring and baseline may be considered subject to funding.

EGA (Environment General Authority) is the main authority that will lead the implementation of the national IMAP in Libya.		
Morocco		
Morocco endorsed its national IMAP in July 2017, covering the whole agreed common indicators on biodiversity and NIS. Monitoring will be carried out at least in two sites from the hereafter list: Cap des Trois Fourches; Parc national d'Al Hoceima and Jbel Moussa. The MAVA funded project (MedKeyHabitats) is providing data on the common indicators of habitats in Al Hoceima (2019) and Jbel Mousssa (2017). Thus, the IMAP MPA project will offer the opportunity to have a second set of data on those common indicators. The EcAp MED III will be dedicated to implement the national IMAP on marine mammals and NIS in the selected sites under the governance of the Ministry of Environment in Morocco.	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities.
Tunisia		
Tunisia endorsed its national monitoring programme on biodiversity and NIS common indicators in April 2017. List of species and areas of monitoring were adopted during a dedicated national workshop. Monitoring areas include the National Park of Zembra and Zembretta; Kuriat island; la Galite archipelago and Gulf of Gabes area. First set of data about habitats is under development within the MAVA funded project MedKeyHabitats II. Common indicators on sea turtles and sea birds are ongoing within the Turtle project and species project respectively. The IMAP MPA project will deliver the second set of data on the above cited indicators. The EcAp III project will be dedicated to monitor common indicators on marine mammals and NIS. The Ministry of environment, through its agency "Agence de Protection et d'aménagement du Littoral" (APAL) will manage the implementation of the national IMAP in Tunisia in close cooperation with national NGOs.	CI1, CI2 (one set) CI3, CI4, CI5 (marine reptiles, sea birds)	CI 3, 4, 5. CI 3, 4 and 5 will address only the marine mammals. A baseline assessment will be undertaken on sea bed habitats with respect to the impact and pressures coming from the fishing activities. The design of a sub-regional pilot for CI6 monitoring and baseline may be considered subject to funding.

Country-level IMAP implementation for Eutrophication and Pollution indicators		
	IMAP MPA	**EcAp MED III**
Algeria		
The country has the minimal institutional capacity to establish monitoring efforts related to CIs 13, 14 and 17, in coastal area only, during the initial phase of IMAP implementation once it is launched, whilst for all other CIs further significant support is needed in order to establish regular monitoring efforts after completion of the initial phase. The monitoring efforts related to all CIs require significant technical and financial support, especially in off shore monitoring areas. Present national IMAP-based monitoring programme needs to be further elaborated regarding CIs 18, 19, 20 and 21, ensuring its compatibility with the present monitoring network primarily proposed for CI13, 14 and 17. Newly proposed national IMAP-based monitoring programme defines 27 sampling stations within 9 transects for EO5 (CI13, CI14), whilst 32 sampling locations for E09 (CI17, CI18) are defined within 9 transects to fulfill the IMAP requirements. The 9 transects includes joint monitoring efforts for EO5 and EO9 in 18 stations for the stations located in offshore area. In addition, 4 coastal sampling locations and 1 offshore also includes joint monitoring for EO5 and EO9. The Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy (Ministère de l'Environnement et des Énergies Renouvelables), represented by the National Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development (Observatoire National de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, ONEDD), is relevant for implementation of the national IMAP. There are also other national counterparts recognized as relevant for IMAP implementation. Significant gaps are reported with regards to national readiness to implement all CIs related to Pollution and Marine Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, respectively the gaps are related to: i) routine monitoring, ii) data processing (analytical techniques); iii) quality control and IT infrastructure; iii) data reporting; iv) as well as the significant needs for laboratory equipment and research vessels. It should be noted there are available vessels used for fishery surveys that need to be adapted to the needs of IMAP field surveys.	Two data sets related to CI 13, CI14, CI 17, CI18, CI19, CI20, in one MPA and one high-pressured area, preferably collected at monitoring stations/areas/transects in off shore zones.	The project will support monitoring of CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. Complementary external financial resources will be allocated for this purpose from the core budget of MAP Barcelona Convention (MTF) to cover additional monitoring stations as much as possible, in particular under UNEP/MAP POW Activity 2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or Partners. Selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects to be included with support from EcAp MED III will be defined in consultation with Contracting Parties, during the finalization of the fully fledged EcAp MED III project document and inception phase of the project, also taking into account the complementarities with IMAP MPA and support from the MTF.

Egypt		
The country has the minimal institutional capacity to establish monitoring efforts related to CIs 13, 14 and 17, in coastal area only, during the initial phase of IMAP implementation once it is launched, whilst for all other CIs further significant support is needed in order to establish regular monitoring efforts after completion of the initial phase. The monitoring efforts related to all CIs require significant technical and financial support, especially in off shore monitoring areas. Present national IMAP-based monitoring programme needs to be further elaborated regarding CIs 18, 19, 20 and 21, ensuring its compatibility with the present monitoring network primarily proposed for CI13, 14 and 17. Newly proposed national IMAP-based monitoring programme defines 45 sampling stations within 6 transects for EO5 (CI13, CI14), whilst 20 sampling locations are defined for E09 (CI17, CI18) within 6 transects to fulfill the IMAP requirements. All 6transects include joint monitoring efforts for EO5 and EO9 in the offshore stations. The Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA) is relevant to lead the implementation of the national IMAP. Significant gaps are reported with regards to national readiness to implement all CIs related to Pollution and Marine Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, respectively the gaps are related to: i) routine monitoring, ii) data processing (analytical techniques); iii) quality control and IT infrastructure; iii) data reporting; iv) as well as the significant needs for laboratory equipment and research vessels.	Two data sets related to CI 13, CI14, CI 17, CI18, CI19, CI20, in one MPA and one high-pressured area, preferably collected at monitoring stations/areas/transects in off shore zones	The project will support monitoring of CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. Complementary external financial resources will be allocated for this purpose from the core budget of MAP Barcelona Convention (MTF) to cover additional monitoring stations as much as possible, in particular under UNEP/MAP POW Activity 2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or Partners. Selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects to be included with support from EcAp MED III will be defined in consultation with Contracting Parties, during the finalization of the fully fledged EcAp MED III project document and inception phase of the project, also taking into account the complementarities with IMAP MPA and support from the MTF.
Lebanon		

The country has the minimal institutional capacity to establish monitoring efforts related to CIs 13, 14 and 17 with regards trace elements in biota only, all in coastal area only, during the initial phase of IMAP implementation once it is launched, whilst for all other CIs further significant support is needed in order to establish regular monitoring efforts after completion of the initial phase. The monitoring efforts related to all CIs require significant technical and financial support, especially in off shore monitoring areas. Present national IMAP-based monitoring programme needs to be further elaborated regarding CIs 18, 19, 20 and 21, ensuring its compatibility with the present monitoring network primarily proposed for CI13, 14 and 17. Newly proposed national IMAP-based monitoring programme defines 20 sampling stations within 5 defined transects for EO5 (CI13, CI14), whilst 20 new sampling locations are defined for E09 (CI17, CI18), within 10 transects, to fulfill the IMAP requirements. All the measurement areas contemplate joint monitoring between EO5 and EO9, with a few exceptions: EO5 (Batroum) and EO9 (Byblos and Jounieh) with independent monitoring efforts. The National Council for Scientific Research ("CNRS"), is recognized by the Ministry of the Environment, as the competent national institution to lead IMAP implementation. Significant gaps are reported with regards to national readiness to implement all CIs related to Pollution and Marine Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, respectively the gaps are related to: i) routine monitoring, ii) data processing (analytical techniques); iii) quality control and IT infrastructure; iii) data reporting; CNRS possesses research vessel with capacity for sampling in coastal and offshore waters.	Two data sets related to CI 13, CI14, CI 17, CI18, CI19, CI20, in one MPA and one high-pressured area, preferably collected at monitoring stations/areas/transects in off shore zones.	The project will support monitoring of CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. Complementary external financial resources will be allocated for this purpose from the core budget of MAP Barcelona Convention (MTF) to cover additional monitoring stations as much as possible, in particular under UNEP/MAP POW Activity 2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or Partners. Selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects to be included with support from EcAp MED III will be defined in consultation with Contracting Parties, during the finalization of the fully fledged EcAp MED III project document and inception phase of the project, also taking into account the complementarities with IMAP MPA and support from the MTF.
Libya		
Support is needed for all CIs in order to establish regular monitoring. The country has the minimal	Two data sets related to CI 13, CI14, CI 17, CI18, CI19,	The project will support monitoring of CI 13, 14, 17,

institutional capacity, and no experience, to establish monitoring efforts related to CIs 13, 14 and 17 with regards trace elements in biota, in coastal area only, during the initial phase of IMAP implementation once it is launched, whilst for all other CIs further significant support is needed in order to establish regular monitoring efforts after completion of the initial phase. The monitoring efforts related to all CIs require significant technical and financial support, especially in off shore monitoring areas. Present national IMAP-based monitoring programme needs to be further elaborated regarding CIs 18, 19, 20 and 21, ensuring its compatibility with the present monitoring network primarily proposed for CI13, 14 and 17. Newly proposed national IMAP-based monitoring programme defines 30 sampling stations for EO5 (CI13, CI14) within 10 transects, whilst 32 sampling locations are defined for E09 (CI17, CI18) within 8 transects to fulfill the IMAP requirements. The Environment General Authority (EGA) is recognized as the main authority for IMAP implementation. The list of competent national institutions of relevance for IMAP implementation, including IMAP Pollution and Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, include also other national counterparts. Significant gaps are reported with regards to national readiness to implement all CIs related to Pollution and Marine Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, respectively the gaps are related to: i) routine monitoring, ii) data processing (analytical techniques); iii) quality control and IT infrastructure; iii) data reporting; iv) as well as the significant needs for laboratory equipment and research vessels.	CI20, in one MPA and one high-pressured area, preferably collected at monitoring	18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. Complementary external financial resources will be allocated for this purpose from the core budget of MAP Barcelona Convention (MTF) to cover additional monitoring stations as much as possible, in particular under UNEP/MAP POW Activity 2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e. satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or Partners. Selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects to be included with support from EcAp MED III will be defined in consultation with Contracting Parties, during the finalization of the fully fledged EcAp MED III project document and inception phase of the project, also taking into account the complementarities with IMAP MPA and support from the MTF.
Morocco		
The country has the minimal institutional capacity to establish monitoring efforts related to CIs 17 and 21, in coastal area only, during the initial phase of IMAP implementation once it is launched, whilst the	Two data sets related to CI 13, CI14, CI 17, CI18, CI19, CI20, in one MPA and one high-pressured area,	The project will support monitoring of CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related

monitoring efforts related to all CIs require significant technical and financial support, especially in off shore monitoring areas, in order to establish regular monitoring efforts after completion of the initial phase. There is an urgent need for provision of laboratory equipment to support monitoring efforts related to CIs 13 and 14 during the initial phase. Present national IMAP-based monitoring programme needs to be further elaborated regarding CIs 18, 19, 20 and 21, ensuring its compatibility with the present monitoring network primarily proposed for CI13, 14 and 17. Newly proposed national IMAP-based monitoring programme defines 15 sampling stations for EO 5 (Ci13, CI14) within 5 transects, whilst 10 sampling locations are defined for E09 (CI17, CI18)within 5 transects, to fulfill the IMAP requirements. The competent national counterparts include the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (Ministère délégué auprès du Ministre de l'Energie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, chargé de l'Environnement), whilst the National Laboratory for Pollution Research anwd Monitoring (Laboratoire National des Études et de Surveillance de la Pollution, LMESP) is the main national institution to lead national IMAP implementation. Significant gaps are reported with regards to national readiness to implement all CIs related to Pollution and Marine Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, respectively the gaps are related to: i) routine monitoring, ii) data processing (analytical techniques); iii) quality control and IT infrastructure; iii) data reporting; iv) as well as the significant needs for laboratory equipment and research vessels.	preferably collected at monitoring	CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. Complementary external financial resources will be allocated from the core budget of MAP Barcelona Convention (MTF) to cover additional monitoring stations as much as possible, in particular under UNEP/MAP POW Activity 2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e. satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or Partners. Selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects to be included with support from EcAp MED III will be defined in consultation with Contracting Parties, during the finalization of the fully fledged EcAp MED III project document and inception phase of the project, also taking into account the complementarities with IMAP MPA and support from the MTF.
Tunisia		
The country has the minimal institutional capacity to establish monitoring efforts related to CIs 13, 14 and 17, in coastal area only, during the initial phase of IMAP implementation once it is launched, whilst for all other CIs further significant support is needed in order to establish regular monitoring efforts after completion of the initial phase. The monitoring	Two data sets related to CI 13, CI14, CI 17, CI18, CI19, CI20, in one MPA and one high-pressured area, preferably collected at monitoring	The project will support monitoring of CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. This considers that the eutrophication related CI 13 and 14 in many cases are to be monitored jointly with CI 17 and 18. Complementary

efforts related to all CIs require significant technical and financial support, especially in off shore monitoring areas. Present national IMAP-based monitoring programme needs to be further elaborated regarding CIs 18, 19, 20 and 21, ensuring its compatibility with the present monitoring network primarily proposed for CI13, 14 and 17. Newly proposed national IMAP-based monitoring programme defines 21 sampling stations for EO5 (CI13, CI14) within 7 transects, whilst 17 sampling locations are defined for E09 (CI17, CI18) within 7 defined transects to fulfill the IMAP requirements. The Agency for Coastal Protection and Management (Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral, « APAL ») is the main national counterpart recognized as relevant for IMAP implementation. Significant gaps are reported with regards to national readiness to implement all CIs related to Pollution and Marine Litter (including eutrophication and contaminants) Cluster, respectively the gaps are related to: i) routine monitoring, ii) data processing (analytical techniques); iii) quality control and IT infrastructure; iii) data reporting; iv) as well as the significant needs for laboratory equipment and research vessels. The national authority still needs to verify national IMAP-based monitoring programme prepared in the framework of EcAp MED II Project.		external financial resources will be allocated from the core budget of MAP Barcelona Convention (MTF) to cover additional monitoring stations as much as possible, in particular under UNEP/MAP POW Activity 2.4.1.1: Continue supporting updated national monitoring programmes on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication in line with IMAP, the LBS protocol and the Regional Plan on ML. The project will support a baseline or updated assessment for CIs 19 and 20 based on existing data sets collected through different monitoring surveys and/or remote sensing methods (i.e. satellite images, etc.) carried by the Contracting Parties or Partners. Selection of monitoring stations/areas/transects to be included with support from EcAp MED III will be defined in consultation with Contracting Parties, during the finalization of the fully fledged EcAp MED III project document and inception phase of the project, also taking into account the complementarities with IMAP MPA and support from the MTF.

Country-level IMAP implementation for Marine Litter indicators		
	IMAP MPA	**EcAp MED III**
Algeria		
Stations are not yet defined	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers; - **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for[22]:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter; beach micro litter
Egypt		
Stations are not yet defined	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers; - **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for[1]:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter; beach micro-litter
Israel		
CI22 (beach macro-litter): two sites (i.e. Alexander Stream and Neveh Yam). **CI23 (seafloor shallow macro-litter):** two sites (i.e. Alexander Stream and Neveh Yam).	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers; - **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter; micro-litter
Lebanon		
Stations are not yet defined	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers; - **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for[1]:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter; micro litter
Libya		
CI22 (beach macro-litter): five sites (i.e. Tripoli, Kaam, Sirt, Benghazi, Tubroq). **CI23 (seafloor):** ten sites (i.e. Ziwara, Tripoli, Tripoli, Ganima, Kaam, Buirat	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers;	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter

[22] Exact information to be confirmed based on the submission of the final monitoring programme.

Alhason, Bin jawwad, Brega, Benghazi, sosa, Tubroq). **CI23 (floating micro-litter):** and ten sites (i.e. Ziwara, Tripoli, Tripoli, Ganima, Kaam, Buirat Alhason, Bin, jawwad, Brega, Benghazi, sosa, Tubroq).	- **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	
Morocco		
CI22 (beach macro-litter): six sites (i.e. Saidia Med, Miami Nador, Sabadilla, Amsa, Martil, Tanger) **CI23 (seafloor macro-litter):** same stations as with those of the fish stock assessment programmes. **CI23 (seafloor shallow macro-litter):** five sites (i.e. Baie de M'diq, Embouchure Oued Laou, Embouchure OuedMartil, Cala Iris, Cap de l'eau). **CI23 (floating macro-litter):** five sites (i.e. Baie de M'diq, Embouchure Oued Laou, Embouchure Oued Martil, Cala Iris, Cap de l'eau)	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers; - **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter; micro litter
Tunisia		
Stations are not yet defined	**2 (new) surveys sites (tbd) within MPAs.** - **CI23:** seafloor macro-litter – ROV & divers; - **CI23:** floating micro-litter – manta net; - **CI23:** floating macro-litter – visual observations.	**Survey sites as indicated in the national monitoring programme for[1]:** - **CI22:** beach macro-litter; micro litter

Country briefs on Coast and Hydrography IMAP indicators			
	CI 15 **Location and extend of habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations**	**CI 16** **Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures**	**CCI 25** **Land cover change**
ALGERIA			
General/Common	All three indicators are covered by the national IMAP on coast and hydrography prepared in the frame of EcAp MED II. The Observatoire National de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (ONEDD), under the Ministry of Environment, is the national institution responsible for the implementation and management of the observation network and for the monitoring. It is therefore responsible for the monitoring of the three indicators. The ONEDD has four regional laboratories and several monitoring stations. The national commissariat for the coastal areas is among others responsible for the coastal management plans, data basses, GIS etc. and to coordinate with local institutions. There is a need to establish a task force under the Ministry for environment to coordinate data collection and sharing. Also, training, transfer of relevant technologies and improvement of capacities of responsible national institutions with a priority for the ONEDD staff is needed.		
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	Some parameters to monitor CI15 are available such as bathymetry (data base by GEBCO-General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans), winds, waves, currents, temperature, salinity, turbidity etc. There is an existing example of modelling (EIA study) for a new structure (port) that was prepared by the l'Ecole Nationale des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral - ENSSMAL. GIS analysis of impacts to habitats was also done, So, some practice is available, supported by external institutions. There is a need to establish a baseline, i.e. to analyse the current status of human-made structures that would require/required	There is an archive of around 30 years available for some parameters to allow temporal series of data that cover the marine and coastal areas. Some of them are created from satellite images. Some recent data specifically related to monitoring according to Guidance Fact Sheets are missing. Information on availability of an official coastline, important for the CI16, is not available from the IMAP. There is a need for a concrete desk work to calculate the CI16 (as well as CCI 25 which require satellite images. Through EEA-UNEP/MAP collaboration implementation of CCI 25 could be tested at least).	

	monitoring of hydrographic changes that could impact marine habitats. Also, the current constructions and planned installations that would require EIA (due to hydrographic changes) should be reported. On this basis pilot monitoring could take place.		
EGYPT			
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	In spite of constant invitations to join the EcAp MED II project (interventions even by MAP Coordinator) the country has not joint the partnership. However, when meeting PAP/RAC FP in person the willingness to participate in the future projects was expressed. So at present there is no info available on their national IMAP for coast and hydrography indicators. There is a need to prepare a national IMAP for coast and hydrography indicators, in parallel provide capacity/training and working on the calculation of at least CI16 and provide a baseline for CI15.		
ISRAEL			
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	In Israel many hydrographic parameters are measured on regular basis: bathymetry, waves, currents, sea temperature and salinity, climatic parameters etc. A very detailed bathymetry survey up to 1,600 m depth, is undertaken by the Geological Survey of Israel (GSI), together with the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR) and the Survey of Israel, as part of the National Bathymetric Survey project, initiated in 2001.	In Israel there are aerial images of higher resolution than required by IMAP (0.5 m and 2 m, while required one is 5 m). Institutions in charge are: Survey of Israel (SOI) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection.	The land cover is available in resolution 1:40 000. Institutions in charge are: Survey of Israel (SOI) - The ITSI Structure - Israeli Topographic Spatial Infrastructure; and the Ministry of Finance (Planning Authority). The SOI is responsible for the National GIS database, including a uniform set of codes to ensure compatibility. The National GIS includes a topographic database,

	More than 20 years of wave measurements at Haifa and Ashdod have been continuously recorded by Datawell directional waverider buoys operated by Coastal and Marine Engineering Research Institute (CAMERI). Other wave measurements are continuously conducted at Hadera and Ashkelon (IOLR) and Ashdod (CAMERI). A program for measuring currents in the Israeli continental shelf was initiated by IOLR in 1987. Historical and up-to-date records are offered for more than 20 offshore stations located at different places south of Haifa, opposite Hadera, Netanya, Ashdod and Ashkelon, and for depths ranging from 30 m to more than 500 m. Sea surface temperatures are being measured for approximately two decades at both Haifa and Ashdod. In addition, Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) instruments are in continuous operation at Hadera and Ashkelon, operated by IOLR. The long term wind measurements are carried out by the Israel Meteorological Service (IMS). Regarding the impact of marine/coastal structures, an EIA is required for sea ports, marinas, and land reclamations, or for any other		derived from aerial photographs at the scale of 1:40,000 and periodically revised. With regards to the coastal environment, SOI is responsible for the production and update of a reference coastline and the ITSI Structure - Israeli Topographic Spatial Infrastructure, which contains information on land use and land cover. The main gap is that the categories of land use and land cover, as determined by SOI and the Planning Authority at Ministry of Finance, are dynamic and may vary over time.

	marine infrastructure proposed in the marine environment (e.g., long wave breakers, marine aquaculture, gas drilling), which the planning committee has decided that it may have a significant impact on the environment. EIAs for marine infrastructure are required, inter alia, to assess the hydrographic and ecological impacts of the proposed project. Therefore, they can be used as an important source for baseline and predicted data. However, the regulations are very general and do not specify content of the assessment. This is determined case by case by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Most EIAs and monitoring programmes, are written in Hebrew and so funds will be required for acquisition of data that has to be collected differently, or further processed, or translated to English, for the purposes of this monitoring plan. At this stage, the Ministry of Environmental Protection cannot determine the scope of the human and financial resources needed for these purposes. High-resolution raw databases and purchased databases cannot be publicly distributed. Nevertheless, the products of processed data (with lower spatial resolution that still fits the requirements of this monitoring program),		

	could be distributed, subject to authorization from the respective governmental and/or non-governmental sources. Consequently, the access policy for each parameter will have to be determined in the future, case by case.		
LEBANON			
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	In Lebanon there were some works on prediction of surface velocity in the Eastern Levantine Mediterranean. For example, in M3-HAB project in 2015, Mike model was used to downscale the circulation form the Mediterranean Forecasting System (MFS) model available from Copernicus. The future monitoring of EO7 indicator can be achieved on 6 sites (Enfeh, Ras Chekaa, Raoucheh, Saida, Tyre and Nakoura) distributed over the Lebanese coast from North to South. These site are witnessing development in touristic activities and differ in their biodiversity. In those sites, Sediment dumping, hyper-sedimentation, organic pollution, land reclamation, littoral dynamic alterations (marinas, ports) are the main threats. An open-access 3D hydrographic model needs to be used for this indicator. TELEMAC-MASCARET is an example. Other models like Delft 3D can be also considered for the modelling process requested for EO7 indicator.	The Remote Sensing Centre (RSC) uses analysis of satellite imagery and GISs to produce reports and maps on the country's land resources. RSC will handle this EO8 indicator through the suitable available data imagery (very high resolution IKONOS 1m resolution 2005 images and 40 cm GeoEye 2013 Satellite imageries) to monitor and evolution of artificial coastline using ArcGIS interface each 5 to 6 years with no major gaps.	*The most recent Land cover map for Lebanon is produced in 2016 by National council for scientific research (CNRS), and it is mapped on a scale of 1:20 000, based on CORINE 4th level nomenclature. It is actually derived from GeoEye 2013 Satellite imageries.* *Previous land cover images are from 2003 and 1998, and these were used to detect land cover change (1998-2003).* The Remote Sensing Centre (RSC) will be in charge in calculating this indicator.

	Depending on the required scale and resolution, it is possible to extract local spatial and temporal distribution of parameters from regional models, such as the products and services for the Mediterranean Sea as part of the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service. These include temperature, salinity, sea surface height, velocity, mixed layer thickness, wind, planktons, oxygen, nutrients, primary production, turbidity, transparency and sea surface waves. The resolution of the bathymetric data will depend on the local topography. If topography is uniform, low resolution data from lower precision at EMODNET (http://portal.emodnet-bathymetry.eu/#) is sufficient; if very complex, high resolution bathymetric data can be requested from National Centre for Geophysics who is updating the bathymetric map of the Lebanese coast with a high precision. Meteorological data (wind statistical data) collected by local meteorological stations close to the 6 sites, should be part of the baseline data collection. Remote Sensing Centre (RSC) can handle this indicator due to its expertise in mapping and integrated coastal zone management but only in collaboration with: National Center for Marine Sciences (NCMS) that has data about water quality, biodiversity and habitats		

	National Center for Geophysics is updating the bathymetric map of the Lebanese coast that can be also found with lower precision at EMODNET There exist some gaps in the Legislations level in Lebanon especially that several ministers can have direct or indirect influence on the coast. Some difficulties may be faced with the EO7 that requires input data from several institutions and expertise in modelling and habitats as well.		
LIBYA			
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	There is no monitoring network for the marine environment in Libya. Some studies and surveys were undertaken before 2011 (civil war), such as the report of oceanographic data in 2008 of offshore and onshore Libyan waters of Gulf of Sirt, prepared by Libyan Marine Biology Research Centre (MRBC). Most of the recent coastal facilities (constructed during the past ten years) have been documented and evaluated environmentally by Environment General Authority (EGA), through EIA study. The main responsibility for implementation and coordination of this indicator rests on EGA and MBRC, Faculty of science at the University of Tripoli , Libyan Centre for Remote Sensing and Space Science (LCRSSS) and others stakeholders engagement.	EGA with related institutions (LCRSSS, MBRC, Department of Urban Planning, Ministry of Local Government- Coastal Municipalities, Faculty of Science (Tripoli university)) can be considered as main responsible for implementation of this indicator. Although LCRSSS can be considered as crucial for implementing this indicator via interpretation of high resolution aerial photographs (VHR), the reference coastline is actually a speciality of Libyan Survey Department (LSD), through approved reference points, i.e. ground controls. The latest update of such coastline was in 2006	Libyan Centre for Remote Sensing and Space Science (LCRSSS) can assess the high resolution aerial photographs (VHR) to monitor the change of land use, if sufficient financial resources are available.

	After 2011, all activities of research centres are weak due to security reasons, political instability and lack of financial resources. More capacity building needed in the area of (remote sensing) and their contribution to the modelling, processing, data, specific software , GIS , implementation training courses related to IMAP . Bathymetric map up-to-date for all coast not found in (MBRC) especially not for the areas affected by conflict. Some maps for sea ports are available ,but to obtain new map is only available with private sector.		
MOROCCO			
General/Common	All three indicators are covered by the national IMAP on coast and hydrography. The main responsible institution for the implementation of IMAP is the Secrétariat d'Etat chargé du Développement Durable (SEcDD) in cooperation with environmental observatories at national and regional levels. It can assure coordination for monitoring, however there is a need for human and logistic capacities. The Centre Royale de Télédétection Spatial (CRTS) with a rich experience with satellite images and coastal cartography. This centre has a good archive of images, satellite, aereal that can be capitalised for monitoring. With the decentralisation other partners such as the region de l'Oriental or the one of Tanger-Téouan-Al Hoceima which cover the majority of the coastal area in Morocco. Also, the Agence du Nord pour le Développement could assist with the administrative support related to monitoring. There are some other institutions that poses some existing data as well but they are dispersed and available in pdf formats. Sharing of data seems to be an important problem, as well as different formats used, methodologies etc. The general need is to improve human capacities to implement monitoring as well as financial resources that are very scares for these purposes.		
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	Gaps and needs are related to some specific human capacities and material means (equipment, software). Data needed to elaborate CI15 are very sectoral/dispersed, not harmonized as far as the methods etc. For	The information to monitor CI16 could be available from the SPOT with the resolution of 2 or 2,5 m, or from aereal photographs such as Laser (Lidar), drones etc.	Information on land cover is dispersed and not available for all land cover classes. Harmonisation is needed. Discussions with Moroccan authorities are on-going with EEA (PAP/RAC is

	example, the bathymetry data are available with the hydrographic service of the Marine Royale. Monitoring requires a multidisciplinary team and there is a need for financial and human capacities. A number of coastal sites exist that would require such monitoring (ports, marinas, other installations). To sum, the system to monitor CI15 is still far from what is required by IMAP. At least a baseline could be analysed.	Currently different methods exist and there is a need to harmonise (photointerpretation, GIS, validation on the ground). The official coastline is needed to monitor this indicator and the information in IMAP is not available if such a line exists.	contributing with information on current status, suggestions on the process etc) for the implementation of CCI 25. This could be a good possibility to test such cooperation that would allow for a harmonised approach as far as the data sources (Sentinel) and land cover classes derived from the satellite images.
TUNISIA			
General/Common	All three indicators are covered by the national IMAP on coast and hydrography. The Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE) is the main institution to be involved in monitoring of these indicators that is closely linked with the Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL) and its Observatoire de littorale. The Observatoire de littoral has a data base on bathymetry in GIS, structured and georeferenced. It cooperates with many other specific institutions that can provide information. Such as the Centre Hydrographique et Océanographique (CHOMN) de la Marine Nationale which has a data bese on sea levels in major ports and for the bathymetry. They have a continuous series of data since 1999 for the ports of Bizerte, Goulette, Sousse, Sfax and Zarzis. As far as data availability it seems hat Tunisia is well covered and would need to systemize the procedure and connects all data providers for the purpose of CI15, for example. Some data can be obtained only by a permission from the Ministry of national defense.		
Indicators covered by national IMAP Geographical scope (coastal, off shore etc) Responsible institutions Data availability, data gaps	The national IMAP contains an example of EIA for the port of Enfidha (future largest Tunisian port) which is a good case although not following completely the IMAP Guidance Factsheet. So some experience exists and should be only upgraded according to the agreed method. A list of possible sites to monitor CI15 is elaborated as well and includes l'aéroport d'Enfidha, commercial ports, marinas (Marina de Bizerte, Marina de Gammarth),	Data bases of the Observatoire du littoral include information on coastal structures and land cover. Information of an official coastline is also available. The CNCT has a good archive of data since 1980 covering practically the whole national territory. Available are also satellite images from Quick Bird, aerophotos of high resolution and other maps on geomorphology etc. These data (resolution 0,65m) were already used by the	Monitoring of this indicator is based on GIS at the Observatoire du littoral following the CORINE land classes. Testing of this indicator has been done not following completely the Guidance Factsheet, but in some aspects even at a more detailed level that required. With aggregation the land cover map could be easily prepared.

	encroachments, and other structures that should be monitored (Kerkennah, Rafraf, Soliman, Gammarth-Carthage). Below is the list of institutions related to monitoring: 1. Observatoire du Littoral-APAL 2. OTEDD, ANPE 3. Observatoire de la mer et ses réseaux de surveillance, INSTM 4. INM 5. CHOMN 6. CNCT 7. Observatoire Urbain du Grand Tunis 8. Observatoire de l'immobilier et du foncier 9. Cadastre des industriels, ONAS 10. Réseau de surveillance de la qualité des eaux, ONAS, DHMPE, INSTM 11. Observatoire de l'agriculture 12. Tourisme en chiffres 13. Institut National de la Statistique 14. Système d'information sur les déchets The Centre National de la Cartographie et de la Télédétection (CNCT) for example is responsible for the satellite images but it is under the Ministry of national defense and requires special permissions and can be bought, even to APAL.	Observatoire du Littoral for analyzing coastal changes. Analysis of different types of coast (with regard to coastal erosion) is available based on a very good data sets. Also, an analysis of the CI 16 is available however not completely following the Guidance Factsheet and in a broad resolution. What is needed is a structured on-the-spot training and calculating the indicator following the Guidance Factsheet.	Discussions with Tunisian authorities are on-going with EEA (PAP/RAC is contributing with information on current status, suggestions on the process etc) for the implementation of CCI 25 using the Sentinel images that will guarantee a harmonized method for the whole Mediterranean basin. This could be a good possibility to test such cooperation that would allow for a harmonised approach as far as the data sources (Sentinel) and land cover classes derived from the satellite images.

ANNEX J Project Communication and Visibility Plan

PROJECT COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY PLAN

UNEP/MAP PROJECT

SUPPORT TO EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH-BASED INTEGRATED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND COASTS AND TO DELIVERY OF DATA-BASED 2023 QUALITY STATUS REPORT IN SYNERGY WITH THE EU MSFD (ECAP-MED III)

UNDER THE ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (SCAS) AND THE GPGC STRATEGIC PROGRAMME COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (PCAS) BETWEEN THE EC AND UN ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

The Project "Support to Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and to delivery of data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in synergy with the EU MSFD" (EcAp-MED III) is funded by the European Union under the DG ENV GPGC[23] PCA II 2018-2020 financial instrument.

The overall objective of the EcAp MED III Project is to contribute to the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

The project will do so by building on EcAp MED I and EcAp MED II projects to support the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), including monitoring, assessment and reporting in line with the Roadmap and Needs Assessment for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) and its milestones at national, sub-regional and regional level. The project will focus in particular on seven southern Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.

The EcAp MED III project will also strengthen IMAP data management through the expansion of the IMAP Pilot Info System covering the entire scope of IMAP Common Indicators. It will also support harmonized assessment at national level through the preparation of national assessment factsheets for the respective IMAP Common Indicators and the delivery of a data-based 2023 MED QSR. The EcAp MED III project will also contribute to strengthening of the Science-Policy interface (SPI) at national and regional levels for IMAP implementation and delivery of 2023 MED QSR.

The EcAp MED III project activities will be implemented by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and MAP Regional Activity Centres, in line with their respective mandates and areas of

[23] Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)

expertise. The EcAp MED III project provides an important contribution to the implementation of UNEP/MAP 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and 2020-2021 Programme of Work adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21), and of several other COP Decisions related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and IMAP.

The delivery of EcAp MED III project activities will be done in synergy with EU MSFD implementation work. It relates directly and contributes to Sustainable Development Goal number 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and several SDG indicators. It also contributes to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation as well as to the 2014 Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change.

The EcAp MED III Project is expected to be implemented over a period of 36 months, from September 2020 to August 2023, with an overall budget of USD 2,494,790 including EC allocation of USD 2,200,000 and co-financing from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of USD 294,790.

To achieve the above, an effective communication strategy is necessary to facilitate both internal and external communication and dialogue on results, good practices, and lesson learnt. In addition, it should target decision-makers to address strategic key issues which include ensuring the support for the implementation of national IMAPs and regional cooperation. It should also target other key audiences such as experts and scientists and other key stakeholders in beneficiary countries and in the Mediterranean, who can contribute the process.

In this context the current communication and visibility plan aims to identify key objectives, target groups, communication activities and related implementation modalities to address the recommendations of the evaluation report of the EcAp MED II project and to ensure successful dissemination of the results achieved by the Project.

1. Objectives and Target Groups

i. Overall project communication objectives

- Raise awareness and understanding of the EcAp MED III project, including the support it receives from the EU, the project's goals, the role of the Contracting Parties and the project's contribution in the wider process related to the implementation of the IMAP by all Mediterranean countries, its important activities, results and deliverables, with a view to securing buy-in and continued support from stakeholders and partners throughout project implementation and to disseminating its key results.
- Promote the establishment a robust, participatory IMAP-based monitoring and assessment network around the Mediterranean Sea.
- Disseminate knowledge on the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast in order to support evidence-based marine and coastal management measures in the region, and advocate policies and measures based on enhanced knowledge of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast to underpin efforts aimed at achieving GES.

ii. Target groups

Decision Makers:

1. High level decision-makers within relevant ministries and departments of UNEP/MAP-BC Contracting Parties; Ambassadors of beneficiary countries in Athens and Brussels; national environment and sustainable development parliamentary commissions; Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and UfM Secretariat.
2. EcAp MED III designated focal points, representatives of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, including but not limited to: Government officials, policy makers, relevant ministries (i.e. Ministries of Environment, Fisheries, Tourism, Maritime and Land Planning, Forestry, Agriculture, Water, Local Development, etc.).
3. Representatives of National Research Institutions.
4. MAP Focal Points and relevant MAP Component National Focal Points (in particular MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC)

Experts/Scientists:

1. Experts participating in the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.
2. Relevant scientists, scientific institutions and networks around the Mediterranean, including European Union institutions and initiatives (EEA, EMODnet).

Other relevant projects and initiatives:

1. Other regional (Mediterranean) projects, institutions, networks, initiatives and processes (MedProgramme, MEDREGION, QuietMED II, INDICIT II).
2. Intergovernmental Organizations and other relevant Conventions/Agreements (i.e. the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO/GFCM), ACCOBAMS, UNESCO-IOC).
3. UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its actors.

Mediterranean Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

1. Current and potential MAP partners from the civil society.

iii. Specific outcomes for each target group, related to the action's objectives and the phases of the project cycle

- **Decision Makers:** Decision-makers are aware of the importance of implementing the ecosystem approach and IMAP with a view to achieving Good Environmental Status, and contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 14) and to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. They are also aware of the main issues affecting the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean region which require further action in view of achieving GES.

- **Experts/Scientists:** Scientists are aware of the main goals, outputs, results and developments of the Project, and participate in the project's national and regional activities (in coordination with the national competent authorities). They are aware of the IMAP process and contribute to the monitoring reflection/implementation of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean.

- **Other relevant projects and initiatives:** target audiences are aware of how the EcAp MED III Project is contributing to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and IMAP in the Mediterranean region and to the delivery of the 2023 MED QSR and of synergies and collaboration opportunities for the current and future phases. This target group is also important for the sustainability of the proposed action.

- **CSOs:** CSOs are informed of existing tools and products that they can use for awareness-raising, outreach and local/national advocacy activities in support of the project communication and so as to sensitize a wider audience (general public).

2. Expected results & related indicators

Expected results on communication and visibility of this Project and their related indicators, in line with the objectives defined in part 1 of this Communication and Visibility Plan are as follows:

1. Stakeholders and key decision makers are more aware of the importance of an effective implementation of the EcAp and IMAP in the Mediterranean region in order to support evidence-based policies and measures, as well as of IMAP implementation gaps and challenges and recommendations to address them – **INDICATOR**: number of stakeholders and decision makers informed about EcAp and IMAP implementation;
2. Stakeholders and key decision makers are aware of the results of the IMAP implementation process and assessment of the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and their implication for further action required in order to achieve the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, in particular through the assessment results presented in the 2023 MED QSR – **INDICATOR**: number of stakeholders and decision makers informed about the 2023 MED QSR findings; number of communication products and events providing visibility to the findings.
3. The scientific community working on marine research is informed of progress of the Project and lessons learnt to provide elements for future research orientations in support of the assessment of the state of

the Mediterranean Sea and Coast – **INDICATOR:** number of communications/publications/posters/talks disseminated to scientific entities. Further indicators will be the number of people to whom the documents will be sent, number of people visiting the project website and/or number of people downloading the documents from the project website.

4. The EU support to the Project and to the Barcelona Convention is visible – **INDICATOR:** number of reports and publications mentioning the Project and its deliverables, using the visibility guidelines of the project funded by EU and implemented by the project implementing partners. Further indicators will be the number of people to whom the documents will be sent, number of people visiting the project website and/or number of people downloading the documents from the project website.

3. Main activities & related indicators

Regular communication activities in relation to the project overall will include:

- Development of a brochure presenting the EcAp MED III project in the broader context of the Ecosystem Approach implementation in the Mediterranean and its different phases (EcAp MED I, EcAp MED II), reflecting on the progress made as well as challenges to be addressed, for dissemination online and at relevant national, regional and international meetings and events – **INDICATOR:** publication of a brochure in four languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic); number of events at which the brochure has been disseminated; number of stakeholders reached; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Decision-makers, donors, partners
- Development of an annual joint communication document/bulletin highlighting outcomes, key products and tools, results achieved, and lessons learned, developed by the partners of the project; this document will be distributed by each organization within their e-newsletter (including MAP newsletter) and websites / social media and at the occasion of their events. – **INDICATOR:** number of annual communication documents developed and disseminated over the course of the project; number of stakeholders reached; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** all target groups
- Set up and regular update of the EcAp MED III Project webpage on the UNEP/MAP main website as well as on the websites of other implementing partners and regular update of the overall Ecosystem Approach to reflect progress achieved as part of the project – **INDICATOR:** number of webpages dedicated to the EcAp MED III Project; number of views of the project page; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** - all target groups
- Issuance of press releases announcing the launch of the project and results achieved when information becomes available – **INDICATOR:** number of national articles, press briefs, TV/radio reports published in the project beneficiary countries providing visibility to the project's activities and results; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Decision-makers and Users
- Dissemination of the latest news of the EcAp MED III project through regular publication of news features and press briefs in the MAP newsletter and the implementing partners' e-newsletters, as well as dissemination of key updates and results through social media (a dedicated hashtag may be created for that purpose - Proposal: #EcApForMED). – **INDICATOR:** number of news features, press briefs published on EcAp MED III project activities and results; number of social media communications shared and number of retweets/likes; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** - Decision-makers, Managers and Scientists and MAP system partners

- Dissemination of project data monitoring results through the IMAP Info System – **INDICATOR:** number of views and users of the IMAP Info System; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Scientists and Users
- Publication and dissemination of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report in 2 languages (English and French) – **INDICATOR:** number of copies published and disseminated; number of events at which the QSR has been disseminated; number of stakeholders reached; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** all target groups
- Dissemination of assessment results through a dedicated interactive 2023 MED QSR web-platform/webpage, including through a visual Story Map (depending on costs and funding availability) – **INDICATOR:** number of views and users of the platform/webpage; **TARGET AUDIENCE:** all target groups

Communication activities will be also undertaken in relation to each specific event, meeting, workshop and key thematic output achieved under this project. This includes inter alia:

- CORMON and sub-regional thematic meetings organized as part of the project
- Key national meetings and workshops, including those related to the pilot Science-Policy Interface activities
- Key publications and products, including thematic assessments, the IMAP Info System, and the 2023 MED QSR.
- In particular, a strong communication component will be ensured through a dedicated communication strategy to be developed for the 2023 MED QSR.

All Project documents as well as communication and visibility materials will comply with the EU communication and visibility manual for EU external action, to be adhered to during the Project implementation by the UN Environment MAP and SPA/RAC and other partners or sub-contractors. Throughout the project communication activities, particular efforts will be made to provide visibility to the overall Ecosystem Approach implementation process in the region in a holistic way and in synergy with the MSFD implementation, ensuring coherence and continuity of communication between this project and related past and ongoing projects funded by the EU and other relevant UNEP/MAP initiatives and projects.

4. Partners & responsibilities

The UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit will have the primary responsibility for the development, implementation, coordination and monitoring of the project's communication and visibility actions. The activities will be undertaken by the Project Management Unit, in close coordination and with the support of the UNEP/MAP Communication Unit. In addition, representatives of the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit at all relevant levels will ensure to promote the visibility of this project at key Governance and other relevant meetings, and through presentations given at external events. Activities related to this project will be well reflected in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work, the new Medium-Term Strategy, regular Progress Reports and other key governance documents of the UNEP/MAP system, as well as in overall UNEP/MAP communication products. The Coordinating Unit will ensure the alignment between project communication activities and communication activities on other relevant UNEP/MAP products and assessments, as well as the UNEP-MAP Information and Communication Strategy. In particular, UNEP/MAP will seek to ensure and seize opportunities for synergies in the implementation of communication and visibility plans for all

EU-funded projects, including IMAP-MPA and ML-MED II, to ensure coherent communication on the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the region overall. All of the above will be done in close coordination with the MAP Communication Task Force led by the Coordinating Unit and bringing together communication specialists of all MAP components.

In addition, all relevant MAP Components (MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, INFO/RAC) will play an important role in supporting the communication and visibility of the project through their designated project officers and communication officers, using their existing communication platforms, tools and networks. Given its specific mandate to facilitate and support information and communication activities across MAP through a common information management infrastructure, INFO/RAC will play a particularly important role in supporting communication activities and the development of specific communication and visibility products and tools under this project. In addition, visibility will be provided by the MAP components to the project at events organized by the Components, and in relevant external events where the MAP Components will take part.

Other partners to the project will be invited to support communication and visibility activities and contribute to the dissemination of its results and related material through their networks and communication channels (websites, newsletters, social media, events).

The Project Management Unit will be responsible for ensuring that all project activities and deliverables undertaken by the CU, the MAP components and partners will follow the EU guidelines for communication and visibility of EU-funded projects, in line with the EU communication and visibility manual for EU external action. A dedicated briefing on the EU communication and visibility requirements will be organized for all implementing partners and the relevant guidelines shared.

5. Human, technical and financial resources

i. Human Resources

The implementation of project communication and visibility activities will be an important output of the Terms of Reference of the EcAp MED III Project Manager funded through the project, while other Project Management Unit staff will support these activities as relevant. The UNEP/MAP Communication Officer will provide support to the Project Manager as necessary for the development of specific products and tools and their dissemination. In addition, all relevant MAP Components (in particular INFO/RAC given its communication and information management mandate within the MAP system, as well as MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, and Plan Bleu) will play an important role in supporting the communication and visibility of the project through their designated project officers and communication officers, using their existing communication platforms, tools and networks. Other partners to the project will also support communication and visibility activities.

ii. Technical resources

Communication efforts will be supported through the following channels:

- UNEP/MAP system websites and social media platforms, including accounts maintained by the members of the MAP Communication Task Force at RAC level.

- To the extent possible: UNEP global platforms, including social media platforms managed by UNEP Europe Office
- Regional and national media outlets, notably national press agencies in beneficiary countries and the UNEP/MAP media directory

The UNEP/MAP portal will centralize content pertaining to the project and will act as a one-stop shop for project information through a dedicated branded and well-structured html page affiliated to the unep.org domain under UNEP/MAP (rather than a stand-alone project-related website). This will ensure clear linkages between the project communication and the overall implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean.

Similarly, to ensure coherence in communication by UNEP/MAP, social media content crafted for the project will be disseminated through existing MAP system accounts as explained above, instead of creating a new separate social media account for the project.

iii. Financial resources

The budget for communication and visibility has been included in the budget of the Project's activities. In addition, the travel budget of the Project proposal includes also relevant funding to cover necessary outreach activities, participation in relevant regional and international meetings, as necessary. Communication efforts related to the project will also be introduced as part of regular communication activities of UNEP/MAP and MAP components as an in-kind contribution to the project.

6. Work plan and timeline

Communication Activities	Responsible Unit	Partner(s)	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3				Year 4	
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Development of a brochure presenting the EcAp MED III project	PMU/CU	MAP Components												
Development of an annual joint communication document highlighting outcomes, key products and tools, results achieved, and lessons learned	PMU/CU, MAP Components													
Set up and regular update of the EcAp MED III Project webpage	PMU/CU, MAP Components													
Dissemination of the latest news of the EcAp MED III project through regular publication of news features and press briefs in e-newsletter and on social media	PMU/CU, MAP Components													
Communication of national project results by local partners through local media (TV, radio, press) and social media	National implementing partners													
Development and implementation of 2023 MED QSR communication strategy	PMU/CU	MAP Components												
Dissemination of project data monitoring results through the IMAP Info System	INFO/RAC	MAP Components												
Publication and dissemination of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report	PMU/CU	MAP Components, External partners												
Dissemination of assessment results through a dedicated interactive 2023 MED QSR web-platform/webpage	PMU/CU	INFO/RAC												
Production of specific communication products and tools aimed at a wider audience, such as short educational/awareness raising videos, posters, brochures	PMU/CU, MAP Components	External partners												
Communication activities on specific events, meetings, workshops (CORMONs, sub-regional meetings, SPI meetings, national workshops)	PMU/CU, MAP Components	External partners												

7. Reporting

The Project Management Unit at the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit will be responsible for monitoring all project communication and visibility activities implemented by the UNEP/MAP CU, MAP components, and partners on a regular basis. Any changes or delays to the communication and visibility plan will be communicated to the EC in a timely manner. Annual narrative project progress reports will systematically include comprehensive information on all communication and visibility activities conducted under the project during the reporting period. Links to key communication and visibility products will be included. The final narrative report will include an overview of key communication and visibility activities and products developed throughout the project duration.

EcAp MED III Project Budget Summary (USD)

TYPE OF FUNDING	SOURCE OF FUNDING	Details	Year 1 (4 months)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 (8 months)	Total (USD)
CASH	Environment Fund activity budget		-	-	-	-	-
	Regular Budget activity budget		-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL EF/RB BUDGET		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Extrabudgetary Funding (posts + non-post+PMC)	Secured (European Commission DG ENV GPGC PCA)	147,235	801,285	851,168	256,386	**2,056,074**
		PSC (7%)	10,306	56,090	59,582	17,947	**143,925**
		Unsecured XB funding					-
		XB Sub-total	**157,542**	**857,375**	**910,750**	**274,333**	**2,200,000**
	TOTAL XB BUDGET		**157,542**	**857,375**	**910,750**	**274,333**	**2,200,000**
IN-KIND	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)/OTA post and activities costs	As per co-financing table	29,977	94,930	94,930	74,953	**294,790**
	Regular Budget post costs						-
	Other (include name of donor)						-
	TOTAL IN-KIND BUDGET		**29,977**	**94,930**	**94,930**	**74,953**	**294,790**
TOTAL UNEP/MAP MANAGED PROJECT BUDGET		PROJECT CASH BUDGET + UNEP/MAP IN-KIND	187,518	952,305	1,005,680	349,286	**2,494,790**

Name and signature of Project Manager
Date:

Name and signature of Fund Manager Officer
Date:

Notes:

1 Rows to be added to include more Sponsor as funding is secured.
2 Rows to be added to refelect different PSC (7% for EC)
3 This sheet is linked to the other two sheets Annex 1_GM (i.e XB) and Annex 1_FM (i.e EF/RB) funding sources. Check formulas in the table above as more rows/columns/cells populated in the latte
4 Please note that you will also need to add a row showing the Co-finance as per the SOF

Sub-programme	Year	Geographic scope	Division/ Regional Office	Country	SDG Indicator	1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs (USD)	2. Contractual Services (USD)	3. Travel (USD)	4. Equipment Vehicles and Furniture (USD)	5. Operating and Other Direct Costs (USD)	6. Supplies Commodities and Materials (USD)	7. Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partner (IP) (USD)	Subtotal (USD)	PSC (7%)
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1	37,383						442,056	**479,439**	33,561
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Egypt, Israel, Lebanon	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1							32,710	**32,710**	2,290
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.2.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1							123,364	**123,364**	8,636
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1							401,869	**401,869**	28,131
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1	14,019		4,673				9,346	**28,037**	1,963
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1	23,364		4,673				71,963	**100,000**	7,000
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1		14,019	4,673				37,383	**56,075**	3,925
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1		9,346	32,710				72,897	**114,953**	8,047
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1		30,000	40,000					**70,000**	NA
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1								**0**	0
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1							74,766	**74,766**	5,234
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1								**0**	0
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1	23,364	37,383					23,364	**84,112**	5,888
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1	495,327	5,607	23,364		36,449			**560,748**	39,252
SP3-EM	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	Africa, West Asia, Europe	Ecosystems Division	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.a.1	224,790							**224,790**	NA

EcAp MED III project budget (USD)*

*(7% PSC included in the indicated amounts except for co-financing amounts)

Each Output should be broken down into the activities, which if costed will allow for evidence based costing of the outputs and outcome

Outcome	Output	Activity	Subactivity	Comments	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Outcome 1: Effective 'On the ground' national IMAP implementation with beneficiary countries providing quality assured data for the development of a quality-assured,	-	-			**$48,778**	**$541,833**	**$486,833**	**$32,555**	**$1,110,000**
	A) Output 1.1: National and Joint Monitoring carried out of selected Common Indicator(s) (CIs) in beneficiary countries based on national IMAP	-			$17,000	$228,000	$258,000	$10,000	**$513,000**
		1.1.1 Design concrete monitoring plans for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity			$14,500	$16,750			**$31,250**
		1.1.2 Prepare and support implementation of field survey programmes for each beneficiary country for Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity			$1,250	$200,000	$226,750	$7,500	**$435,500**
		1.1.3 Organize national and sub-regional validation meetings/workshops and provide technical support through thematic regional consultancies			$1,250	$11,250	$11,250	$2,500	**$26,250**
		1.1.4 Prepare national assessment factsheets for the selected indicators (CI 13, 14, 17, 21, 22, 23)					$20,000		**$20,000**
	B) Output 1.2: Joint monitoring pilots designed and implemented	-			$2,778	$8,333	$18,333	$5,555	**$35,000**
		1.2.1 Implement Joint Monitoring and Assessment programme on NIS at national and sub-regional level and reporting of results through IMAP Info System			$2,778	$2,778	$2,778	$694	**$9,028**
		1.2.2 Support a baseline national, sub regional and regional assessment for NIS				$2,778	$7,778	$2,083	**$12,639**
		1.2.3 Develop national and sub-regional assessment factsheets				$2,778	$7,778	$2,778	**$13,333**
	C) Output 1.3: Undertake baseline sub-regional assessments for CI 15 and support implementation of monitoring for CI 16 in at least one area per beneficiary country	-			$14,000	$55,500	$60,500	$2,000	**$132,000**
		1.3.1 Provide technical support to data monitoring and processing for CI 16 including reporting in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia			$1,000	$31,500	$30,500		**$63,000**
		1.3.2 Develop methodology and conduct baseline assessment for CI 15 in all eligible countries			$13,000	$24,000	$23,000		**$60,000**
		1.3.3 Prepare a report on lessons learned to be discussed at sub-regional/CORMON meetings					$7,000	$2,000	**$9,000**

	D) Output 1.4: IMAP Info System expanded to include all mandatory CI of IMAP, fully operational enabling the Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data in 2020, 2021 and 2022	-			$15,000	$250,000	$150,000	$15,000	**$430,000**
		1.4.1 Upgrade hardware and software (HW&SW) platform			$5,000	$97,500	$15,000		**$117,500**
		1.4.2 Develop Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) for CORMON review and approval, and implement data flows				$47,500	$55,000		**$102,500**
		1.4.3 Assess the capacity, compatibility and interoperability with IMAP Info System of National information systems			$5,000	$30,000	$5,000		**$40,000**
		1.4.4 Define and implement QA/QC procedures				$45,000	$45,000		**$90,000**
		1.4.5 Provide dedicated support to beneficiary countries to use IMAP Info System				$10,000	$25,000	$15,000	**$50,000**
		1.4.6 Implement IMAP data policy			$5,000	$20,000	$5,000		**$30,000**
Outcome 2: Regional scale progress and consensus for the monitoring and assessment as well as the reporting processes at national, sub-regional and regional levels	-	-			$44,375	$142,875	$253,250	$119,500	**$560,000**
	E) Output 2.1.1: Analysis for each IMAP cluster on knowledge gaps, with a focus on the scales of assessment/reporting prepared/agreed and scales of monitoring for all IMAP Common Indicators agreed/progressed	-			$3,000	$7,000	$20,000	$0	**$30,000**
		2.1.1.1 Undertake in-depth analysis of knowledge gaps related to scales of assessment for all mandatory CI as applicable							**$0**
		2.1.1.2 Propose updated/new scales of monitoring and assessment for all mandatory Common Indicators as applicable					$5,000		**$5,000**
		2.1.1.3 Prepare GIS atlas for scales of monitoring and scales of assessment to be integrated into IMAP Pilot Info System					$15,000		**$15,000**
		2.1.1.4. Develop a proposal on integrated assessment scales as appropriate across clusters							**$0**
		2.1.1.5. Undertake a desk review of available data sources, best practices and methodologies in the Mediterranean and under MSFD for the monitoring and assessment of seafloor damage for review by CORMONs in view of supporting the development of Common Indicators under EO6			$3,000	$7,000	$0	$0	**$10,000**

	F) Output 2.1.2: Assessment criteria/thresholds/ baseline values proposed/updated for the 10 IMAP Common Indicators included in the current IMAP Pilot Info System as well as one candidate indicator (Noise)				$0	$44,500	$62,500	$0	**$107,000**
		2.1.2.1. Update/upgrade and develop assessment criteria using trend and threshold approach as appropriate for 10 CI already included in the IMAP Info System (CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23)				$11,500			**$11,500**
		2.1.2.2. Develop guiding documents for the application of assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for all IMAP clusters at the national level				$33,000	$42,500		**$75,500**
		2.1.2.3. Test integrated assessment approaches/methodologies, including approaches to interrelate pressures/impacts/state of the marine environment					$20,000		**$20,000**
		2.1.2.4. Adjust and further develop IMAP methodology on integrated assessments							**$0**
	G) Output 2.1.3: Regular regional/sub-regional expert group meetings, i.e., expert group per sub-region per topic established and operational to address monitoring and assessment scales, monitoring protocols and assessment criteria				$0	$15,000	$15,000	$30,000	**$60,000**
		2.1.3.1 Support organization of regional/sub-regional expert group meetings to share experience between countries			$0	$15,000	$15,000	$30,000	**$60,000**
	H) Output 2.1.4: Support to CORMON meetings per cluster ensuring strong participation and inputs to its work from expert networks established at sub regional level for the beneficiary countries				$35,750	$50,750	$50,750	$55,750	**$193,000**
		2.1.4.1. Support organization of CORMONs		EC contribution	$20,750	$20,750	$20,750	$20,750	**$83,000**
				MTF in-kind contribution	$5,000	$20,000	$20,000	$25,000	**$70,000**
		2.1.4.2. Support the participation of experts from country and sub-regional teams in CORMON meetings under each cluster			$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	**$40,000**

	I) Output 2.2.1: Establish and implement a communication and visibility strategy for the MED 2023 QSR; Outreach to key partners is undertaken and relevant meetings held				$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
		2.2.1.1 Develop and implement a communication and visibility strategy/plan for 2023 MED QSR			$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
		2.2.1.2 Develop and implement a collaboration mechanism and Partnership Plan for the 2023 MED QSR			$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
	J) Output 2.2.2: Strengthen SPI networks of scientists and policy makers for the IMAP and its implementation; Design and implement 1-2 pilots at country level				$5,625	$25,625	$45,000	$3,750	**$80,000**
		2.2.2.1 Identify relevant existing frameworks, processes and institutions at national level			$1,875	$7,500			**$9,375**
		2.2.2.2 Provide inputs to CORMONs and EcAp CG meetings on issues related to regional/sub-regional topic-specific SPI work			$3,750	$3,750	$3,750	$3,750	**$15,000**
		2.2.2.3 Develop ToRs and set up 2 national SPI pilots in 2 beneficiary countries				$14,375			**$14,375**
		2.2.2.4 Organize national thematic events/workshops in line with the respective country priorities and needs					$41,250		**$41,250**
		2.2.2.5 Undertake a desk review of existing literature with the view to identify and propose an emerging list of priority contaminants in the Mediterranean, to be also supported by the results and data coming from implementation of monitoring programmes on the ground							**$0**
	K) Output 2.2.3: Develop and implement a time-line for regional data sharing between partners				$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
		2.2.3.1 Map sources of data and partners to address 2023 MED QSR data gaps, and establish mechanisms and a timeline for data sharing, technical advice and peer review			$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
	L) Output 2.2.4: Develop and Publish 2023 MED QSR in 2 languages; make it available online and present at COP 23				$0	$0	$60,000	$30,000	**$90,000**
		2.2.4.1 Define the methodology, outline, structure and contents of 2023 MED QSR			$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
		2.2.4.2 Collect, analyse data, prepare thematic assessment products and 2023 MED QSR including maps and graphics			$0	$0	$60,000	$30,000	**$90,000**

		2.2.4.3 Establish a web-based platform to host the contents of the 2023 MED QSR online, including procurement, design, content management and maintenance			$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		2.2.4.4 Review, revise and finalize 2023 MED QSR publication and present it at COP23 in two languages (including editing, layout, translation and printing)			$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Overall project management					$94,366	$267,597	$265,597	$197,231	**$824,790**
		3.1 Project management		EC contribution	$58,889	$176,667	$176,667	$117,778	$530,000
				MTF in-kind contribution	$24,977	$74,930	$74,930	$49,953	$224,790
		3.2 Travel to support project implementation			$1,000	$5,000	$5,000	$4,000	$15,000
		3.3 Steering Committee meetings			$6,000	$5,000	$5,000	$0	$16,000
		3.4 Office supplies and consumables			$500	$1,000	$1,000	$500	$3,000
		3.5 Equipment and maintenance			$2,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$5,000
		3.6 Publications, translation, implementation of communication and visibility plan			$0	$2,000	$0	$8,000	$10,000
		3.7 Communication costs (telephone, email etc)			$500	$1,000	$1,000	$500	$3,000
		3.8 Terminal project evaluation			$0	$0	$0	$15,000	$15,000
		3.9 Miscellaneous			$500	$1,000	$1,000	$500	$3,000
Total					**$187,518**	**$952,305**	**$1,005,680**	**$349,286**	**$2,494,790**

Activities can take place under given outcomes outside the output . This table allows for the activities to be identified where they are in the results chain. If there are activities outside the outcme, which there normally are, they can be bundled under the closest output? We have the caase of evaluation activities which need to appear as stand alone activities, we need a specific place holder for these