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Videoconference, 24 March 2021

**Agenda item 3: IMAP-MPA Project: Progress, Annual Work Plan and Budget**

**Progress Report**

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>ALG</b>	Algeria
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CI</b>	Common Indicator
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
<b>DG ENV</b>	Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission
<b>DG NEAR</b>	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EcAp MED Project</b>	Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD
<b>EEAA</b>	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
<b>EGY</b>	Egypt
<b>EO</b>	Ecological Objective
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>IMAP</b>	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
<b>IMAP-MPA project</b>	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
<b>Info/RAC</b>	Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre
<b>ISR</b>	Israel
<b>JOR</b>	Jordan
<b>LEB</b>	Lebanon
<b>LIB</b>	Libya
<b>MAP</b>	Mediterranean Action Plan
<b>MED POL</b>	Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme
<b>MED QSR</b>	Mediterranean Quality Status Report
<b>MedPAN</b>	Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean
<b>MOR</b>	Morocco
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>NIS</b>	Non-Indigenous Species
<b>OECD</b>	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
<b>PAL</b>	Palestine
<b>PAP/RAC</b>	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
<b>PCA</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement
<b>SPA/BD</b>	Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
<b>SPA/RAC</b>	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
<b>SSFA</b>	Small-Scale Funding Agreement
<b>ToRs</b>	Terms of References
<b>TUN</b>	Tunisia
<b>UfM</b>	Union for the Mediterranean
<b>UNEP</b>	United National Environment Programme
<b>UNEP/MAP</b>	United Nation Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan
<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature

## 1. Introduction

1. The 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” (hereafter referred to as IMAP-MPA project), is funded by European Union (EU) – the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Green MED III: ENI South regional environment and water programme 2018-2022 financial instrument.
2. The project is coordinated and implemented by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and implemented through its Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) and Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). It covers a period of 42 months starting in August 2019 until February 2023, with an overall budget of USD 4,459,309 (EUR 3,999,660).
3. The beneficiary countries for the specific, national activities are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia; while Jordan and Palestine can also benefit from the regional/ capacity building activities of the project.
4. This Progress Report represent a substantive update of the Report submitted to the first Steering Committee held in March 2020, Tunis, Tunisia, with a particular focus on the activities and outputs delivered during March 2020-February 2021.

## 2. Project Summary and Objective

5. The overall objective of the IMAP-MPA Project is to contribute towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and along its coast. In so doing, the project proposes to consolidate, integrate and strengthen the ecosystem approach (EcAp) for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and their sustainable development. This will be achieved through the monitoring and assessment of environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, including MPAs, in a comparative and integrated manner.
6. The project aims at enhancing 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 and further develop the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, inter-connected, effectively managed and monitored MPAs. This will be achieved through improving national biodiversity-related governance and policies; preparing and implementing management plans for MPAs and improving MPA management with targeted actions.
7. The project will support the process for aligning the Mediterranean priorities with the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, as well as for other global and regional emerging issues.
8. The project will contribute to the assessment of MPA effectiveness through IMAP implementation of biodiversity and non-indigenous species, pollution and marine litter and hydrography clusters in an integrated manner. This will be showcased by presenting and highlighting environmental status differences between MPAs and areas which are under high-pressure because of human activity. In so doing, the project will also contribute to the overall status assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and provide support to the beneficiary countries in enhancing their relevant capacities, e.g., through targeted trainings, exchange of specific best practices, and undertaking of pilots in new areas of monitoring of IMAP, in MPAs and outside with a focus on the sub-regional level.

### 3. Project Structure

9. The Project is structured is based on 3 major components, 5 outcomes and 9 outputs, which are hereunder described:

**Component 1:** Promotion and support of IMAP implementation at the regional, sub-regional and national scale

Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators

- Output 1.1: In depth identification at country level of the capacities required to enable IMAP implementation and facilitate the provision of reliable and quality assured data for the MED 2023 QSR.
- Output 1.2: Capacity building and exchange of best practices at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings.

Outcome 2: Harmonized monitoring and assessment including at sub regional level, of IMAP common indicators for biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS); pollution and marine litter; and hydrography both within and surrounding MPAs

- Output 2.1: Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for agreed common indicators.

**Component 2:** Improvement and support for the development of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed and monitored MPAs to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in the Mediterranean

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Mediterranean countries

- Output 3.1: Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast.
- Output 3.2: Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to pave the way for the post 2020 MPA agenda process in the Mediterranean.
- Output 3.3: The development of a strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework through a participatory process.

Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability

- Output 4.1: Elaboration of MPA management plans and provision of support for their effective implementation.
- Output 4.2: Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation.

**Component 3:** Effective project management ensured for guidance during the project as well as coordination for overall project implementation

Outcome 5: Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured:

- Output 5.1: Project management and coordination.

#### 4. Country Support

10. The project provides support to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia; Jordan and Palestine through concrete national and regional activities with regards to integrated IMAP monitoring and effective MPA management. Table 1 presents in a summarized way the different types of support provided by the different outputs to the respective beneficiary countries.

**Table 1:** Different types of support provided to the respective beneficiary countries through the different outputs.

	ALG	EGY	ISR	LEB	LIB	MOR	TUN	JOR	PAL	Regional
Output 1.1										
Output 1.2										
Output 2.1										
Output 3.1										
Output 3.2										
Output 3.3										
Output 4.1										
Output 4.2										
Output 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### 5. Activity Progress During the Period: February 2020 – January 2021

##### Component 1: Promoting and supporting IMAP implementation at regional, sub-regional and national scales

Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators

Output 1.1: In depth identification at country level of the capacities required to enable IMAP implementation and facilitate the provision of reliable and quality assured data for the MED 2023 QSR

11. Recruitment of National Experts/Consultants: The Terms of References (ToRs) for hiring national consultants on biodiversity for the elaboration of an integration strategy of the existing national monitoring programmes on biodiversity & non-indigenous species (NIS) with the pollution & marine litter, and coast & hydrography in Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia have been prepared and shared by SPA/RAC in July 2020 with Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia aiming to nominate 3 national experts covering the areas of marine habitats, marine species and NIS. A short-list of potential candidate experts to develop the integration aspects of the national monitoring programmes was discussed with the SPA/BD Focal Points of Algeria, Libya and Tunisia. Short-lists of potential candidates were received from Libya and Tunisia (September 2020) and a call for consultancy was launched in Tunisia (October 2020). A discussion with Libya is still ongoing for the identification of the appropriate profile of the national experts. A national consultant for the integration aspects of the IMAP in Tunisia was hired in October 2020 and the elaboration of the integration strategy is ongoing.

12. The next steps for Output 1.1 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- Calls for consultancy/ToRs will be launched for hiring national experts as soon as the national lists of experts are officially received from Algeria and Egypt. The national consultants are expected to be on board during the first quarter of 2021 (Jan. – Mar. 2021).
- Additional national experts will be supported in Israel, Morocco and Lebanon through the signature of the relevant Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) (Feb.-Mar. 2021).

Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators

Output 1.2: Capacity building and exchange of best practices at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings

13. Several bilateral coordination meetings with the project focal points, and MAP/ MED POL/ SPA/BD National Focal Points as appropriate, have been organized with all beneficiary countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) were organized during the period May-December 2020 to follow-up and support the:

- i. Establishment of the National IMAP Committees;
- ii. Organization of the project national kick-off meetings;
- iii. Potential designation of thematic/national experts.

14. The Secretariat and SPA/RAC have prepared a set of draft agenda, concept note and PowerPoint presentations for the needs of the organization of the

15. In Israel, the national steering committee met via video conference on 30 July 2020 to discuss the findings of the 2019 monitoring and assessment report and the funding for the 2020-2023 programme. During the meeting, representatives from the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoE - Dr. Dror Zurel) and Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA - Dr. Ruthy Yahel) presented the IMAP-MPA project for the committee's approval. The project was approved by the committee, including the proposal for the selection of the monitoring station as included in working document WG.478/02/Rev.1. Further to project's approval, the committee approved a sub-committee to be in charge of the IMAP-MPA project execution consisting of representatives from the MoE (Dr. Dror Zurel) and INPA (Dr. Ruthy Yahel) (WG.489/Inf.4).

16. In Tunisia, the project's kick-off meeting was organized (Videoconference, 7 October 2020). The establishment of the national IMAP steering committee is underway. Practical modalities on the establishment of thematic sub-committees, as well as monitoring sites, data acquisition and national needs were discussed. A list of conclusions and recommendations was agreed upon during the meeting (WG.489/Inf.5). Bilateral meeting with the Project Focal Point to update on the current situation and follow-up actions was organised (January 2021). Agreement of cooperation on the proposed joint activities will be signed (February 2021) between the Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment of Tunisia and SPA/RAC.

17. In Libya, the national kick-off meeting in Libya was organized (Videoconference, 28 October 2020) and the national IMAP steering committee is being established under the aegis of the Environment General Authority (EGA). Monitoring sites, data acquisition and national needs were discussed. A list of conclusions and recommendations was agreed upon during the meeting (WG.489/Inf.6).

18. In Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco the organization of the national kick-off meetings and the official designation of the institutional members of the national IMAP committees are still ongoing, expected to be organized during the first quarter of 2021. Follow-up correspondences and bilateral meetings are frequently organized between the respective countries, the Secretariat and SPA/RAC to support as much as possible the timely implementation of this process.

19. The next steps for Output 1.2 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- National meetings with the participation of all national institutions involved in the implementation of the national IMAPs in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Lebanon are expected to be organized during the first quarter of 2021 (January-February 2021).
- National meeting with the national agencies in charge of the IMAP implementation in Tunisia related to the different clusters (Pollution, Biodiversity and Hydrography) will be organized (February 2021).
- National meetings for the discussion and endorsement of the integration strategy of the existing national monitoring programmes on biodiversity & non-indigenous species (NIS) with the pollution & marine litter, and coast & hydrography are expected to be organized in Libya and Tunisia during the second quarter of 2021 (April-June 2021).
- Dedicated meeting with the national IMAP committee of Tunisia will be organized (February-March 2021) including the national expert in charge of the integration aspects of the monitoring programme.

Outcome 2: Harmonized monitoring and assessment including at sub regional level, of IMAP common indicators for biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS); pollution and marine litter; and hydrography both within and surrounding MPAs

Output 2.1: Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for agreed common indicators

20. Recruitment of Regional Experts/Consultants: Progress can be also reported regarding the engagement of Regional Experts. During the reporting period (Feb. 2020 – Jan. 2021), 7 Terms of References (ToRs) were advertised for hiring; 1 regional expert on Eutrophication (IMAP-EO5 on May 2020 and October 2020), 1 regional expert on Coast and Hydrography (IMAP-EO7/EO8 on May 2020), 1 regional expert on Contaminants (IMAP-EO9 on May 2020), 1 regional expert on Marine Litter (IMAP-EO10 on May 2020), and 3 regional experts for Biodiversity-NIS (June 2020).

21. The regional experts on Coast and Hydrography (IMAP EO7-EO8 – Mr. Olivier Brivois), on Contaminants (IMAP EO9 – Dr. Evangelos Papanthassiou), and on Marine Litter (IMAP EO10 – Dr. Francois Galgani) are onboard since Sept.-Oct. 2020. The expert for Eutrophication (IMAP EO5) was selected in December 2020 and is expected to be onboard in Jan. 2021.

22. The process for recruiting 3 experts on Biodiversity (IMAP EO1) and NIS (IMAP EO2) turned resulted inconclusive. For the said ToRs (i.e. Biodiversity-NIS) a new approach has been followed aiming to expedite the process and to overcome all relevant issues (i.e. limited, or even total, lack of applicants); i.e. to split the 3 ToRs into more specific sets of activities and expected outputs (i.e. distinguishing between national and regional activities of the project).

23. The specific breakdown for Biodiversity-NIS is presented hereunder:

- 5 ToRs for thematic regional experts to work and elaborate the scales of monitoring and assessment, assessment criteria and threshold and baseline values on marine habitats, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds and NIS were launched in July 2020;
- ToRs for a regional expert for the elaboration of NIS baseline values was launched in July 2020;
- 5 ToRs seeking regional expert(s) for the joint training modules on marine habitats, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds and NIS will be launched in 2021 (exp. in Jan.-Feb. 2021).

24. Regional experts/consultants have been onboard to work and elaborate the scales of monitoring and assessment, assessment criteria and threshold and baseline values for marine mammals and sea turtles (IMAP EO1, CIs 3-4-5) since September 2020. The first drafts of the deliverables on marine mammals and sea turtles have been prepared (January 2021) and they are under review and discussion.



25. Bilateral consultations with appropriate expert(s)/organization(s) were carried out for the remaining ToRs. The consultations with potential experts on NIS (IMAP EO2), deemed capable of carrying out the work on developing the scales of monitoring and assessment, assessment criteria and threshold values for NIS (IMAP EO2); were successful and a regional consultant (Ms. Argyro Zenetos) is onboard since Nov. 2020 to undertake the tasks concerning the development of monitoring and assessment elements for the CI6. The first draft will be delivered in February 2021.

26. The respective deliverables are expected to be discussed by the members of the Online Working Group (OWG) during the first quarter of 2021 (February-March 2021) and the experts of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) during the second quarter of 2021 (April 2021, tbc).

27. Most regional experts/consultants which were onboard participated to the parallel CorMon sessions of the Integrated CorMon (Videoconference, 1-3 Dec. 2020). The Contracting Parties recommended to reactivate the Online Working Group. Regional experts/consultants will be part of these thematic groups.

28. A draft template for a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) template is under finalization aiming to streamline the support to the beneficiary countries. The SSFA template has received input from all concerned MAP Components (i.e. SPA/RAC, MED POL and PAP/RAC), and is under review and finalization by the Secretariat before it is shared with countries, awaiting at the same time for national input and specific requests that will result from the organization of the national meetings and the establishment of the national IMAP committees.

29. Taking into consideration the outcomes of the bilateral discussions with all beneficiary countries regarding the implementation of the IMAP component of the project; and taking note that the countries expressed their wish to use to the extent possible national infrastructures (i.e. research vessels, relevant equipment etc.) for the needs of the integrated implementation of IMAP and to handle the vessel procurement themselves and not through an international tender; the Secretariat has thus requested from the donor to grant the reallocation of the corresponding funds<sup>1</sup> from UMOJA Class 120 “Contractual Services” to UMOJA Class 140 “Grant to IP”. The proposed budget re-allocation does not alter the budget per output, neither the character or scope of the activities. It is a purely an “administrative-driven” proposal for budget re-allocation which will enable the Secretariat to make use of those budgetary resources for the needs of the preparation of legal agreements. Additional details can be retrieved under UNEP/MED WG.489/3 “Annual Workplan and Budget”.

30. The next steps for Output 2.1 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- For the remaining experts (marine habitats, seabirds and NIS baseline) re-launch of the calls/job openings is scheduled for February 2021.

**Component 2: Improvement and support for the development of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed and monitored MPAs to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in the Mediterranean**

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Mediterranean

Output 3.1: Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast

31. The national MPA network strategy for the Egyptian Mediterranean coast will be produced considering both conservation objectives and the requirement for MPAs to be integrated within their economic and social

<sup>1</sup> Budget Lines: 120-01 (USD 50,167); 120-04 (USD 90,301); 120-05 (USD 167,224).

environment, on the basis of a consultation process involving related stakeholders at national and local levels. The implementation process of this activity has been initiated earlier than planned and indicated in the approved workplan as agreed by the project Steering Committee. While awaiting the official authorizations from the competent authorities to initiate the activity in Egypt, SPA/RAC has started, since mid-May 2020, the preparation of the terms of reference (ToRs) to hire consultants for the development of the National Strategy to establish an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. At the present time, almost all the official authorizations have been obtained, except a last one. Upon receiving this last authorization, the process to launch a call for tenders is expected to be initiated in close consultation with the SPA/BD Focal Point in view to start shortly after the elaboration of the national MPA network strategy.

32. Recently on 26 January 2021, an official correspondence was addressed to the SPA/BD Focal point of Egypt requesting for an update on the current situation and the follow-up actions undertaken to start executing SPA/RAC activities related to the implementation of the national monitoring programme in the Egyptian coast related to marine biodiversity, non-indigenous species (NIS), pollution and hydrography and to elaborate a national strategy for marine protected areas in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. A high-level coordination meeting is planned to be held at country level to agree and engage concrete actions towards the project activities implementation.

33. The next steps for Output 3.1 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- The SPA/BD Focal Point of Egypt is expecting to obtain the last required authorization during Jan.-Feb. 2021 at the latest.
- SPA/RAC will launch a call for tenders to hire consultants to elaborate the national MPA strategy, upon receiving the last authorization from competent authorities. Once the consultants selected, SPA/RAC and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) will run and supervise the implementation of the process at national and local levels.

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Mediterranean

Output 3.2: Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to pave the way for post-2020 MPA agenda progress in the Mediterranean

34. The Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is a joint initiative of SPA/RAC and MedPAN. After two previous editions (Antalya 2012 and Tangier 2016), the 2020 MPA Forum was expected to take place in early-December 2020 in Monaco. This third edition is being co-organized jointly by SPA/RAC, MedPAN, WWF Mediterranean and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related sanitary situation and travel restrictions, the 2020 MPA Forum face-to-face event is postponed to the end of 2021 or early 2022 (decision taken in July 2020).

35. Worth mentioning that SPA/RAC's contribution to the development of the Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap, developed jointly by MedPAN, SPA/RAC and WWF, part of the MPA Forum collaborative process, and entrusted to a team of consultants, is financially supported by SPA/RAC core funds (MTF), whereas the IMAP-MPA project is expected to support the organization of the face-to-face event of the Forum including participants travel and accommodation fees, venue, simultaneous interpretation, communication, translation of deliverables and printing of materials.

36. The 2020 MPA Forum preparation activities, have started since early 2020, and were as follows:

- The discussions with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (host country representative) and the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (prospective venue) have been initiated since January 2020. Weekly virtual meetings were taking place among the organizing partners (SPA/RAC, MedPAN and WWF), including the host country representatives when relevant and needed, to discuss about the

technical and logistics aspects of the 2020 MPA Forum, taking into account the numerous uncertainties and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuously evolving international context and agenda. Several decisions were taken to move forward with the planification and organization of the Forum.

- Organization of the First Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Marseille, 6-7 February 2020) and launching of the forum process.
- Organization of the Second Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected areas in the Mediterranean (teleconference, 1 July 2020), during which it was proposed to postpone the 2020 face-to-face forum event and to organize Virtual Forum Sessions from 30 November to 4 December 2020.
- Consequent to a call for tenders, a consulting firm was jointly hired by SPA/RAC, MedPAN and WWF for the development of a Post-2020 roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs, part of the MPA forum collaborative process. The objective of the consultancy is to: (i) Draft a brief summary evaluation listing the main limiting factors and bottlenecks hindering the implementation of the 2020 MPA Roadmap and the achievement of the 2020 MPA targets in the region; and (ii) Develop a pre-finalised version of the Post-2020 MPA Roadmap by March 2021, through the running of online stakeholders consultations (November 2020) and the facilitation of the Online Virtual Sessions.
- An online survey was launched on 13 October 2020 to the wide MPA community to rank in order of importance limiting factors that hinder the achievement of MPA objectives in the region, and to identify additional ones. Around 360 responses were received and analysed.
- An online Working Group consultation process was run from 16 to 27 November 2020. Its objective was to discuss the most important limiting factors that hinder the achievement of MPA objectives and provide operational recommendations. This work will contribute to the first draft of the Post-2020 MPA Roadmap. A series of 7 working groups was organized around 5 main thematic areas as follow:
  - a) Governance and Policy focusing on EU Mediterranean countries;
  - b) Governance and Policy focusing on non-EU Mediterranean countries;
  - c) Enforcement and Legislation;
  - d) Management and Knowledge, for English speakers;
  - e) Management and Knowledge, for French speakers;
  - f) Sustainable Financing; and
  - g) Capacity and Awareness.
- The detailed agendas and background material were shared with the participants to the Working Groups. Each group gather around 25 targeted participants from all the sectors and all around the Mediterranean. Minutes of the meeting are being prepared and will be finalised soon.
- Due to the tight deadlines related to the preparation of the first draft of the Post-2020 MPA Roadmap but mainly to conflicting dates of the Virtual Forum Sessions (30 November - 4 December 2020) with the CORMON meeting (1-3 December 2020), SPA/RAC, MedPAN and WWF discussed and decided to postpone the Virtual Forum Session to 1-5 February 2021.
- The Virtual Forum Session that was scheduled from 1-5 February 2021, has been postponed to mid-2021 (new dates to be confirmed), taking advantage of the postponement of the different biodiversity events at the global level. This would enable a better progress on the Forum and roadmap process and allow enough time to prepare, review and finalise the deliverables while ensuring their good quality.

37. The next steps for Output 3.2 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- Finalisation of the Virtual Working Groups meetings minutes in February 2021;
- Preparation of an advanced draft of the Post-2020 MPA roadmap and share it with the Virtual Forum Sessions participants in mid-2021;
- Organisation of the 3rd MPA Forum Steering Committee in 5 February 2021;
- Preparation of the Virtual Forum Sessions programme and background materials in mid-2021; and
- Organization of the Virtual Forum Sessions in mid-2021.

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Mediterranean

Output 3.3: The development of a strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework through a participatory process

38. The elaboration of the regional strategy for marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean is financially supported by the SPA/RAC core funds (MTF), whereas the IMAP-MPA project (EU) is expected to support the consultation process for the finalization of the draft, including the organization of a Consultation Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 Regional Strategy, expected in March 2021.

39. The terms of reference for the hiring of consultant(s) for the elaboration of the draft Regional Strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean were prepared and a call for consultancy launched in December 2020. This consultation has been postponed seeking for more clarity and to be aligned with the post-2020 global process agenda, to which the Mediterranean post-2020 process for MPAs should be closely linked. An international consultant was hired late January 2021 and her assignment is expected to start early February 2021.

40. The next steps for Output 3.3 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- Launching the process of elaboration of the first draft of the Regional Strategy for MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean (through desktop reviews and online consultations) to be ready for the Consultation Workshop, expected in late-March/early April 2021.

Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability

Output 4.1: Elaboration of MPA management plans and provisions of support for their effective implementation

41. The existence of a management plan is one of the major criteria for qualifying as an MPA. This means that under this activity, and for each of the three involved protected areas, namely Rachgoun future MPA in Algeria, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon and Gulf of Sirte future MPA in Libya, a thorough reflection should take place, including the definition of strategic and operational objectives, setting of an action plan and a calendar of implementation, allocation of resources, and definition of indicators to assess the management effectiveness.

42. Under this activity and based on complementary ecological and socio-economic studies, management plans will be drafted jointly with the national authorities responsible for marine and coastal protected areas and in consultation with other relevant governmental bodies and other stakeholders for the three potential MPAs. The drafting of those management plans, to be launched by March/April based on a collaborative and consultative processes, will extend over one year to one year and half, depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the specific situation at the level of three concerned countries.

43. For that purpose, the following actions have been executed:

- Following the endorsement, by the SPA/BD national focal points, of the ToRs to hire national consultants to prepare/draft complementary ecological and socio-economic studies in three sites in Algeria, Lebanon, and Libya, the process for the selection of the national consultants has been successfully completed in the three countries, where selected candidates have been hired in close consultation with the SPA/BD national focal points.
- The consultants have started their respective assignments since August/September 2020 except for the socio-economic study in the Gulf of Sirte (Libya) where a delay has occurred due to the political instability prevailing in the area. Nevertheless, the socio-economic study in the Gulf of Sirte has finally started by mid-October 2020.
- The consultants in Lebanon have completed the field work in Tyre Coast Nature Reserve and submitted their draft reports by mid-November 2020. Both ecological and socioeconomic reports have been reviewed by SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon finalised by the consultants taking into account the requested comments and revisions. The reports have been consequently officially endorsed by SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment by the end of December 2020.
- The assigned consultant to run the ecological study in Rachgoun Island (Algeria) has completed the field work and submitted a draft report by mid-November 2020. The report has been reviewed by SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment of Algeria and finalised by the consultant considering the comments and requested revisions. The report has been officially endorsed by SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment at the beginning of December 2020.
- Notwithstanding the hiring of the consultant by August 2020, the running of the socio-economic study in Rachgoun Island (Algeria) has encountered some delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in the country at that moment. The field work has been carried out by the end of September and October 2020. The consultant has then submitted a draft report by mid-December 2020. The report is being reviewed by SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment and will be finalised by the end of January 2021.
- In Libya, the assigned consultant for the ecological study of the future MPA of Gulf of Sirte has run the complementary field work and submitted a draft report early December 2020. The report has been reviewed by SPA/RAC and the Environment General Authority (EGA) of Libya and finalised by the consultant considering the comments and requested revisions.
- On the other hand, and despite the delay occurred in running the Gulf of Sirte socio-economic study due to the political instability prevailing in the area, on the one hand, and the COVID-19 pandemic on the other hand, the consultant has finally started the field work in the Gulf of Sirte during the second half of October 2020. He has then submitted a draft report by the end December 2020. The report will be reviewed by SPA/RAC and the Environment General Authority in order to be finalised by the end of January 2021.
- It is worth mentioning that the National Kick-off Meeting of the IMAP-MPA Project in Libya, held online on 28 October 2020, has served to present and inform the Libyan participants on the MPA Component and the activities already initiated and being executed in Libya with regard to the future MPA of the Gulf of Sirte.

44. The next steps for Output 4.1 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- The socio-economic study of the coastal and marine area of Rachgoun Island future MPA (Algeria) will be finalised and endorsed by SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment of Algeria by mid-February 2021 at the latest.
- The socio-economic report of the coastal and marine area of the Gulf of Sirte future MPA will be finalised and endorsed by SPA/RAC and the Environment General Authority (EGA) of Libya by mid-February 2021 at the latest.
- The process of the elaboration of the management plan of Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon) is expected to be initiated by February 2021. A call for tenders to hire consultants to elaborate the management plan will be prepared in close consultation with the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon and will be launched early March 2021 in order to get the consultants onboard by April 2021.
- The process of the elaboration of the management plan of the Rachgoun Island future MPA (Algeria) will be initiated by February/March 2021 upon the endorsement of the socio-economic study. A call for consultants to elaborate a pertinence study will be prepared in close consultation with the Ministry of Environment of Algeria and will be launched early March 2021 in order to get the consultants onboard by April 2021.
- The process of the elaboration of the management plan of the Gulf of Sirte future MPA (Libya) will be initiated by March 2021, depending on the political situation prevailing in the area. If appropriate, a call for tenders to hire consultants to elaborate the management plan will be prepared in close consultation with the Environment General Authority (EGA) of Libya and will be launched early April 2021 in order to get the consultants onboard by May 2021.

Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability

Output 4.2: Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation

45. The Project Management Unit and SPA/RAC are working to design/identify the best ways of preparing and delivering capacity building activities to MPA managers and practitioners, and other marine conservationists in the region, given the prevailing situation and continuously uncertain and evolving international context due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A concept note has been prepared for the effective execution of this activity and in particular on how to link it with other SPA/RAC-planned capacity-building activities on MPAs. Based on this reflection, the terms of reference of the consultants needed for such assignment will be drafted and qualified experts will be hired. The concept note is hereto attached under Annex II to the present document and is brought to the attention of the Steering Committee for their kind consideration and feedback as deemed necessary.

46. It is also worth mentioning that the National Kick-off Meeting of the IMAP-MPA Project in Tunisia, held online on 7 October 2020, has also served to present and inform the Tunisian participants about the MPA Component and the activities planned to be executed during 2021 in Tunisia with regard to the future MPA of Kerkennah Islands.

47. The next steps for Output 4.2 within 2021 are described hereunder:

- ToRs for the hiring of consultants to develop curricula and deliver training activities on the effective management, and sustainable socio-economic role of MPAs, are being prepared, and a call for tenders will be launched by February 2021 in order to get the consultants onboard by March 2020.

### **Component 3: Project Management and Implementation**

Outcome 5: Effective and Timely Project Coordination and Implementation Ensured

Output 5.1: Project Management and Coordination

48. The Project Management Unit (PMU) is in charge for the execution and implementation of the project and to ensure all enabling conditions for the implementation of on-the-ground activities of the project. The secretariat, SPA/RAC and PMU have been undertaken frequent communication with all project's Focal Points (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) to support as much as possible the execution of the activities irrespective of the issues raised mainly attribute to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

49. In accordance with the Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Steering Committee Meeting of the Project, two letters were addressed by UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Mr. Gaetano Leone, to:

- a) The Ministers of Environment of all beneficiary Countries informing them for the need to establish National IMAP Steering Committees to ensure integrated IMAP implementation and effective coordination between the EU-funded IMAP-MPA and EcAp MED III Projects (May 2020); and
- b) IMAP-MPA Project Focal Points; MAP Focal Points; and EcAp Coordination Group Members informing them for the launching of the IMAP-MPA Project activities at the national level (June 2020).

50. The Job Opening for the Project Manager was advertised in UN INSPIRA on March 2020 and the selection process is expected to be finalized within Q1-Q2 of 2021. At interim a UNV-based Project Manager is supporting and coordinating the execution of project's activities. A Finance and Budget Assistant of the project, funded by IMAP-MPA project for 50%, is onboard since January 2021.

51. In terms of reporting, PMU has successfully submitted to the EC the first annual progress/ narrative and experts reports in November 2020. Both reports have been approved by the project Task Manager and PMU has even proceeded with requesting the release of the second installment of the project which is expected to be released from EC in Jan.-Feb. 2021. Moreover, SPA/RAC has complied successfully with the reporting requirements as provided for in the signed Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and has thus submitted successfully to the Secretariat two half-yearly progress/ narrative and expense reports as at June and December 2020.

52. Regarding the communication with the beneficiary countries for the regional/capacity building activities (i.e. Jordan and Palestine) that was established since January 2020, including for the nomination of the national focal points of the project; no specific feedback has been received despite the several reminders. Additional, follow-up actions are envisaged during Q1 of 2021.

53. The project's outputs and expert knowledge have been showcased during the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs) (Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020).

54. The PMU has successfully initiated during the reporting period the preparations of the Second Steering Committee of the Project (Videoconference, 24 March 2021) on a timely manner.

## 6. Issues at stake and new challenges

55. The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken at national, regional and international levels to contain its spread, including full/partial national lockdowns, border closures and travel restrictions, have resulted in several issues/delays listed hereunder:

- All the physical meetings at country level have been postponed during 2020 which resulted in several delays, significant in many cases, mainly linked with the organization of the national meetings and the establishment of the National IMAP Committees. In some cases (e.g. Israel, Libya and Tunisia), videoconference meetings were organized instead of face-to-face meetings (i.e. July 2020 and October 2020). This has hampered the project to reach their expected objectives efficiently.
- The recruitment of regional experts/consultants has been proven to be challenging as experts are constrained to participate in country-oriented activities, mainly reflecting the constraints and concerns pertinent to travel provisions (i.e. sanitary and safety issues). Moreover, issues have been faced when contacting experts, relevant to the significant workloads/overloads that have resulted, mainly attributed to the long period of lockdowns during the spring/summer 2020 period that significantly affected their schedules.
- The face-to-face coordination and planning meeting in Egypt for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Mediterranean Egyptian coast has been postponed until further notice. To compensate this delay, online discussions and coordination have been continually organized and assured since March 2020 with the project Focal Point of Egypt.
- Regarding the organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, physical meetings were not allowed and thus the Steering Committee meetings were organized through online/teleconference arrangements.
- The 2020 MPA Forum face-to-face event has been postponed for late-2021 or early-2022 (to be confirmed).
- Delays in the schedule of the ongoing CBD global process to develop a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are reported (i.e. Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, January 2021 (to be confirmed); 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), March 2021 (to be confirmed); COP 15, May 2021 (to be confirmed)). Since the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for MPAs and OECMs should reflect/take into account the globally agreed objectives and targets, delays against the initially approved workplan has occurred.
- Regarding the elaboration of MPA management plans in Algeria, Lebanon and Libya (Output 4.1) physical coordination and planning meetings, initially planned in March-April 2020, have been postponed until further notice. To overcome this problem, continuous discussions and online meetings have been organized with the project focal points of Algeria, Lebanon and Libya since March 2020, ensuring a regular coordination and planning of the activities (i.e. the preparation of ToRs and hiring of national consultants, coordination and supervision of the complementary ecological and socio-economic studies in three sites in Algeria, Lebanon, and Libya). Moreover, delays have been anticipated for (i) the socio-economic study regarding Rachgoun Island in Algeria due to the COVID-19 pandemic and (ii) the socio-economic study in the Gulf of Sirte (Libya) due to the political instability prevailing in the area. However, the respective field work and studies have been eventually carried out and finalised and would be officially endorsed early 2021.
- Regarding the improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation (Output 4.2), the physical coordination and planning meeting/s in Morocco and Tunisia have been postponed until further notice. Continuous discussions and online coordination meetings have been organized with the project focal points of Morocco and Tunisia since March 2020. Particularly for Tunisia, the national kick-off meeting of the IMAP-MPA project, held online on 7 October 2020, has served to present and inform the Tunisian participants on the MPA Component and the activities planned to be executed during 2021 in Tunisia with regard to the future MPA of Kerkennah Islands.



56. A series of actions have been undertaken by the Secretariat and SPA/RAC in response to the delays mainly attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- A general recommendation was provided to all beneficiary countries, implementing partners and concerned stakeholders to replace all physical meetings with online meetings, including for bilateral consultation meetings, aiming to expedite the processes and initiate activities at national level.
- Taking into account the travel restrictions and the relevant problems that this may create in the work of the regional consultants, MAP Secretariat has decided to expedite the relevant actions and to move ahead with the preparation of all ToRs for the recruitment of regional experts/consultants, excluding all provisions pertinent to travel, including a clear reference that when travel will be allowed, the relevant ToRs will be updated to also reflect and include travels.
- Many experts have been extremely cautious in applying to the said posts and in this regard the Secretariat and SPA/RAC had to organize several calls with them to explain the provisions of the ToRs and enable the application of competent and knowledgeable experts.
- Constant follow-up actions, reminders and requests for bilateral meeting with the project's focal points have been carried out by the Secretariat and SPA/RAC in order to support the processes at national level and try to resolve or overcome all the issues pertinent to the COVID-19 pandemic.

57. Additional considerations are brought to the attention of the Steering Committee with the scope to trigger relevant discussions:

- a) Cost consideration of the integrated monitoring: an assessment needs to be undertaken in cooperation and consultation with the countries with regards to cost implications that the integrated monitoring may have, after considering and providing a clear idea about the existing national capacities that are available.
- b) Country ownership of joint monitoring: The Steering Committee should explore all possible ways for the countries to be actively involved in this complex but still effective approach of monitoring for the marine and coastal environment.
- c) Planning of monitoring surveys: basic data sets (e.g. bathymetry; hydrographic conditions, etc.) are needed and participating countries should provide these data sets to MAP Secretariat.
- d) The applied modalities and possible cost implications deriving from the renting of ships/boats for the needs of the relevant monitoring activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels will be another challenging issue that the project may face. In particular, relevant procurement processes as well as the presence and operation of ships in international waters needs to be discussed in depth by the Steering Committee.
- e) Capacity building activities/meetings: Taking into account the travel constrains attributed to COVID-19 Pandemic, the Steering Committee should decide on a clear way forward for the effective and timely organization of this set of activities.

## **7. Synergies with other initiatives**

58. The project is structured mainly to build on the achievements and outputs of the previous EcAp MED II (funded by DG ENV) and MedMPA Network (funded by DG Near) projects.

59. The IMAP component of the project is executing in very close synergy with the approved (Aug./Sept. 2020) EcAp MED III Project funded by DG ENV. While EcAp MED III project will focus on making the national IMAP-based monitoring programmes fully operational, the IMAP-MPA project is focusing on testing the implementation of integrated monitoring in monitoring sites/stations/areas already identified under the EcAp MED II and III projects. The IMAP component of the Project and the EcAp MED III Project will jointly support counties in developing and enhancing capacities pertinent to monitoring of IMAP Ecological Objectives (EOs) on Biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) (EO1, EO2), Pollution and Marine Litter (EO5, EO9, EO10), and Coast and Hydrography (EO7, EO8).

60. The above concept was explicitly elaborated and explained during the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs) (Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020) during which the IMAP-MPA project was presented in detail.

61. The MPA component of the project is based on the outcomes of the previous EU-funded MedMPA Network Project, and is executed on the ground, at national level, in full synergy and complementarity with two regional projects financed by the MAVA Foundation, namely No-Take Zones/MPAs and Sea Turtles projects. The synergetic actions concern Rachgoun Islands MPA (Algeria) with regard to the No-Take Zones/MPAs project, and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon) and Gulf of Sirte future MPA (Libya) with regard to the Sea Turtles project.

62. Furthermore, under the MPA component, SPA/RAC is particularly working in synergy with two potential regional partners, MedPAN and WWF, with regard to the MPA agenda in the Mediterranean, by running the process towards the organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean with the purpose to pave the way for the post-2020 MPA agenda progress in the Mediterranean.

63. The project has a strong link and is executed in synergy with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), which is participating with one member in the project Steering Committee. The links are based on promoting regional, sub-regional, and transnational cooperation in the sectors falling within its mandate, focusing on environmental protection.

## **8. Gender aspects**

64. Gender balance and equity are among the project's core values and pertinent provisions and are taken into account in most project's activities. Gender equality and women's empowerment is also recognized as a cross-cutting priority across all aspects of UNEP's work, including for UNEP/MAP. The Secretariat, through its core work but also through projects' implementation promotes women and men's participation in all environmental protection and sustainable development activities.

65. Gender balanced participation was encouraged in the letter that was addressed to the countries from UNEP/MAP Coordinator for the nomination of the Project's National Focal Points. Two countries (i.e. Algeria and Lebanon) have nominated female Project Focal Points.

66. Provisions for gender balanced participation will be also included in the calls for the recruitment of regional experts/consultants for IMAP, and in this regard a balanced ratio between male and female experts should be expected. Indeed, female experts are involved in the regional tasks on marine mammals and non-indigenous species CIs.

67. Moreover, the Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is gender balanced and this is clearly documented in the progress reports of the first two Steering Committee Meetings held in Marseille, on 6-7 February 2020, and via teleconference, on 1 July 2020, as well as the participants to the 7 Virtual Working Groups.

## 9. Communication

68. A dedicated section for the project has been developed at UNEP/MAP website under the [projects' section](#), as well at SPA/RAC website where a [dedicated project webpage](#) has been developed.

69. The major events organized in the framework of the project have been advertised on UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC websites and social media accounts:

- Organization of the First Steering Committee and Kick Off Meeting of the EU-funded IMA-PMPA Project (Tunis, Tunisia, 10 March 2020):
  - <https://web.unep.org/unepmap/imap-mpa-project-new-drive-strengthen-integrated-monitoring-and-biodiversity-conservation>
  - <https://publish.twitter.com/?query=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FUNEPMAPNews%2Fstatus%2F1241368761355186176&widget=Tweet>
  - <https://twitter.com/SPARACinfos/status/1237308893518323713?s=20>
  - <http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1833>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/2965739293474477>
- The organization of the national Kick-Off Meeting of the Project in Tunisia (videoconference, 7 October 2020):
  - <http://rac-spa.org/node/1947>
  - <https://twitter.com/UNEPMAPNews/status/1329014493444247552>
  - <https://twitter.com/SPARACinfos/status/1314499712532312064?s=20>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3538806132834454>
- The organization of the national Kick-Off Meeting of the Project in Libya (videoconference, 28 October 2020):
  - <https://www.rac-spa.org/node/1962>
  - <https://twitter.com/UNEPMAPNews/status/1329014493444247552>
  - <https://twitter.com/SPARACinfos/status/1323237346519691265?s=20>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3595083417206725>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3609065505808516>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3595012757213791>
- The 2020 MPA Forum related news:
  - <http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1959>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3256233241091746>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3678091028905963>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3670451573003242>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3570056133042787>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SPARACinfos/posts/3570056133042787>
  - <https://twitter.com/SPARACinfos/status/1331556867169017857?s=20>
  - <https://twitter.com/SPARACinfos/status/1318848868323414016?s=20>
- IMA-PMPA project related news in the UNEP/MAP Newsletter:
  - <http://www.info-rac.org/en/communication/newsletter/med-news-03-2020/launching-of-the-2020-mediterranean-mpa-forum-process>
  - <http://www.info-rac.org/en/communication/newsletter/med-news-03-2020/monitoring-and-assessment-in-mpas-to-feed-into-unep-map-reports-on-environmental-status-in-the-mediterranean>
  - <http://www.info-rac.org/en/communication/newsletter/med-news-03-2020/kick-off-meeting-of-the-eu-funded-imap-mpa-project-in-tunisia>

- <http://www.info-rac.org/en/communication/newsletter/newsletter-archive/med-news-02-2020/imap-mpa-project-a-new-drive-to-strengthen-integrated-monitoring-and-biodiversity-conservation-in-the-mediterranean>

70. Moreover, a [News Item](#) was published at UNEP/MAP website on 18 Nov. 2020 showcasing the importance of monitoring and assessment in MPA areas and how they could feed into UNEP/MAP reports on environmental status in the Mediterranean.

71. To better communicate and raise awareness on MPAs benefits and role as an effective tool for conservation and management in the eastern and southern Arabic countries of the Mediterranean, SPA/RAC, through the IMAP-MPA project and in close collaboration with the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), the University of Côte d’Azur (UCA) and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has produced the Arabic version of the booklet: “*The Science of Marine Protected Areas*” (WG.489/Inf.7). This booklet summarizes the scientific evidence that shows effective MPAs can recover marine resources, sustain fisheries, improve local livelihoods, and promote sustainable tourism and shows how the Mediterranean region could benefit from more effective protection in MPAs. The Booklet, being recently printed, will be disseminated among the Arabic marine biodiversity community of the Mediterranean.

72. A reflection has been initiated in December 2020 between UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC to celebrate the International Women’s Day (IWD) on 8 March 2021 by communicating, through short stories and/or short videos to highlight the work made by women within and around MPAs, with a special focus on women working at potential MPAs of the IMAP-MPA project (e.g. the female manager of the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon, fisherwomen active around the Kerkennah Islands future MPA in Tunisia).

73. The project received visibility and attention during the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs) (Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020).

**Annex I**

**Proposals for Selection of Monitoring Sites within IMAP-MPA Project  
in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and in High-Pressure**

**Table 1:** Compilation of candidate monitoring sites (i.e. MPAs and High Pressures Areas) for the needs of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project, deriving from the National Monitoring Programmes (Work Coordinated by MED POL and SPA/RAC).

	Morocco	Tunisia	Algeria	Libya	Lebanon	Egypt	Israel
MPAs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Al Hoceima<sup>***</sup></li> <li>2. Jbel Moussa<sup>*</sup></li> <li>3. Cap des Trois Fourches<sup>*</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zembretta Archipelagos<sup>***2</sup></li> <li>2. Kerkennah Islands<sup>*</sup></li> <li>3. Kuriat islands<sup>*</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rachgoun<sup>***</sup></li> <li>2. Park el Kala<sup>**</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ain Gazala<sup>***</sup></li> <li>2. Farwa Lagoon<sup>***</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Palm Islands<sup>***</sup></li> <li>2. Tyre Coast<sup>***</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lake Burullus<sup>**3</sup></li> <li>2. Lake Bardawil<sup>**2</sup></li> <li>3. Sallum Bay<sup>*4</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gdor MPA<sup>***</sup></li> <li>2. Rosh Hanikra MPA<sup>****</sup></li> </ol>
High Pressure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oued Martil<sup>**</sup></li> <li>2. Alboran<sup>*</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gulf of Gabes<sup>*5</sup></li> <li>2. Bahiret el Bibane<sup>**</sup></li> <li>3. Gulf of Tunis<sup>***</sup></li> <li>4. Sfax Sud<sup>**</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bou Ismail<sup>*</sup></li> <li>2. Port de Ghazaouet<sup>**6</sup></li> <li>3. Port de Peche de Oran (Zone)<sup>**</sup></li> <li>4. Port D'Arzew<sup>**</sup></li> <li>5. Mazafran<sup>**</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bengazi Port<sup>**</sup></li> <li>2. Gulf of Sirte<sup>*7</sup></li> <li>3. Gulf of Tobruk<sup>*</sup></li> <li>4. Tripoli Coast<sup>***</sup></li> <li>5. Brega Oil Port<sup>**</sup></li> <li>6. Zwara Port<sup>**</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Damour<sup>**</sup></li> <li>2. Beirut Bay<sup>***</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Port Said<sup>**</sup></li> <li>2. Nile Delta<sup>*</sup></li> <li>3. El-Mex<sup>**8</sup></li> <li>4. Abu Qir<sup>**9</sup></li> <li>5. Rafah<sup>**</sup></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Haifa Port<sup>***</sup></li> <li>2. Akko bay<sup>***</sup></li> </ol>

\* Monitoring sites contained in the national monitoring programmes for EO1, and EO2.

\*\* Monitoring sites contained in the national monitoring programmes for EO5, EO9 and EO10.

\*\*\* Monitoring sites contained in the national monitoring programmes for EO1, EO2, EO5, EO9 and EO10.

\*\*\*\* New monitoring station.

<sup>2</sup> Not recommended for monitoring IMAP Indicators due to difficult weather and oceanographical conditions.

<sup>3</sup> Ramsar site.

<sup>4</sup> Upon confirmation with the Country.

<sup>5</sup> It includes Kerkennah islands as a future/potential MPA area (process is ongoing).

<sup>6</sup> In vicinity to Bou Ismail monitoring site.

<sup>7</sup> Potential new MPA site; Management Plan Elaboration is planned, for a specific area of the Gulf of Sirte, under the IMAP-MPA project.

<sup>8</sup> Hotspot Type-B

<sup>9</sup> Hotspot Type-A

**Table 2:** Proposals for Selection of MPA Monitoring sites for the needs of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project.

	Morocco	Tunisia	Algeria	Libya	Lebanon	Egypt	Israel
MPAs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Al Hoceima</li> <li>2. Jbel Moussa</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kerkennah Islands</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rachgoun</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ain Ghazala</li> <li>2. Farwa Lagoon</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Palm Islands</li> <li>2. Tyre Coast</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sallum Bay</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gdor MPA</li> <li>2. Rosh Hanikra MPA</li> </ol>
Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data availability: Pilot monitoring programme on habitats implemented within the MAVA-funded project (MedKey Habitats II) and the MTF SPA/RAC budget (biennium 2016-2017).</li> <li>• Al Hoceima is included as a monitoring station for both IMAP Biodiversity and Pollution Cluster.</li> <li>• Contribution to the development of the observatory within the Odyssey project and the MAVA-funded project.</li> <li>• Trained personnel and capacities reinforced (EU- and MAVA-funded projects).</li> <li>• Access to site: easy.</li> <li>• Management plan developed within the EU-funded Med MPA Network project for Jbel Moussa.</li> <li>• Management to be updated for El Hoceima National Park within the MAVA-funded project (starting from July 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data availability: Pilot monitoring programme on habitats and sea birds implemented within the MTF SPA/RAC budget (biennium 2016-2017)</li> <li>• Personnel well trained and capacities reinforced within the EU-funded EcAp-MED II project</li> <li>• Access to site: easy.</li> <li>• Management plan developed within the EU-funded Med MPA Network project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data availability on habitats within the MAVA-funded project (Med Key Habitats II)</li> <li>• Rachgoun is included as a monitoring station for both IMAP Biodiversity and Pollution Cluster.</li> <li>• Personnel trained on monitoring sea birds and mapping benthic habitats (EU- and MAVA-funded projects)</li> <li>• Access to site: prior authorization is needed</li> <li>• Management plan to be developed for the site within the IMAP-MPA project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data availability that should be updated</li> <li>• Management plan to be developed within the IMAP-MPA project for Gulf of Sirte area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data availability for Tyre (marine turtles, sea birds, habitats).</li> <li>• Palm Islands and Tyre Coast are included as a monitoring station for both IMAP Biodiversity and Pollution Cluster.</li> <li>• SPAMI status</li> <li>• Access to site: easy</li> <li>• Management plan to be elaborated within the IMAP-MPA project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only MPA along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt</li> <li>• Data availability</li> <li>• Access to site: prior authorization needed</li> <li>• Management plan developed within the previous EU funded Med MPA Network project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gdor MPA is represented in the National Monitoring Program by the Alexander river outlet sampling points. The Offshore point has been selected that is not affected by the river.</li> <li>• Rosh Hanikra MPA is currently not represented in the National Monitoring Program's sampling stations for EO5,9,10, except for one station where molluscs are sampled and tested for pollutants.</li> <li>• Both MPA areas are also included in the IMAP Biodiversity Cluster.</li> </ul>

**Table 3:** Proposals for Selection of High-Pressure Monitoring sites for the needs of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project.

	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Libya</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Israel</b>
<b>High -Pressure</b>	1. Alboran	1. Gulf of Gabes 2. Bahiret el Bibane 3. Gulf of Tunis 4. Sfax Sud	1. Bou Ismail 2. Port de Ghazaouet	1. Gulf of Sirte 2. Tripoli Coast	1. Beirut Bay	1. Port Said 2. Nile Delta	1. Haifa Port 2. Akko Bay
<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing activities.</li> <li>• Maritime traffic.</li> <li>• Urban development.</li> <li>• Extension of a commercial port.</li> <li>• Alboran is included as monitoring station of the IMAP Biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing activities.</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity due to pollution.</li> <li>• Urban development.</li> <li>• Maritime traffic.</li> <li>• Gulf of Tunis is included as a monitoring station for both IMAP Biodiversity and Pollution Cluster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing activities.</li> <li>• Urban development.</li> <li>• Maritime traffic.</li> <li>• Bou Ismail is included as monitoring station of the IMAP Biodiversity.</li> <li>• Port de Ghazaouet is included as monitoring station of the IMAP Pollution Cluster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing activities.</li> <li>• Oil exploitation.</li> <li>• Maritime traffic.</li> <li>• Gulf of Sirte is included as monitoring station of the IMAP Biodiversity, and modelling studies provide predictions for being an accumulation zone for marine litter.</li> <li>• Tripoli Coast is included as a monitoring station for both IMAP Biodiversity and Pollution Cluster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing activities</li> <li>• Urban development</li> <li>• Waste-water discharge.</li> <li>• Maritime traffic.</li> <li>• Beirut Bay is included as a monitoring station for both IMAP Biodiversity and Pollution Cluster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban development</li> <li>• Fishing activities</li> <li>• Maritime traffic.</li> <li>• Port Said is included as a monitoring station for IMAP Pollution Cluster.</li> <li>• Nile Delta is included as a monitoring station for IMAP Biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haifa Port is located close to Qishon river outlet.</li> <li>• Akko bay consists a mercury pollution hotspot.</li> <li>• Both High Pressure areas are also included in the IMAP Biodiversity Cluster</li> </ul>



**Table 4:** Proposals for Integrated monitoring approaches for IMAP Ecological Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10.

	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO5	EO7	EO9	EO10
<b>ROV Scuba Box Corer</b>	CI1 CI2			CI13 CI14		CI17 CI18 CI19	CI23
<b>Nesting Sites</b>	CI3 CI4 CI5						CI24
<b>Ports</b>	CI1 CI2	CI16			CI15		
<b>Trawlers (GFCM)<sup>10</sup></b>			CI7 CI11				CI23
<b>Satellite images</b>	CI1			CI14		CI19 CI21(?)	CI23(?)
<b>Modelling<sup>11</sup></b>							

<sup>10</sup> Coordination and support with GFCM are required.

<sup>11</sup> Modelling could be used across the board for all IMAP indicators aiming to verify the modelling results with raw data coming from the national monitoring programmes, identify potential monitoring areas of high interest (e.g. accumulation areas, hot spot areas), as well as to contribute to the assessments deriving from the national monitoring programmes.

## **Annex II**

**SPA/RAC Regional Capacity Building Programme  
for Improving Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Management  
and Ensuring their Sustainability (EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project & MTF )**

**SPA/RAC Regional Capacity Building Programme  
for Improving Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Management and Ensuring their  
Sustainability  
(EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project<sup>12</sup> & MTF<sup>13</sup>)**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**1. Background and rationale**

1. The effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) management relies upon political commitment for the establishment of clear legal and institutional frameworks, proper design and planning, as well as the provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources. Thus, an effective management requires the establishment and enforcement of integrated and coordinated policies, the setting up of clear legal, institutional and administrative frameworks, gender-sensitive engagement of stakeholders, and the regular development of capacities.

2. In the Mediterranean, only 2.48% of the Mediterranean is covered by MPAs with a management plan, half of which with clear objectives and only 1.27% of the Mediterranean is effectively protected<sup>14</sup>. Besides, only 12% of the needs for effective MPA management are covered by regular financial resources<sup>15</sup>. Although significant improvements have been made in the last decade, Mediterranean MPAs are still far from being effective, including their delivery of ecological, social, and economic benefits for both women and men.

3. Several analyses have highlighted that significant improvements are urgently needed for management measures to be implemented in all areas through effective management mechanisms, combined with adequate availability of human, material, and financial resources. At the same time, the role of women in coastal management in the Mediterranean basin tends to be overlooked. Women have a key role as stakeholders, resource users and managers. Understanding the differences between women and men, ensuring women and men participate in and benefit equally from MPA and integrating a gender aspect into MPA planning and management. Therefore, capacity building is considered a key success factor for reaching an efficient level of inclusive management in existing and future MPAs in the region.

4. In 2012, SPA/RAC has elaborated, together with WWF and MedPAN, and with the support of other partners from the region, a “Capacity Building Strategy to enhance the management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea”<sup>16</sup>. The strategy called for the setting up of a coordinated regional capacity building programme delivery mechanism, that should allow for the flexibility of cooperative actions, while keeping individual organizations to operate independently to fulfil their own missions. It was then the starting point for the delivery of joint or individual knowledge and skill development programmes targeting MPA practitioners in the region.

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<sup>12</sup> 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](#)".

<sup>13</sup> [UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021](#).

<sup>14</sup> Gomei M., Abdulla A., Schröder C., Yadav S., Sánchez A., Rodríguez D., Abdul Malak D. (2019). [TOWARDS 2020: How Mediterranean countries are performing to protect their sea](#). 38 pages.

<sup>15</sup> Binet, T., Diazabakana, A., Hernandez, S. 2015. [Sustainable financing of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: a financial analysis](#). Vertigo Lab, MedPAN, RAC/SPA, WWF Mediterranean. 114 pp..

<sup>16</sup> Di Carlo G., Lopez A., Staub F., 2012. [Capacity building strategy to enhance the management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea. Commissioned by WWF MedPO / MedPAN / UNEP/MAP/RAC/SPA](#).

5. Furthermore, the Barcelona Convention Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean<sup>17</sup> has called upon regional and international organizations to:

- Strengthen the existing capacity building mechanisms for MPA managers, and promote their coordination into a regional capacity building system, using a wide range of training approaches (e.g. training courses, on the field trainings, online trainings modules, exchange of visits). The system should target also other actors (e.g. enforcement and judiciary authorities, private sector) and decision-makers (suggested action 2.6); and
- Assist countries to build national capacities for fundraising for MPAs through training activities, promoting exchange of experience and dissemination of information about best practices and innovative funding success in MPAs (suggested action 4.6).

6. In 2018, SPA/RAC has run a long-term evaluation of its training programmes<sup>18</sup>, that involved collecting feedback from women and men beneficiary trainees as well as mobilised trainers. The assessment provided recommendations to be considered in the design of future training programmes.

7. Based on the above, in the framework of the EU-funded 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” entitled “IMAP-MPA project”<sup>19</sup>, SPA/RAC is proposing the development and implementation of a regional capacity building programme for improving Mediterranean MPA management and ensuring their sustainability. This capacity building programme will cover key aspects:

- MPA effective management and sustainable financing; and
- Socio-economic sustainability of MPAs.

8. In the proposed programme, specific challenges will be addressed to provide the knowledge and tools needed, by combining theoretical training with practical experience through a dynamic, innovative and gender-inclusive approach.

## 2. Introduction

9. Given the fact that capacity building is well known and recognised to be key for the improvement of MPA management effectiveness, SPA/RAC, through its EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project and MTF core funds, is investing in a region-wide capacity building programme, that will be delivered mainly through separate regional training courses:

- A training course on MPA effective management and sustainable financing; and
- A training course on socio-economic sustainability of MPAs.

10. These training courses will focus on relevant technical challenges, such as management planning, management effectiveness, stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution, fundraising, innovative funding, gender equality, and defining and strengthening socio-economic sustainability of MPAs.

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<sup>17</sup> [Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean](#). UN Environment/MAP Athens, Greece 2017.

<sup>18</sup> [https://rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/capacity\\_building\\_program\\_eval.pdf](https://rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/capacity_building_program_eval.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1919>

11. Each training course will involve:

- The development of dedicated training modules;
- The delivery of the training course, which will include:
  - A training of trainers' aspect dedicated to selected participants (mentors) to enhance their leadership, communication, training and coaching skills; and
  - The training workshop's delivery, including its planning, preparation, organization and evaluation.
- Post-training implementation activities, which will involve the development and implementation by the participants (under the guidance of mentors) of tailor-made projects in their MPAs/countries based on the knowledge and skills gained during the training(s). These post-training activities will be delivered with the financial support of SPA/RAC (EU-funded IMAP-MPA project) through the conclusion of implementation agreements between SPA/RAC and each beneficiary party.

12. The training workshops' format will consist of:

- Plenary sessions, during which technical information is provided;
- Working sessions, during which participants are asked to work individually, in groups or as a single team; and
- Field sessions/site visits, during which on-job and practical information are provided or practiced.

13. The combination of the plenary sessions and working sessions will allow each participant to benefit from the opportunity of exchange with the participants from different countries coming with different backgrounds, experiences and stories, and at the same time, it will help each participant to design, together with participants from the same country, a national tailor-made project to be adapted to the specific needs of their MPA(s) in the framework of the post-training implementation phase.

14. MPA authorities, managers, academics/researchers, relevant sectoral activities' administrations (such as fishery and tourism), NGOs, local artisanal fishers, and tourism actors/operators will be targeted to participate in the capacity building programme.

15. This programme will consider the gender-equity dimension during its preparation and delivery process. Ensuring that both men and women beneficiaries are invited to participate in and fully benefit from training workshops and can attend (at convenient times and dates) is key.

16. Since the capacity building programme is composed of two training courses, the training materials to be prepared should be, thus, tailored to answer objectives, requirements and expected results for each of the training courses.

### **3. Beneficiary countries**

17. The eligible countries of this capacity building programme are those of the IMAP-MPA project, which are the southern Mediterranean countries: i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as Jordan and the State of Palestine.

18. The post-training implementation activities will mainly concern participants from Morocco and Tunisia but could be also extended to all capacity building programme beneficiary countries.

## 4. Indicative information on the two training courses

Title of the training course	Format and content	Objectives and means	Target audience	Participants' profile requirements
<p><b><u>TRAINING COURSE 1:</u></b></p> <p><b>EMPOWERED MPAs:</b> Training on mastering management effectiveness and financial sustainability of Marine Protected Areas</p>	<p><b>a. Format</b> The training will be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plenary sessions (theoretical part) where the trainers present the knowledge.</li> <li>- Working sessions (practical part) where trainers present exercises to be done by the participants.</li> <li>- Field visits (field part) where the trainers take the participants on field to showcase and discuss issues related to the training course.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Content</b> The training should cover at least the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management planning.</li> <li>- Participatory gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>- Conflict resolution and problem solving.</li> <li>- Management effectiveness tools.</li> <li>- Management effectiveness assessment.</li> <li>- Challenges for an effective management.</li> <li>- Monitoring evaluation.</li> <li>- Gender-responsive MPA governance.</li> <li>- Gender-responsive MPA management and related fields (advocacy, education, awareness, etc.)</li> <li>- Adaptive management.</li> <li>- Fundraising.</li> <li>- Innovative funding for MPAs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>a. Objectives</b> The main objective of the training is to share knowledge related to the MPA effective management and the innovative funding of MPAs.</p> <p>Participants would be able to answer the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is MPA effectiveness?</li> <li>- What are gender-sensitive management effectiveness indicators of success for or when putting into place an MPA?</li> <li>- Why it is important for MPAs to be effective?</li> <li>- When is effectiveness needed or reached?</li> <li>- How to effectively manage MPAs?</li> </ul> <p>In a same way, regarding the funding aspect, participants would be able to answer the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is fundraising and innovative funding?</li> <li>- Why it is important to master fundraising?</li> <li>- When to resort innovative funding mechanisms?</li> <li>- How to fundraise and come up with innovation funding solutions?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Main targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MPA managers;</li> <li>- MPA rangers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academics;</li> <li>- Researchers;</li> <li>- Fishery association and cooperatives;</li> <li>- Fishers;</li> <li>- Ministry of Environment;</li> <li>- Ministry of Fisheries;</li> <li>- Ministry of Agriculture/Forests;</li> <li>- Ministry of Physical planning;</li> <li>- Ministry of Tourism;</li> <li>- Ministry of Defense;</li> <li>- Sub-national and local authorities;</li> <li>- Local or national NGOs;</li> <li>- Women's groups/associations;</li> <li>- Private sector, including hotels, tour operators, aquaculture farmers;</li> <li>- Donors, including EC;</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> the composition of the selected participants will be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good knowledge of English or French (or Arabic?) (understanding, speaking and writing).</li> <li>- Working in or for an established or future MPA.</li> <li>- Daily work includes management, planning, monitoring or financial aspect related to the MPA.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>b. Means/tools</b>        The training will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear methodology.</li> <li>- Dynamic presentations.</li> <li>- Interactive exercises, handouts and worksheets.</li> <li>- Successful and failed case studies and practices from the Mediterranean and beyond.</li> <li>- User-friendly tools (including online tools).</li> <li>- Practical guidelines.</li> <li>- Audiovisual material.</li> <li>- Useful references.</li> </ul> <p><b>c. Expected results/outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants gain new useful knowledge and skills for daily or regular use.</li> <li>- Local or national management units strengthened.</li> <li>- Management plans implementation initiated or reinforced.</li> <li>- Best practices developed and applied for an effective management of MPAs.</li> <li>- Relevant stakeholders further identified and engaged in MPA management and involved in decision-making processes, including women stakeholders.</li> <li>- Best practices shared and applied for an effective management of MPAs.</li> <li>- Participants are able to define indicators of ecological success of MPAs and be empowered to track progress (targeted monitoring).</li> </ul>	<p>profile-, geographically- and gender-balanced (at least 40% women).</p>	
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<p><b><u>TRAINING COURSE 2:</u></b></p> <p><b>THRIVING MPAs:</b> Training on Socio-economic sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas</p>	<p><b>a. Format</b> The training will be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plenary sessions (theoretical part) where the trainers present the knowledge.</li> <li>- Working sessions (practical part) where trainers present exercises to be done by the participants (using training modules, exercises, handouts, worksheets, audiovisual material).</li> <li>- Field visit (field part) where the trainers take the participants on field to showcase and discuss issues related to the training course.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Content</b> The training should cover at least the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define what could be a socially sustainable MPA;</li> <li>- Define what could be an economically sustainable MPA;</li> <li>- Define a systemic approach to MPAs based on a holistic understanding of the complex environment/society/economy interlinkages;</li> <li>- Socio-economic role of MPAs within the ecosystem approach (socio-economic-ecological interdependent aspect to be highlighted).</li> <li>- Sustainable socio-economic approach applied to MPAs within the ecosystem approach.</li> <li>- Ecosystem-services valuation (monetary and non-monetary valuation).</li> <li>- Alternative income generating activities in MPAs and surrounding territories.</li> </ul>	<p><b>a. Objectives</b> The main objective of this training is to understand the importance of the socio-economic sustainability of MPAs. Participants would be able to answer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is a socially and economically sustainable MPA?</li> <li>- What are the social-economic gender-sensitive indicators of success for or when putting into place an MPA?</li> <li>- Why it is important to ensure a socially and economically sustainable MPA?</li> <li>- When does the MPA become socially and economically sustainable?</li> <li>- How to ensure a socially and economically sustainable MPA?</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Means/tools</b> The training will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear methodology.</li> <li>- Dynamic presentations.</li> <li>- Interactive exercises, handouts and worksheets.</li> <li>- Successful and failure study cases and practices from the Mediterranean and beyond.</li> <li>- User-friendly tools (including online tools).</li> <li>- Practical guidelines.</li> <li>- Audiovisual material.</li> <li>- Useful references.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academics;</li> <li>- Researchers;</li> <li>- Fishers;</li> <li>- Fishery association and cooperatives;</li> <li>- Ministry of Environment;</li> <li>- Ministry of Fisheries;</li> <li>- Ministry of Agriculture/Forests;</li> <li>- Ministry of Physical planning;</li> <li>- Ministry of Tourism;</li> <li>- Ministry of Defense;</li> <li>- Sub-national and local authorities;</li> <li>- Local or national NGOs;</li> <li>- Women associations;</li> <li>- Private sector, including hotels, tour operators, aquaculture farmers;</li> <li>- Donors, including EC;</li> <li>- MPA managers;</li> <li>- MPA rangers;</li> <li>- Etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> the composition of the selected participants will be profile-, geographically- and gender-balanced (at least 40% women).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good knowledge of English or French (understanding, speaking and writing).</li> <li>- Working in or for an established or future MPA.</li> <li>- Daily work includes management, fisheries, tourism or financial aspect related to the MPA.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender-equity for MPA sustainability such as socio-economic activities, nature-based solutions, etc.</li> <li>- Ways to change decision-makers' perception of MPAs as a natural capital investment project.</li> </ul>	<p><b>c. Expected results/outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are able to identify socially and economically sustainable activities in their MPA.</li> <li>- As for the socially sustainable aspect, participants are able to distinguish the socially acceptable and socially desirable.</li> <li>- As for the economically sustainable aspect, participants are able to distinguish the financially sustainable and economically sustainable aspects for the MPA.</li> <li>- Participants gain new useful knowledge and skills for daily or regular use.</li> <li>- Identification of potential barriers women face in participating in MPAs management and respective solutions.</li> <li>- Local or national management units strengthened.</li> <li>- Management plans implementation initiated or reinforced.</li> <li>- Best practices developed and applied for an effective management of MPAs.</li> <li>- Socio-economic aspects that consider MPAs in a systemic approach are better known and relevant stakeholders further identified and engaged in MPA management and involved in decision-making processes.</li> <li>- Participants are able to define gender-sensitive indicators of social, economic (along with ecological which is addressed through training course 1) success of MPAs and be empowered to track progress (targeted monitoring).</li> </ul>		
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## 5. Approach

19. In view to set up the capacity building programme, SPA/RAC will launch a call for consultancy to hire consultants in order to plan, prepare, deliver and evaluate the capacity building programme. The call for consultancy will contain two separate lots, each one concern one training course. Bidders can submit for one lot (Lot 1 or Lot 2), or to both, while ensuring proposing separate offers for the two lots.

## 6. Tasks and expected deliverables

20. In view of the preparation and organisation of the two trainings, experts are expected to prepare a set of materials that will be shared and discussed with SPA/RAC in view of its validation and dissemination as needed, for one of the two training courses, or separate set of materials responding to the two training courses.

### 6.1. Methodology

21. The methodology is key for the whole process and is the basis for the development for all the materials to be prepared then shared with the participants.

22. It should mainly respond to the requirements stated in the terms of reference. Also, it has to be clearly drafted, coherent, straightforward, and complete. Innovation (e.g. icebreakers, dynamics and interactive exercises, etc.) and use of technology (e.g. tools, online tools, Apps, etc.) are very much encouraged.

23. The methodology should clearly define the specific content and objective of each of the expected trainings materials (i.e. detailed agendas, background documents, the PowerPoint presentations, and training evaluation).

24. It will also include a detailed timeline for the preparation of all the expected deliverables.

### 6.2. Training course package

25. Training package for the training courses is to be developed in a way that could be suitable to be used:

- a. during the training workshop (face-to-face or online training); and
- b. by individuals, group of people or other future SPA/RAC trainings (materials to be developed to be timeless training packages that could be used wherever, whenever and by any targeted one).

#### 6.2.1. Detailed agenda

26. A detailed agenda should be elaborated for the training workshops. For each of the two training workshops, it is expected that two agendas are to be elaborated and detailed for each day (one day = around 7 hours):

- The first one is the “Internal agenda”: specific for the trainers and the organisers, and is composed of: “Time, Activity and its objective, Material, Notes, and Responsible”.
- The second one is the “Participants agenda”: is an extraction of the previous one with only three columns, which are: “Time, Activity and its objective, and Material”.

**Example of agenda:**

**DAY 1**

Content of the Internal Agenda				
Content of the Participants Agenda			Notes	Responsible
Time	Activity and its objective	Material		
Exact timing foreseen for each activity to be specified	<p>Each scheduled activity is to be specified broadly (e.g., in a couple of lines or in form of bullet point).</p> <p>An activity could be: Presentation, Exercise, Discussion, Icebreaker, Wrap-up, etc. and is to be indicated with proper title to be easily referred to.</p> <p>The main objective of the activity is also to be specified.</p>	<p>Specific materials to be used for the different is to be specified, for example: worksheet, handout, flip chart, coloured stickers, online application, videos, etc.</p>	<p>A brief description of the activity, its choreography for participants or trainers to be indicated.</p> <p>Anything that will be needed is to be mentioned here.</p> <p>(This section concerns only the trainers' and SPA/RAC agenda.)</p>	<p>Every responsible(s) for each activity is to be specified.</p> <p>(This section concerns only the trainers' and SPA/RAC agenda.)</p>

27. Worth mentioning that a dedicated session for debriefing at the end of each day is to be scheduled, and it concerns the facilitators, organisers, and some selected participants (mentors). The aim of this session is to reflect on the whole day, specify the good and challenging things faced during the delivery of the training, in order to overcome or adjust them as necessary for the following day.

**6.2.2. Background documents**

28. Background documents will support the trainers in the delivery of the training and its content.

29. These documents to be prepared are the following:

- **Workbook:** this intends to illustrate the different elements communicated during the presentations, with more detailed information, definitions, and relevant examples and case studies. The workbook is a life-long tool that participants could refer to once the training finishes. The workbook should cover all the content and aspects detailed in the agenda.
- **Worksheets:** the participants are to be asked to do some exercises prior or after introducing some knowledge. Worksheet should be thus a support material to present the exercise, its objective, any useful tips and steps. Participants can answer directly the exercise on the worksheet both in individual or group exercises. However, interactive and innovative exercises are encouraged, such as: role play, manual work, storytelling, etc. The worksheets are to be annexed to the workbook.
- **Handouts:** useful concise tool for participants to better understand any introduced knowledge presented or to accompany worksheets. These could be annexed to the workbook.

30. These documents are to be submitted to SPA/RAC in an editable format (e.g., Microsoft Word, or Google Doc). The Workbook and Handouts are to be shared with the participants in PDF format, and the worksheet in editable format.

### **6.2.3. PowerPoint presentations**

31. PowerPoint presentations are practical tools that facilitate the trainers' mission in presenting and sharing the trainings content.

32. This tool should cover the aspects detailed in the workbook, in a clear and concise way. Trainers would give more details and explanations orally.

### **6.2.4. Training evaluation**

33. An evaluation sheet is to be prepared for the participants in order to allow them evaluating the different parts of the course content and delivery.

34. A detailed evaluation report is also to be prepared by the trainees based on the analysis of the participants evaluations.

## **6.3. Training of Trainers Programme**

35. The Training of Trainers programme aims to give further guidance to some targeted participants of the training workshops, hereafter referred to as 'Mentors'. These mentors are to be identified and targeted by SPA/RAC. One mentor from each country will be appointed.

36. The selection of these mentors will be based on the following criteria:

- Excellent understanding of the challenges related to the training workshop topic.
- Good professional relationships with the existing MPA management bodies and with institutions, organizations or authorities related to marine and coastal management and protection in their country.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- A good working knowledge of English and/or French is required.

37. The ultimate objective of a mentor is to support and help participants coming from the same country during the training workshop and guide and advise them in preparing, drafting and delivering a tailor-made project in their MPAs/countries, during which they apply the knowledge and skills gained during the training workshop.

38. The mentors will be part of the training workshop participants, and at the same time with the delivery team. They could be consulted to further tailor their contribution to the training, either in plenary sessions, working sessions, and/or field visit.

39. The selected consulting team (trainers) is asked to prepare and organise a specific 'warm-up workshop' for the mentors, in order to help them enhance their communication, training and coaching skills.

40. Necessary working documents for the warm-up workshop to the mentors to be prepared should include:

Skill	Objective	Need
<b>Communication skills</b>	Learn basic communication skill related to the training delivery, including public speaking	- Power Point presentations - Body language and communication - Build and convey a message - Storytelling - Gender-sensitive communication
<b>Training skills</b>	Learn advanced skills to manage participants to training workshops, which included planning and organising training	- Roles and responsibilities of the trainer - Training multicultural participants - Skills for facilitating active learning - Understand group dynamics and team building - Examples of icebreakers - Gender-sensitive communication
<b>Coaching skills</b>	Learn some basic skills needed to coach and guide participants	- Coaching skills - Empowering skills - Leadership skills - Conducting successful group discussions - Team management - Conflict resolution - working with difficult people - Gender-sensitive communication

41. This warm-up workshop is to be organized back-to-back with (before) the regional training workshop during about one day. Mentors will thus be able to apply the learned skills during their contribution to the training workshop and in particular when mentoring the participants of their country to help them prepare and deliver the tailor-made project (post-training implementation activities).

#### **6.4. Post-training implementation activities**

42. The post-training implementation activities (implemented through implementation agreements) are an opportunity for the participants of the training workshops, in which they can propose, prepare and deliver a tailor-made project in their respective countries/MPAs, and during which they will apply the knowledge and skills gained during the training. The mentor is a key player in this action as they will be guiding and advising participants from their country in the setting up and implementation of their project. At least one expert from the consulting team (trainers) is asked to also follow up and guide the participants in this action.

43. Participants from Morocco and Tunisia are targeted to be offered an implementation agreement opportunity for post-training implementation activities, as required by the IMAP-MPA project. However, the Implementation agreement opportunity would be extended to all the training workshop participants in case of budget availability.

44. A follow-up programme is to be set up, in order to guide and closely work with the selected participants.

45. The objective of this action is to capitalize on the knowledge and skills acquired in the training workshop and assist the participants to apply them through a project proposal in their respective countries/MPAs.

## 7. Conditions for participation in the consultancy

46. Are eligible for the consultancy call: consulting firms, individual consultants, NGOs, universities, and research institutions.
47. Individual consultants may associate with each other to form a consultant association to complement their respective areas of expertise, or for other reasons.
48. The training team should be composed of at least four consultants, with a clearly identified leader who will be the legal representative of the consultant association.
49. It is worthy to mention that proposing a **gender-balanced team** for the consultancy is highly recommended.

## 8. Experts profile requirements

50. The consultancy is divided in two lots:
- The first lot concerns the elaboration of all required deliverables and the delivery of the training course 1: MPA effective management and sustainable financing (i.e. Lot 1).
  - The second lot concerns the elaboration of all required deliverables and the delivery of the training course 2: Socio-economic sustainability of MPAs (i.e. Lot 2).
51. Bidders can submit offers for the “1<sup>st</sup> lot” or for the “2<sup>nd</sup> lot”.
52. Bidders intending to submit for both lots, should present separate technical (and financial) offers for both lots, which entails, among other, proposals of two separate teams.
53. The consulting team should be composed by at least 4 experts.
- The team leader** being a professional trainer or capacity building specialist who will be the main expert in charge of the design of the training course and drafting the training materials, coaching some selected participants (mentors), as well as guiding participants during the post-training implementation activities (close follow-up with participants in proposing and delivering tailored projects in their countries based on the knowledge and skills gained during the training course). The team leader should have thus communication, facilitation, training and coaching skills that will allow him planning and delivering the capacity building programme.
  - 3 or more thematic experts** with specific knowledge in topics related to the MPA conservation and management. The different profiles are specified in the following lots (Lot 1 and Lot 2).

### 8.1. Lot 1: Training course 1 on MPA effective management and sustainable financing

54. At least four (04) experts are needed to develop and deliver the training course 1, with the following profile requirements:
- Expert 1 - Team leader:** Senior training and capacity building Specialist, Training programme Coordinator or Professional Facilitator, with proven extensive experience (at least 15 years) in conducting regional training workshops, which include design, planning, organising, and facilitating training workshops. Experience in one-to-one coaching and supervising new trainer participants in implementing training follow-up projects, as well as

development of Training of Trainers courses is also required. Experience in leading a team for designing and delivering training workshops is required. The team leader has to have general knowledge on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, and to master English or French. Proven facilitation, communication, training and coaching skills and experience are required.

- **Expert 2 - Management expert:** The Expert 2 has to have an excellent knowledge on Marine Protected Areas planning and management in the Mediterranean, in other seas or at global level. The expert should be familiar with the challenges, success stories of MPAs. Studies or professional experience (at least 15 years) on related topic is required. Experience on the field as MPA stakeholder is an asset. Proven facilitation and communication skills and experience are required.
- **Expert 3 - Management expert:** The Expert 3 has to have an excellent knowledge on Marine Protected Areas planning and management in the Mediterranean, in other seas or at global level. The expert should be familiar with the challenges, success stories of MPAs as well as barriers women face in participating in MPA's management. Studies or professional experience (at least 7 years) on related topic is required. Experience on the field as MPA stakeholder is an asset. Proven facilitation and communication skills and experience are required.
- **Expert 4 - Financing expert:** The expert 4 has to have excellent knowledge of MPA financing mechanisms, sustainable and innovative financing, and fundraising (at least 10 years). Experience in conducting studies, trainings and knowledge on MPA sustainable financing mechanisms and fundraising are an asset. Proven facilitation and communication skills and experience are required.

55. A Gender-balanced team is an asset.

## **8.2. Lot 2: Training course 2 on socio-economic sustainability of MPAs**

56. At least four (04) experts are needed to develop and deliver the training course 2, with the following profile requirements:

- **Expert 1 - Team leader:** Senior training and capacity building Specialist, Training programme Coordinator or Professional Facilitator, with proven extensive experience (at least 15 years) in conducting regional training workshops, which include design, planning, organising, and facilitating training workshops. Experience in one-to-one coaching and supervising new trainer participants in implementing training follow-up projects, as well as development of Training of Trainers courses is also required. Experience in leading a team for designing and delivering training workshops is required. The team leader has to have general knowledge on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, and to master English or French. Proven facilitation, communication, training and coaching skills and experience are required.
- **Expert 2 - Socio-economic/Gender expert:** Senior socio-economic/gender Specialist, with proven experience (at least 10 years) on socio-economic aspect, fisheries or related field of Marine Protected Areas in The Mediterranean or other seas and experience on integrating gender perspectives in programmes and trainings. Proven facilitation and communication skills and experience are required.
- **Expert 3 - Tourism expert:** Senior marine environment conservation expert or MPA tourism specialist, with proven experience (at least 10 years) on socio-economic aspects and preferably on tourism in MPAs. Proven facilitation and communication skills and experience are required.

- **Expert 4 - Nature-based solution expert:** Senior marine environment expert or Nature-based solution specialist, with proven experience (at least 7 years) on nature-based solution for MPAs in the Mediterranean, other seas or at regional level. Proven facilitation and communication skills and experience are required.

57. A Gender-balanced team is an asset.

## **9. Trainings format**

58. Taking into consideration the unclear future situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, two options for delivering the trainings are envisaged: presential or hybrid training workshops.

IMPORTANT: for both cases, the expected materials should be adequate for both formats.

### ***9.1. Presential workshop***

59. The training will be a face-to-face workshop:

- 5-day workshop trainings, including a one-day field trip for each training.
- The workshops are expected to take place in a Mediterranean MPA.

### ***9.2. Hybrid workshop***

60. If traveling will not be possible because of the sanitary conditions in the scheduled trainings dates, the training will be delivered totally online. This format will include the equivalent of 4 days to be held online workshop.

61. Noteworthy that SPA/RAC can make available a professional online platform (i.e., Zoom), which could be suitable to hold the training.

62. Once the sanitary conditions will be convenient to travel after, a presential mini training of 1 day and half and a field trip could be scheduled.

## **10. Language**

63. English and French are the working languages of the training workshops. The team of consultants should master at least one of the working languages. Mastering both languages is an asset. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French.

64. The expected deliverables are to be delivered in one of the two languages (either French or English). These will be translated by the SPA/RAC to the other language.



## 11. Tentative calendar and potential venues

Title of workshop	Tentative dates	Potential venue	Duration
<p><b>Training course 1: EMPOWERED MPA</b></p> <p>Training on effective management and innovative funding of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas</p>	<p>End of September 2021</p>	<p>- Scandola marine Reserve – France</p> <p>or</p> <p>- Medes Islands – Spain</p> <p>or</p> <p>Portofino MPA - Italy</p>	<p>5 days, including 1 day of a field visit if presential workshop</p>
<p><b>Training course 2: THRIVING MPAs</b></p> <p>Training on Socio-Economic sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas</p>	<p>End of October 2021</p>	<p>- Gökova MPA – Turkey</p> <p>or</p> <p>- Kas kekova – Turkey</p>	<p>5 days including, 1 day for a field visit if presential workshop</p>