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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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Meeting held by videoconference, 9 March 2021

**Agenda item 3: Component 1: Coastal Zone Management – Workplan 2021-2022**

**Agenda item 4: Component 2: Management of Coastal Aquifers and Related Ecosystems – Workplan 2021-2022**

**Child Project 2.1 Progress Report**

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## **Child Project 2.1 Progress Report**

### **1. Background**

The objective of the MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 “Mediterranean Coastal Zones Climate Resilience Water Security and Habitat Protection” (GEF ID 9687) is to improve water security, human and ecosystem health, and climate resilience in coastal hot spots by expanding the uptake of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) approaches and by promoting the sound management of coastal aquifers and their related ecosystems. Targeted support for the implementation/ratification of the ICZM Protocol will be provided to five countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), in addition to the formulation of national ICZM strategies in Egypt and Lebanon and the development of ICZM plans in Montenegro and Morocco. The work on coastal aquifers will focus on five priority aquifers in the region, and will include the preparation of detailed indicator-based assessments of the aquifers, evaluation of vulnerability, management plans and the testing of aquifer monitoring networks and protocols. A series of national assessments of submarine groundwater discharges will also be carried out for all participating countries in this Child Project. Finally, an integrated management plan will be developed in the Damour region of Lebanon using the “source to sea” approach for the coordinated management of the coastal zone, surface water and aquifers.

### **2. Progress achieved since the MedProgramme Inception Meeting (July 2020)**

The primary progress achieved to date on Child Project 2.1 is the establishment of the legal instruments with its executing partners. These instruments entered into force in 2020 Q4 and 2021 Q1:

<b>Executing partner</b>	<b>Date of entry into force of the legal instrument</b>
GWP-Med	9 February 2021
PAP/RAC	23 December 2020
Plan Bleu	12 November 2020
UNESCO-IHP	11 December 2020

It is anticipated that the executing partners will receive their first instalment of funds by 28 February 2021 and that the execution of activities will begin in earnest in Q2 of 2021.

Regular monitoring of progress on the execution of activities, expenditures and co-financing will be facilitated through a set of reporting templates that were developed by UNEP/MAP and which form an integral part of the legal instruments of the executing partners.

In February 2021, the executing partners have initiated consultations with country representatives to evaluate any changes to the design of project activities that may be needed, due to the lapse of time since the endorsement of the project document and the unprecedented impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. These consultations are projected to continue into the second quarter of 2021, and their results will be used to adapt and further refine the project activities and schedules according to the needs and expectations of the country representatives.

Finally, a gender monitoring framework has been developed for the MedProgramme, and efforts are under way to document the contributions of each Child Project to the programme’s overall objectives for gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment. To that end, a gender action plan for Child Project 2.1 (UNEP/MED WG.495/7) has been drafted and is under review by the participating countries and the executing partners.