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EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project Document

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2021

Project Document

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

(IMAP-MPA Project)

Project Executive Summary

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 done through the monitoring and assessment of environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, including MPAs, in a comparative and integrated manner.

The project also proposes to enhance MPA management through coordinated implementation of the MAP Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, as well as enhance the integration of the Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in this process. The IMAP-MPA Project will strengthen IMAP implementation and further develop the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, inter-connected, effectively managed and monitored MPAs. This will be achieved through improving national monitoring biodiversity-related governance and policies; preparing and implementing management plans for MPAs and improving MPA management with targeted actions. Furthermore, the project will support the monitoring and assessment 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.

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.

The IMAP-MPA Project is expected to be executed over 42 months, from July 2019 to December 2022, with an overall budget of EUR 4,000,000, and adds value to the achievements of the EU funded EcAp-MED II and MedMPA Network as well as Marine Litter MED projects. These goals provide an important contribution to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme within the Ecosystem Approach and its SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, their obligations, policies and commitments, and contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation as well as to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

GPGC	Global Public Goods and Challenges
Green MED III	European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) South regional environment and water programme 2018-2022
HCEFLCD	Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification (High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, Morocco)
Horizon 2020 Initiative	The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution.
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LBS	Land-based sources
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria
IMELS	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
INFO/RAC	Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre
INPA	Israel National Park Authority
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN ROWA	International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated or Unreported (fishing)
LBS	Land-based Sources
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
Marine Litter MED	EU funded Project assisting the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MedPAN	Network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean
MedPartnership	Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem
MED POL	Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme
MED QSR	Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean
MedMPA Network project	EU (DG NEAR) funded project “Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas”
MEER	Ministère de l’Environnement et des Énergies Renouvelables (Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Algeria)
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme
ML	Marine Litter
MLRP	Marine Litter Regional Plan
MoE	Ministry of Environment (Lebanon)
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
MTS	Mid-Term Strategy
NIS	Non-indigenous species
OECM	Other Effective areas-based Conservation Measure
PAP/RAC	Priority Action Plan Regional Activity Centre

PAGoDA	Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement
Plan Bleu	Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PoW	Programme of Work
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SAP BIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region
SAP MED	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land Based Activities
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SEIS-MEDII project	The SEIS-MEDII project aims to promote SEIS principles in the European Neighbourhood South and East regions.
Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties	Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties which are EU Southern Neighborhood Countries[1] (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia)
Southern Neighborhood Countries	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine[2], Syria and Tunisia
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPA/BD	Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
SPAMI	Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
SPI	Science-policy interface
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
TRIX	TRophical IndeX for marine systems
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP / UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UN Environment/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan
UN Environment/MAP Components	UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Regional Activity Centres and Programmes (i.e. MED POL)
UN Environment/MAP system	UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat Coordinating Unit and the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centres
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

[1] Currently, assistance to Syria is suspended under this programme.
[2] This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.

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1 Project Overview

Project title	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
Donor	EU - DG NEAR B2. Regional Programmes Neighborhood South
Financing instrument	Green MED III: ENI South regional environment and water programme 2018-2022
Overall budget	3,999,660 EUR
Implementing Agency	UN Environment
Executing Agency and Project Management	UN Environment/MAP
Partner Agency	SPA/RAC
Duration	42 months[3]
Beneficiary countries[4]	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya[5], Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

[3] It is proposed that the IMAP Component starts as soon as the contract is signed and the MPA Component starts in October 2019, i.e. after the completion of the ongoing EU-funded MedMPA Network project expected in September 2019. This will avoid double financing between the MedMPA Network and IMAP-MPA projects, while not causing delays in the ongoing IMAP process and EcAp Roadmap under the Barcelona Convention.

[4] All EU Southern Neighborhood countries are beneficiaries of this project. Some specific activities however, which need to build on earlier implementation efforts and ownership of Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, following up on the output of previous EU funded projects, such as EcAp-MED II or MedMPA Network projects, will only target selected beneficiary countries. This approach is also necessary due to budget constraints and practical considerations (for example Jordan does not have a Mediterranean coastline, some project activities as such cannot target it). Jordan and Palestine, who are not Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will only participate in activities which are not related to specific Barcelona Convention implementation duties, but more related to exchange of best practices. Furthermore, practical, on the ground activities, which build on the achievements of the MedMPA Network project, will be focused on countries which have shown the most ownership during the implementation of the MedMPA Network project.

[5] In case the implementation of planned activities in Libya would not be feasible for cause external to the project, the planned activities and related budget will be allocated to other eligible countries and activities.

2 Introduction

The Mediterranean Sea is considered as a biodiversity hotspot, comprising 7% to 9% of the planet's known marine and coastal species diversity. At the same time, the Mediterranean is threatened by human activities such as fishing, aquaculture, chemical pollution, maritime traffic, offshore industry and sewage discharges which are the most common sources of human impacts that affect biodiversity and the services it provides, at a regional scale.

Over the past '40' years, the MAP Barcelona convention system has enabled the conditions for a regional cooperation amongst the Mediterranean countries and the European Union for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions. The adoption of the Barcelona Convention in 1976 and its Protocols represents the first legally binding instrument in the region, the implementation of which, is supported through various programmes and projects.

The European Union has in place Marine and Coastal Policies based on EU legislation aiming towards achievement of Good Environmental Status based on ecosystem approach. The UfM have also launched several initiatives for work to support cooperation on a regional scale in the Mediterranean, including in the field of marine and coastal environmental protection. The adoption of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the European Union (EU) in 2008 as an important milestone for strengthening marine policies based on regional cooperation. EuroMED Horizon 2020 Initiative in 2006, (Renewed as the UfM Initiative in 2014), for a healthy and clean Mediterranean, constitute an important policy-driving forces in the region for the protection of the marine and coastal environment. It is important to note as well that in January 2018, the EU adopted the European Strategy for Plastics as part of the Circular Economy package aiming to reduce the quantity of plastics that end up in the oceans every year.

In 2008, with the ultimate objective of achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and coast, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Roadmap (COP 15, Almeria, Spain) to be implemented in synergy with EU MSFD. This was followed in 2012 (COP 17, Paris, France) by the adoption of 11 Ecological Objectives (EOs) associated by Operational objectives, GES definitions and Indicators.

A major EcAp Roadmap achievement milestone has been the adoption at the COP 19, 2016 (Athens, Greece), of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria (Decision IG.22/7 on IMAP). The IMAP sets out all the required elements that are necessary for the establishment of a primary, region-wide Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme. This system, for the first time, and based on region-wide common indicators, covers an integrated monitoring and assessment of three clusters: (i) biodiversity and fisheries; (ii) pollution and marine litter; and (iii) coast and hydrography.

UN Environment/MAP published the first assessment in the publication '2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED 2017 QSR)'. This included information on the status of the marine and coastal environment in relation to Good Environmental Status (GES) and addressed most of

the MAP ecological Objectives and IMAP indicators. The exercise resulted in recognizing a number of challenges that are still to be addressed on the path to Quality Status Report of 2023.

The decision taken IG.23/6 (COP 20, Albania 2017) on the MED 2017QSR which acknowledges achievements and lessons learnt, also points out several gaps and therefore recommends the following general directions for future work with a view to both fostering the implementation of IMAP, as well as the preparation of the next QSR in 2023:

(i) harmonization and standardization of IMAP monitoring and assessment methods;
(ii) improvement of availability and ensuring of long time-series, quality-assured data to monitor the trends in the status of the marine environment;
(iii) improvement in the availability of the synchronized datasets for the state of the marine environment assessment, including the use of data stored in other databases where some of the Mediterranean countries regularly contribute;
(iv) improvement of data accessibility with the view to improving knowledge on the Mediterranean marine environment and ensuring that the Info-MAP System is operational and continuously upgraded. This is important to accommodate data submissions for all the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Common Indicators (CIs).

To operationalize the implementation of the above-mentioned Decision (IG.23/6), UN Environment/MAP prepared a roadmap for the next MED QSR report in 2023 which aims to deliver the following main outputs:

- Integrated assessment of GES through the analysis of inter-actions between sectors, activities, pressures, as well as the defining of mapping process for IMAP CIs;
- Scales of monitoring assessment and reporting for all IMAP Common Indicators clustered per Ecological Objectives proposed (2021-2022), and as per assessment criteria/ thresholds/ baseline values proposed/ updated for IMAP CIs (2020-2021);
- Full implementation of national IMAPs throughout the Mediterranean supported through country capacity building and technical assistance delivered in the form of training workshops in areas of common capacity needs and knowledge gaps (2019-2021);
- Application of monitoring protocols, data quality assurance and quality control through IMAP data and information policy and the operational IMAP Info System for reporting data; and
- Visibility and Outreach through agreements made with Regional Partners (2020), and through ongoing meetings (2019-2020)

The MED 2017 QSR identified that habitat loss and degradation, followed by fishing, pollution, climate change, eutrophication, and invasive alien species, are presently the most significant threats to GES. These threats affect the greatest number of taxonomic groups. Their resulting impacts are expected to grow in importance in the future, especially climate change and habitat degradation.

In line with the Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, UN Environment/MAP adopted in 2016 the Roadmap for a ‘Comprehensive Coherent

Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean (COP 19, Athens, Greece, 2016). This Roadmap aims to achieve four objectives:

- Objective 1: Strengthening of the networks for protected areas at national and Mediterranean levels, including in the high seas and in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), as a contribution to the relevant globally agreed goals and targets;
- Objective 2: Improvement of the Mediterranean network of MPAs through effective and equitable management;
- Objective 3: Promotion for the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits of Mediterranean MPAs, as well as the integration of MPAs into the broader context of sustainable use of the marine environment and the implementation of the ecosystem and marine spatial planning approaches; and
- Objective 4: Ensure the stability of the Mediterranean MPA network by enhancing their financial sustainability.

The MED 2017 QSR indicated that 7.14% of the Mediterranean Sea was covered by MPAs and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). It is also known that the number of designated MPAs increased almost '3'times over the previous fifteen years; however, it should be noted that fully protected MPAs increased less rapidly. The result today is that only 0.04% of the Mediterranean is fully protected.

Some of the key challenges which relate to the strengthening of management in existing MPAs, as well as in the creation of new ones, include the following:

(i) the Mediterranean system of MPAs is not based on ecological representativeness and connectivity;
(ii) most existing marine protected areas are currently coastal; and
(iii) lack of effective management and sustainable financing as well as effective coordination among its stakeholders.

To address the above-mentioned challenges, the MED 2017 QSR recommends among others, the following actions:

(i) Since most MPAs are concentrated in the North-Central Mediterranean Sea, there is a need to increase the geographical coverage of protection, establish new areas of MPAs (and then networks of MPAs) in the Southern and Eastern parts of the Mediterranean Sea, with the aim of achieving Aichi Target 11;
(ii) The use of MPA networks should be considered as a reference to assess the achievement of GES. However, there is a need to achieve GES for the entire Mediterranean and coast to avoid any risk from increased pressures caused by activities outside MPAs, causing sensitive habitats to become more exposed; and
(iii) The current assessments clearly indicate that much more progress and management of pressures need to be undertaken to progress to achieve GES by 2020.

The MED 2017 QSR clearly asks for an increased level of MPA establishment as well as efficient management. In addition, the MED 2017 QSR points out that a more integrated approach between

management and assessment is required, i.e., shifting from mainly habitat-based conservation approaches towards approaches which are more focused on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning with a view to sustaining the management and conservation of marine ecosystems in the long-term. This new innovative approach would contribute to strengthening the management of MPAs and increasing their number, whilst also in parallel allow for the assessment of their management effectiveness using common regional IMAP indicators.

There is an urgent need to address the above-mentioned specific challenges and MED 2017 QSR recommendations. The work could build on the ongoing efforts of the Mediterranean Contracting Parties to achieve Aichi 11, GES of the Mediterranean Sea and coast within the framework of the Barcelona Convention. This is consistent with the work being undertaken within ongoing EU funded projects like the MedMPA Network, EcAp-MED II, Marine Litter MED and SEIS-MED II projects. In this respect lessons learnt by the implementation of ongoing EU funded MedMPA and EcAp-MED II projects combined with the IMAP implementation at national levels are specifically very valuable.

Without additional support, achievement of GES will not be possible in the region, neither the progress towards Aichi Target 11, nor the development of a sound, data-based MED 2023 QSR.

The current project will build primarily upon and add-value to the following:

(i) the lessons learned in the MedPartnership and MedMPA Network projects to support MPAs to replicate results and best practices, whilst moving at the same time towards an operational phase where stakeholders are fully engaged in decision-making processes and where MPAs start to demonstrate their ecological, social and economic benefits; and

(ii) the outputs of the EcAp MED II EU funded project which is close to its termination (30th June 2019) and which has resulted in the development of national integrated monitoring programmes in line with regional IMAP common indicators in all project beneficiary countries.

Finally, to achieve the Aichi Targets in the Mediterranean, there is a need for stronger political commitment as well as greater cooperation and new governance approaches. This project proposes to deliver on all aspects as outlined above.

3 Project Description

The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources. It promotes conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in an equitable way. Since 2008 UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention has integrated the EcAp as an overarching principle of its work in synergy with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), with the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast[6]. To this aim, the EcAp Implementation Roadmap, adopted by COP 15 of the Barcelona Convention, included several major steps starting with: a) an initial assessment of marine environment main features (As carried out in 2011 and further achieved with the MED 2017 QSR); b) the adoption of Mediterranean Sea and Coast Ecological Objectives (EOs) associated with operational objectives and GES definitions as well as a list of Indicators (11 EOs and corresponding 28 Operational objectives and GES definition and their 27 common indicators adopted in 2012 by COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention); c) the establishment and implementation of integrated monitoring programmes which address all Ecological objectives (IMAP was adopted by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention, currently under implementation by the Contracting Parties at national level); and finally d) the revision of existing or adoption of new programmes of measures taking into account the socio-economic and cost benefits aspects to achieve GES which address pollution reduction and prevention, biodiversity, ICZM, spatial protection measures including MPAs, in an integrated manner.

The implementation of the EcAp Roadmap is subject to a 6-year cycle of review and update. EU funded projects such as EcAp-MED I, EcAp-MED II, ENI SEIS and MedMPA Network, have been instrumental in ensuring a consistent and harmonized implementation of the EcAp Roadmap with a particular focus on IMAP implementation as well as on the measures which are related to the establishment and strengthening of MPAs in the Mediterranean and adding to their coherence and also to their visibility, i.e., representation level.

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

On the regional level, progress is noted with regard to the update of the pollution assessment criteria and thresholds; development of factsheets for all IMAP common Indicators, their assessment as part of the MED 2017 QSR; establishment of a pilot information system for 10 selected IMAP common indicators; enhanced science-policy interface with regard to IMAP implementation and enabling the conditions for addressing in an harmonized manner a number of cross-cutting issues related to scale of reporting assessment and integrated assessment of GES.

The EU funded projects namely EcAp-MED II and the 'ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism' have contributed to the development of a 'Shared Environmental Information System' for IMAP

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

and H2020 indicators. These are fully complementary and establish a close link between state and impact indicators (IMAP indicators) with drivers and pressures (H2020 indicators). This will support the regular production and sharing of quality assessed environmental data, indicators and information. As such, both sets of common indicators will allow for an integrated assessment of GES. Population with data and their upload in IMAP and SEIS information systems will facilitate the future preparation of integrated assessment reports based on DPSIR approach, thus filling the data gap for MED 2023 QSR consistent with the relevant recommendations and guidance provided by Decision IG.23/6 on the MED 2017QSR (COP 20, Albania 2017).

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

Various funding mechanisms were identified through the EU funded EcAp-MED II project in its delivery of 'EcAp Funding Strategy'. This strategy analyzed and identified the available resources for key requirements in IMAP on the ground implementation including the specific needs of Southern Mediterranean countries.

The proposed activities outlined in this project proposal aim to ensure that additional support is provided for the national implementation of IMAP, and for the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on four clusters: pollution, litter, biodiversity and NIS, and hydrography by the seven eligible Contracting Parties. Funding is also needed to enable the development and implementation of integrated monitoring programmes at the sub-regional level which address the same above-mentioned IMAP clusters, and particularly in areas which are known to be under human activity pressure. To do so, the project will enhance the level of capacity in each country to facilitate the implementation of the system and the report of reliable data for the IMAP common indicators. The project will then support the implementation of a harmonized monitoring and assessment of IMAP common indicators of the three clusters: (i) biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species, (ii) pollution and marine litter and (iii) hydrography.

The importance of area-based management measures has been recognized as part of the international and UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention agenda. Indeed, the advancement of marine conservation, particularly through Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), has been an important priority in the Mediterranean, for at least the past two decades. The Barcelona Convention and its SPA/BD Protocol have played an instrumental role, for a multitude of MPA initiatives in the region. It must be noted that several regional actors have increased their efforts to support the achievement of Aichi Targets in the Mediterranean. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted in 2009 the "Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea", and in 2016, the "Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi

Target 11[7] in the Mediterranean". Of major importance to these efforts will be the contribution to developing the Mediterranean MPA network, mainly through the boosting of MPA creation and management.

During the last decade, and thanks to the EU-funded MedMPAnet (MedPartnership) and MedMPA Network projects, SPA/RAC of the UN Environment MAP was able to support the regional MPA network in its attainment of the following goals:

- identification of 27 priority areas of conservation interest, their listing and their ecologically assessment were undertaken for the creation of national MPA networks in Croatia, Lebanon, Morocco and Montenegro;
- ecological and socio-economic characterization, zoning and management planning of 7 new/future MPAs in Albania (Porto Palermo Bay), Algeria (Réghaia), Egypt (Sallum Bay) Morocco (Cap des Trois Fourches, and Jbel Moussa) and Tunisia (Kuriat Islands, and the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands); and
- Declaration of 9 MPAs (totaling a surface of 207,791 ha of marine waters) by six Mediterranean countries: Porto Palermo Bay (Albania), Réghaia (Algeria), Ras Chekaa and Naqoura (Lebanon), Ain Al-Ghazala (Libya), Cap des Trois Fourches and Jbel Moussa (Morocco), Kuriat Islands and the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia).

The factors which have been found necessary for the success of MPAs include business plans, dedicated and trained management teams, communication and knowledge of the socio-economic benefits assessed and improved, technical workshops and conferences convened at regional level, in addition to the carrying out of regional assessments, and production of guidelines and technical tools. However, despite the progress achieved, there is a need for further work designed to trigger and boost at country level, the sustainability mechanisms which facilitate the declaration of new MPAs, the extension of existing ones, the establishment of MPA national strategies and MPA management effectiveness. In close connection with these factors, there is a requirement to update national marine conservation laws and policies in line with the development of financial strategies for the establishment and effective management and sustainability of MPAs.

The current project whilst helping to maintain the momentum, will further support the replication of results and best practices in MPAs. In addition, the project proposes to facilitate movement towards a more operational phase, i.e., where stakeholders are fully engaged in any decision-making process. By adopting this approach, MPAs will more clearly start to demonstrate their ecological, social and economic benefit to society.

Finally, the project will enable the development of a new strategic document on MPAs and will include other effective, area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean.

[7] Aichi Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

The activities proposed under the present project plan to achieve the above outlined objectives, and in so doing, will build on the achievements of the MedPartnership (the EU had funded its biodiversity component) and the MedMPA Network projects.

The project is composed of two substantive components, which are complemented by a project management component:

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

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

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

Project Global Outcome (Impact)

The global objective and expected impact of the project is to contribute towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean. This will be achieved through a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs as well as through the setting up of mechanisms which ensure reliable, regionally agreed assessment of these MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast. As such, the project will provide a significant contribution towards achieving a high level of sustainable development in this region.

Project Implementation Arrangements

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

- UN Environment: Implementing Agency;
- UN Environment/MAP: Executing Agency / Project Manager
- UN Environment/MAP MED POL Programme executing activities related to IMAP implementation;
- SPA/RAC: Executing Partner for activities related to the biodiversity component of IMAP implementation and activities related to MPA.

Project implementing, executing and partner agencies

UN Environment: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, also known as UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental

agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP's mission is "to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations." UN Environment achieves its mandate through several mechanisms which including the following:

- Promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment and recommending appropriate policies;
- Monitoring the status of the global environment and gathering and disseminating environmental information;
- Catalyzing environmental awareness and action to address major environmental threats among governments, the private sector and civil society;
- Facilitating the coordination of UN activities on matters concerned with the environment, and ensuring, through cooperation, liaison and participation, that their activities take environmental considerations into account;
- Developing regional programmes for the purpose of maintaining/ improving environmental sustainability;
- Providing assistance when requested, to environment ministries and other environmental authorities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to formulate and implement environmental policies;
- Providing country-level environmental capacity building and technology support;
- Helping to develop international environmental law and providing expert advice on the development and use of environmental concepts and instruments.

UN Environment/MAP: In 1975, three years after the Stockholm Ministerial Conference that set up the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 16 Mediterranean countries and the European Community adopted the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The MAP vision is "A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations". UN Environment/MAP is a regional cooperative framework and a unique, legally-binding, regional instruments which involves '21' countries both those bordering the Mediterranean Sea, and the European Union. MAP work focuses on pollution reduction and prevention, biodiversity conservation, establishment of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and climate change. The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is the overarching principle of MAP work.

In 1976, the Contracting Parties of the MAP adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention).

There are seven Protocols that together, comprise the MAP legal framework. These address specific aspects of Mediterranean environmental conservation and are listed as follows:

- Dumping Protocol (from ships and aircraft);
- Prevention and Emergency Protocol (pollution from ships and emergency situations);

- Land-based Sources and Activities Protocol;
- Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol;
- Offshore Protocol (pollution from exploration and exploitation);
- Hazardous Wastes Protocol; and
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol (ICZM).

In 1995, the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II), was adopted by the Contracting Parties to replace the Mediterranean Action Plan of 1975. Concurrently, the Contracting Parties adopted an amended version of the Barcelona Convention of 1976, renamed "Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean". Through the MAP, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its '7' Protocols are determined to meet the challenges of protecting the marine and coastal environment, whilst at the same time boosting the regional and national plans to achieve sustainable development.

The Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)

MED POL is the first MAP component/programme established in 1975 as part of UN Environment MAP Coordinating Unit. Its main objective is to contribute towards the prevention and elimination of land-based pollution of the Mediterranean. MED POL assists the Contracting Parties, through the planning and coordination of initiatives and actions. These include the promotion, catalyzation and alignment of investment programmes, with the obligations of the Barcelona Convention and the Dumping, LBS and the Hazardous Wastes Protocols. MED POL also facilitates the implementation of the National Action Plans that seek to address land-based pollution and LBS-related legally binding programmes and action plans. These mechanisms continuously assess the status and trends of pollution in the Mediterranean. The collated information is used for the achievement of GES and is related to the ecological objectives for marine pollution, including litter and noise pollutants

The main fields of ongoing actions in this programme include the following:

- assessing the status and trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment including health-related aspects of marine pollution;
- promoting policy reforms for the implementation of national action plans, including programmes and measures, for the reduction and gradual elimination of pollution, the mitigation of the impacts of pollution and the restoration of systems damaged by pollution;
- catalyzing and facilitating the realization by countries of the pollution reduction actions listed in their National Action Plans by bridging between countries and international and regional donors and financial institutions;
- regularly assessing the pollution loads that reach the Mediterranean, and determining the trends in coastal areas including the identification of pollution hot spots;
- collecting, analyzing and disseminating data and information on pressures and state of the marine and coastal environment; and
- capacity building and technical assistance to support the Contracting Parties in the above areas.

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in Tunis in 1985 through a decision taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It aims to contribute to the protection and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value, including threatened species and ecosystems. Its core mission is to assist the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in order to meet their obligations under the SPA/BD Protocol which concerns Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

In this context, the main activities of SPA/RAC include the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas, conducting scientific and technical research, preparing educational material, creating and updating databases, elaborating guidelines and studies, implementing training programmes, exchanging information, and cooperating with regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The mission, scope of action and SPA/RAC's longstanding experience of in leading and implementing multi-partner international projects in the Mediterranean, places it in an ideal position to commit as an active key partner in the IMAP-MPA project.

Project link to MAP programme of work and project management

The UN Environment/MAP 2016-2021 Mid Term Strategy, its current Programme of Work (PoW) 2018-2019 and Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) biennial budget covers the 2018-2019 period. The EcAp/IMAP and MPA related activities of the PoW funded by MTF complement the project proposal regarding its objectives and outcomes. The future PoW for the next biennia, as adopted by the upcoming COP 21, currently under elaboration, include specific activities which are related to IMAP implementation and the establishment of MPAs and their management. UN Environment/MAP will ensure that these activities contribute to the objectives outlined in this project proposal including those relevant under the MED Programme funded by GEF and make every effort to maximize synergies.

The project proposal foresees that UN Environment/MAP will coordinate the implementation of the entire project and have a leading and substantive role through its MED POL programme on the IMAP project component implementation. SPA/RAC will have a substantive leading role in the implementation of the MPA Component of the project as well as having a role in the implementation of IMAP in MPAs under the overall guidance of UN/Environment MAP.

The project will be managed by UN Environment/MAP who will be responsible for the preparation of financial reports, annual substantial reports, organization of Steering Committee Meetings, development of the project work plans, and the related mitigation and risk management plans.

4 Project Outcomes and Activities

Project Outcomes

The project will strengthen and further develop the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, inter-connected and effectively managed MPAs. It will also support the achievement of GES as well as the assessment of progress towards GES.

This will be achieved through the following Components, each of which include their respective Outcomes and Outputs.

Under Component 1 – Promotion and support of IMAP implementation at 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;

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.

Under component 2 – Improvement and support of the development of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed and monitored MPAs to achieve Aichi biodiversity target in the Mediterranean:

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

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

Under component 3 – Effective project management ensured for guidance during the project as well coordination for overall project implementation:

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

In duly justified circumstances, and to ensure coherence and effectiveness of the European Union financing mechanism, or to foster regional cooperation, the eligibility of specific activities may be extended to the Mediterranean countries neighboring the Neighbourhood South region[8].

[8] The countries neighboring the Neighbourhood South region are: **Albania**, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Montenegro**, **Turkey**, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, non-autonomous territory of Western Sahara (Mediterranean riparian countries are highlighted in bold type).

It is important therefore that EU Delegations in the project beneficiary countries are informed of the relevant national activities. It is proposed that the project implementation team members could meet with EU delegations during the occasion of their country missions/visits.

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 IMAP common indicators;

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.

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

With the ultimate objective being Good Ecological Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea as well as strengthened cooperation between the Mediterranean riparian countries, the European Union has long provided support for the implementation of the EcAp.

The EcAp-MED I project (2012-2015) achieved strong country-ownership amongst the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention regarding their commitments to ecosystem approach implementation. This resulted in the agreement to establish a governance mechanism to implement the EcAp and allocate dedicated funding from the Barcelona Convention's Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

The key substantial outcome of the EcAp-MED I project was the main elements of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), which for the first time outlined the harmonized and integrated monitoring and assessment of biodiversity and non-indigenous species, fisheries, coast and hydrography, and pollution and marine litter. However, in addition to this primary key outcome, the project also agreed the mode in which SEIS principles are applied for this monitoring and assessment. Other key outcomes included progress being made in the preparatory works for the identification and establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) in the open seas including the deep seas; and an agreement being made with relevant regional partners to work on a Joint Strategy towards the coordinated implementation of SDG 14, focusing on area-based management measures (e.g., MPAs, SPAMIs, FRAs).

The project has proven to be highly sustainable and has been followed up by UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties, both in relation to policy developments, as well as by regional partners towards the furthering of coordination related to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14).

To further assist the implementation of the EcAp Roadmap and specifically of the IMAP in the Southern Mediterranean, a GPGC financed EcAp-MED II project had been launched in 2015 (2,7 million EUR, 2015-2018- extended).

The main outcome of the EcAp MED II (with already existing drafts for all beneficiary countries), is going to be the development of the national integrated monitoring programmes in all the project beneficiary (Southern Mediterranean) countries. This is due to be finalized by the end of the project.

The project supported a science-policy interface (SPI) and the development of an IMAP-compatible information system, both of which were identified as lacking in the region by the previous EcAp-MED I project.

The EcAp MED II project had also undertaken specific capacity assessments with regard to needs for IMAP implementation in each country. In addition to this, EcAp MED II has developed a Funding Strategy which focuses on the Southern Mediterranean and makes an analysis of potential available funding resources to further EcAp efforts in the region.

The EcAp Funding Strategy resulted from bilateral country level consultation all throughout its development. It was concluded that whilst country ownership is great, full implementation of IMAP by the Southern Mediterranean countries would need support. This support includes specific trainings, sub-regional and regional cooperation and exchange of best practices (both North-South and South-South).

In light of the above, the proposed IMAP-MPA project aims to address challenges related to the second phase of the IMAP (2019-2021), with a particular focus on the integration aspect of national IMAP implementation.

The proposed project would thus aim to follow-up on the existing country specific capacity assessments to further the lessons learnt during the implementation of the EcAp-MED II Project. This will include reference also to all comments, recommendations, and requests made by the Contracting Parties related to their capacity needs. All such items were recorded systematically during the trainings supported by the project and in the UN Environment/MAP Ecosystem Approach relevant meetings, e.g., CorMoNs, EcAp Coordination Group, MAP Components Focal Points meetings, MAP Focal Points meetings.

The Southern Mediterranean countries will be supported to implement monitoring programmes in selected sites. They will be supported to apply common and harmonized monitoring methodologies. Best practices and lessons learnt will be shared across countries at sub-regional and regional levels and respective countries capacities enhanced. Monitoring plans at site level will include more than one common indicator to maximize integrated monitoring and GES assessment to the extent possible. The countries will be supported to apply to the extent possible common assessment methodologies leading to harmonized to the extent possible common integrated GES assessment at national, sub regional and regional levels. Finally, countries will be trained on monitoring data recording and reporting. All these activities will lead to enhanced

capacities of the southern Mediterranean countries for integrated national IMAP implementation at the selected monitoring sites.

Complementary between the IMAP-MAP Project and EcAp Projects

The EcAp MED II Project does not provide integrated national monitoring programmes, but national programmes for three Clusters only: Pollution; Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography The IMAP-MPA Project aims at supporting integration of specific programmes prepared per clusters in order to demonstrate practical applicability of the principles on which IMAP needs to be based. These are: 1) risk-based approach; 2) cost efficiency; and 3) consistency and compatibility between IMAP Cis, all together to ensure holistic IMAP integrated assessment of marine environment.

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
The focus for the current cycle of the EcAp Roadmap (2016-2021), was to develop national monitoring programmes during the initial phase of IMAP (2016-2019) as well as commence implementation (2019-2021). Within the EcAp-MED II project activities, Southern Mediterranean countries updated their national monitoring programmes in line with the IMAP Decision.

Capacity assessments had been undertaken at an early stage within the EcAp-MED II project, through consultation with interested countries with respect to their respective identified specific capacity needs (particularly legislations and equipment) with the view to analyzing the implementation needs specific to the Southern Mediterranean. The results have already highlighted several key gaps in current monitoring methods.

Based on the lessons learned from the EcAp MED II project, and in reference to the above-mentioned consultations, the concerned countries recommended to dedicate the next phase of activity for the strengthening of existing cooperation at sub-regional/regional level and to enhance the integration between IMAP clusters at national levels. Southern Mediterranean countries have specific needs for IMAP implementation, both in relation to capacity building on monitoring, collecting baseline data, purchase of additional necessary equipment and undertake surveying, sampling.

The proposed action would focus on an in-depth analysis of the needs-identified during 2016-2017 per each country as summarized above but further specified with the view to developing a detailed and concrete monitoring plan including the selection of monitoring sites, selection of the parameters and indicators, identification of required methodologies and protocols for their monitoring, defining concrete training needs as well as the monitoring equipment and other materials required for effective monitoring for the selected indicators and parameters per each monitoring site regarding the three clusters: (i) biodiversity and non-indigenous species (NIS); (ii) pollution and marine litter, including microplastics; and (iii) hydrography.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

SPA/RAC and MAP/MED POL[9].

Beneficiary countries:

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

Methodology:

Sites of interest for IMAP implementation will be inventoried using the monitoring guidelines for the common indicators on biodiversity and NIS, pollution and marine litter (including microplastics), and coastal hydrography. While updating their national monitoring programmes, the Contracting Parties included the list of species and habitats for monitoring with at least two monitoring areas within and surrounding MPAs. In addition, and in relation to pollution and marine plastic, the updated IMAPs focused on land-based sources; and for coastal hydrography, the IMAPs benefitted from studies which identified an appropriate resolution.

It is planned that several pilot sites will be selected for monitoring (for both biodiversity and pollution) and these will be identified based on agreed common indicators, drivers and pressures. Several sites will be identified and chosen to ensure a satisfactory level of harmonization among the above-mentioned IMAP clusters so as to deliver quality assured related data. An analysis will be undertaken in cooperation with beneficiary countries to determine which common indicators would be best suited for the integrated monitoring activities of the pilot-stage. In relation to biodiversity and NIS indicators, areas of special interest such as MPAs or lagoons may be selected on a case by case basis, as appropriate and depending upon the proximity areas in which alien species have been introduced, i.e., 'Hot-spots'. A risk-based approach will be adopted for the monitoring of NIS (Ecological Objective 2) and will focus on the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS). This will provide the project with a picture of where such hot spots exist, e.g., ports and their surrounding areas, docks, marinas, aquaculture installations, heated power plant effluents sites, offshore structures.

Expected Deliverables:

- Completion of 7 studies which are complementary to the national IMAPs which will guide the integrated monitoring of IMAP common indicators (Biodiversity, Non-Indigenous Species, Pollution, Litter, Hydrography) both within and surrounding MPAs; including also a reference to the procedures for the submission of reliable and quality assured data to regional data

[9] The support of the national organizations/agencies engaged in the IMAP implementation may be seek during project execution. These national organizations/agencies are: CNL in Algeria, EEAA in Egypt, INPA in Israel, MoE in Lebanon, EGA in Libya, HCEFLD in Morocco, and APAL in Tunisia. In this case, legal agreements and execution modalities with these organizations/agencies will be established during the project execution. These arrangements will be established with full consideration of the applicable UN Environment principles and procedures, including cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

platforms. Those studies will be published as such and proposed as guidance document to the BC contracting parties. They will be as well available on the website of the project.

Expected Results:

- Knowledge built for the implementation of the National IMAPs in each of the 7 beneficiary countries, particularly in relation to its integrated monitoring and assessment aspects of biodiversity and NIS; pollution and marine litter (including microplastics) and coastal hydrography.

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 1.1 is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Estimated budget associated to Outputs 1.1

Activity[10]	Budget (MAP and SPA/RAC)
Activity 1.1 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**91,000**

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

The existing knowledge gaps will be addressed through capacity building, and technical training within the framework of the project. This output will therefore focus on making sure that each country has what it needs to undertake integrated monitoring and assessment. This had been specifically identified both at the national level (specific country needs as identified in national workshops) and at sub-regional and/or regional level, depending on the topic and existing regional/sub-regional recommendations, conclusions (COP Decisions and Guidance documents).

The actions will specifically include dedicated trainings, country missions, 'Train the trainers', exchange of specific best-practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), and assistance in applying the monitoring protocols/policy developments in line with national IMAPs and specific country requirements.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

MAP/MEDPOL[11] and SPA/RAC.

[10] The amounts presented in the table are estimated country needs, based on a potential average cost and geographical scope of the exercise. Cost may vary between countries though for this activity, depending on the areas of monitoring as well as starting points.

[11] The project should work primarily with the Regional Activity Centres that are part of the Barcelona Convention system (such as PAP/RAC). The executing partners and the RACs may engaged, when considered as an added value for the execution of specific activities, the University of Siena or other relevant organizations. In these cases, legal agreements and execution modalities with these organizations/agencies will be established during the project

Beneficiary countries:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (Palestine and Jordan also included in case of country interest/nomination)[12]

Methodology:

Trainings are necessary both at the national, sub-regional and regional level. This had been acknowledged by the Contracting Parties on numerous various occasions, e.g., during bilateral, and official UN Environment/MAP meetings.

National training sessions will address each of the respective country specific needs and will build upon both the results of Output 1.1, as well as on the priorities identified by the beneficiary countries.

Sub-regional work has been identified as a major factor in being able to make progress at the capacity-building level. To this aim, sub-regional work has been incorporated into this project proposal in a new and innovative way and will also include training at this level which would build upon the key findings from the capacity assessments (from output 1.1) and combine these with the priorities as identified by the countries. These workshops aim to tackle the common challenges which are encountered by the participating countries. As such, this work foresees the development of cooperation, including the possibility of joint monitoring between the countries for specific common indicators.

In addition to the above expected results, the training work-shops will complement the work of the CorMONs established under MAP Barcelona Convention and will be a benefit to their work in the facilitating of IMAP implementation at the regional, sub-regional and national level.

Specific actions are as follows:
- Identification of sub-regional expert networks (for the thematic areas for each sub-region);
- Following national country trainings, discussing common challenges, constraints and opportunities (at least 2 trainings per sub-region, per thematic area); and
- Identifying/analyzing options for closer cooperation on sub-regional level and in case of interest, creation of sub-regional platform to ensure further discussions, exchange of best practices on sub-regional level (also to be continued after end-date of project).

execution. These arrangements will be established in full coordination with UNEP/MAP and with full consideration of the applicable UN Environment principles and procedures, including cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

[12] All beneficiary countries, also those, which are not Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Jordan and Palestine) can participate in this project action. Their country representative will be invited to respective sub-regional/regional, in case of interest and willingness of both parties, to national trainings, capacity-building activities.

Further exchange of best practices on a regional level will be also ensured through a best-practices exchange meeting, as well as during targeted exchange programmes between interested countries (i.e., a North-South exchange).

Expected Deliverables:

- 7 country specific trainings (1/Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party, in case of relevance and mutual interest, with participation of Jordan or Palestine);
- At least 4 sub-regional joint trainings for biodiversity and NIS, pollution, marine litter, hydrography (1/sub-region, open to all beneficiary countries and with possible participation, no-cost to the project, but financed by MTF of other countries of the sub-region, including neighboring-the-Neighbourhood Mediterranean countries);
- At least 1 regional meeting to exchange best practices; and
- At least 3 best practices exchange country visits, attended by country monitoring experts.

Expected Results:

- Enhanced capacities on IMAP monitoring, at national, sub-regional and regional levels, with strengthened cooperation between the countries;
- Best practices shared and training on monitoring techniques and reporting requirements provided to stakeholders and MPA managers effectively provided; and
- National IMAPs improved through integration among different IMAP clusters where appropriate

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 1.2 is presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Estimated budget associated to Outputs 1.2

Activity	Budget (MAP and SPA/RAC)
Activity 1.2 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**628,500**

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.

IMAP foresees the monitoring of '23' common indicators and '4' candidate indicators at country-level, with a national obligation to monitor the common indicators and the option to monitor the candidate indicators. These region-wide agreed common indicators follow region-wide agreed protocols, and methodologies, when available. In some cases, methodologies need to be aligned on a regional or even sub-regional level through the exchange of best practices, trainings on methodological outstanding issues.

Several outstanding cross cutting issues could be best addressed on a regional and in other cases, sub-regional level, depending upon the common indicator and the specific monitoring methodology, e.g., for issues such as assessment scale, determination of GES status, and the identification of links between impacts and pressures.

The online expert groups for CorMoN, as well as the EcAp Coordination Group Meetings, have been established by UN Environment/MAP specifically to coordinate and provide guidance for the implementation of IMAP at all levels including on cross cutting issues. The outcomes and recommendations of these meetings are crucial for the success of this project. These factors and the related dedicated budget of the MTF/PoW will be a support to the proposed project and will complement its objectives and outcomes.

While monitoring is ongoing in the framework of MSFD for the Contracting parties which are EU member states, the other Contracting Parties have the obligation to implement national IMAP from 2019 addressing all IMAP clusters as follows:

- Biodiversity (common indicators 1 to 5);
- NIS (common indicator 6);
- Fisheries (common indicators 7 to 12);
- Eutrophication (common indicator 13 and 14);
- Contaminants (common indicators 17 to 21);
- Marine Litter (common indicators 22 to 24);
- Coast (common indicator 16); and
- Hydrography (common indicator 15).

A coordinated and integrated monitoring of marine litter, biodiversity, NIS, fisheries, coast and hydrography common indicators are all new for most of the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties. Additional consideration must also be given to the new aspects of pollution monitoring i.e., eutrophication and contaminants especially in areas which are further offshore from the coast. The biggest and most challenging of which is biodiversity (As identified by all Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties). As such, this is the area where most resources are needed, and specifically trainings where monitoring needs to start from scratch for some indicators.

It is important to note that the national biodiversity IMAPs, as well as the regional IMAP itself make it an obligation to do "comparative" monitoring, in line with IMAP point '36', which states "include at least the monitoring of the reference list of species and habitats with at least two monitoring areas, one in a low pressure area (e.g. marine protected area / Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)) and one in a high pressure area from human activity."

This requirement, which features in all the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties national IMAP's, ensures comparison is made between two selected representative sites, in-line with the risk-based approach, i.e., one site which is in or close to having Good Environmental Status (i.e. MPA/SPAMI) and the other site which would be in an area of high-pressure.

This approach will lead to conclusions in relation to defining appropriate future measures to achieve GES and assess the effectiveness of specific MPAs/SPAMIs in relation to their level of GES. It is important to note that dedicated monitoring activities on biodiversity common indicators alone in each country does not provide enough information for assessing the status of GES. Therefore, this monitoring will also include as appropriate selected pollution and/or marine litter indicators and hydrography to allow a holistic overview to what extent GES had been achieved through protected area designation and management; thus, providing an important 'Bench-mark' for the region.

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

The monitoring undertaken at pilot-level, will be consistent with the national IMAPs which were developed in EcAp-MED II project for each of the beneficiary countries in the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties.

Close cooperation has already been established between the SEIS-MEDII and EcAp-MED II projects, and the outputs will be linked with SEIS II project result, which had developed indicators for nutrients, contaminants from the industrial sectors as well as microbiological pollution and marine litter. This will enable an integrated assessment together with the identified pressures, drivers and impacts for the relevant IMAP Common Indicators in the selected MPAs.

The EcAp MED II and SEIS MED II, although distinct in their outcomes, had several common aims which allowed for a synergized effort to be made between the two. A similar approach is foreseen for the implementation of the current project, i.e., ensuring efforts are made to synergize effort throughout the project implementation, as much as possible due to key differences of IMAP and SEIS common indicators.

Key differences include:
(i) different scope, i.e., with SEIS focused on pollution, while IMAP covers also biodiversity, fisheries, non-indigenous species, coast and hydrography; and
(ii) different nature of indicators (IMAP uses state of assessment indicators, while SEIS mainly uses impact indicators of measures).

It is important to note that of the '23' IMAP common indicators, there is only one which is also common with the SEIS indicators (related to eutrophication). Thus, it will be important to note that in the case that a country selects this specific eutrophication indicator, data will be also provided relevant to SEIS and its objectives.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

MAP/MED POL[13] and SPA/RAC.

[13] The project should work primarily with the Regional Activity Centres that are part of the Barcelona Convention system (such as PAP/RAC). The executing partners and the RACs may engaged, when considered as an added value

Beneficiary countries:

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

Methodology:

The establishment of joint monitoring programmes and their implementation will be carried out, and based on the IMAP Implementation Guide, and the Common Indicator factsheets and guidance that had been provided through CorMoN meetings. The selection of sites will be based on risk assessment, adequate assessment and reporting scales as well as other technical parameters.

Although priority will be given to those countries with an already existing monitoring programme and national institutional capacity to carry out an integrated monitoring, the areas for joint/integrated pilot monitoring will be selected based upon two main criteria, i.e., whether they are suitable for as many as possible of the common indicators to be measured and assessed; and where pressures from human activities are obvious. The latter is very important to demonstrate the link between pressures and impacts, thus making a step forward towards the integrated assessment of GES.

Specific activities will entail the following:

- Identification of specific monitoring sites (1 or 2 in an MPA/SPAMI, 1 in highly effected area) in each Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party. The selection will be done through bilateral consultation and country visits, as well as using existing information reported to MED POL and SPA RAC and related assessment findings (which are available in numerous assessment products of UN Environment/MAP);
- Identification of the common indicators to be included in the joint/integrated monitoring per each pilot (minimum 3-4 per site);
- Designing and implementing specific integrated/joint monitoring pilots;
- Supporting each country to analyze generated monitoring data and control their quality; and
- Supporting each country on the methods and tools to report and share the data on the IMAP compatible Pilot Info System.

Data resulting from joint monitoring will be reported and uploaded into the IMAP Info system which had been developed under the EcAp MED II project, by each of the respective countries to the Secretariat. This data will be complemented by the ENI SEIS project for H2020 indicators which addresses pressures.

for the execution of specific activities, the University of Siena or other relevant organizations. In these cases, legal agreements and execution modalities with these organizations/agencies will be established during the project execution. These arrangements will be established in full coordination with UNEP/MAP and with full consideration of the applicable UN Environment principles and procedures, including cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

Expected Deliverables:

- 14-21 integrated monitoring pilots (2-3/country, in line with IMAP, one or two in MPAs, and one in a high-pressure area).

Expected Results:

- Joint monitoring programmes added to the National IMAPs of respective countries;
- National IMAP Implementation progressed, and related data generated and reported in a coherent manner.
- National quality assured data exchanged and uploaded (according to SEIS principles) into the IMAP Info-MAP system.
- Regional database/platform populated;
- GES assessed in pilot sites
- Report on MPA status of GES

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 2.1 is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Estimated budget associated to output 2.1[14]

Activity	Budget (MAP and SPA/RAC)
Activity 2.1 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**1,014,500**

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;

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

[14] The amounts presented in the table are estimated country needs, based on a potential average cost and geographical scope of the exercise. Cost may vary between countries though for this activity, depending on the areas of monitoring as well as starting points.

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

Well-designed MPA networks have the potential to theoretically out-perform single MPAs by fulfilling a variety of ecological, economic, and management goals with greater effectiveness. However, MPA networks should be comprehensive in their ecological representation, as well as also be effectively connected, efficiently managed, and ultimately be cost-efficient.

A core element in a protected area strategy is therefore encapsulated in identifying, prioritizing, and filling gaps in a protected area system which can address the existing "conservation gaps". A well-considered strategy will always start by setting up both feasible and reasonable goals which can be developed and adapted according to requirement, data accessibility and availability, existing expertise and primarily is also defined according to the ecosystems being considered and the type of species involved.

In summary, an MPA strategy should take the following steps into consideration:

- identify focal biodiversity and set key targets;
- evaluate and map the occurrence and status of biodiversity;
- analyze and map the occurrence and status of areas-based protection;
- use the information to identify the sites;
- prioritize sites to be protected;
- agree on a strategy, including an action plan and timeframe
- implement the action plan; and
- monitor and evaluate the progress and adjust/revise as needed.

As a complement to such a strategy, SPA/RAC has technically supported many Mediterranean Southern countries through its mandate. This has consisted of the provision of assistance to Mediterranean countries in fulfilling their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol, especially in regard to developing and promoting Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity. The countries concerned, i.e., Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia, have been supported in elaborating or updating their national strategies for the development of MPA networks. The most recent actions were implemented in Lebanon, Libya and Morocco between 2011 and 2014, and within the framework of the MedPartnership project (the SPA/RAC-led MedMPAnet project which had been financially supported by the EU).

This outcome therefore aims to fulfill the aims of developing an MPA Network strategy with close reference to the earlier outputs of the project, whilst addressing also the practical elements of effective MPA management and IMAP implementation.

<u>Output 3.1</u>: Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast

In reference to the outcome 3 concerning the implementation of governance and policies which relate to the MPAs, SPA/RAC had received an official request from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) to be provided with technical and financial support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. This request had taken the following into account:

(i) the Egyptian Mediterranean coast has been overlooked in terms of biodiversity strategic planning efforts (these had been focused on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, and it's only during the recent few years, that Egypt has started developing national action plans for the conservation of its Mediterranean biodiversity ecosystems with the support of SPA/RAC); and

(ii) SPA/RAC has been actively supporting the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) in the development and implementation of marine and coastal biodiversity conservation activities along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt in most recent years.

Most of the other project beneficiary countries have already developed their national MPA strategies with the support of SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC has provided support to Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia in developing or updating their national strategies and action plan for the development of marine and coastal protected areas.

Please refer to the following table summarizing the various national strategies and their dates of elaboration:

Country	National strategy on MPAs	Year
Algeria	Plan d'action sur l'inventaire et la mise en place d'aires marines et côtières protégées en Algérie (Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement)	2002
Israel	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (Israel Nature and Parks Authority)	2010
Lebanon	Lebanon's Marine Protected Areas Strategy (Ministry of Environment)	2012
Libya	National Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Libya (Environmental General Authority)	2014
Morocco	Plan Directeur des Aires Protégées au Maroc (Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification)	1996 (Updated for MPAs in 2012)
Syria	Recommendations for the Elaboration of a National Plan to Develop Marine Protected Areas in Syria	2005

	(Ministry of Local Administration and Environment)	
Tunisia	Programme de Développement des Aires Marines et Côtières Protégées en Tunisie (Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral)	2017

The execution of the IMAP-MAP project to support the development of a national MPA network strategy for the Mediterranean Egyptian coast, will allow to cover the full project beneficiary region and thus allow to improve the MPA network in the region.

The proposed activity will allow for the replication of the successful actions undertaken within the MedPartnership/MedMPAnet EU-funded project and contribute to the improvement of existing management as well as facilitate the creation of new MPAs along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast. In this way all efforts made will strengthen and further develop the Mediterranean MPA Network. The activities under output 3.1 aim to:

- Support Egypt in its efforts to improve national Marine Protected Areas-related governance and policies;
- Support Egypt in its development of a National Strategy for the establishment of an MPA network.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

SPA/RAC[15]

Beneficiary countries:

Egypt.

Methodology:

As a first step in the delivery of this output, the criteria for 'Sites of conservation interest', that could be eligible for inclusion in an Egyptian MPA network, should be defined. These criteria would firstly refer to the recognized existing criteria which are defined at regional and international levels, as well as the specific marine environment characteristics unique to Egypt. These criteria should also consider the legal and institutional frameworks that govern nature conservation in Egypt so as to be easily applicable by the governmental institutions and other organizations including NGOs which are concerned with conservation. This will include policy and legislative mechanisms for integrating coastal zone management strategies and other integrated governance

[15] Collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), may be seek during project execution. In this case, legal agreements and execution modalities with these organizations/agencies will be established during the project execution. These arrangements will be established with full consideration of the applicable UN Environment principles and procedures, including cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

tools, which refer to the relevant socio-economic context. The following three principles are considered as essential for the success of the process:

- Harmonization of the criteria identified with the relevant global and regional initiatives, in particular those adopted in the framework of the CBD, as well as the criteria for the selection of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) (Annex I to the Barcelona Convention SPA/BD Protocol);
- Good coverage of the specific characteristics and ecological features of the Mediterranean coast of Egypt coast (in line with the levels established by global instruments: CBD, IUCN, etc.); and
- Feasibility analysis for the identification and selection of sites in order to build a coherent and representative network of marine and coastal protected areas. This analysis must consider that although data is scarce for some sites, the available information will allow for a preliminary selection to be made. (This can be confirmed at a later stage by field research and consultation workshops).

It is important that the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network for Egypt is submitted for consultation to all stakeholders at national and local level. A provisional version of the National strategy will be drafted jointly with the authorities responsible for the MPAs and in consultation with other governmental authorities, civil society organizations and socio-professional and economic actors concerned by marine protected areas, during a national consultation workshop. This provisional version will be based on the analysis of the mapped occurrences of area-based protection and the status of GES.

The final version of the strategy will be produced after considering both conservation objectives and the requirement for MPAs to be integrated within their economic and social environment and will be subject to the application of the ICZM approach. This will be made possible by involving relevant institutions having been responsible for the 2017 scoping study elaborated for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Mediterranean coast of Egypt. This will help (i) integrating the provisions of that study and (ii) using the existing ICZM coordination and governance structures for advancing the biodiversity agenda and overcoming biodiversity conservation obstacles. The coherence with ICZM approach and principles should be maintained for the new strategy, and appropriate actions added to ensure joining of efforts/ synergies between ICZM and biodiversity conservation processes and MPA network development, primarily as regards knowledge and data collection, and identification, proclamation and management of MPAs and their connectivity. It is important to note, that even if external consultants are hired for this output, the Regional activity centers (PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC) are responsible for the final quality check of those documents.

The national strategy development process will play a pivotal role in promoting the management of MPAs along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast, during the consultative and participatory approach when planning management measures.

Expected Deliverables:

- National Strategy to establish an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.

Expected Results:

- An MPA network established in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 3.1 is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Estimated budget associated to output 3.1

Activity	Budget (SPA/RAC)
Activity 3.1 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**132,500**

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

In 2012, and for the first time in the Mediterranean, 300 key marine conservation stakeholders (e.g., managers, policy makers, scientists, private actors, civil society) met from the 25th to the 28th November 2012, in Antalya Turkey. This provided them with a forum to share their experiences and discuss the development of a joint work programme to improve the level of protection in the Mediterranean Sea by 2020.

The participants developed a roadmap to support the achievement of the international CBD objective to protect 10% of the Mediterranean Sea though an effective network of MPAs by 2020. This roadmap called on all MPA to implement key actions at the local, national and Mediterranean level for structured and pragmatic results. This roadmap inspired the elaboration of the Barcelona Convention Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, as adopted in February 2016 (COP 19).

A second edition of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Forum took place from 28th November to 1st December 2016, in Tangier Morocco, in order to gauge the stage of roadmap implementation. The 300 participants released the Tangier Declaration after having reviewed the MPA progress achieved during the previous four years. This followed the discussion also of the remaining challenges to 2020; the consideration of recent global, regional and sub-regional marine policy developments regarding the ecosystem approach; the sustainable development and climate change issues; as well as the consideration of recommendations formulated from the various sessions held during the forum.

The 2012 and 2016 editions of the Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean are the result of a joint initiative of SPA/RAC and the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN). This was achieved in collaboration with other strategic regional

and local partners (FAO-GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, WWF, Plan Bleu, MedWet/Tour du Valat, Europarc Federation, AFB, Conservatoire du littoral).

The Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean became an inevitable four-yearly event for a unique participatory and inclusive process which place a necessary emphasis on the challenges that MPAs face in the region. As such, the forum is a worthy event and so the third Mediterranean MPA Forum is foreseen to take place end of 2020. The forum is not just an event but rather a process which aims to gather all Mediterranean MPA stakeholders around the same roadmap. The main objectives of the event include the following:

- Gathering of MPA stakeholders from all around the Mediterranean to pursue the constructive, participatory and inclusive process of the forum initiated since 2012;
- Assessing the status of the Mediterranean MPA network towards the 2020 Aichi Target 11 (quantitative and qualitative aspects);
- Proposing of actions tailored for each Mediterranean sub-region, to fill in the Aichi Target 11 implementation gaps;
- Discussion of long-term vision and orientations for the Mediterranean in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other emerging policies;
- Provision of input to the post-2020 strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean (project Output 3.3);
- Enabling of a larger participation of Southern Mediterranean countries MPA stakeholders;
- MPA stakeholders (governments, managers, donors, etc.) voice voluntary commitments to be implemented within the following four years (2020-2024), and which results should be showcased and celebrated during the 2024 edition of the Mediterranean MPA forum;
- Sharing of the project achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt to a large audience of Mediterranean conservation stakeholders;
- Encouraging concerned MPA stakeholders to engage into a more effective management of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas (the qualitative aspects of Aichi Target), including SPAMIs and Natura 2000 sites; and
- Making stronger links between the regional MPA and EcAp roadmaps.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

SPA/RAC[16]

Beneficiary countries:

All Mediterranean countries (regional).

[16] The Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean is a four-yearly regional event co-organized by SPA/RAC and MedPAN, with the contribution and support of other strategic regional partners: FAO-GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, WWF, Plan Bleu, MedWet/Tour du Valat, Europarc Federation, AFB, Conservatoire du littoral, etc.

Methodology:

The 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum will be organized in continuity with the 2012 and 2016 editions.

The 2020 MPA Forum will be a touchstone for the global MPA targets and will provide a unique opportunity to showcase how MPAs underpin economic, social and cultural development. The forum will provide a platform to share success stories on MPAs, to highlight the challenges on Mediterranean MPAs through the 2020 Status of Mediterranean MPAs publication and to engage every stakeholder (decision-makers, MPA managers, scientists and private sector) to make commitments for MPAs.

To ensure the full success of the MPA forum, the active participation from all Mediterranean marine conservation stakeholders is essential: MPA managers, decision-makers (national agencies for the environment, tourism, fisheries, economy, marine/maritime spatial planning and land planning in the 21 Mediterranean countries), scientists and experts, Mediterranean, European, international organizations, other networks, financial partners and representatives of the private sector (local stakeholders working with MPAs: tourism companies, maritime transport, fishermen.

A thorough evaluation of the status of Mediterranean MPAs will be elaborated prior to the forum. This 2020 Status Report on Mediterranean MPAs will be the starting point for the discussions and commitments to be taken during the forum.

A call for contribution will be launched ahead of the forum and a process of selection will take place. The selection will be based on objective criteria (relevance, contribution to the MPA roadmap progress, expected impact and usefulness to the MPA stakeholder community, geographical coverage of all Mediterranean sub-regions/countries. Voluntary commitments from stakeholders will be encouraged and sought before and during the forum.

An accurate compilation and reporting system will be made of all recommendations noted during the forum. The final compilation of forum proceedings and the publication of other related documents, publications and audiovisual material will be hosted on the MPA forum dedicated website (www.medmpaforum.org) and will be managed by SPA/RAC and MedPAN.

Expected Deliverables:

- The 2020 Status Report on Mediterranean MPAs;
- Workshops, side-events, back-to-back meetings, stands, film screenings; and
- Online proceedings of the 2020 MPA Forum.

Expected Outcomes:

- A long-term vision, recommendations, declarations and commitments for the Mediterranean region; and
- A more knowledgeable action from all stakeholders towards the same objectives.

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 3.2 is presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Estimated budget associated to output 3.2

Activity	Budget (SPA/RAC)
Activity 3.2 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**130,500**

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

Following a mandate from the Barcelona Convention COP 20 (Albania, December 2017), and in preparation for the COP 21 (Italy, December 2019), SPA/RAC has undertaken an end 2018-early 2019 evaluation of the implementation of the Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of well managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean.

Based on this evaluation, SPA/RAC needs to prepare a new strategic document as a follow-up to the expiring Roadmap to achieve the 2020 Aichi Target 11 for MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean. This requirement is well recognized also from the updated 2020 Status Report on Mediterranean MPAs, the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD COP 15, Beijing, 2020), the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med; UN Environment/MAP through SPA/RAC, and other relevant emerging policies. The preparation of a medium-term strategic document for the development of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, will be required from the Contracting Parties at their COP 21 (December 2019), and when complete, this document would be presented in 2021 to COP 22 for discussion and consideration for adoption.

As shown in the proposed methodology, the elaboration of this post-2020 strategic document will be subject to a participatory process with the Contracting Parties. The funds of this project will be use for the organization and analyses of this consultation process. The revision of the document itself will use the administrative capacities of SPA RAC and will be funded by the UNEP/MAP.

Output 3.3 aims to:

- Provide the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and regional and international organizations with a strategic framework to guide and coordinate their efforts for MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other relevant emerging policies.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

SPA/RAC

Beneficiary countries:

All Mediterranean countries (regional).

Methodology:

Based upon: 1) a wide consultation with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; 2) the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework; 3) the existent recent assessments and reports; and 4) the recommendations and orientations of the 2020 MPA Forum; and 5) a new strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean will be elaborated.

The reflection about this post-2020 strategic document will be initiated during the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.

Apart from direct consultations, the first draft will be electronically circulated to all concerned stakeholders (e.g., SPA/RAC and MAP Focal Points, relevant regional and international organizations) for a more substantive feedback.

An intermediate draft of the strategic document should be submitted by SPA/RAC, based on which the final draft will be produced. The draft will be prepared jointly by SPA/RAC staff with substantive support provided by a regional expert/consultant. A 2-day workshop will be organized which involve the consultants assigned with the task and key resource personnel and experts. The main role of the consultant will be to organize and facilitate the consultative workshop. In all cases, regardless who is developing the conclusion of the workshop, SPA/RAC will be responsible of the quality of the final draft.

This resulting final draft will be presented to the 15th meeting of SPA/RAC Focal Points (mid-2021) for endorsement. The ensuing document will be presented to the MAP Focal Points meeting (September 2021) and subsequently to the 22nd ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 22, expected by the end of 2021).

The final strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean should be adopted by COP 22 and its implementation should start in 2022.

All regional and international organizations active in the region should take this strategic document as guidance, in order to assist and support Mediterranean countries in meeting their obligations under this new strategic framework.

Expected Deliverables:

- A strategic document for the post-2020 decade on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean prepared in consultation with countries and relevant stakeholders.

Expected Results:

- A strategic document about MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures containing a vision, a solid rationale, proposed actions at various levels and by various stakeholders, with result-based targets and related indicators submitted to Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties.

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 3.3 is presented in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Estimated budget associated to output 3.3

Activity	Budget (SPA/RAC)
Activity 3.3 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**99,500**

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

Aichi Target 11 requires protected areas to be "effectively and equitably managed", and Mediterranean countries should invest a special effort to satisfy such condition as far as their MPAs and other area-based conservation measures are concerned. Therefore, reaching this target implies an increase in MPAs globally, with an increased focus on representativity and management effectiveness especially at the Mediterranean level. It further implies that major efforts to expand MPAs are required.

The current MPA network has representativity gaps, and some MPAs fail to offer adequate protection to many species and ecosystems. These gaps include several areas of high biodiversity value. Emphasis is needed to protect critical ecosystems such as seagrass beds, coralligeneous formations, deep sea habitats and migratory and highly mobile species.

Elements where improvement are also urgently needed include the necessity for management measures to be implemented in all areas through consistent and effective management mechanisms. Key to success will be the building and sharing of capacity to effectively manage MPAs, as well as the engagement with decision-makers, managers, and stakeholders from the private sector and civil society, for the integration and fulfillment of conservation needs combined with the socio-economic opportunities that are provided by MPAs.

MPAs have proven their usefulness in the conservation of the marine environment and in the restoration of degraded habitats and depleted species populations. Their role in the economic and social development and in ensuring sustainable livelihood sources is being increasingly recognized. However, there is still need in the Mediterranean for MPA integration for the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and also for bolstering their added value in terms of the services they provide to local communities, increasing food security and poverty alleviation. Once these would be further integrated into the broader context of sustainable use of the marine environment and into the implementation of the EcAp, and taking into account the integrated coastal zones management and marine spatial planning approach to the management of human activities, the Mediterranean MPAs will become more effective in opening new income generating opportunities and inclusive growth (including gender equality aspects), and in offering a framework for dialogue between sea users, while ensuring their primary biodiversity conservation role. Using MPAs as platforms for consultation among stakeholders may significantly contribute in the resolution of user conflicts and in promoting equitable sharing of benefits.

In order to develop sustainable livelihoods and ensure economic and social development, gender dynamics at local level will be considered. In the same lines, the proposed activities leading to new income generating opportunities will try to target both man and women. Moreover, the consultation process will make sure to involve man and women and when possible involved Women's Civil society organizations.

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

The existence of a management plan is one of the major criteria for qualifying as an MPA. This means that a thorough reflection would have already taken place, including the definition of operational objectives, setting of an action plan and a calendar of implementation, allocation of resources, and definition of indicators to assess management effectiveness. This activity includes support to MPAs in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries for the development/ elaboration of their management plans. In general, the development and support of the management plan, will have to be gender-sensitive and gender responsive.

As already noted, MPA failure or ineffectiveness can often be traced to a lack of financial sustainability. For this reason, this activity also aims to ensure the availability and cost-effective use of financial resources through the development of business plans for MPAs, including the identification of the most appropriate financial mechanisms. During the business plan development, the project will consider the potential economic power of the women.

This output will therefore ensure continuity to the MedPartnership project (2010-2015) activities which had been implemented and whose biodiversity component had been co-funded by the EU, and the ongoing EU Green MED II-funded MedMPA Network project (2016-2019). It will also complement current activities executed by SPA/RAC through the 2018-2019 programme of work.

Thus, the project will support the elaboration of the management and business plans of the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon, which has been already ecologically characterized in 2016-2017, in the framework of the MedMPA Network project. Tyre Coast is an area of high interest in Lebanon for the protection of the green and loggerhead sea turtles, two highly mobile species which constitute the flagship species of the MPA. These two species are included in the Annex II "List of endangered and threatened species" of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Barcelona Convention. It is worth mentioning that a close consultation will be assured with the CNRS-L in order to set up a joint synergy between the IMPA-MPA project and the EU-funded project currently implemented by CNRS-L on bilateral funds.

In Libya, SPA/RAC collaborated with the Environmental General Authority in the elaboration of the National strategy for the development of an MPA network. This strategy, which had been elaborated within the MedPartnership project, has already listed the Gulf of Sirte as a potential site to be declared as MPA. The current project will therefore support the elaboration of the management and business plans of the Gulf of Sirte. Besides its high conservation value, the proposed area is one of the most important nesting sites for the loggerhead sea turtle in Libya and in the Mediterranean.

Lastly, SPA/RAC has received an official request from the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy of Algeria to provide technical and financial support for the elaboration of a management plan for Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA. The Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA, in Eastern coast of Algeria, is an important site for endangered species of birds. The Cap de Garde-Edough site is a few dozen kilometers away from the El Kala National Park and could constitute a good shelter for a number of endangered mobile species of birds, fishes, reinforcing that way the connectivity aspect among the marine reserves of the eastern coast of Algeria. The site also contains Mediterranean important marine species, like the endemic *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows, the gorgonian *Eunicella sp.*, the noble pen shell *Pinna nobilis*, the dusky grouper *Epinephelus marginatus*, and marine mammals like the dolphin *Delphinus delphis*.

The elaboration of the management plans will be done in a participatory and concerted process jointly with the national authorities responsible for the protected areas and in consultation with other relevant governmental bodies, civil society and socio-professional and economic actors concerned by the protected area, during national/local consultation processes. Relevant governmental bodies will include, among others, the one(s) in charge of setting policies and plans regarding ICZM. By carrying out such activities, the project will (i) support the mechanisms triggered at country levels for the declaration of new MPAs, (ii) improve and update the national marine biodiversity conservation laws and policies; (iii) develop financial strategies for the creation and efficient management of MPAs; (iv) incorporate MPA planning processes in integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) strategies and other integrated governance tools by involving the relevant institutions responsible for the application of the ICZM provisions; and (v) improve the ecological and geographical representativity of the MPA network at regional level.

The objectives of outputs 4.1 are:

- Supporting MPAs in developing management plans; and
- Supporting MPAs in developing business plans.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

SPA/RAC[17]

Beneficiary countries:

Algeria, Lebanon, and Libya.

Methodology:

Based on the complementary ecological, socio-economic/fisheries studies, provisional versions of the management plans will be drafted jointly with the national authorities responsible for the protected areas and in consultation with other relevant governmental bodies in particular those in charge of setting policies and plans regarding ICZM, civil society and socio-professional and economic actors concerned by the protected area, during national/local consultation processes. Whenever possible, Women's rights civil society organizations will be involved in this consultation process.

The final versions of the management plans will be produced and will consider both conservation objectives and the requirement that the protected area needs to be integrated within its economic and social environment and will include the ICZM approach. It is important to note, that even if external consultants are hired for this output, the Regional activity centers (PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC) are responsible for the final quality check of those documents.

The financial sustainability of MPAs will be ensured through a technical expertise that will be developed to identify potential sources of financial incomes to create and launch the MPAs and will lead to the elaboration of a tailored business plan for the MPA. This activity will be implemented in three MPAs:

- the Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA (Algeria);
- the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon); and
- the Gulf of Sirte future MPA (Libya).

These sites were selected based on consultations/official requests from the concerned countries, through the SPA/RAC Focal Points.

[17] Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy of Algeria, the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, CNRS-L, IUCN ROWA; and the Environment General Authority of Libya, may be seek during project execution. In this case, legal agreements and execution modalities with these organizations/agencies will be established during the project execution. These arrangements will be established with full consideration of the applicable UN Environment principles and procedures, including cost-efficiency and effectiveness

It is important to note that the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon is already supported by EU bilateral funds managed by the EU Delegation. Any activity related to the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve should thus be initially discussed during a meeting with the EU Delegation in Beirut to ensure the complementarity with the other ongoing activities.

Expected (Deliverables):

- 3 complementary ecological study, including GIS-based maps;
- 3 complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies;
- 3 management plans; and
- 3 business plans.

Expected Results:

- Management and business planning of MPAs based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context.

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 4.1 is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Estimated budget associated to output 4.1

Activity	Budget (SPA/RAC)
Activity 4.1 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**316,500**

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

The effectiveness of MPA management relies upon a national political involvement which ensures the establishment of clear institutional frameworks, proper planning as well as adequate human technical and financial resources. Thus, good management requires the development of integrated and coordinated policies, the clarification of responsibilities, and clear legal, institutional and administrative frameworks.

In the Mediterranean, several MPAs are known to not have effective management and as such could be designated as «paper parks». Indeed, only 50% of Mediterranean MPAs have a management plan with clear objectives. Although significant improvements have been made, Mediterranean MPAs are still far from being optimal, including their delivery of ecological, social and economic benefits.

Analysis has highlighted that improvement is 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. Therefore, capacity building is a key component to reaching an efficient level of management in existing MPAs.

During the last five years, SPA/RAC has elaborated a "Capacity Building Strategy" jointly with regional partners, which has become a key mechanism in the region for the delivery of knowledge and skills to MPA practitioners. By combining theoretical training with practical experience and exchange visits among MPAs, the proposed capacity building programme shall provide the tools and knowledge needed to address specific management weaknesses. Training of Trainers followed by specific national training workshops will be organized particularly on MPA management and socio-economic aspects related to MPAs. Whenever possible, those training will include a gender dimension of the socio-economic factors.

Another main issue seen in ineffective MPA management is related to low quality biological and socio-economic monitoring. This monitoring is not always carried out in sites and their surroundings areas. Identifying all such issues, i.e., being in possession of a good knowledge of the existing uses and pressures in MPAs and their surrounding areas, as well as the forecasting of the development of future activities or pressures, are key elements for developing co-management processes, and establishes a reliable baseline that will enable a management plan to be revised. Thus, taking the socio-economic aspects into consideration and improving the integration of the territory's stakeholders has increasingly become a prerequisite for effective management in order to overcome the usual "MPA versus users" opposition.

As part of this output, specific studies will be developed which will consolidate data for future MPAs i.e., the Jbel Moussa and North-Eastern Islets of Kerkennah Archipelago. This will allow value-adding to be made to the achievements of the MedMPA Network project through which management plans had been developed and will also ensure their follow-up and lend a continuity to all future actions.

The proposal to continue working on both sites is also based on consultations through the SPA/RAC Focal Points with the concerned countries. SPA/RAC had confirmed their willingness to support the implementation of the management plans by providing complementary technical and financial (human and material) resources, to implement the management plans and reinforce the ecological monitoring. The objectives of output 4.1 are:

- Building capacities of MPA managers and stakeholders;
- Improving MPA management effectiveness;
- Initiating the implementation of management plans; and
- Enhancing management measures enforcement.

Executing/Partner Agencies:

SPA/RAC.

Beneficiary countries:

Southern Mediterranean countries. Pilot actions will be undertaken in Morocco and Tunisia.

Methodology:

Given the fact that capacity building is known and accepted to be key for the improvement of the management effectiveness of existing MPAs, the project will invest in a region-wide Capacity building programme for MPA planning, management and socio-economic aspects in the South and East of the Mediterranean. This capacity building programme will try to be as much as possible gender balanced.

Two regional workshops will be organized as "Mediterranean MPA Clinics" in which plenary sessions will be complemented by smaller workshops. These workshops will focus on relevant technical issues, such as management effectiveness, stakeholder engagement and conflict resolution as well as look at MPA socio-economic role and benefits. The combination of the workshops and plenary sessions together, will allow each country delegation to design its tailor-made programme to be adapted to the specific needs of its/their MPA(s) and, at the same time, to benefit from the possibility of exchange with the colleagues from other beneficiary countries.

Furthermore, to address specific management weaknesses, two exchange visits to two Mediterranean MPAs will be organized on effective management of MPAs and their sustainable socio-economic role. These exchange visits will complement the capacity building programme and provide the needed tools and knowledge to MPA managers, practitioners and actors involved in the project.

A process will be then established to assist MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities exchanging knowledge and skills with their colleagues in the region, even beyond the life span of the project. A pool of experts will be defined, while exchanges and specific technical assistance provided to assist managers in the on-the-ground implementation of the tools and know-how acquired during the regional clinics.

In addition to the above, and in order to improve the management of the pilot sites the methodology will focus on the following aspects:

- In-depth case assessments focusing on MPAs socio-economic integration into their territory, will be developed through on-site surveys towards socio-economic actors as well as assessment of social perceptions of the MPAs in the pilot sites. The results will be spread to reinforce the capacity of MPAs to convince decision makers and users about their added value for the territory;
- Stakeholder engagement through meetings, workshops and open dialogue. This will be tailored specifically to fishermen but also to tourism actors/operators. Formal and informal settings will be created to allow stakeholders to inform MPA decisions, to exchange opinions and to be networked into existing platforms at local, regional and national levels;

- Technical support to implement the ecological monitoring programmes, as already set in the management plans. This part will be linked to the implementation of the IMAP Component, concerning the two pilot sites;
- Technical and financial support to the local management units will ensure appropriate surveillance and enforcement.

MPA authorities, managers and practitioners, academics/researchers, relevant sectoral activities administrations (such as fishery and tourism), NGOs, local artisanal fishermen, and tourism actors/operators will be invited to contribute and participate to the capacity building programme at regional and/or national levels the relevant stakeholders.

Expected Deliverables:

Table 8: Capacity building workshops organized (indicative information)

Title of workshops	Content of workshops	Target audience
Regional workshop on effective management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs)	Plenary sessions and small workshops (using training modules, exercises, handouts, worksheets, audiovisual material) and field visits on the following aspects: Management planning, stakeholders engagement management effectiveness, monitoring evaluation, Adaptive management	MPA managers and practitioners, academics/ researchers, fishermen, NGOs representatives.
Regional workshop on Sustainable Socio-Economic Role of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs)	Plenary sessions, small workshops and field visits (using training modules, exercises, handouts, worksheets, audiovisual material) on the following aspects: Sustainable socio-economic approach applied to MPAs, socio-economic role of MPAs, guiding MPA managers and stakeholders towards income generating activities in MPAs and surrounding territories, changing the perception of decision-makers on MPAs as a natural capital investment project.	MPA managers and practitioners, relevant sectoral activities administrations (such as fishery and tourism), NGOs, local artisanal fishermen, and tourism actors/operators

- Two local management units strengthened, respectively in Jbel Moussa pilot site (Morocco) and North-eastern part of Kerkennah pilot site;
- Two Management plans implementation initiated, respectively in Jbel Moussa pilot site (Morocco) and North-eastern part of Kerkennah pilot site, by developing socio-economic integrated programmes for the management of the sustainable fishing and effective surveillance and monitoring in both pilot sites territories.
- Best practices developed and applied for an effective management of MPAs.

Expected Results:

- MPA management plans being effectively implemented, including surveillance and monitoring;
- Socio-economic aspects of MPAs are better known and relevant stakeholders, such as local artisanal fishermen and other socio-economic actors, local administrations, universities, and managers, are engaged in the planning, management and monitoring of sustainable practices;
- Stakeholders actively engaged in MPA management and involved in decision-making processes.

Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 4.2 is presented in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Estimated budget associated to output 4.2

Activity	Budget (SPA/RAC)
Activity 4.2 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**446,000**

Component 3 – Project Management and Implementation

Outcome 5: Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured

Outcome 5 aims to strengthening operational coherence, harnessing synergies and ensuring coordination among the Project's activities in order to maximize their operational efficiencies and Execution. To deliver these functions, UN Environment/MAP will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) composed by a full time Project Manager and a part time Project Administrative Finance assistant. To those permanent position, a technical consultant specialized in IMAP will be added to the team and will act as Team leader for the regional consultants. His role will be to ensure a coherence between all the IMAP activities.

The PMU, under the overall supervision of UN Environment/MAP senior management, will also establish and convene annual Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC will carry out the function of a Project Board. The PSC will consist of: The Focal Points appointed by the beneficiary countries, DG NEAR and DG ENV representatives, the Executing Agency representatives and the PMU. Moreover, a member from the UfM secretariat will be invited as an observer.

The Executing Partners (MED POL, SPA/RAC and any other partner which will be involved during the project execution), will intervene at the PSC to present the progress made and support the Executing Agency and the Project's team by providing background information on substantive and technical issues, as well as on modification to the Project Document and its annexes presented to the PSC.

The role of the members of the PSC is to:
- Oversee the project execution;
- Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination among all the project's components;
- Provide overall supervision for project implementation;
- Approve the annual work plan and budget;
- Oversee the implementation of corrective actions;

Output 5.1: Project management and coordination

Activities under this component are cross cutting to all the project executing and co-executing agencies. The PMU hosted by UN Environment/MAP, is responsible for:
- Project coordination;
- Follow up and harmonization of the activities;
- Reporting to the EC and UN Environment;
- Convening annual Project Steering Committee meetings;
- Drafting, implementation and follow up of the legal agreements;
- Developing a Gender Assessment and Action Plan specifically for the Project
- Communication and dissemination of project activities;
- Management of budget; and
- Closure of the projects and reporting.

Executing Agency:

UN Environment/MAP.

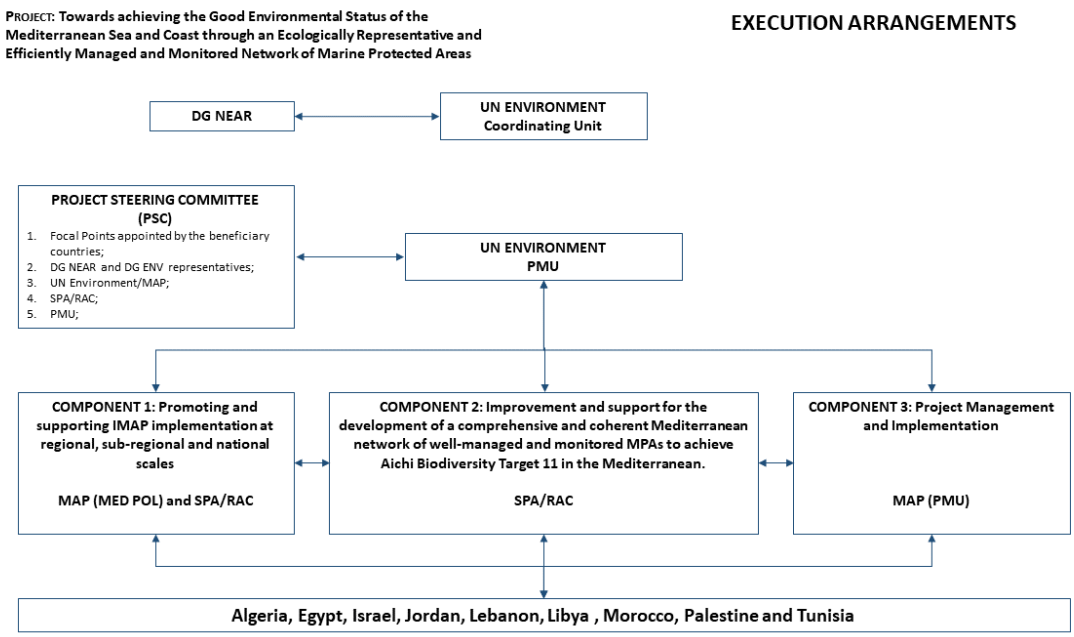
Activities and Budget:

The budget to support the activities of output 5.1 is presented in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Estimated budget associated to output 5.1

Activity	Budget (MAP)
Activity 5.1 Total estimated budget (EUR)	**789,318**

Figure 1: Execution arrangement for the Project



5 Horizontal issues (gender, human rights, socio-economics)

Integrated monitoring and MPAs, while effective management tools to regulate access and use of resources as well as engender biodiversity preservation, can also be fragile processes if not designed and delivered with consistent stakeholder participation and consideration of the communal needs.

In the Mediterranean, it is particularly important to recognize the role that men and women play in garnering coastal livelihoods, take stock of their differentiated access to these resources and, as a result, understand how they are affected differently by changes to these existing structures.

Indeed, since gender inequality and social exclusion increase the negative effects of environmental degradation and climate change on vulnerable population subgroups, top-down conservation attempts can adversely affect resource-dependent people, who reside at the periphery of human settlements. Gender-mainstreamed in integrated monitoring and MPA policies, which include both genders and different social groups in planning and execution, can simultaneously maximize resource protection (through compliance and low resistance) and provide an opportunity for empowerment (through alternative livelihood options and devolved authority).

Traditionally women are key actors in livelihoods directly linked to natural resources. By improving the quality of the ecosystems and their resilience, the project outcomes will have direct or indirect positive impacts on socio-economic life, health and social inclusion of women.

Both women and men are key stakeholders in many activities that occur within and adjacent to coastal and marine areas and MPAs. Thus, every effort will be made by the project executing partners in order to advance gender equality in the project. Moreover, the project will ensure that gender imbalances are considered and addressed. This will be linked to the international agreed development goals and intergovernmental commitments towards gender equality.

To serve these purposes, during the first year of implementation of the project, the PMU will engage with a gender expert to develop a specific Gender Assessment and Action Plan for the Project.

The Gender Assessment will be structured around four blocks:

1. An online stakeholder survey will be conducted to identify the role of gender within the IMAP and MPA processes. This will allow to locate the communities that are essential in the management and protection of marine ecosystems, reduction of pollution and monitoring and the way to ensure their meaningful participation to the process execution.
2. A comprehensive desk-review of existing literature will be conducted on gender, MPAs, marine pollution, monitoring and coastal livelihoods in the participating countries. The literature will allow to reveal useful data and research on Monitoring approaches and MPAs

as governance tools, stakeholder participation and civil society engagement in natural resource management, and coastal livelihoods in the Mediterranean.

3. Identification of gender-responsive entry points towards MPAs, pollution, monitoring, coastal livelihoods and access, and effective communication of gender-sensitive information will be identified to locate specific gender considerations and actions for the project outcomes and presents normative information to gear the same towards better socioeconomic and environmental co-benefits.
4. Explores the policy environment of the participating countries, and presents a potential list of gender stakeholders, relevant for the project activities and collaborations during the project cycle.

The completion of the actions described in the above points 1 to 4 will allow to prepare a Gender Action Plan, laying out specific action points mainstreamed within the Project and to be eventually integrated in its results framework, corresponding actions, indicators, timelines, responsible parties, and budget allocations, to address the gender issues identified by the Gender Assessment.

6 Coordination with other programmes, partners, projects

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

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

The Project Steering Committee will review during all meetings, which include the following:

- Cooperation activities undertaken to ensure synergy, close cooperation and no-duplication between undertaken and planned activities of respective projects, initiatives and programmes;
- Possibility of developing joint work plans and activities or meetings; and
- List of relevant projects, partners work, activities to follow (where specific cooperation efforts are needed).

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

- **Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)**: it was established in 1977 as one of the six Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). PAP/RAC's mission is to support Mediterranean countries on their path towards sustainable coastal development. Contracting Parties defined the PAP/RAC's mission with their decision and that is to provide support to Mediterranean countries to ratify and implement the ICZM Protocol, as well as to implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). Based in Split with the support of the Government of Croatia, PAP/RAC has a core staff of nine multidisciplinary experts who co-operate with National Focal Points (NFPs) appointed by the national governments of all Mediterranean countries and the EU, international and national institutions, and with the network of external experts.

  The principal activity of PAP/RAC is the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). This approach to managing coastal zones is recognized as the way forward for the sustainable development since the 1992 Rio Conference for its ability to provide solutions to the complex environmental, social, economic and institutional problems of the coastal zones. Moreover, PAP/RAC supports the countries realized through several lines of activities, namely:
  - on-the-ground activities (Coastal Area Management Programmes - CAMPs, coastal or ICZM plans, national ICZM strategies, etc.);

- capacity building (different trainings, workshops, consultations, conferences, on-the-job trainings related to particular projects, as well as through MedOpen – PAP/RAC's on-line training on ICZM);
- awareness raising (Mediterranean Coast Day campaign, different awareness-raising activities in the framework of the on-the-ground projects);
- of methodologies, providing support to development of regional and national policies and preparation of legal documents.

Challenges to sustainable coastal development are subject to constant change. Recently, strengthening coastal resilience became the key issue for the sustainability of the coastal zones. Eco-system approach (EcAp), marine spatial planning, green and blue economy are only some of the new themes the ICZM approach deals with.

Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project: PAP/RAC will support SPA/RAC to ensure that additional support is provided for the national implementation of IMAP and for the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on hydrography.

- **ACCOBAMS:** The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is one of the Agreements related to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) under the auspices of UN Environment. Given the state of knowledge available in 1989, the Bern Convention Standing Committee underlined that it was imperative to establish a new cooperation tool for conservation and decided to create an informal group on small cetaceans that met in Palma de Majorca in 1991 with the view of drafting an Agreement involving Bern, Barcelona and Bonn Conventions. But given the migratory characteristics of cetaceans, the Agreement was established under the auspices of the Bonn Convention (CMS) incorporating the Barcelona Convention Cetacean Action Plan. Two meetings in Monaco negotiated a draft Agreement on the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The first meeting (September 1995), led to drawing up the text of the Agreement and its conservation plan as well as extending the taxonomic coverage of the Agreement to include also large cetaceans found in the zone (in particular the fin whale and the sperm whale). All questions regarding the exact definition of the Agreement area, in particular the status of the inland waters and the proposal to extend the instrument to the adjacent waters of the Atlantic Ocean that had remained suspended were negotiated in a second meeting hosted by the Principality of Monaco, from 18 to 24 November 1996. Representatives of over 20 countries of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, as well as observers from many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the plenipotentiary Conference for signature, which closed the meeting. There are currently 23 riparian states Party to the Agreement.

  The Agreement entered into force the 1st of June 2001. The main objectives of the ACCOBAMS are: (1) to reduce threats to cetaceans, mainly resulting from interactions with human activities and practices, which have a significant impact on cetacean conservation, and (2) to improve knowledge on cetacean populations.

The "mother Convention" of ACCOBAMS, CMS, presents a noticeable interest for the Mediterranean region as general framework for migratory species concerns (protected areas, migration patterns, emergency situations, wind farm, etc.) but also through some specific Agreements and MoUs. AEWA (for water birds) is the other one covering the Mediterranean region, but others may serve for inspiration and/or have tools for species like monk seals, marine turtles and sharks.

Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project: ACCOBAMS leads the work on cetacean monitoring and has developed the part of IMAP using respective candidate common indicators. Close cooperation, follow-up on this work stream of ACCOBAMS will be as such of key importance during project implementation.
SPA/RAC, implementing Partner of the present project, is the Mediterranean Sea Sub-regional Coordinating Unit of the ACCOBAMS Agreement. A close cooperation exists between SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS, materialized in joint annual working programmes.

- **IUCN-Med:** Created in 1948, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working to promote nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Its membership includes about 1200 governmental and non-governmental organizations. IUCN has thematic commissions dealing with the most relevant conservation issues. Some 11,000 scientists and experts participate in the work of IUCN commissions on a voluntary basis. The headquarters of IUCN are in Gland (Switzerland). It employs approximately 1,000 full-time staff working in offices located in more than 60 countries. IUCN is a unique organization - a democratic membership union - composed of over 1,200 members, 11,000 scientific experts in the thematic Commissions and 1,000 staff, who work together in more than 160 countries to help the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges. Following a decision by its members, IUCN established the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) whose goal is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies in achieving both the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable development. The IUCN-Med was inaugurated in 2000 in Malaga (Andalucia, Spain) with the financial support of the Consejeria de Medio Ambiente (Junta de Andalucia) and the Spanish Ministry of Environment.

  ***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:** IUCN-Med is also active in the area of area-based management support and has undertaken specific projects many times in this area. Coordination with these projects and reflection of lessons learnt from ongoing IUCN activities will be necessary throughout project implementation.

- **MedPAN:** The Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) was established in 1990 to provide a framework for the exchange of experience among the managers of Mediterranean protected areas. Its creation was supported by the METAP Programme of the World Bank who provided financial support to the functioning of the network for six years (1990-1996). Its main activities were thematic conferences and the elaboration of technical publications.
  In 1999, after two years of non-activity because of the lack of human and financial resources, the National Park of Port-Cros (France) and SPA/RAC collaborated to give a new life to the

network. To this end, the MedPAN association was created and registered in France with the Port-Cros National Park ensuring the function of Executive Secretariat, while SPA/RAC ensured the function of General Secretariat of the Network. The Federation of Regional Natural Parks of France was also involved in the association structure.
In 2001, on behalf of the Port-Cros National Park, WWF France launched a process to revitalize the network and to ensure long term financing for its activities. In this context, a three-year project was financed by INTERREG III of the European Union. It helped to organize several thematic workshops on common MPA management issues, such as management planning, management of fisheries and tourism, habitat management, fund raising, etc. In total, 23 partners from 11 Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) participated in the project. Thanks to additional funding from IUCN, participants from Lebanon, Libya and Egypt were also involved.

Based on the collaboration bounds established, the project partners and some MPA managers decided to establish in 2008, with 9 founding members, a new MedPAN organization, with a permanent Secretariat, aiming at promoting the establishment, the operation and the sustainability of a Mediterranean network of MPAs.
As per early 2019, the MedPAN organization has 60 members managing more than 90 MPAs and 48 partners from 19 Mediterranean countries. The Executive Secretariat of the organization is based in Marseille (France) and has 8 permanent staff.

***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:** Support of MPAs and their management is a key objective of MedPAN. MedPAN involvement in project activities, trainings to address stakeholders and train the trainers, as well as follow-up on each other's activities will be beneficial for the project. MedPAN is also the co-organizer of the Mediterranean Forum of MPAs along with SPA/RAC.

- **GFCM:** The main objective of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best- practices utilization of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters. The Commission has the authority to adopt binding recommendations for fisheries conservation and management in its area of application and plays a critical role in fisheries governance in the region. The objective of the Agreement is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the area of application. To facilitate reaching this goal, the Agreement created a Commission. As one of its general principles, the Commission adopts recommendations on conservation and management measures aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishing activities, in order to preserve the marine living resources, the economic and social viability of fisheries and aquaculture. In accordance with its objectives and general principles, the Commission formulates and recommends appropriate measures, including to establish fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) for the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including but not limited to nursery and spawning areas, in addition to or to complement similar measures that may already be included in management plans.

***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:** The GFCM, whose work as the regional fisheries management organization in the region, especially in relation to Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), is of key importance in relation to MPA management. In addition, their work on fisheries monitoring (in line with their monitoring framework, so-called DCRF) can be complementary to the biodiversity and NIS monitoring undertaken by UN Environment/MAP in line with IMAP. It is of key importance thus to follow the respective work of GFCM and ensure cooperation as much as possible in these areas, as well as to present project outputs, results to respective GFCM meetings.

- **UfM:** The Union for the Mediterranean is the intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean platform where political decisions are implemented and where concrete regional and sub-regional projects are developed with the support of an extensive network of partners, including governments, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society organizations, universities, foundations and the private sector. The Secretariat of the UfM proactively promotes regional, sub-regional, transnational projects (or national projects in the framework of regional strategies or initiatives) in the sectors falling within its mandate, including environmental protection. While size and scope of the projects may vary – including both "soft" as well as infrastructure projects – they all share a strong political and economic relevance for regional cooperation and integration in the Mediterranean region. Projects can be submitted by national, regional and local authorities and public institutions, the private sector, international institutions, civil society organizations and consortia of such organizations.

  ***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:** Noting that UfM also plays an active role in various EU projects which are relevant to some of the objectives of the IMAP-MPA project, close cooperation with UfM will need to be ensured throughout the project implementation.

Next to following (and when possible, inputting with specific project outputs) the work with the above key organizations in the region, the project will also make sure that synergy and coherence are enhanced as much as possible with relevant EU policies and Directives, including EU Marine Policy and MSFD, EU Biodiversity policy with Birds and Habitats Directive and Natura 2000, EU Integrated Maritime Policy and EU MSP related policies.

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

- **EcAp-MED II project:** The overall objective of this project is to support the UNEP/MAP Barcelona convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the ecosystem approach in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The project seeks to support these countries to implement the EcAp Roadmap, through assisting them in establishing new monitoring programmes in line with EcAp.

  The project outlines four key activities:
  - Progress in the implementation of the EcAp new monitoring requirements in selected countries of the Mediterranean;
  - Establishment of sub-regional cooperation in EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean region;
  - Stronger Ecosystem Approach related science-policy interface in the Mediterranean region;
  - EcAp related data-management, including quality assurance is established

***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:**

ECAP MED II project has created a solid basis for establishing national monitoring programmes, started their initial implementation as well as identified concrete needs per each Southern Mediterranean country. All ECAP MED II deliverables, as summarized above, have enabled the conditions to enter into a new phase of IMAP Implementation at national, sub regional and regional levels. The new proposed IMAP MPA project will support further progress in this direction with a particular focus on integrated implementation of IMAP at site level in its both dimensions: among different common indicators and the relationship between monitoring of marine environment of sites under human pressures and at MPA.

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

  - Updated assessment of the characteristics of GES of the Adriatic Sea;
  - Proposal of the programme of measures to achieve Good Environmental Status;
  - Methodological framework for the establishment of national marine and coastal monitoring programme towards GES;
  - Updated sub-regional data base on marine and coastal areas and biologically important marine areas;
  - Marine Spatial Plan in selected sub-regional area;
  - Guidance for implementation of Marine Spatial Planning at sub- national level;
  - Information, Communication, and Outreach Strategy;
  - Stakeholder involvement, public participation strategy and stakeholders' training programmes; and

    The GEF Adriatic Project covers Albania and Montenegro, with the budget of USD 1,817,900, with timeframe of 2017-2019.

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

- **GEF MedProgramme**
  Child Project 1.1: The Project aims to update TDA including gender assessment, report on progress to impacts, develop an offshore monitoring strategy and identification of 20 locations for the offshore reference monitoring stations in relation to pollution and develop a data sharing policy for the Mediterranean.
  Child Project 3.1: The Project aims to develop and strengthen a representative, coherent and effective MPA network in Libya through the following actions
  - Advise and provide the adequate framework for MPAs governance (legal and institutional aspects, governance structures/mechanisms);
  - Increase the knowledge of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest; including marine key habitats and marine megafauna;
  - Improve capacity building at individual and institutional levels;
  - Support and involve national and local CSOs into MPA development; and
  - Promote MPA values and importance targeting the general public, decision-makers and investors.

  Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project: The work under Child Project 1.1 is highly relevant to the IMAP-MPA project. The gender assessment undertaken by it can serve as key element for future IMAP implementation, while the offshore pollution monitoring data can and should be compared with data collected and analyzed under the IMAP-MPA project to ensure full assessment results of the state of the marine environment (including in MPAs). The data sharing policy for the Mediterranean to be developed under the Child Project 1.1. will also need to be followed, reflected on by the current project. Furthermore, Child Project 3.1 that will address the capacity barriers that hinder the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPAs network in the Libya is of a high relevance to the present project activities in Libya, i.e., supporting the elaboration of a management plan for Gulf of Sirte future MPA in Libya.

- **IMELS:** The Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) provides a cooperation framework in support to the implementation of the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention mandate, addressing key common priorities including the strengthening of effective Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) management, the enhancement of marine litter management, the support to the creation of a CAMP Network and the promotion of ICZM, MSP and other integrated governance tools.

  ***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:** A number of activities of high relevance to the IMAP-MPA project are under implementation in the current biennium (2018-2019) with support through the Cooperation Agreement, including the following:

- SPAMI/MPAs: the establishment and implementation of twinning programmes between Italian SPAMIs/MPAs with SPAMIs/MPAs of other Mediterranean countries (selected sites in: Albania, Algeria, Slovenia, and Tunisia) aiming at sharing management and monitoring knowledge, building capacities through experience sharing and training of managers, involving civil society, and establishing a collaborative platform for SPAMIs/MPAs;
- Support in the description and identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);
- Support in the selection of key measures for the minimization of marine litter generation in MPAs; and
- Support in the implementation of IMAP, by strengthening regional/sub-regional cooperation to promote common responses aiming at filling the gaps highlighted in the 2017 MED QSR, taking into consideration relevant developments at EU level, mainly the revised GES Decision 2-17/848/EU.

Throughout the project implementation, close cooperation will be established between the two projects, ensuring the maximization of synergies during 2019, as well as building on achievements of IMELS during the implementation of the IMAP-MPA project.

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

  - The H2020 indicator set is stabilized, refined and complemented in order to serve multiple purposes, as well as to ensure that the progress of achieving H2020 objectives is properly measured, while also contributing to assessing compliance with commitments under the Barcelona Convention;
  - The in-country processes for organizing sharing of data sets underlying the H2020 indicators are stabilized;
  - The infrastructure for reporting offered by the EEA ('Reportnet 3') and UN Environment (UN Environment/MAP InfoMAP platform, including the MED POL Info-system) is more widely used; and
  - Indicator-based H2020 report(s) and assessments are produced in line with good practices from the EU region. This will be complemented by similar reports developed for the EU and West Balkan countries under the upcoming MSFD reporting cycle (2018) in order to come up with a comprehensive picture of the whole Mediterranean region and align the various reporting processes.
    Participating countries in this EU funded project are: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, with a budget of 1,800,000 EUR, over 2016-2019.

***Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project*:** There is one common indicator between IMAP and the ENI SEIS MED II Project developed Horizon 2020 indicators related to eutrophication. It is

important to ensure that outputs of the ENI SEIS MED II Project related to this specific indicator are reflected in the Project implementation. In case the two projects overlap in timeframe, ENI SEIS MED II Project experts would be welcomed to present key outcomes of the project during respective regional, sub-regional workshops of the IMAP-MPA project. The EcAp-MED II project outcomes could be also presented in respective ENI SEIS MED II Project meetings and in case of country interest, organization of joint meetings would be scheduled.

- **Marine -Litter MED Project:** The project aims to: i) Support UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties to prevent and manage marine litter (ML) through the Marine Litter Regional Plan (MLRP) implementation; ii) Progress towards achieving marine litter GES targets; and iii) Coordination with the other European Regional Seas.

  As such it aims to implement some concrete measures (LBS and Sea Based) by the Southern Mediterranean countries, undertake the preparation/updating ML guidelines, enhance bilateral and multi-stakeholders' coordination on ML and establish a Mediterranean coordination group with all major ML actors to coordinate the implementation of the MLRP. It is funded by the EU, covers Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties, with a 1,400,000 EUR budget, for a timeframe of 2016-2019.

  Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project: As the project aims partly also to support different methodological updates, which are relevant to IMAP implementation, it will be key, to follow up on these respective outputs and incorporate them in the project implementation of the IMAP-MPA project.

- **Siena University and the Plastic Busters project:** The University of Siena (UNISI) in Italy, hosts and coordinates the interaction of members to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the mission of which is to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development. This mandate includes the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and is achieved through the usage of high-quality didactics and internationally based research for the promotion of sustainable developments. Siena University is an official partner of UN Environment MAP.

  The organization contributes to the MAP activities in collaboration with UNEP/MAP for the development and implementation of the 'Plastic Busters' project, and particularly in solving one of the main gaps acknowledged in the Marine Litter (ML) action plan, i.e., evaluating the presence and effect of marine debris in the Mediterranean Sea using marine organisms as sentinel species and applying a new integrated monitoring tool.

  The overall objective of the 'Plastic Busters' MPA project is to contribute towards maintaining biodiversity and preserving the natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal MPAs. This is achieved through the definition and implementation of a harmonized approach which mitigates against the problem of ML. The project includes actions that address the entire ML management cycle, i.e., from its monitoring and assessment to measures which both prevent

and mitigate against the source of ML. In addition, the project also included actions designed to strengthen both pelagic and coastal MPAs located in several different location, e.g., Italy, France, Spain, Croatia, Albania and Greece. This is the first project at basin scale level, where the European Union and Pre-Accession countries have joined forces and coordinated to tackle ML. In this project, the activity of the SDSN Mediterranean UNISI Lab will evaluate the amount and distribution of ML, and mitigate and reduce the impact of ML, also in the SPAMI Pelagos Sanctuary. This is very much linked with IMAP implementation cluster of ML.

Relevance to the IMAP-MPA project:

The activities and results of the IMAP MPA project will complement Plastic Buster activities related to marine litter monitoring in two main directions: a) expanding the geographical scope of action on marine litter monitoring activities in the Mediterranean; b) Data collected, experience and lessons learned from marine litter monitoring component of Plastic buster will be used to the extent possible to validate monitoring methodologies under IMAP MPA project in particular in marine protected areas;

The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee will be encouraged to review the list of relevant projects during each of its meeting.

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

7 Sustainability and Exit Strategy

After the finalization of the project, there will be a value-added benefit provided for the sustainability of each of the project components as each is embedded fully in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. As such, all activities executed during the project will benefit from the continuous support provided through the mechanisms of the Barcelona Convention.

In order to be successful in achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, a sense of region-wide and national country ownership will be fostered in this project. This will undoubtedly assist countries in their ongoing implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Roadmap, both with respect to integrated monitoring and assessment programmes, as well as Marine Protected Area management.

In addition to the instrumental coordinating mechanisms of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the EcAp has already become an overarching priority of the UNEP/MAP agenda since 2001 and has been strengthened by consecutive COP decisions in 2008 taken for its implementation in the region. It can be noted also that the aims of the EcAp Roadmap can also be found within the articles of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Noting the above, it is foreseen that while the next Programme of Work (PoW) of UNEP/MAP will devote again substantial activity budget to the implementation of the next steps of the EcAp Roadmap, with an emphasis on the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

In addition, and to ensure long-term sustainability, the project aims to ensure that ownership for EcAp will continue to grow and be strengthened through the sub-regional cooperation which will be carried out as well as the country-targeted workshops

Establishing and maintaining contact with environmental authorities will undoubtedly be pivotal for the implementation of this project and will help to guide the country specific implementation processes. Coordination with all concerned stakeholders (governmental departments, the scientific community, civil society organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders), that were involved in the previous ECAP MED II and MPA Projects and piloting of the consultation and endorsement process will ensure that all levels of stakeholder will have the benefit of participation and instill again a sense of country ownership which can support the process of IMAP and MPA management. National partners are already identified in the EcAp II funding strategy analysis and following the guidelines for the preparation of the country specific EcAp monitoring programme for biodiversity and NIS (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.430/Inf.3)

To ensure a high level of coherence and coordination of the monitoring activities to be undertaken as part of IMAP at national level, it was recommended to establish a national committee (IMAP National Committee). Considering the specific context prevailing in the country, the IMAP National Committee will coordinate the elaboration of the national IMAP and act as a steering committee for the implementation phases, including data compilation and reporting. Considering the wide range of expertise required, the IMAP National Committee

might establish thematic working groups mirroring, as appropriate, the 3 clusters (Pollution and Litter, Biodiversity and Fisheries, and Coast and Hydrography).

The 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas will take the stock of the Mediterranean MPA network at the 2020 horizon (Aichi Target 11) and, based on this, shape the future for the post-2020 MPA agenda in the region. A new process and other follow-up MPA fora will be organized post-2020 in order to monitor the progress of the newly established area-based conservation objectives at global and regional levels.

Concerning the development of a strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, this activity is well anchored in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention's SPA/BD Protocol and more particularly its "Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean" adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2016. This new strategic document on MPAs will build on the achievements at regional level of the 2016 MPA Roadmap and on the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as supported through the participatory process that includes national authorities in charge of marine conservation and protected areas (SPA/RAC national Focal Points), all relevant regional organization active in the Mediterranean, a multidisciplinary pool of experts (i.e. the ad hoc group of experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean), and other national and local stakeholders as relevant. All these factors contribute to the proper endorsement and full ownership of the resulting strategic documents at regional, national and local levels.

Moreover, the proposed actions entail the development of business plans and the identification of most appropriate financial mechanisms that can ensure the financial sustainability of the concerned MPAs.

8 Risk Analysis

RISK LOG						
Risk Description		**Category**	**Impact Severity**	**Likelihood**	**Risk Management Strategy & Safeguards (they should be incorporated into the approach, activities and/or budget)**	**When / By Whom?**
1	• Late disbursement of funds related to the project activities implementation • Long procedure leading to the signature of project agreements and related addenda	Financial and administrative	High	High	• Send any report and request of payment in time to avoid late payment. • Previous exchange of report with the EU task manager to avoid suspension of the report due to qulaity problems. • Review activities implementation calendar • Prioritize activities	Project starting period / Donor, Implementing and Executing/Managing Agencies (UN Environment, UN Environment/ MAP, EU)
2	• Political instability • Change in priorities: countries turning away from environmental protection to immeditae or short-term priorities • Lack of commitment from countries • Turnover of governmental staff	Political	High	High	• Look for national authorities support through alternative channels (MAP Focal Points, Ministers, Diplomatic channels, MAP or SPA/RAC partners at country level) • Visit the country and meet governmental officials in order to re-establish the contact and smoothen the communication and collaboration flow • Redirect activities to more stable and committed countries	At any time during the project delivery / UN Environment/ MAP, SPA/RAC
3	• Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas • Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards	Security	High	Medium	• Redirect activities to safer countries/areas	At any time during the project delivery / Responsible project team member from UN Environment/ MAP or SPA/RAC

4	• Bad weather conditions during marine oceanographic surveys	Natural / Environmental	High	Low (Marine campaigns usually planned during the summer period)	• Find alternative activities to be executed until good weather conditions are re-established (snorkelling, near-shore prospection, coastal/terrestrial study, sample analyses, laboratory work, data processing, training of local partners, meetings/interviews with local stakeholders, etc.) • Plan a complementary field survey	At any time during the project delivery / Responsible project team member from UN Environment/ MAP or SPA/RAC

9 Logical Framework

<u>Logical framework and Activity matrix</u> (annex E3d)

The Logical framework (logframe) matrix should evolve during the Action (i.e. the projects) lifetime: new lines can be added for listing new activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant, and values will be regularly updated in the column foreseen for reporting purpose (see "Current value"). The term "results" includes: Overall Objective (impact), Specific Objective (outcome), Other outcomes and Outputs.

The logframe can be revised as necessary (in line with the provisions defined in Article 9.4 of the general conditions).

	Results chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline (value & reference year)[1]*	*Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated*	*Current value* (reference year)[1]*	*Source and mean of verification*	*Assumptions*
Impact (Overall objective)	The Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean **is strengthened** through a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs.	1. Number of national IMAPs implemented 2. Number of countries reporting data related to IMAP indicators 3. Number of National quality assured datasets available online per national/site IMAP selected indicator	1. Baseline: 0 Countries 30 Jun 2022 2. Baseline: 0 Countries 30 June 2022 3. Baseline: 0 National quality assured data available online 30 June 2019	1. Target: 7 national IMAP (7 Countries) 31 December 2022 2. Target: 7 Countries 31 December 2022 3. Target: Minimum one set of quality assured data per national/pilot IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online 31 December 2022	*The latest available value of the indicator(s) at the time of reporting (* to be updated in interim and final reports)*	1. Barcelona Convention Reporting System 2. IMAP InfoSystem (At least one set of quality assured data per country accessible for each chosen common indicator in the IMAP Info system) 3. MAPMED database	*Not applicable*

	Results chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline (value & reference year)[1]*	*Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated*	*Current value* (reference year)[1]*	*Source and mean of verification*	*Assumptions*
		4. Number of nationally designed MPAs included in the regional MPA network (Baseline: 186; Target: 5) 5. MPA related GES assessments showing positive trends based on data collected in during the project 6. Number of capacity building activities: trainings, workshops and exchange visits	4. Baseline: 185 MPAs) 30 June 2019 5.Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 6.Baseline: N/A	4. Target: 191 MPAs 31 December 2022 5. Target: at least in 5 MPA 31 December 2022 6.Target: 5 trainings, workshops and exchange visits for 100 experts 31 December 2022		4. Report on MPA status in the Mediterranean 5. Trainings, workshops and exchange visits reports; Interim and final reports of the IMAP-MPA project	
Outcome 1	Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators	▪ Number of mechanisms set up to submit quality assured data on IMAP implementation at national level	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 11	▪ Targets: 7 countries 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 18	▪ Current value: 0	▪ Country integrated biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes ▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System; IMAP Info system ▪ Guideline documents	▪ Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable

	Results chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline (value & reference year)[1]*	*Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated*	*Current value* (reference year)[1]*	*Source and mean of verification*	*Assumptions*
		▪ Number of workshops, national trainings ▪ Number of experts benefitting from training on different aspects of IMAP	30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	31 December 2022 ▪ Target: Minimum of 50 National experts from the beneficiary countries	▪ Current value: 11 ▪ Current value: 11	▪ Training / workshop reports	
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	▪ Number of in depth needs assessment reports for the integration of biodiversity & NIS, and pollution and marine litter (Including microplastics) and coastal hydrography. ▪ Number of complementary studies to the national IMAPs showcasing integrated monitoring areas in and outside of MPAs	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Targets: 7 reports (One per country) 31 December 2022 ▪ Targets: 2-3 per country depending upon the selected sites 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: 0	▪ Country integrated biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes ▪ Consultation workshops minutes ▪ Lists of participants ▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System	▪ Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (value & reference year)[1]	Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated	Current value* (reference year)[1]	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
		▪ Number of mechanisms set up for the submission of quality assured data to regional data platforms	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Targets: 7 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0		
Output 1.2	Capacity building and exchange of best practice at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings	▪ Number of workshops, national trainings. Dedicated trainings, country missions, 'Train the trainers', exchange of specific best - practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), assistance in monitoring protocols/Policy developments, in line with national IMAPs and specific country needs. ▪ Number of regional best practices meetings ▪ Number of experts trained	▪ Baseline: 11 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 1 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 18 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 2 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: Minimum of 50 experts trained proportionately	▪ Current value: 11 ▪ Current value: 1	▪ Guideline documents . ▪ Training / workshop reports ▪ Exchange meeting reports ▪ List of participants	▪ Political instability ▪ Change in country priorities ▪ Lack of commitment from countries ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas ▪ Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (value & reference year)[1]	Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated	Current value* (reference year)[1]	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
				in the different areas of expertise			non-communicable
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	▪ Number of designed and implemented integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 14-21 (2-3/country, in line with IMAP, one or two in MPAs, and one in a high-pressure area) 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0	▪ Integrated monitoring programmes reports ▪ Quality assured data ▪ National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	▪ Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards ▪ Bad weather conditions preventing from running marine field surveys
Output 2.1	Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for the agreed common indicators	▪ Number of integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas ▪ National monitoring data uploaded in the IMAP Compatible Info System	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 7 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 7 sets of National data (i.e., at least one per country) and one data set per	▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: present MED POL database	▪ Integrated monitoring programmes reports ▪ Quality assured data ▪ National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	▪ Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards ▪ Bad weather conditions preventing from running marine field surveys

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (value & reference year)[1]	Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated	Current value* (reference year)[1]	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
				each selected indicator 31 December 2022			
		▪ Number of national experts trained for the implementation of the national integrated monitoring programmes	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: Minimum of 50 national experts 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: Assessment of national capacities prepared in the framework of EcAp-MED II Project		
		▪ Number of new integrated monitoring stations, both in MPAs and high-pressure areas	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Targets: 14-21 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: Number of stations in present national monitoring programmes		
Outcome 3	Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas in the Southern	▪ Number of Contracting Parties having an MPA National Strategy/Action Plan	▪ Baseline: 19 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 20 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 19	▪ The document of the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt	▪ The concerned Contracting Party facilitates the elaboration of its MPA National

	Results chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline (value & reference year)[1]*	*Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated*	*Current value* (reference year)[1]*	*Source and mean of verification*	*Assumptions*
	Mediterranean countries					▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System; Info-MAP System ▪ SPA/RAC Focal Point Report	Strategy/Action Plan
Output 3.1	Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast	▪ Number of national MPA policies prepared ▪ An MPA network established in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. ▪ Number of workshops/meetings and experts	▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪ Baseline: 1 <u>30 June 2019</u> <u>Baseline: 0</u>	▪ Target: 1 <u>31 December 2022</u> ▪ Target: 4 <u>31 December 2022</u> <u>Target: minimum 20 training delivered directly through training workshops</u>	▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: 1	▪ The document of the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt ▪ Workshops/meetings reports/minutes	▪ Country facilitates experts participation in field surveys in areas located in politically sensitive sectors ▪ Political instability ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some areas ▪ Long institutional porcedures

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (value & reference year)[1]	Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated	Current value* (reference year)[1]	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
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	▪ The Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean ▪ Number of participants to the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	▪ Baseline: 2 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 300 which is representative and balanced proportionate of stakeholders (50% of stake holders policy makers) 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 2 ▪ Current value: 0	▪ Proceedings, Declaration and recommendations of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean ▪ List of participants to the 2020 Forum	▪ High moblisation and commitment of MPA stakeholders ▪ Lack of commitment from governmental bodies
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	▪ A strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs in line with the CBD post-2020 orientations (and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean will be elaborated). ▪ Number of consulted stakeholders/experts (Baseline: 0; Target: 45)	▪ Baseline: 2 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 45 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 2 ▪ Current value: 0	▪ The strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs ▪ Responses to the consultation	▪ Key national and regional partners involved in the process ▪ Lack of responsivity to electronic consultations

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (value & reference year)[1]	Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated	Current value* (reference year)[1]	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 4	Improvement of on-site MPA management and identification of mechanisms which ensure MPA sustainability	▪ Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support in view of an effective management ▪ Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support for strenthening their financial sustainability	▪ Baseline: 9 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 5 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 14 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 8 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 9 ▪ Current value: 5	▪ Management plans documents ▪ Business plans documents ▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System ▪ MAPAMED database	▪ Key national and local stakeholders involved in the manageemnt plans elaboration processes
Output 4.1	Elaboration of MPA management plans and provision of support for their effective implementation	▪ Number of MPA management plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context ▪ Number of MPA business plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 ▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022 ▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: 0	▪ Management plans documents ▪ Business plans documents ▪ consultation workshops minutes ▪ Lists of participants	▪ Key national and local stakeholders involved in the manageemnt plans elaboration processes ▪ Political instability ▪ Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least in the beginning of the process

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (value & reference year)[1]	Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated	Current value* (reference year)[1]	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
		engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context					▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas
		▪ Number of consultation workshops	▪ Baseline: 5 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0		
		▪ Number of stakeholders conrtibuting to the management plans elaboration processes	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 90 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0		
		▪ Number of complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0		
		▪ Number of complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 3 31 December 2022	▪ Current value: 0		

	Results chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline (value & reference year)[1]*	*Target (value & reference year)[18] When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated*	*Current value* (reference year)[1]*	*Source and mean of verification*	*Assumptions*
Output 4.2	Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation	▪ Number of training workshops ▪ Number of exchange visits ▪ Number of case studies on MPA socio-economic benefits ▪ Number of stakeholders involved in MPA management advisory committees	▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	▪ Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u> ▪ Target: 2 <u>31 December 2022</u> ▪ Target: 2 <u>31 December 2022</u> ▪ Target: 20 competent authorities per country <u>31 December 2022</u>	▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: 0 ▪ Current value: 0	▪ Training workshops reports ▪ Exchange visits reports ▪ MPA socio-economic benefits case study reports ▪ Minutes of the MPA management advisory committees meetings	▪ Key local stakeholders involved in the MPA manageemnt ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least in the beginning of the process ▪ Use conflicts between MPA stakeholders
Outcome 5	Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured	• Number of project indicatotors s observed in a regular way throughout	• Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	• Target: 15 31 December 2022	• Current value: 0		

	Results chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline (value & reference year)*[1]	*Target (value & reference year)*[18] *When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated*	*Current value* (reference year)*[1]	*Source and mean of verification*	*Assumptions*
Output 5.1	Project management and coordination Project	• Number of reports during implementation of project received • Percentage of budget expense against approved budget • Number of Steering Committee meetings held	• Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 • Baseline: 0 30 June 2019 • Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	• Target: Minimum 2 per year per country per executing partner • Target half yearly • Target: 4 (Annually)	• Current value: 0 • Current value: 0 • Current value: 0		

10 Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring Plan

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

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

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

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

Monitoring

<u>Administrative financial reports</u>

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

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

<u>Terminal evaluation</u>

As part of the overall project management, UNEP MAP will conduct an independent final evaluation of the Programme that will cover all components. This final evaluation will be conducted towards the end of the implementation period and the evaluation report will be annexed to the final report of the project.

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

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

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

11 Project Work Plan

Table 6: Project Work Plan

ID	Project Objectives & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1] (Executing/Partner Agency)	Partner(s)	2019		2020				2021				2022			
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
I	**Outcome 1: Capacities to implement IMAP and report reliable data on IMAP common indicators in Southern Mediterranean countries is enhanced;**																
1	Output 1.1: Supporting the specification and integration of national monitoring needs related to IMAP biodiversity, pollution, litter including microplastics, and hydrography clusters to ensure a useful quality assured data for the MED QSR 2023	MAP/MED POL	APAL, EGA, MoE, IUCN ROWA, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL														
2	Output 1.2: Undertaking capacity building and best practices exchange at national, sub-regional and regional levels	MAP/MED POL and SPA/RAC	APAL, EGA, MoE, IUCN ROWA, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL														
II	**Outcome 2: Biodiversity, non-indigenous species (NIS), pollution, hydrography and marine litter IMAP common indicators within and outside MPAs monitored and assessed in a harmonized and comparable manner**																
3	Output 2.1: Piloting the joint monitoring of biodiversity and pollution in MPAs and high-pressure areas	MAP/MED POL and SPA/RAC	APAL, EGA, MoE, IUCN ROWA, HCEFLCD, EEAA, INPA, MEER, CNL														
III	**Outcome 3: Marine Protected Areas-related governance and policies in the Mediterranean enhanced and effectively implemented; (*)**																
4	Output 3.1: Supporting the elaboration of a National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt	SPA/RAC	EEAA, IUCN ROWA														

ID	Project Objectives & Activities	Responsible Division/RO[1] (Executing/Partner Agency)	Partner(s)	2019		2020				2021				2022			
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
5	Output 3.2: Organizing the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to path the way for post 2020 MPA agenda progress in the Mediterranean	SPA/RAC	MedPAN														
6	Output 3.3: Ensuring a participatory process for the development of strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework	SPA/RAC	ACCOBAMS, IUCN, GFCM, MedPAN, WWF														
IV	**Outcome 4: On site MPA management improved and solutions for sustainability identified and applied. (*)**																
7	Output 4.1: Supporting the elaboration of MPA management plans and their effective implementation	SPA/RAC	EGA, MoE, MEER, CNL														
8	Output 4.2: Improving MPA management through capacity building and management plans implementation initiation	SPA/RAC	APAL, HCEFLCD														
	Outcome 5: effective and timely project implementation ensured.	MAP (PMU)															

1: Must be the Division/Organizational Unit responsible for delivering Project Outputs (all activities below a Project Output fall under that Responsible Division).
2: Shade boxes below depending on the duration of the activity

(*) The delivery of Outcome 3 and Outcome 4 will start beginning from Q4 of 2019 (October 2019).