



UNEP/MED WG.595/6



CP 3.1

Meeting Report

Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the MedProgramme Child Project 3.1

Athens, 13 June 2024



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Third Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project 3.1

On 13 June 2024, the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project CP3.1 “Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya” (GEF ID 10158) implemented in the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): “Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607) was held in Athens, Greece. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU.

Further to its deliberations, the SCM reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- 1. The SCM appreciated work progress achieved to date by the Executing Partners under the three project components on improving governance and management support, participation and institutional strengthening, and awareness raising and communication.*
- 2. The SCM reviewed the work plan of Child Project CP3.1 for the period extending from Q3/2024 to Q2/2025. The SCM approved the proposed activities as stipulated in working document UNEP/MED WG.595/4.*
- 3. The SCM took note of the budget forecast and endorsed the quarterly proposed budget allocations as indicated in working document UNEP/MED WG.595/5.*
- 4. The SCM approved the budget revisions proposed by the Executing Partners and MedPCU as indicated in working document UNEP/MED WG.595/5.*
- 5. The SCM confirmed that the Implementing Agency has the authority to approve, in line with GEF and UNEP financial rules, the re-categorization of individual budget lines within the Umoja classes as proposed by the Executing Agency, countries and project partners, provided that there is no re-purposing in the total amount, substantive activities and component totals.*

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Report of the Meeting

Introduction

1. In the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): “Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607), and Child Project CP3.1 “Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya” (GEF ID 10158), the MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) held its Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project CP3.1 in Athens, Greece on 13 June 2024. The Project is executed by United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), World Wildlife Fund - North Africa (WWF-NA), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

2. The primary objective of the Project Steering Committee Meeting is to take stock of progress achieved and to review and validate the workplan and budget revisions/forecast of the CP3.1 Project for the forthcoming year.

Participation

3. The Steering Committee Meeting was attended by two representatives from the State of Libya, MedProgramme Coordinator (UNEP/MAP-MedPCU) as well as Project Officers from SPA/RAC and WWF-NA.

4. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened at 10:00 AM on 13 June 2024 by UNEP/MAP-MedPCU Coordinator, Mr. Mohamad Kayyal. In his opening remarks, he welcomed the participants from the State of Libya joining physically and online. He highlighted the progress made in the implementation of project activities stressing the need for knowledge sharing of the outcomes of the project to be disseminated for the benefit of other countries in the Mediterranean. He wished the Meeting all success to reaching positive conclusions and recommendations.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

6. The Steering Committee Meeting elected the Libyan representative Mr. Almokhtar Saied as Chair of the Meeting.

7. The proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.595/1/Rev.1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.595/2 was presented by the Chair. The Steering Committee reviewed and accepted the agenda as included in Annex II to this report.

8. The Steering Committee discussions were held in two plenary sessions, convened over a single day from 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:30 to 17:30. The Meeting was organized in a hybrid mode. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French was available for both sessions.

9. The Meeting addressed all Agenda items.

10. The Meeting closed on 13 June 2024 after adopting its “Conclusions and Recommendations” appended in Annex III to this document.

Agenda item 3: Review of CP3.1 Project Implementation Progress

11. Mr. Atef Limam MPAs Projects Officer with SPA/RAC and Mr. Ibrahim Ben Amer Project Officer with WWF-NA presented work progress; highlighting the good collaboration between project partners as well as findings and results achieved under the three components of Child Project 3.1, namely: (a) protection of marine biodiversity in Libya's marine protected areas; (b) governance and sustainable management of MPAs; and (c) awareness of the value and importance of MPAs. These are elaborated in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.595/3. The presentation given to the Meeting is included in Annex IV to this report.

12. The representatives of Libya thanked the executing partners for their good work and achievements made under the three components. They commented on the important progress made and capacity building undertaken in collaboration with local communities, particularly in the challenging political environment in Libya.

13. The conclusions and recommendations under this agenda item are presented in Annex III to this report.

Agenda item 4: CP3.1 Workplan (2024-2025)

14. Under this agenda item, the SPA/RAC and WWF-NA Project Officers presented the workplan for the period extending from Q3/2024 to Q2/2025 as elaborated in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.595/4. The presentation of the workplan is included in Annex V.

15. Further to their presentation, the representatives of Libya expressed their appreciation to the executing partners with regard to work actively pursued with local communities and civil societies dependent in their livelihoods on MPAs. They raised two questions regarding (a) the operation of the online platform inquiring about the host institution for this platform, and (b) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for which they noted that their training should not be overtaken by the government and that their positive role should be preserved and further supported.

16. In response, SPA/RAC Project Officer indicated that the platform will soon come into operation noting that it is built around inputs obtained from CSOs. He remarked that the platform is set up by WWF-NA. It was agreed with the Ministry of Environment, hosting the platform will build its contents based on the existing platform. Regarding CSOs, WWF Project Officer indicated that they can involve new CSOs in the project. He indicated that training of CSOs was completed and government personnel can always join in the MPAs management training. The SPA/RAC Project Officer indicated that the aim is to create a core CSO organization in each MPA site, and then to go to other CSOs in the same site for additional support. He noted that care should be exercised however not to give CSOs more power over the Ministry of Environment. He indicated that the ultimate goal is to reach a level of core management of MPA sites whereby for each site, there are two bodies managing the site, institutional and legal bodies (i.e. Ministry of Environment and CSOs).

17. At the conclusion of the discussion, the representatives of Libya adopted the workplan of Child Project CP3.1 covering the period till the end of June 2025.

18. The conclusions and recommendations under this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

Agenda item 5: CP3.1 Annual Budget Expenditures and Forecast

19. Under this agenda item, the SPA/RAC and WWF-NA Project Officers presented the budget revisions, expenditure status and budget forecast for Child Project 3.1 for the period from Q3/2024 to Q2/2025 as elaborated in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.595/5. The presentation is included in Annex VI to the present report.

20. Further to their presentation, the Libya country representatives inquired about the training budget for MPAs. MedPCU Coordinator indicated that a special training budget allocated for UNEP/MAP can be revised and provided to the executing partners through a budget revision process that can be undertaken in the next Steering Committee (June 2025) which would enable the executing partners to expand the scope of training planned for CSOs in the MPA sites. SPA/RAC and WWF-NA confirmed their willingness to expand the scope of training to include additional new CSOs.

21. The Libya country representatives also requested that forecasts should also include commitments made and not only actual expenditures. They requested that workshops are planned to increase the level of coordination between Child Projects 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1, including between GEF focal points.

22. The Meeting approved the budget revisions and budget forecast for 2024-2025 for Child Project 3.1 as presented in Annex VI to this report.

23. The conclusions and recommendations under this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

24. No issues were raised for this agenda item on “any other business”.

Agenda item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

25. The Meeting reviewed, commented on, and approved the draft “Conclusions and Recommendations” as amended and attached to the present report as Annex III.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

26. After expressing the usual courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 17:30 on Thursday 13 June 2024.

Annex I
List of Participants

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GEF-PROGRAMME PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

STATE OF LIBYA	<p>Mr. Omar Sharif (remote) GEF Operational Focal Point Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Mr. Almokhtar Saied Head of Marine and Wildlife Section. Ministry of Environment</p>
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**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN AND OTHER UN AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS**

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its protocols (UNEP/MAP)	Mr. Mohamad Kayyal MedProgramme Management Officer
WWF-North Africa	Mr. Ibrahem Ben Amer Project Officer Tunisia
SPA/RAC	<p>Mr. Atef Limam MPAs Projects Officer Tunisia</p> <p>Mr. Wassim Gaidi MPAs Projects Associate Officer Tunisia</p>

Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Provisional Agenda

- Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3:** CP 3.1 Review of project implementation progress
- Agenda item 4:** CP 3.1 Workplan (2024 – 2025)
- Agenda item 5:** CP 3.1 Annual Budget Expenditures and Forecast
- Agenda item 6:** Any other Business
- Agenda item 7:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 13 June 2024, the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project CP3.1 “Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya” (GEF ID 10158) implemented in the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): “Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607) was held in Athens, Greece. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU.

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Annex IV
Presentations on Work Progress




CP 3.1
GEF ID# 10154

Management Support and Expansion
of Marine Protected Areas in Libya




CP 3.1
GEF ID# 10154





Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of
the MedProgramme Child Project 3.1
Athens, 13 June 2024

Project implementation progress
Presented by: Atef LIMAM & Ibrahem BEN AMER



The Mediterranean
Biodiversity
Centre





Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya



Protection of marine biodiversity in Libya's Marine Protected Areas is enhanced through the development of an MPA governance structure at the national level and supported through new on-site management units and sustainable management plans



The sustainable management of MPAs is reinforced through the increased participation of Libyan stakeholders and the strengthening of institutional capacities on MPA management effectiveness



Awareness of the value and importance of MPAs is raised at the national and local levels, as a further means of strengthening MPA governance and management



Description of the activities



- **Activity 1:** Setting up an adequate governance structure for MPAs in Libya
- **Activity 2:** Inventorying of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest
- **Activity 3:** On-site MPA management units and management plans
- **Activity 4:** Civil society organisations (CSO) participatory platform
- **Activity 5:** Capacity building programme towards MPA governance, knowledge and management
- **Activity 6:** Awareness and communication



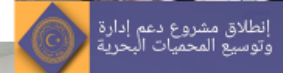
© RDG - SPA/RAC



Description of the activities - National Kick-off meeting



- The kick-off meeting of the project organised on Wednesday, 16 February 2022, in Tripoli, Libya”.
- His Excellency, the Minister of Environment of Libya, opened the meeting and announced the official launching of the project in Libya.
- The meeting allowed a rich discussion between all governmental, research and civil society organisations representatives on the setting of a common framework towards a clear definition of the planned activities, the best mechanisms for their implementation and for the active involvement of communities and stakeholders at MPA local levels



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Activity 1: Setting up an adequate governance structure for MPAs in Libya.



- A draft law on Protected Areas has been elaborated and approved with the relevant institutional and non-institutional stakeholders through a consultative approach
- The last version of the draft law has been adapted by the legislative department of the ministry of environment and tailored to the appropriate format (March 2023) and channeled then through the official procedures of the government to be submitted to the parliament for adoption.
- The process served to come up with relevant recommendations with regards the declaration of new protected areas.
- A National Council for Protected Areas will be created for assessment and approval of new protected areas
- Once approved by the national Council of Protected Areas, the proposal is submitted to the Council of Ministers to issue a declaration Decree.



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Activity 2: Inventorying of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest



- Identify and characterize marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya (through rapid assessment),
- Update and adopt the list of potential MCPAs/OECMs that will form the network of MCPAs in Libya.





Activity 2: Inventorying of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest



26 potential sites of conservation interest identified in Libya with support of the GEF MedProgramme

+ 6 new Potential Site of Conservation Interest identified

Last 26th January IUCN-Med in collaboration with SPA/RAC and WWF-North Africa organised a national workshop in Tripoli with the support of the Nature Conservation Department of the Libyan Ministry of Environment. The goal of the



<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Wadi Maseed 2 Wadi Turghat 3 Ain Wadi Kaam 4 Sabkhat Qasr Ahmed-Taourgha Complex 5 Ain Taourgha 6 Sandy beaches and waters of Al Araar-Bouerat <u>lajhsoun</u> 7 Shash Beach 8 Sabkhat Sultan 9 Sandy beaches of Bahr, Ajdabiya and <u>Zwittina</u> 10 Garah Island 11 Snat <u>Elbadibe</u> 12 Al-Ahfeia Beach 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Sabkhat Jeliana-Benghazi 14 Ain Zayansah 15 Sabkhat <u>Aluz</u> 16 Toimtah-Ugja rocky coast 17 Kouf Beaches 18 Sabkhat Ain <u>Azzarga</u> 19 Sabkhat Ain Shakika (Ain Eshgaiga) 20 Wadi Khalij 21 Wadi Hamassah 22 Gulf of Bumba and its islets 23 <u>Abuffra</u>s Beach 24 North beaches of Ain Al Ghazala 25 Beaches of Gurdaba 26 Gulf of Burdiya (Bardiyah)
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Sites Inventory: field trip photos...



Sand mining Kouf



Wadi Lahmesa beach



Shag Nest. Gara



Wadi Khalij



Bananas beach, Kouf



Burdi Gulf



Activity 3: On-site MPA management units and management plans



- To elaborate/update the socio-economic assessments,
- To elaborate management plans,
- To set up the on-site MPA management units.

Main targets:

- At least 3 MPAs (Ain El Ghezala, Farwa and Garah island) and endowed with management plans in Libya,
- At least 1 MPA under sustainable management scheme



CP 3.1 Activity 3: On-site MPA management units and management plans

med PROGRAMME

Key steps for the elaboration of the Management Plans

Ecological assessment **Socio-economic assessment**

Management Plan elaboration

(i) Development of a detailed diagnosis of all aspects of the area and its environment,
 (ii) Proposal of management vision and objectives,
 (iii) Zoning proposal and action plan

On-site consultation meetings with stakeholders and participatory workshops.

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CP 3.1 Activity 3: On-site MPA management units and management plans

med PROGRAMME

- SPA/RAC and WWF jointly drafted 9 terms of reference (ToRs) to hire national experts to run an update of ecological and socio-economical characterizations for Gara island, Ain El Ghezala and Farwa lagoon.
- The ToRs were shared with the Ministry of environment in Libya as well as with the Gender Project Officer for inputs.
- Call for consultants have been published, respectively by May 2023 for Ain El Ghezala and Farwa lagoon, and June 2023 for Garah island. The calls are now under evaluation and results will be shared with relevant parties soon.

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Activity 3: On-site MPA management units and management plans



- The consultants were selected and engaged in July 2023 and deliverables will be discussed for endorsement by September/October 2023.
- Results from these consultancies were received and presented to the 8 NGOs, the Ministry of Environment and number of national experts and decision makers, during a dedicated meeting in Tripoli during 07 May 2024.
- Notes and comments on the studies were collected and forwarded for the consultants to prepare and submit the final reports. These reports will then be combined into one manuscript which will be edited and translated to Arabic and then communicated to the relevant stakeholders.



Activity 4: Civil society organisations (CSO) participatory platform



- To set up a CSO participatory platform,
- At least five CSOs involved in MPA establishment and management participatory processes.





CP 3.1
CCP EM 10114

Activity 4: Civil Society Organisations (CSO) participatory platform











GEF Med Programme Child Project 3.1.
"Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya"

Expression of Interest for Libyan Civil Society Organizations to participate in the setting and implementation of management plans and governance schemes for marine protected areas in Libya.

***2023-03-09: CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST** for Libyan Civil Society Organizations to participate in the setting and implementation of management and governance schemes for marine protected areas in Libya. *GEF Med Programme. Closing Date and Time: 15 April 2023 at 23:59 (CET). Arabic.*

Marine Biology in Libya	جمعية الأحياء البحرية في ليبيا	1
Edama for Nature Conservation	جمعية إدامة للحفاظ على الطبيعة	2
Bado Society for Environment	جمعية بادو للبيئة لحماية الأحياء البحرية والبرية	3
Bisida For Farwa Protection	جمعية بسيدا البيئية لحماية جزيرة وبحيرة فروة	4
Al-Hayat Organization for the Protection of Wild and Marine Organisms	منظمة الحياة لحماية الكائنات البرية والبحرية	5
Libyan Society of Artisanal Fishery Friends	الجمعية الليبية لأصدقاء الصيد الحرفي	6
National Association for the Protection of the Environment	الجمعية الوطنية لحماية البيئة	7
Libyan Marine Science Association	الجمعية الليبية لعلم البحار	8



IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Organisation à but non lucratif
En savoir plus



CP 3.1
CCP EM 10114

Activity 4: Civil Society Organisations (CSO) participatory platform



- Meeting was held on 15 July 2023
 - Concept of Co-management of MPAs.
 - Expertise level of each CSO.
 - Interest of each CSOs and their link to each MPA.
- WhatsApp Group for CSOs members and the Ministry of Environment.







Activity 5: Capacity building programme



- To organize ONLINE (July) AND ONSITE (October) training events for the selected CSOs (2-3 trainings /year)
- Themes: MPA conservation, management, governance, monitoring, education and awareness
- Involvement in the development of management plans of the Three Pilot Sites



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Activity 5: Capacity building programme



- Online Questionnaire about CSOs capacity building requirements of CSOs.
- **Priority topics for Capacity Building:** MPA Sustainable management practices, stakeholder engagement, conservation science, fundraising, grant writing, and policy advocacy.
- **Preferred Training Formats:** A combination of webinars for broader accessibility, and on-site mentoring to address specific organizational needs.

تقييم احتياجات المنظمات غير الحكومية لإدارة وتوسيع المناطق البحرية المحمية في ليبيا

ibenamer@wfn.org [Switch account](#)

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email

gef UN environment IUCN WWF SPA/RAC



Activity 5: Capacity building programme



- The Capacity-building workshop for governance, knowledge, and management of MPAs (08 May 2024, Tripoli – Libya).
- Libyan Participants from the 8 Partners CSOs attending the Shark Scientific Camp (04 - 09 March 2024).



Activity 6: Awareness and communication



- To organize awareness campaigns on the value and importance of MPAs, targeting the general public, CSOs, fisheries, tourism, coastal management and urbanization sectors.
- A communication plan will be developed specifying the communication campaigns and materials to be developed and the audiences categories to be targeted.
- Dedicated webpages on the WWF-NA, IUCN Med and SPA/RAC websites which will share the news of the project and its development.



CP 3.1 Activity 6: Awareness and communication



- Back-to-back public awareness campaign with the Shark Awareness Day in Libya (28 February 2024).
- Communication gifts (Agenda Notebooks) were prepared and distributed during the event.



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CP 3.1 Activity 6: Awareness and communication



- Three dedicated videos on each MPA.
 - Collaboration between MoE staff and WWF-NA.
 - Dedicate a page on the WWF-NA website to the project.



Contexte

Le projet CP3.1 soutient la gestion et l'expansion des aires marines protégées en Libye, en collaboration avec le Département de l'Environnement et du Développement durable du Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement durable. Il s'agit d'un projet de coopération technique financé par l'Union européenne, visant à améliorer la gestion des aires marines protégées en Libye.

Les Zones d'intervention

Le projet s'adresse à la gestion et à l'expansion des aires marines protégées en Libye, et vise à améliorer la gestion des aires marines protégées en Libye. Le projet s'adresse à la gestion et à l'expansion des aires marines protégées en Libye, et vise à améliorer la gestion des aires marines protégées en Libye.



22

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Annex V
Presentations on Work Plan (2024 – 2025)

Annex VI
Annual Budget Expenditures and Forecast



Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the MedProgramme Child Project 3.1

Athens, 13 June 2024



CP 3.1 annual Budget Expenditures and Forecast

Presented by: Atef LIMAM & Ibrahim BEN AMER



The Mediterranean
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Budget change of IUCN:

With the view to support costs associated with the contractual arrangements of meetings for the Contracting Parties, the following allocations are proposed:

- Reallocation of USD 1,000 from "travel to attend meetings (stakeholders from countries)" to Staff Travel & Transport*
- Reallocation of USD 1,500 from "5 workshops (1.1.2.2/1.2.3.2/1.3.2.3/1.3.2.5/2.1.1.3/)" to Staff Travel & Transport*
- In total of USD 2,500 allocation to Staff Travel & Transport*



*Budget change of **WWF-NA**:*

With the view to support costs associated with the contractual arrangements of meetings for the Contracting Parties, the following allocations are proposed:

- Reallocation of USD 5,500 from "Event/workshop organizing services (under FT30_120 Contractual Services)" to be relocated to "Travel Tunis-Lybia and within Lybia lump sum (under FT30_160 Travel)".*
- The travel budget line was changed from "Travel Tunis-Lybia and within Lybia lump sum to be "Travel".*



Thanks for your attention!