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Agenda Item 8: The Status of elaboration of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR 2023) and the content of the Ecological Objectives (EOs) of biodiversity, NIS and fisheries chapters

The 2023 Quality Status Report (QSR2023) Elaboration process and measures and actions required to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES)

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I. The 2023 Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) Elaboration process

1. Decision IG.22/7, adopted by COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), stipulates the development of a six-yearly Assessment Report of the Status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast as part of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), to showcase progress made towards Good Environmental Status and its related targets.
2. The first ever Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean, the 2017 MED QSR, was delivered by the UNEP/MAP system during the 2016-2017 biennium. It was an assessment product based on region-wide Ecological Objectives (EOs) and Common Indicators (CIs) and was built upon existing data, supplemented by inputs from various sources.
3. The second regional assessment report will be published by the end of 2023. This 2023 MED QSR is based on the findings, needs, and gaps identified in the 2017 MED QSR and specified in Decision IG.23/6, which was adopted by COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, December 2017).
4. The 2023 MED QSR Roadmap and Needs Assessment was approved by COP 21 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Naples, Italy, December 2019) with Decision IG.24/4. It outlines the vision for the successful delivery of the 2023 MED QSR, and details key IMAP-related processes, milestones, and outputs to be undertaken, along with their timelines.
5. During the biennium 2020/2021, the UNEP/MAP developed an Operational Plan (UNEP/MED WG.514/Inf.7) that included specific activities for each milestone/output of the roadmap. The plan was supported by the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021, the Programme of Work for 2022-2023, and externally funded projects such as the EU-funded EcAp-MED III, IMAP-MPA, Marine Litter Med II projects, and the GEF-funded MedProgramme. These efforts are intended to ensure the successful delivery of the 2023 MED QSR, which is fully data-based and to provide a comprehensive assessment of the status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast.
6. UNEP/MAP is following the planned activities for the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR and its methodological approach, outline, structure, and contents. The proposed contents and structure were discussed at the Integrated CORMON Meetings (Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020) and further refined in consultation with the Contracting Parties and in line with the 2023 MED QSR Operational Implementation Plan, based on the results of the ongoing UNEP/MAP system work on monitoring, assessment scales and integrated assessment methodologies and tools. The proposed contents and structure were reviewed and endorsed by the 8th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (9 September 2021, UNEP/MED WG.514/12, Annex II), along with an update on progress against the milestones and steps was presented to the 9th EcAp Coordination Group meeting (5 July 2022, UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.5).
7. The main assessment chapters of the 2023 MED QSR are based on assessments of Common Indicators (CI) and some Candidate Common Indicators (CCI) within Ecological Objectives (EO) for biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and marine litter and cost and hydrography clusters. Where feasible, and where the data allow, CIs are integrated within and across EOs.
8. In line with the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 adopted by COP 21 held in Naples, Italy and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 adopted by COP 22 held in Antalya, Türkiye, SPA/RAC prepared six thematic assessment reports on benthic habitats, cetaceans, Mediterranean monk seals, seabirds, marine turtles, and non-indigenous species (NIS) for the 2023 MED QSR biodiversity (EO1) and non-indigenous species (EO2) chapters. These reports were reviewed and discussed by the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) of biodiversity and fisheries (Athens, Greece, 9-10 March 2023), and they are being updated following the comments received from the Contracting Parties.

9. The assessment chapter on fisheries (EO3) is being prepared by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).
10. The assessment chapters of the 2023 MED QSR will be finalized and submitted to the Meeting of the Integrated CORMONs on 27 and 28 June 2023 for consideration. The final draft will be reviewed by the EcAp Coordination Group meeting (11 September 2023) before submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting (12-15 September 2023) and publication for COP 23 (December 2023).

II. Measures and actions required to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES)

11. Under this section, the measures and actions required to achieve GES, elaborated as part of section 6 of the assessment chapters of the 2023 MED QSR of biodiversity and NIS are presented for information to the Contracting Parties at the present Meeting. They are listed below per each ecological theme.
 1. **Measures and actions required to achieve GES for Benthic habitats (EO1)**
12. Despite many decades of scientific study on particular habitats in specific locations, systematic assessment of seabed habitats, both broad-scale and fine-scale, for the Mediterranean Sea as a whole is generally at an early stage of development. However, the knowledge based and assessment methodologies are under rapid development and offer good prospects for future QSRs.
13. Improvement in the availability of data is needed for:
 - a. Habitat maps – these provide the fundamental basis for habitat assessments and need to be further improved in quality and accuracy. The EUSeaMap full coverage map of broad habitat types relies on the quality of the underlying input data, especially on seabed substrates, and needs to be improved across much of the region. Countries should be encouraged to contribute mapping data to help improve the region-wide seabed mapping;
 - b. Activities and pressures – the mapping of pressures, using activities as a basis, provides a good means to assess the wider seabed of the region. These data are generally more easily (and cheaply) collected than direct observational data of the seabed, offering a more cost-effective means to undertake assessments. Further, such data are important for management of pressures (i.e., reducing pressures in areas to help achieved GES) and for marine spatial planning. The current region-wide datasets of activities and pressures (from the EEA/ETC-ICM) are at a 10km x 10km grid resolution – for use in relation to seabed assessments, the data need to be prepared at a finer resolution;
 - c. Monitoring data on the state of the seabed – the traditional collection of direct observations of the seabed (e.g., through video and sampling) remains an important aspect of data collection programmes, providing a means to validate pressure data to assess seabed habitat condition. Monitoring programmes are costly and need to be focused towards the needs of assessment and measures to ensure good value. To facilitate pan-regional assessments, the monitoring data need to be compatible between countries, following specified data standards;
 - d. Pressure-state interactions – there is continued need for study of pressure-state interactions, both at research level and through state assessments, to improve confidence in use of pressure data (such as a proxy for broad-scale state assessments);
 - e. Climate change – the effects of climate change on the seabed and its communities need to be better understood; of particular importance is assessment of the carbon storage capacity of marine habitats and the contribution this makes to mitigation of climate change effects; the importance of shallow vegetated habitats, such as *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, for blue carbon is often highlighted, but the carbon sequestration capacity of the much more extensive soft

sediment habitats of the shelf zone and its disruption by physical disturbance pressures is ultimately a more important knowledge gap;

f. Assessment methods – further work is needed to develop specific indicators (or test existing indicators available in other regions) for use with the monitoring data, and to bring the assessment methods to a fully operational level. Based on these methods, Contracting Parties need to agree threshold values to provide a clear means to assess the extent to which GES has been achieved;

g. Assessment results – the availability of seabed assessment results, including visualisation of the extent of GES in each part of the region, provides an important output that demonstrates the work of the IMAP and Contracting Parties, stimulates improvements and helps direct actions towards achieving GES.

2. Measures and actions required to achieve GES for Cetaceans (EO1)

14. With regards to understanding and addressing pressures/state of cetaceans' linkages, the following measures and action are proposed:

- Continue the work on definition of pressures/cetaceans' interaction hotspots; particularly extension of anthropogenic noise/cetaceans' hotspots analysis to maritime traffic and identification of marine litter/cetaceans' hotspots, as already envisaged in the ACCOBAMS Resolutions 8.17. and 8.20. respectively, both adopted by ACCOBAMS MOP 8 in 2022.
- Intensify efforts to improve knowledge on interrelations between climate change and cetaceans, including identification of sensitive cetaceans' species and monitoring of their state related to climate change.
- Continue efforts in data collection and processing regarding the ship strikes, in cooperation with international organisations on marine traffic, notably IMO, as already included in the ACCOBAMS resolution 8.18.
- Develop techniques and models to assess cumulative/synergistic effects of pressures and impacts on cetaceans, including chemicals, marine litter, climate change and emerging pathogens, taking into consideration the existing recommendations (such as from the 2021 IWC Intersessional Workshop "Pollution 2025" etc).
- Intensify efforts to implement the existing pressures' mitigation tools, such as guidelines and best practices already developed in the scope of ACCOBAMS, UNEP/MAP and IWC.

15. With regards to GES assessment and related Methodological issues, the following are proposed:

- Reformulate GES definitions and linked GES assessment elements under CI5, as proposed in the 21WG.514/Inf.11, notably to shift human induced mortality assessment to CI12 and focus on actual population demographic characteristics (sex ration, calf productivity etc).
- Define GES assessment criteria, particularly baseline/reference and threshold values, for CI5, as soon as sufficient data is collected/available. Possibly select representative pilot areas where adequate data could be collected on regular bases.
- Invest efforts in further quantification of thresholds for CI3.
- Encourage sub-regional level of cooperation between countries in reviewing and adjusting GES assessment criteria.

16. With regards to data collection, availability and GES assessment, the following measures and actions are proposed per CI:

CI3 and CI4

- Replicate and conduct regularly regional synoptic surveys (ASI) (possible dates for ASI 2 – 2024 - 2026), and complement with other monitoring efforts, as already foreseen in the Long-Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP), adopted in the ACCOBAMS framework (Resolution 8.10).
- Continue to ensure ASI data availability and easy accessibility (in standard spatial GIS format) (as it is currently possible via NETCCOBAMS).
- Promote and support research of cetaceans in the southern Mediterranean, particularly in the areas that could not be covered by ASI.

CI5

- At the national level (or where possible at sub-regional level), establish or ensure functioning of the stranding networks, with the particular support of regional agreements/organisations (ACCOBAMS, SPA/RAC) in the segment of capacity building and application of new technologies, as already stipulated in the ACCOBAMS Resolution 8.15.;
- Regularly submit national strandings data to MEDACES, including information on causes of mortality,
- Upgrade MEDACES and ensure MEDACES data availability and easy accessibility (in standard spatial GIS format) via MEDACES website.
- Intensify research efforts on population genetics, taking into account the ongoing work in the ACCOBAMS framework (reference: ACCOBAMS Resolution 8.11).

17. For IUCN Red List assessment, it is proposed to continue conducting IUCN Red List Assessment for cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea, in the ACCOBAMS framework, and report on changes in the status, as a basis for further conservation action.

3. Measures and actions required to achieve GES for Mediterranean Monk Seal (EO1)

18. The Regional strategy for the conservation of monk seal in the Mediterranean divides Mediterranean countries into three groups based on their reported monk seal breeding and sightings. A. Countries where monk seal breeding has been reported after year 2010; B. Countries where no monk seal breeding is reported, but where repeated sightings of monk seals (>3) were reported since 2010; C. Countries where no monk seal breeding is reported, and where very rare or no sightings of monk seals (≤ 3) were reported since 2010.

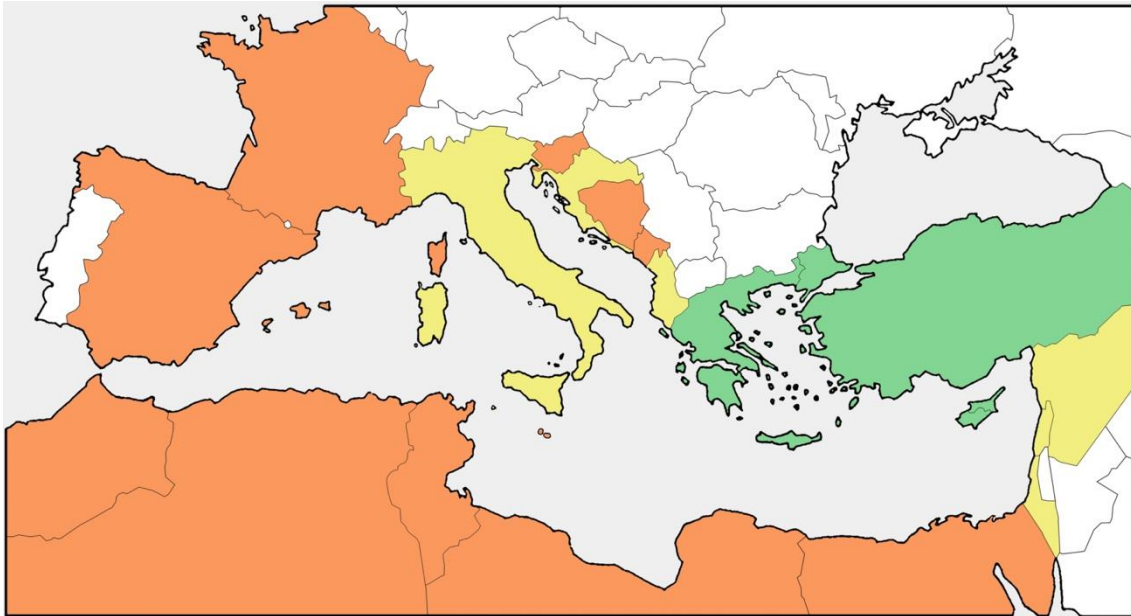


Figure 1. Monk seal conservation status by country, adopted from *updated Regional strategy for the conservation of monk seal in the Mediterranean* (2019). Green: “Group A” countries; yellow: “Group B” countries; tan: “Group C” countries. Note: Syria has been moved to Group B based on feedback produced by regional experts.

19. For CI3-distribution, GES has not been achieved for all Group B countries, while it has been achieved by Group A countries with the exception of Cyprus. Therefore, actions dedicated to facilitate the widespread distribution of the species in all Group B countries and Cyprus should be a priority. Such actions should include not only the set-up of a good monitoring network but also the protection of key habitat for the species and the reduction of any potential threats (e.g., intentional killings, tourism disturbance).

20. When looking at Mediterranean monk seal population abundance (CI4), the lack of a baseline estimates makes difficult to validate the (likely) expansion of the species reported in recent years. Based on the reported information by regional experts, it seems that most (rough) population estimates come mainly from the minimum photo identified individuals. However, a new approach by MOm (Greece) using pup-multipliers method may be taken as a new way forward for reliable abundance estimates. A common strategy for producing population estimates should be agreed on to be able to compare information among researchers.

21. It must be pointed out that monk seal photo-identification is a widespread practice across the region; therefore, the creation and implementation of a data-sharing platform would offer great potential to establish reliably information on movements and home range establishment. Such initiative is currently in the portfolio of actions to be supported by the Monk Seal Alliance.

22. Data reported by regional experts manifests the difficulty to study the population demographic characteristics (CI5). Since key demographic data and survivorship are logistically difficult to determine, new actions should focus on providing opportunities for long-term uninterrupted monitoring to allow building individual historical series, key to assess basic demographic trends. New technologies, combined with the long-term regular use of more traditional methods (e.g., individual tags and photo-identification) may shed light on these aspects.

23. As presented in the newly drafted Mediterranean monk seal DPSIR framework, the following measures and actions should be taken in order to achieve GES for the species.

Research Actions aimed at responding the following questions:

- Distribution
- Abundance

- Pup production
- Movements
- Foraging areas

Conservation Measures:

- Protect critical pupping habitat
- Regulate human activities
- Improvement of surveillance
- Habitat restoration

Management and Law Enforcement measures:

- Regulation of Fishing activities
- Public education and awareness
- Management of tourism
- Reduce anthropogenic mortality

4. Measures and actions required to achieve GES for Marine turtles (EO1)

24. Despite this appraisal suggesting overall that GES is met for the marine turtle theme, many data that may support or refute this assessment are lacking and those data that are available have been retrieved from a wide range of sources, from primary scientific literature to unpublished reports and web articles. Consequently, the assessment has necessarily included inferences from expert opinion on various topics where a comprehensive synthesis of data is impossible due to lack of data or impractical due to patchy unstandardised datasets.

25. Research (Table 1) and conservation (Table 2) priorities set out by Casale et al. (2018) remain relevant for better understanding of turtle populations and improving their conservation status and strongly concur with the requirements elaborated for the marine turtle assessment under IMAP (UNEP/MED WG.514/Inf.12, 2021). The competent authority in each CP needs to understand the data reporting requirements and which entity is undertaking specific monitoring actions. Through doing this they can identify gaps in data acquisition resulting from lack of fieldwork in necessary sites, gaps in reporting at sites where monitoring is carried out and identify entities that could be tasked with additional field monitoring at currently unmonitored sites. In terms of progressing towards adequate reporting, the simplest first step to take is to ensure data from all existing monitoring programmes are collected and reported in a standardised manner. The next most simple change is that in locations where monitoring programs exist, but collection of certain data is lacking, the programs should be adapted to acquire this sought-after information and analyse and report it as required.

26. Challenges within each nation include knowledge of what work is being carried out where and by whom and do these actions then cover the full requirements of IMAP? Some countries have different entities working in different regions or on different fields (e.g., at-sea work or nesting beach studies etc.) but a national overview is lacking. It is therefore beneficial that each CP has in place some oversight or coordination mechanism to ensure all required monitoring activities are carried out. The coordinator could be a governmental body, scientific institution, or non-governmental organisation, with the important remit that they know what work is being carried out and have the competency to collect and synthesise the information adequately for each six-yearly Mediterranean Quality Status Report.

27. This IMAP reporting framework, a requirement of all riparian Mediterranean states does not exist in isolation but coincides with other international reporting requirements such as those for the EU Habitats Directive and its Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). There is much overlap and synergy between these programs, which means data collected if collected in adequately rigorous manner can be used multiple times and not only for the IMAP. Of note is the recently published article highlighting progress towards a common approach for assessing marine turtle population status at European level within the MSFD, which should be considered when designing and coordinating marine

turtle monitoring strategies. The resulting economy of scale lessens the burden on competent authorities as suitable coordinated actions obviate the need to repeat work and simplifies the analysis process.

Table 1: Top ten research priorities for marine turtles in the Mediterranean. Adapted from Casale et al. (2018).

Rank	Priority	Justification / Description
1	Set up long-term in-water monitoring programmes in key foraging areas for assessing sea turtle abundance and trends	Although valuable and necessary, nest counts represent a poor index of population abundance and trends because of the high uncertainty of the parameters needed to estimate population abundance from nest counts. Quantitative estimates derived from distance sampling should be generated for key foraging sites across the Mediterranean.
2	Assess distribution and level of nesting activity in Libya	In contrast to other areas, the level of nesting activity along the Libyan coast is still unknown. The lack of information on nest distribution prevents any site-specific protection plan, while the unknown nesting activity level prevents the quantification of the abundance of the Mediterranean RMU, needed for conservation status assessments and for modelling population dynamics.
3	Quantify bycatch (especially in small-scale fisheries), rates and intentional killings in associated mortality key foraging areas and migratory pathways	Bycatch in fishing gear, including small-scale fisheries, is the major threat for Mediterranean Sea turtle populations. Quantifying the mortality and catch rate by gear and year is of paramount importance to understand the real effects of fisheries and the validity of the conservation measures already implemented, and to enable the proposal of new bycatch reduction approaches and tools.
4	Understand how climate change might impact sex ratios, geographical range, and phenology	The current poor knowledge of the possible effects of climate change on several life-history parameters of turtles impedes understanding of the potential gravity of this threat in comparison to others.
5	Estimate/improve estimates of demographic parameters	Demographic data are of crucial importance for population modelling to guide sound conservation of sea turtles. Population vital rates are under the influence of both environment and intrinsic population factors and may differ among populations using different areas. Although some demographic information has recently become available for loggerheads, environmental variance and different threat levels across the Mediterranean Basin require further site-specific demographic studies, especially for green turtles, for which such data are still entirely lacking. Priorities: age at maturity, annual survival probability for different age classes.
6	Improve population abundance estimates	Information on the population abundance by age is still lacking.
7	Assess the movement patterns of adults from key rookeries	Movement patterns and hot-spot areas are poorly known for adults (females and males) breeding in most rookeries. Priorities: the top 5 rookeries in Türkiye, Kyparissia Bay (Greece) and Libya (loggerheads); Akyatan and Kazanlı (Türkiye), Latakia (Syria) and Ronnas Bay (Cyprus) (green turtles); e.g., through satellite tracking.
8	Identify development habitats of post-hatchling and small turtles, and dispersal and settlement patterns.	Knowledge of how ocean dynamics affect the distribution of post-hatchlings/small turtles, the pressures on turtles in these nursery areas and the dispersal and settlement behavioural patterns will help to assess ecological niches and climate change effects. Tracking of small turtles is becoming more easily possible thanks to the recent miniaturisation of telemetry devices.
9	Assess the movement patterns of juveniles	Juvenile movement patterns and hot-spot areas are poorly known in the Aegean Sea, south of Türkiye, Levantine Sea, Libyan Sea and

Rank	Priority	Justification / Description
		southern Adriatic (both species) and in the Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Ionian Sea and Sicilian Strait (loggerheads). This should be assessed using telemetry studies at each location.
10	Develop and test new bycatch reduction methods	There is a general paucity of bycatch mitigating measures and the existing ones may not be applicable in all cases.

Table 2: Conservation priorities for marine turtles in the Mediterranean. Adapted from Casale et al. (2018).

Rank	Priority	Justification / Description
1	Year-round protection of key feeding and wintering grounds	Protection from fishing in highly frequented areas. This measure requires regulations at national level or international agreements and therefore is ambitious and challenging.
2	Continue current conservation methods at nesting areas (in situ protection, relocations, light management, etc.)	All the current conservation activities at nesting sites increase hatchling production. Given that they are already ongoing, such measures are feasible and only require maintaining the current level of conservation efforts.
3	Educate fishermen on on-board sea turtle handling best practices	This measure aims to reduce post-release mortality. It has already been implemented in several areas and it can be considered feasible. It needs to be expanded into more areas.
4	Seasonal protection of main migratory corridors	Protection from fishing in highly frequented areas. This measure requires regulations at national level or international agreements and therefore is ambitious and challenging.
5	Implement TED in bottom trawlers	Flexible TED reduces bycatch without losses of Mediterranean target species. Its implementation is technically feasible but requires commitment by decision makers and investment.
6	Trans-boundary large MPA in the Adriatic	Protection from fishing (in particular trawlers) in a highly frequented areas in the Adriatic. This measure requires international agreements and therefore is ambitious and challenging.
7	Implement LED lights in set nets	Illuminating nets decreases turtle bycatch. Its implementation is technically feasible, but the large size of this fishing fleet requires significant commitment by decision makers, investment, and enforcement.

5. Measures and actions required to achieve GES for Sea birds (EO1)

28. For the current assessment cycle, the results of the GES assessment regarding seabirds present an improvement in data availability and in applied methodologies when compared to the previous assessment cycle. It is possible to draw some preliminary conclusions using available quantitative monitoring data and assessment methodologies. For some indicator species and CIs sufficient data was available at a national scale, allowing for an assessment that reflects the impact of reduced pressures on local populations. Therefore, it highlights the importance of regular monitoring efforts to inform on the success of implemented conservation actions. However, for the current assessment cycle, the data that was made available remains patchy, heterogenous, and limited for a robust GES assessment of all indicator species for the three CIs across subregions. It is believed that the IMAP Infosystem will facilitate data reporting and improve efficiency and comparability for monitoring and GES assessments of future cycles.

29. Currently, the lack of representative, comparable subsamples distributed equally across the subregions remains one of the major challenges for an integrated assessment of the status of marine

avifauna in the region. To achieve a robust GES assessment, monitoring data between two cycles should be made fully comparable. This requires monitoring a certain number of same or representative populations as prolonged time series at the finest spatial scale practical.

30. In order to improve the representativeness of monitoring samples, coordinated monitoring within subdivisions or subregions would further improve overall GES assessments. Mid-winter count data made available by IWC for this assessment cycle as well as transboundary counts of Mediterranean Shag roosts in the Adriatic are good examples highlighting useful outcomes of coordinated and synchronised monitoring efforts.

31. Enabling coordinated efforts and achieving standardised monitoring at the local level also requires regular transfer of know-how and calibration of monitoring methods within subdivisions, subregions or across the region. Finally, harmonisation between different assessment programmes such as MSFD can be further improved for a more efficient assessment of GES in the Mediterranean.

32. Quantifying GES for seabird populations in the Mediterranean remains challenging. Seabirds are highly mobile organisms and therefore a robust analysis of their state requires transboundary monitoring. Ensuring communication and information exchange between different assessment programmes and sea conventions within the region and for migratory species which leave the Mediterranean also other seas can help overcome this challenge.

33. The majority of seabird species in the Mediterranean form metapopulations with discrete local breeding colonies. Without better understanding the demographic connectivity between these colonies, deciding on a meaningful spatial scale at which GES should be assessed remains to some extent arbitrary. Therefore, closing such knowledge gaps will be pivotal for the finetuning of monitoring programmes and for successful GES assessments in the future.

34. Currently, a strong bias remains in the amount of monitoring data available for the different aspects in the life cycle of the majority of Mediterranean seabirds. This bias means that there is insufficient knowledge regarding the non-breeding season and the periods the birds spend out at sea, often far away from the breeding grounds. To reduce this bias, it is recommended that future assessment cycles increase the effort of monitoring the birds away from the colonies, by means of increased colour ringing and ring-reading, tracking programmes and counts at bottlenecks.

6. Measures and actions required to achieve GES for Non-Indigenous Species (EO2)

35. With regards to suitable data availability, the majority of the CPs have developed, and many are already implementing IMAP-compliant monitoring programmes. Furthermore, the IMAP Data and Information System is operational and has already started receiving NIS data, such that standardised time series are anticipated to be available for the next assessment cycle. This should make possible the formal quantification of abundance and spatial distribution changes and increase our confidence in the assessment of trends in temporal occurrence. If CPs have not already initiated the process, IMAP can assist in co-ordinating the development of priority NIS lists for monitoring of abundance through risk analysis and risk assessment. Early detection and early warning systems can be informed by regularly updating the spatial distribution information entered into MAMIAS and the IMAP Info System.

36. Threshold values for trends in temporal occurrence have not been set yet but methodologies and approaches are under discussion through regional co-operation. Quantifying/modelling pathway pressure can assist in specifying quantitative targets (percentage reduction) by introduction pathway. Importantly, all these methodological steps need to be adapted for GES assessment at the national level. The effect of reporting lags on new NIS data and trends analysis in this assessment was circumvented by not using the

data of the last 3 years (2018-2020), however it would be beneficial to adopt a commonly agreed methodology to deal with this issue in order to avoid loss of information.

37. Next important steps for GES assessment of NIS include the elaboration of the remaining aspects of CI6 that relate to impacts, by further developing assessment criteria and quantitative targets for the most vulnerable/important species and habitats at risk. This is work that ideally should be co-ordinated with the implementation of EO1 Common Indicators CI1 and CI2 and EO6 on sea floor integrity.