

Decision IG.25/11

Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 22nd Meeting,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.10 of 15 March 2019, entitled “Innovation on biodiversity and land degradation”,

Considering the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework elaboration (Convention on Biological Diversity),

Having regard to the Barcelona Convention, in particular Article 10 thereof, whereby Contracting Parties shall, individually or jointly, take all appropriate measures to protect and preserve biological diversity, rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as species of wild fauna and flora which are rare, depleted, threatened or endangered and their habitats, in the Mediterranean Sea Area,

Having also regard to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as “the SPA/BD Protocol”, in particular Article 3 paragraph 4 thereof, whereby Contracting Parties shall adopt strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of marine and coastal biological resources,

Recalling Decision IG.24/7 on Strategies and Action Plans under the SPA/BD Protocol, including the SAP BIO, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 21st Meeting (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019),

Aware that the achievements gained in conserving Mediterranean biodiversity and the increase in knowledge on ecosystems and their role for human well-being in the region, have not been sufficient to reduce pressures on and degradation of the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment,

Conscious of the biodiversity-driven developments at global and regional levels, including developments in the Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention system, and of the need to strengthen the action to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean to achieve good environmental status in the context of SDGs and post 2020 biodiversity agenda,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of the SAP BIO National Correspondents and SAPBIO Advisory Committee Member Organizations to the process of the SAP BIO preparation,

Recalling the mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) as laid down in Decision IG. 19/5 on the Mandates of the Components of MAP, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 16th Meeting (COP 16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009), and its relevance to the implementation of this Decision,

Having considered the report of the 15th Meeting of Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Focal Points (Videoconference, 23-25 June 2021),

1. *Adopt* the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO), hereinafter referred to as “Post-2020 SAPBIO”, as a Mediterranean action oriented marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation Policy aiming at contributing to the achievement of the good environmental status, to the Sustainable Development Goals and their respective targets, and the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework through the optic of the Mediterranean context, set out in Annex I to the present decision;

2. *Urge* the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures, for the effective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and to report on their implementation in the framework of MAP Barcelona Convention reporting system;

3. *Invite* the Contracting Parties to prepare or revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans by fully incorporating the relevant elements of the Post-2020 SAPBIO; and maximise their efforts for their timely implementation;

4. *Invite* the relevant organisations, in particular the members of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee, to continue contributing to the efforts by the Contracting Parties in implementing Post-2020 SAPBIO, as appropriate in close collaboration with the Secretariat (SPA/RAC);

5. *Urge* the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to provide technical support for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, through technical cooperation, capacity building activities, and external resource mobilization;

6. *Invite* the Secretariat, to conduct a mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAP BIO by 2025 and Contracting Parties to review their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans accordingly to ensure the achievement of the Post-2020 SAP BIO objectives by 2030;

7. *Invite* the relevant International Organisations, Funding Agencies, International Donor Community and Contracting Parties as appropriate to give due consideration to the priority actions of SAP BIO in their programming for supporting actions in the Mediterranean region.

Annex I
Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable
Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region
(Post-2020 SAPBIO)



**Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation
of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management
of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region**



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



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of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural
Resources in the Mediterranean Region
(Post-2020 SAPBIO)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introductory remarks

1. In 2003, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the SAPBIO; its evaluation in 2018 concluded that, besides some gaps in its implementation, it played an important regional role in terms of harmonization and alignment of planning for biodiversity conservation, and in facilitating exchanges among departments, within and among countries.
2. Throughout the last decade, regional cooperation on environmental matters delivered significant progress, to which the Barcelona Convention system has largely contributed. Contracting Parties adopted common objectives, monitoring and assessment frameworks, aiming at Good Environmental Status (GES). Transboundary collaboration increased around migratory species, NIS/IAS monitoring, MPA management, assessing fish stock, multiannual fisheries management plans, minimization of discards and incidental catches, and reducing marine litter. All Mediterranean countries have adopted frameworks for ex- ante environmental impact assessment (EIA), and the role of international non-governmental organizations and stakeholder networks has strengthened sharply, improving the opportunities for participation and engagement.
3. In 2019 the Barcelona Convention COP 21 requested to prepare the Post-2020 SAPBIO to be harmonised with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (*CBD/GBF*) and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Along the period 2020-2021, following a strong bottom-up elaboration process, the Post-2020 SAPBIO was built over the main needs expressed by the Mediterranean countries, through 21 ad-hoc national reports which involved the relevant authorities and stakeholders, and were discussed in national workshops. Given the transboundary nature of most of the biodiversity concerns, the national results were harmonised and the needs prioritised through sub-regional assessments and workshops. Subsequently, several regional drafts were produced and circulated, and recommendations for its elaboration and strategic elements, were provided in draft reviews and meetings of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee and of the SAPBIO National Correspondents, to be finally endorsed by the 15th meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points (June 2021) and MAP Focal Points (September 2021).

Gaps and challenges

5. Despite notable progress, the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea is in 2020 far from where expected to be; countries are not on the track to achieve and fully implement the agreed upon goals, including the SDGs and the Ecological Objectives for GES. Most trends show some progress towards the set targets, but at an insufficient rate, unequally across the countries, or even moving away from the targets.
6. The Mediterranean Sea is subject to severe pressure from human use: intense fisheries and maritime traffic, marine litter, land-based pollution, the introduction and spread of alien invasive species, underwater noise, and their cumulative impacts with all sources of physical and chemical pollution. Because of its geographical situation it also suffers most from the impacts of climate change, warming 20% faster than the rest of the world. Altogether, it represents the highest proportion of threatened marine habitats.
7. For the time being, knowledge, data availability and sharing, were found insufficient and very patchy. National reports note a great disparity between the northern and the southern shores of the Mediterranean in terms of inventories, mapping and ecological monitoring. The coverage of marine protected areas, even very close to the 10% Aichi target at the regional level, is far from being representative of the Mediterranean Sea biodiversity, while the majority of these protected areas are still ineffectively managed and largely underfinanced.

8. Ambitious regional and international environmental agreements are rarely fully implemented on the ground, and important gaps persist in enforcing them. All the Post-2020 SAPBIO subregional reports, and the most recent and comprehensive studies both at the global and Mediterranean levels, identify a series of gaps and critical barriers to biodiversity conservation, which are basically consistent across every assessment. Recurrently underlined is the fact that, even when national legislation is fit for purpose, the implementation on the ground is lagging behind; the political influence of the environmental sector remains generally weak, and its Ministries are still under-resourced to deliver the agreed commitments.

9. Among the drivers that should be addressed to relief the pressure on biodiversity, some overarch beyond the strict environmental sector, for example, adequate incentives for the efficient use of marine and coastal natural resources, reducing conflicts among overlapping uses, developing marine spatial planning and integrated coastal management; and to mainstream biodiversity into sector/cross-sector policies, including the accounting of natural capital and ecosystem services. The sub-regional assessments also underline enabling conditions that need be strengthened, such as improving governance and management systems, closing knowledge gaps to efficiently monitor changes, building capacities, sharply increasing the funding conditions from national sources, and largely reinforcing cooperation between countries and from international actors.

The Post-2020 SAPBIO

10. To address the complexity of drivers that impact the Mediterranean Sea and coasts, the Post-2020 SAPBIO proposes a long-term Vision 2050, adapted from the new CBD/GBF to the Mediterranean context: “By 2050, marine and coastal biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy Mediterranean Sea and coast, and delivering benefits essential for nature and people”.

11. The proposed Mission to 2030, defines what is the strategy’s purpose and approach to reach the Vision: “By 2030 start to reverse the loss of biodiversity and put the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity on the path to recovery for the benefit of nature and people”.

12. The logic of the Post-2020 SAPBIO develops through a hierarchical pattern and terminology analogous to that proposed by the CBD/GBF:

13. Vision (to 2050) / Mission to 2030 / Goals to 2030 / Targets / Actions

14. The Post-2020 SAPBIO is action-oriented, scientifically based, and built through concise realistic Targets and Actions. It tries to avoid any additional layer of commitments for countries, taking advantage of the plans and strategies already adopted at national and international level. Harmonization has been ensured with the CBD/GBF (draft), the UN-SDGs, and the UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy (2019); at the Mediterranean level, with the UNEP/MAP Strategies, including the MSSD 2016-2025 and the MAP/MTS (2022-2027), and all the regional strategic documents and frameworks with a Mediterranean significance. It was developed in parallel to the Post-2020 Regional Strategy on MCPAs and OECMs, which goes into the details on all aspects related to MCPAs and OECMs

15. The Post-2020 SAPBIO subregional assessments proposed 10 priority axes based on the main needs expressed by the countries, which accurately capture the Mediterranean needs, and can be found within the goals, targets, programs, of the CBD/GBF, and within all the main and most recent regional biodiversity agreements. Clustered under 3 overarching Goals (adapted from the CBD/GBF), these 10 headings have been kept in the Post-2020 SAPBIO to follow the “theory of change” that also inspires the CBD/GBF (draft) and the UNEP/MCS (2019), methodologically facilitating the precise description of a series of Targets (as outputs) which add up to achieve the Goals and the Mission (the outcome). The Post-2020 SAPBIO Targets directly contribute to the SDGs, CBD/GBF, UNEP (MCS, MAP/MTS), EU BD Strategy to 2030, and GFCM most recent developments (Annex II.b).

16. The Strategy is focused on narrowing the gap between most and less developed countries and promotes mainstreaming biodiversity into all environmental and sectorial policies relevant for the protection and sustainable use of marine living resources. It incorporates the main emerging issues, such as challenges from climate change, the ecosystem approach, ecosystem services, nature-based solutions, and the need for ecosystem restoration, regarding not only marine but also coastal habitats, such as estuaries, wetlands and dunes.

17. Targets are, as possible, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART); also flexible enough to allow that implementation considers the precise conditions and opportunities of each national context. A total of 27 Targets address the accessible, direct drivers of biodiversity loss. The Post-2020 SAPBIO is not aimed at coping with the indirect drivers of un-sustainability (e. g. trade and financial principles, business models, production and consumption, mitigating greenhouse gases, chemical pollution, etc) although its Targets and Actions consider those that can be readily influenced by the Strategy.

Goals

18. The Goals, and the summarized statement of their respective Targets, are:

Goal 1 Reduce the threats to biodiversity

ADDRESSING PRESSURES

Target 1.1. on specific and urgent pressures over protected species and habitats

T 1.2 on alien invasive species, sharing databases and controlling introduction pathways, and impacts in the most vulnerable areas

T 1.3 on pollution control, particularly plastics, nutrient leakage, and noise

MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS¹

T 1.4. on effective systems of MCPAs and OECMs

T 1.5. on areas with enhanced protection levels

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

T 1.6. on ecosystem restoration, most of those with the highest relevance and potential

T 1.7. on the achievement of the Good Environmental Status

T 1.8. on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and nature-based solutions

Goal 2 Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people's needs

IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE

T 2.1. on the distribution and status of species protected under the SPA/BD Protocol

T 2.2. on sea-floor cartography, status and integrity of threatened habitats

T 2.3. on knowledge sharing (Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform).

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

T 2.4. on halting by-catch and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

T 2.5. on small-scale fisheries (professional, recreational), particularly in MPAs

T.2.6. on sustainable and biodiversity-friendly aquaculture.

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

T.2.7. on the ecosystem approach, and marine and coastal spatial planning

T 2.8. on cross-sectoral integration, including tourism, mining, energy

T 2.9. on reinforced governance, compliance, and stakeholder participation

¹ These targets are in line with what was agreed and elaborated on under the proposed Post-2020 regional strategy on MCPA and OECM

Goal 3 Enable the necessary transformative change, putting in place tools and nature-based solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

- T 3.1. on the IMAP refinement and full compliance
- T 3.2. on the Post-2020 SAPBIO assessment and reporting mechanisms
- T 3.3. on adequate means to run the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

- T 3.4. on capacity building, particularly in the less developed countries
- T 3.5. on networking and knowledge sharing (NIS, migratory species, MPAs, GES...).

OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

- T 3.6. on raising awareness, targeting decision-makers, media, and general public
- T 3.7. on integrating marine biodiversity into school, higher education, and professional training.

MOBILIZING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

- T 3.8. on employment, notably public, in direct relation to biodiversity conservation
- T 3.9. on sustainable funding, national commitments and innovative sources
- T 3.10. on international cooperation and increased north/south financial flows

Strategic actions

19. To achieve these Targets, the Post-2020 SAPBIO addresses clear Actions that countries can reasonably attain with the coordination of relevant international organizations and the support of donors and funding agencies. In the spirit of the Barcelona Convention, most of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions are designed to support the needs of the less advanced countries, optimizing the north/south collaboration opportunities; the Strategy aims at narrowing the gap between subregions, on underlying concerns such as data availability, GES status, MPA coverage, institutional capacities, disparities in human and financial resources.

20. The proposed Actions build on existing plans and strategies and try to avoid additional layers of institutional requirements. Actions are ambitious and transformational, but realistic, focused and timely to achieve the Targets. Most of the Actions are cross-cutting and serve different Targets. Given the strict selection criteria and the relatively short number of Actions (46 in total), their relevance is defined in just 2 levels of priority: High, or Very High.

21. The expected results of the SAPBIO, through its 42 Actions, are set to 2027 and to 2030, aligning with the timeframes of the CBD/GBF (2030) and the BC/MAP/MTS (2027). Each Action, considering not only what needs to be done, but how to achieve it, explains itself and includes a start-up, preparatory activity, e. g. setting the baseline to assess progress (as there may initially be gaps in indicators for new and important subjects in the framework).

22. About one third of the Actions has a regional scope; a larger part is recommended for the National level, where most of the implementation actually takes place; other Actions may have both a Regional and a National scope, or taking account of specificities, a sub-regional or transboundary character.

Strategy implementation and monitoring

23. An effective implementation mechanism is proposed to promote responsibility, accountability and transparency from all actors involved in its implementation, ensuring that all countries define national contributions that add up to the regional Goals and Targets.

24. The Strategy will be monitored as an alive/dynamic document, so the monitoring framework will need flexibility to allow some adaptation at the national level. Countries will identify their monitoring needs for the Post-2020 SAP BIO targets, requesting regional support as appropriate, updating their national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements, to ensure reporting quality data, duly harmonized with IMAP and other UNEP/MAP monitoring frameworks. The Strategy's implementation status will be periodically reviewed at the Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention, through systematic national reporting of progress, facilitated by the relevant MAP Regional Activity Centres.

25. SPA/RAC is assisted by an institutional governance body, the network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents, who will assess the progress made in implementing the Strategic Action Programme, suggesting recommendations to be submitted to SPA/BD Focal Points Meetings and, where necessary, proposing amendments to the work schedule. SPA/RAC is also assisted by the Advisory Committee, including nominated representatives by international and regional bodies with technical and scientific expertise in marine and coastal Mediterranean biodiversity issues, science, monitoring, cross-sectorial integration, fisheries, networking, outreach, funding, governance, and policies.

1. INTRODUCTION

26. In 2003, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO). In 2008-2009, SPA/RAC updated the SAPBIO to include the Climate Change component.

27. An evaluation covered the period 2004-2018 and concluded that, besides a series of gaps in its implementation, the SAPBIO constituted a major contribution to the preservation of the natural heritage in the Mediterranean marine and coastal zones; it played an important role as a strategic framework for implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) at national and regional levels in terms of harmonization and alignment of planning for biodiversity conservation. It also played a role in facilitating exchanges among departments within and among countries on common concerns in biodiversity conservation.

28. Protecting biodiversity is a global challenge and the next decade will be decisive. Nature cannot afford any half measures or lack of ambition, as global efforts under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity have largely been insufficient. The Barcelona Convention COP 21 requested to prepare in 2020-2021 the Post-2020 SAPBIO to be harmonised with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The elaboration process has been conducted during the biennium 2020-2021 with the view of submitting the Post-2020 SAPBIO for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their COP 22 in December 2021.

29. The Post 2020-SAPBIO has been developed in parallel to the Post-2020 regional strategy on MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, which was also requested by the COP 21 to the Barcelona Convention. All matters related to MPAs and OECMs are detailed under that strategy.

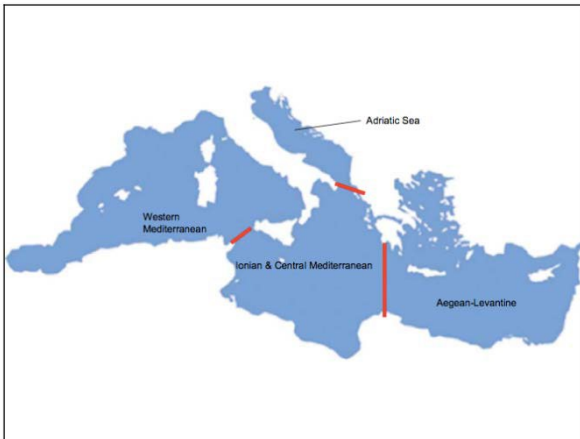
30. While ambitious, the Post-2020 SAPBIO tries to be realistic, concise, and action oriented. It builds on the main needs expressed by the Mediterranean countries at national and sub-regional levels, avoiding additional layers of institutional commitments, to minimize the burden on Parties, the Secretariat and other concerned entities. It aspires to mobilize the existing capacities and to mainstream biodiversity beyond the limits of the conservation community, sharing responsibilities with other marine and coastal governmental departments, civil society organizations, and socio-economic sectors.

31. With a timeframe to 2030, the Post-2020 SAPBIO considers the main emerging issues, as the challenges from climate change, the ecosystem approach, the ecosystem services, the nature-based solutions, and the need for ecosystem restoration, considering marine coastal habitats, such as estuaries, wetlands, and coastal dunes.

2. METHODOLOGICAL PROCESS

32. To deliver this mandate, during 2020 and 2021 SPA/RAC followed a bottom-up approach: the national needs and priorities were identified through 21 country ad-hoc national reports, involving the relevant authorities and stakeholders, and discussed in national workshops.

33. Given the transboundary nature of most of the issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, the national results were harmonised and the needs prioritised



through sub-regional analyses which fed sub-regional workshops. The subregions were agreed by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach process ⁽²⁾ and used for the purpose of the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration process Aegean-Levantine; Ionian and Central Mediterranean; Adriatic Sea; and Western Mediterranean. Aegean-Levantine; Ionian and Central Mediterranean; Adriatic Sea; and Western Mediterranean.

34. Each sub-regional workshop delivered an assessment of marine and coastal biodiversity in the concerned sub-region, of the existing or potential threats including interaction with fisheries; and

identified priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in each subregion.

35. The Post-2020 SAPBIO indicates the goals and targets to achieve at the regional level and integrates the priority actions identified at the national and sub-regional levels. It also proposes the actions needed at the regional level to support, accompany and coordinate the implementation of the priority actions to be implemented by the countries at the national level. It considers, as appropriate, the lessons learned from the implementation of SAPBIO during the period 2004-2018.

36. Following the mandate from the Contracting Parties, the Post-2020 SAPBIO, while being adapted to the natural specificities, the socio-economic and political contexts of the region, is aligned with the SDGs relevant overarching frameworks and processes at the global level, in particular, the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Harmonization has been ensured with the 2030 Agenda and the UN-SDGs (applicable Goals 3,8,11,13,14,15 17), the Aichi targets (applicable targets 2,4,5,6,7, 10, 11,12,14,15), and the UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy (2010). At the Mediterranean level, with the UNEP/MAP Strategies, decisions and agreements, including the MSSD 2016-2025 and the MAP/MTS (2022-2027), the ICZM-CRF (2016), the assessments agreed by the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in the framework of IMAP and the elaboration of the MED QSR (2017) and SoED (2020), the draft post-2020 strategy for marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, and the regional Action Plans. Also were considered the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and the related Directives on Marine Strategy Framework, Habitats, Birds, and MSP; the GFCM draft strategy to 2030; the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014-2025; the IUCN (2021) and the WWF (2021) papers for 2030, the 2019-2023 and beyond MedPAN strategy, and the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap that is in development through the Med MPA Forum process.; among others

² Ecosystem Approach Roadmap: Ecosystem approach, defined by the CBD as “a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way” and complemented by UNEP (2019) as “aiming to manage in an integrated and precautionary manner human uses and their cumulative impacts on marine and coastal ecosystem function at ecological scales, rather than confined to jurisdictional boundaries”

with a Mediterranean significance and several basic scientific papers as detailed in the attached Literature Cited.

37. The content of the Post-2020 SAPBIO is scientifically based and built on concise realistic targets. It avoids any additional layer of commitments for countries, prepared as a tool to streamline the implementation of the plans and strategies already adopted at national and international level. It also promotes the mainstreaming of biodiversity into all environmental and sectorial policies relevant for the sustainable use of marine living resources, such as fisheries.

38. Previous drafts of the Post-2020 SAPBIO were circulated, and recommendations provided on its elaboration and strategic elements, in three meetings of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee (April 2020; April 2021; and May 2021), and a workshop of the SAPBIO National Correspondents (May 2021). The draft Post-2020 SAPBIO will be submitted for consideration by the Barcelona Convention COP 22 in December 2021, after having been reviewed and endorsed by the 15th meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points (June 2021) and MAP Focal Points (September 2021).

3. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

3.1. Mediterranean Sea values

39. The Mediterranean Sea is a hotspot for marine biodiversity and endemism. Seagrass meadows, coralligenous assemblages and dark ecosystems are the most representative marine ecosystems particular to the Mediterranean Sea. Though it covers less than 1% of the ocean surface, it hosts more than 17,000 marine species and contributes to an estimated 4-18% of the world's known marine species; of these, over 25% are found nowhere else on Earth. Below the 200m it includes a series of unique deep-sea habitats associated to volcanoes, seamounts and mud plains (IUCN 2019). It is a low primary productivity ecosystem due to limited nutrient inputs from fluvial and Atlantic origins; primary production is on average three times lower in the eastern basin than in the western part.

40. The Mediterranean Sea is home to a large share of the world's marine biodiversity but it is also the victim of decades of unsustainable use despite the efforts for an effective management. It is also unique by the severe pressure from human use, intense fisheries, maritime traffic, land-based pollution, the introduction and spread of non-indigenous and invasive alien species. Because of its geographical situation it also suffers most from the impacts of climate change, warming 20% faster than the rest of the world according to the MedECC (2020). Altogether, it represents the highest proportion of threatened marine habitats, with 21% listed as vulnerable and 11% as endangered in the Red List category in the EU28 (Gubai et al 2016), with seagrass ecosystems experiencing the most rapid decline.

3.2. Progress in marine conservation

41. Regional cooperation on environmental matters has remained active in the Mediterranean despite unfavourable geopolitical circumstances. Throughout the last decade, significant progress in addressing sustainability issues in the Mediterranean was achieved, to which the Barcelona Convention system has largely contributed. Contracting Parties have adopted common objectives, monitoring and assessment frameworks.

42. Integration and regional system-based approaches are increasingly recognized as the most efficient way to address systemic factors, and combined pressures and impacts. Progress has been made on integrating the environment into sectoral policies thanks to the Barcelona Convention and the establishment of integrated tools, including the ICZM Protocol, the ecosystem approach, the Mediterranean Strategy for

Sustainable Development (MSSD), and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan. Prominently, a Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) was adopted in 2017 for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, recognising MSP as the main tool for the implementation of ICZM in the marine area of coastal zones.

43. Since 2008, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols have agreed to gradually apply the ecosystem approach to manage human activities in the Mediterranean, with the ultimate aim of achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) (Decision IG.17/6; 2008). At the same time, Mediterranean countries have adopted common monitoring and assessment frameworks to improve information-based decision-making. An Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), as a Mediterranean information system to support data collection, reporting and assessment, is being developed in the context of the MAP system to assess progress towards GES.

44. MPA coverage is in 2021 very close to the 10% Aichi target (9.3% of MPAs and potential OECMs, MAPAMED 2019) at the Mediterranean level, yet weak in effective management for its majority. Recovery of species population and improvement of marine habitats has been recorded, notably in marine protected areas (MPAs) and in the no-take zones (NTZs) that are well managed and enforced.

45. The PSSA and International Marine Park in the Strait of Bonifacio, the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean marine mammals and the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean are examples of cooperation between neighbouring countries. Transboundary collaboration is increasing around migratory species, NIS/IAS monitoring, MPA management, and fish stock assessments. Multiannual fisheries management plans have also been drawn up between various partners considering the overlap of shared stocks.

46. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and GFCM, collaboration, together with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, Birdlife and MEDASSET, is covering the minimization of discards and incidental catches. GFCM has also collaborated in a strategy to reduce marine litter and underwater noise and put new emphasis on the monitoring of Fishery Restricted Areas (FRAs). A MoU was signed between SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS for the conservation of cetaceans.

47. All Mediterranean countries have adopted frameworks for ex-ante environmental impact assessment (EIA), whereas 72% have enacted a legal framework for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Both are also tools for stakeholder information.

48. Stakeholder networks have also expanded and diversified. Programmatic coherence, institutional stimulus, complementarity and coordination have strengthened the role of international non-governmental organizations and stakeholder networks, sharply improving the opportunities for participation and engagement. A growing number of science-based public and citizen organizations actively participate in the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and its related programmes and projects, example of which are the Adriatic networks, the MedPAN network; plus the private-public donor trust fund (The MedFund). In addition, a Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter was established in 2016 to exchange best practices, share information and seek solutions.

3.3. Main problems for the conservation of marine biodiversity

49. Despite notable progress, Mediterranean countries are not on track to achieve and fully implement the agreed upon goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Ecological Objectives for GES. Most observed trends show developments that are either progressing towards the set targets, but at an insufficient rate or unequally across the countries, or even moving away from the target (SoED 2020). Out of 17 SDGs, 11 remain unachieved in all Mediterranean countries, including SDG 13 “climate action”,

SDG 14 “life below water”. Nine out of the 21 Mediterranean countries had achieved none of the SDG 2030 targets in 2019 and the maximum number of SDGs achieved by a country is two (Sachs et al. 2019).

50. Administrations in charge of the environment often lack the institutional strength to enforce environmental policy integration. Much remains to be done, as ambitious regional and international environmental agreements are rarely fully implemented on the ground, and important gaps persist in enforcing them. Environment ministries remain generally weak and underfunded. In addition, competition between different economic sectors for the use of marine space is strengthening this lack of intersectoral administrative cooperation.

51. The subregional assessments show that even when legislation is fit for purpose, the implementation on the ground is lagging behind. The main short comes underlined are synthesized below.

52. Every country, and subregion, has identified knowledge gaps for implementing IMAP and for the identification of protection measures for the conservation of species. Knowledge, data availability and sharing, are insufficient and very patchy, due to limited financial (national or regional), technical and institutional capacities. National reports note a great disparity between the northern and the southern shores of the Mediterranean in terms of inventories, mapping and ecological monitoring. Particularly the information about deep-water habitats in the southern part of the basin is very incomplete or missing.

53. Marine mammal populations negative trends persist, falling by over 40% in the last 50 years. More than half of the shark and ray species found in the Mediterranean are classified as endangered. Only around 400 monk seals remain in the Mediterranean (Karamanlidis et al 2015).

54. Seagrass meadows and coralligenous assemblages generate a remarkable natural productivity that contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the maintenance of fisheries resources, but are threatened by destructive fishing gear, boat anchoring, invasive species, pollution, with reported cases on species’ mass mortality events and slower growing rates (e. g. Otero et al 2013). Coastal wetlands and dune areas also continue to decline as Mediterranean countries increase the built-up area within 1 kilometre of the coastline.

55. Climate change, together with a limited success of control for mitigation and adaptation mechanisms, has accelerated the spread of non-indigenous species, leading to a shift in species composition and the functioning of ecosystems. Changes in the marine food-web are registered throughout. The abundance of top predators, including a number of marine mammals, fell by 41% and fish species declined by 34%, including commercial and non-commercial species, while there is an increase of around 23% of the organisms at the bottom of the food web (e. g. jellyfish) (Piroddi et al. 2017).

56. The invasive alien species, a side effect of shipping (by means of ballast waters and hull fouling), corridors, maritime transport and water ways, aquaculture, trade in live marine organisms (aquarium trade and fishing bait) and others (e. g. fishing activities and aquarium exhibits), enhanced by global warming, are today among the main threats to marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean. More than 1,199 non-indigenous marine species have been recorded in the Mediterranean, 618 of which are established (QSR, UNEP/MAP 2017). Particularly in the Levantine basin, some are causing a huge impact, with the decrease or collapse in native species populations. Marine diseases caused by pathogens are regularly reported, e. g. the massive mortality (over 99%) of the endemic and protected large mother-of-pearl *Pinna nobilis*, or the harmful phytoplankton blooms which are fatal for shellfish of socio-economic interest. NIS/IAS are a major issue in the Mediterranean, cooperation by all countries is needed to prevent their introduction and spread, within the principle of sharing responsibility.

57. On top of the growing impacts from climate change and the spread of alien species, new challenges arise such as the leakage of marine litter, particularly plastics; while the incidence of underwater noise and the cumulative impacts from these together with all sources of physical and chemical pollution, are still poorly documented and controlled (UNEP / MAP-Plan Bleu, 2020).

58. The MPA coverage is now very close to the 10% target at the Mediterranean level but the current system is still not connected, nor representative of the Mediterranean ecoregions, as most are located in the northern part of the Mediterranean and in coastal waters, resulting in an under-representation of deeper ecosystems in areas both within and beyond national jurisdiction; while just a tiny 0.06% of the Sea is covered by fully protected areas. The main concern, however, persists in that less than one fourth of the Mediterranean MPAs has a management plan, and less than half of these are effectively implemented (MAPAMED 2019; WWF 2020; UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC 2021). Human, material and financial resources are inadequate, resulting in weak enforcement; regular monitoring activities are almost limited to a few MPAs mainly in some EU countries. The financial gap of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, as compared to their conservation objectives, is of 700 million euros per year (Binet et al 2016).

59. The 78% of Mediterranean and Black Sea fish stocks are fished at biologically unsustainable levels (FAO/GFCM 2020). The pattern of exploitation and the state of different fish stocks is critical in all Mediterranean subregions. Bycatch of vulnerable marine species threatens the conservation of a variety of marine taxa, including mammals, birds, sea turtles, sharks and rays. Likewise, bycatch of coral, sponge, and other benthic species can also cause damage to important habitats. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) are still a common factor. Concerns are rising also as related to recreational fisheries, which in some coastal areas exceed in biomass capture to commercial fisheries (e.g. Venturini et al 2017). Annual discards in the Mediterranean are estimated at around 230 000 tonnes (18 percent of the total catch), mainly due to bottom trawl fishery, while small-scale fisheries, by contrast, tend to show discard rates of below 10 percent (FAO/GFCM, 2020). Aquaculture also creates additional pressures on fish stocks, due to the use of wild fish for feed and the transfer of non-indigenous species.

60. Finally, funding sources for marine conservation keeps being a recurring obstacle in all countries, prominently in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean areas. National sources of funding remain largely irregular and insufficient, while development aid levels are falling and donor countries have not lived up to their pledge to ramp up development finance for marine conservation.

4. NEEDS, GAPS AND CHALLENGES

61. The subregional reports concurred in priority needs (Annex I), which have been clustered in the four sections ahead:

4.1. Addressing current pressures and threats

62. All subregional reports underline the need to reach the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, in contribution to the Ecosystem Approach as an overarching principle. Two key components, consistently underlined, are addressing pressures on biodiversity, and monitoring changes.

63. To ensure that the trends in conservation are reversed by 2030, the patchy knowledge on the distribution and status of protected species and habitats under the SPA/BD Protocol must be improved throughout. There is still strong need to map and inventory habitats, particularly coralligenous, seagrasses, and dark ecosystem to ascertain their status; and to better clarify the status of most sharks, turtles, marine mammals, seabirds, and endangered invertebrates, in order to develop and implement recovery plans for all threatened species, in particular those whose survival depends on such actions, including measures to eliminate all intentional or accidental killing, capture and trade; plus the status of coastal habitats such as wetlands, estuaries and coastal dunes requiring protection measures (Art. 10 of the ICZM Protocol).

64. While countries should hold to their commitment to substantially reduce their CO₂ emissions (55% reduction in the EU by 2030, EU 2021), there is strong need to improve knowledge on the impacts and consequences of climate change over coastal and marine ecosystems, and to monitor acidification and its effects on sensitive habitats and species, most appropriately through a network of pilot and representative MPAs. Candidate areas for restoration of carbon-rich ecosystems, areas vulnerable to climate change, as well as important fish spawning and nursery areas should be listed, and restoration activities launched between local, regional, and national authorities, together with citizens, businesses, social partners and the research and knowledge community.

65. Invasive alien species and pathways must be regularly identified in all countries, listing priority species to be controlled or eradicated. Together with the ratification and implementation of the Regional Strategy addressing ballast water management, measures must be established to manage pathways to prevent their introduction, and in support of Mediterranean information networks (e. g. MAMIAS) to share data on alien species and to continuously monitor their trends. Given the wide gaps in research efforts across the countries, knowledge sharing in other biodiversity fields (cartography, threatened species and habitats, MPA management) requires the development or reinforcement of platforms and mechanisms for the exchange of information specific to marine and coastal biodiversity across subregions and the entire Mediterranean. Examples are the very active MedPAN network of Mediterranean MPA managers, and the NETCCOBAMS, the ACCOBAMS online database under construction.

66. Chemical pollution topics in general are addressed separately at MAP level through MEDPOL and related planning and management, with which the Post-2020 SAPBIO will keep synergy and alignment. Regarding the direct physical effects of pollution in species and ecosystems, all subregions share the need to minimize and mitigate every form of solid waste pollution from land-based sources and from the activity of the fishing sector, in particular abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, as well as reducing the level of plastic leakage, by changing how waste is collected and managed in cities and touristic destinations around the Mediterranean. Three subregions also seek responses to reduce the impact of maritime traffic (noise and collision) on sensitive marine species (cetaceans, turtles, others) implementing quieter technologies and designating restricted areas, as proposed by ACCOBAMS. Cumulative impacts should be considered as a main operational requirement for the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean.

4.2. Spatial protection measures

67. Aimed to promote the conservation of biodiversity under the ecosystem approach, all subregions prioritize the reduction of conflicts among overlapping uses by developing marine spatial planning (MSP), integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), and the efficient use of natural resources.

68. Marine protected areas (MPAs) are considered as effective means and pilot sites with real experience on improved marine planning and governance, zoning, sustainable small-scale fisheries, stakeholder participation, and long-term research and monitoring. All subregions propose the enlargement of the marine protected area network, setting up ecological corridors to prevent genetic isolation and to allow for species migration, while making it more representative of the Mediterranean Sea ecoregions, particularly extending to the Southern and Eastern coasts, incorporating Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), in line with the CBD definition and criteria for OECMs (CBD Decision 14/08), such as protected cultural areas, and military zones where appropriate; also expanding into the open seas through Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs of GFCM) and candidate areas in Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME of FAO), Particularly Sea Sensitive Areas (PSSAs of IMO), in all cases when ensuring effective management; favouring their setting within Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs listed in the CBD repository).

69. Every assessment warns about the weak management situation in most of the already established MPAs and underlines the urgent need for a proper management planning ensuring the effective collaboration between different administrations and stakeholders, the enforcement of regulations, supporting capacity building and the sustainability of human and financial resources for MPAs.

4.3. Mainstreaming biodiversity in other sectors

70. The most recent and comprehensive assessments on the global (UNEP/MCS 2019) and Mediterranean marine biodiversity (MAP/MTS 2020; QSR 2017; SPA/RAC 2019 and 2021; SoED 2020; WWF 2021) identify a series of critical barriers for biodiversity conservation, which are basically consistent across documents, and again with the main gaps and needs identified by the Post-2020 SAPBIO subregional assessments.

71. Although legislation is fit for purpose, implementation on the ground is lagging. The gap between the ambition of international agreements and their implementation at the national and local levels, is sustained because of the insufficient political interest and the limited awareness and engagement in decision-making at the national level where most of the implementation needs to take place.

72. Subregional assessments concur that the administrations in charge of the environment often lack the institutional strength to enforce environmental policy integration. Environment ministries remain generally weak and underfunded. The ambition of specific environmental regulations would benefit from them being upgraded. Beyond marine protected areas, biodiversity conservation needs to share responsibilities with Ministries and socio-economic sectors such as economy, taxation, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, security, energy, academia, coastal cities, and mass communication media.

73. Understanding bycatch and adopting effective measures to reduce its levels represent essential steps towards minimizing discards as well as fisheries' impacts on vulnerable species, and on the marine ecosystem more generally. To support this, mitigation measures and data collection on by-catch for all sensitive species needs to be stepped up. Overfishing should also be urgently phased-out, opposing any illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The use of long-lines and of bottom-contacting fishing gear must be reconciled with biodiversity conservation goals. Numerous countries have also expressed concerns about the impacts from the intensive and expanding aquaculture facilities over aquatic health and biosecurity, encouraging the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.

74. Inside protected areas, underlining the MPAs recently established, fisheries-management measures must be established, according to conservation objectives incorporating traditional ecological knowledge, to be defined with the local fishers and on the best available scientific advice. Management plans should take into account recreational fisheries, the impacts they generate on resources and ecosystems, and the conflicts arising with professional fishers.

75. The fast expanding coastal and marine tourism activities also need to reduce their footprint and pressure on scarce natural resources, fragile ecosystems and costly environmental infrastructure. Alternative and less seasonal models to mass tourism should be supported, seeking more environmental sustainability and social benefit.

4.4. Enabling tools for marine biodiversity conservation

76. National and subregional assessments underline the necessity to improve coherence and complementarity of all strategies, policies, plans, initiatives, planning processes and funding affecting marine areas. This includes the appropriate coordination between the various authorities competent for both the marine and the land parts of coastal zones in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels,

covering the proper participation of all stakeholders, including resource users and civil society, in a transparent decision-making process that would lead to shared and better management decisions.

77. A common need to all the Mediterranean subregions is that of improving the collection of data / information for the regional evaluation of GES and updating the monitoring programmes, so that they are aligned and coherent with the IMAP process, duly harmonized with other UNEP/MAP monitoring frameworks, and avoiding to add another layer of complexity or duplication of efforts in the monitoring requirements. In most of the Mediterranean countries, explicit deadlines and reporting mechanisms on GES are not holding to their commitments and need to be implemented more widely. More particularly, the progress on the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO will also need to be regularly monitored and assessed.

78. Monitoring of coastal and marine biodiversity should cover issues of emerging concern, include drivers, pressures, impacts and responses, and establishing data exchange protocols. At the MPA level, more efficiency can be attained by developing harmonized basic ecological, socio-economic and management descriptors/indicators to obtain comparable MPA monitoring data at the regional scale. National and subregional reports underline the data gaps and their disparity among countries, while critical knowledge is being generated in networks and knowledge hubs, universities, institutions, local assessment or research programmes, or is held by local communities and practitioners, but is insufficiently transmitted to decision makers. Monitoring information should also be accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

79. The effective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and achieving a good environmental status in the Mediterranean region requires to establish capacity building and awareness frameworks at the national level and also at a regional scale. These should be aimed at policymakers, economic stakeholders involved in marine activities, managers, NGOs or CSOs, universities and researchers, and the media. Particularly underlined was the need to provide capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain.

80. Further efforts are required for developing permanent collaboration across specialized stakeholder networks. Multiple innovations have been developed in the last decade and many more are ongoing, with many stakeholders involved often on short-term funding windows. Well-structured capitalization efforts are required to ensure the Post-2020 SAPBIO effectiveness to benefit from the best practices and lessons learned.

81. Most reports suggest the need to improve public access to information, as well as education for sustainable development, particularly in marine conservation matters, including school and universities. At every level the decision-makers, general public, relevant economic sectors and donors must recognize the value of biodiversity. General communications should include simpler messages, new packages, channels and tools, appropriate to reach wider non-biodiversity audiences, decision-makers and donors at all levels.

82. Funding shortages and discontinuity are remarked in every national and subregional biodiversity assessment. Moving beyond the recurring obstacle of funding gaps is essential for the proper implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO. A dedicated resource mobilisation strategy is a top priority, calling upon national financial resources and international financial institutions, development partners, public and private actors, to prioritize investment in a more sustainable blue economy. Recurrently mentioned is the importance of reducing or avoiding fiscal instruments and subsidies with a negative impact on the environment, e. g. supporting natural areas destruction (wetlands drainage, dune dumping) or harmful fishing practices.

83. Biodiversity loss threatens our food systems³, putting our food security and nutrition at risk. Globally, the overall cost/benefit ratio of an effective programme for the conservation of remaining wild

³ World Economic Forum (2020), [The Global Risks Report 2020](#).

nature is estimated to be at least 100 to 1⁴. If well protected, the marine resources of the Mediterranean Sea could deliver assets valued at US\$450 billion per year (WWF 2021). An overall Mediterranean cost/benefit analysis is needed; today we know that less than a 15% of the financing needs for effective MPA management in the Mediterranean is being covered (Binet et al 2016), however, the national overall contributions to biodiversity conservation are yet to be assessed.

84. Ministers in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM 2021) have called upon International Financial Institutions, development partners, public and private actors to prioritize investment in the sustainable blue economy, notably in the domain of preservation of the marine environment. The UNFCCC commitment in response to SDG-13a aims at mobilizing through the Green Climate Fund, US\$100 billion annually from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of climate change mitigation actions. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 calls on unlocking 20 billion EUR/year for biodiversity conservation through various sources, including EU, national and private funding, and integrating biodiversity considerations into business practices. In the last decade, the EU and its Member States also collectively upheld their commitment to double financial flows to developing countries for biodiversity⁵.

85. Resources from all origins for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO need to increase substantially and consistently, with greater cooperation among partners, and growing flows towards developing countries. The subregional assessments underline how North-South cross-border collaboration is underdeveloped, and remains dependent on one-off actions within the framework of projects (particularly thanks to European programmes: LIFE, Interreg, H2020, etc.).

86. Other than funding, the main needs identified relate to cross-border projects around priority themes, such as the invasive alien species, the coordination of monitoring systems to facilitate the comparability of data, the identification and recognition of MPAs and OECMs outside national jurisdictions, particularly on high seas in synergy with the ongoing BBNJ processes, and their coordinated management.

5. VISION, GOALS, and TARGETS

5.1. Vision and Mission

87. The Post-2020 SAPBIO Vision 2050 is adapted to Mediterranean context from that of the new CBD Framework:

88. “By 2050, marine and coastal biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy Mediterranean Sea and coast, and delivering benefits essential for nature and people”.

89. The Mission defines what is the strategy’s usefulness, its purpose and approach to reach the Vision: “By 2030 start to reverse the loss of biodiversity and put the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity on the path to recovery for the benefit of nature and people”.

90. The Post-2020 SAPBIO follows a hierarchical pattern and terminology analogous to that proposed by the CBD Framework:

Vision (to 2050) → Mission (to 2030) → Goals (to 2030) → Targets → Actions

⁴ Balmford et al. (2002), [Economic reasons for conserving wild nature](#).

⁵ Including international financing where biodiversity is the principal objective and where it is a significant secondary objective, in line with [CBD COP11 Decision XI/4](#) and EU and Member States financial reports submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2015 and 2018.

5.2. Goals 2030 for the Post-2020 SAPBIO

91. The Post-2020 SAPBIO subregional assessments, based on the priority needs expressed by the countries, put forward actions under 10 headings (Annex I) that accurately capture the Mediterranean most critical needs. These inspire the Post-2020 SAPBIO headings and targets, which significantly match those of the CBD/GBF, and with all the main and most recent Mediterranean biodiversity agreements (correspondences in Table 4 in Annex II). The 10 headings are clustered under 3 overarching Goals, adapted from those of the CBD/GBF because of their thematic balance and global relevance:

92. Goal 1. Reduce the threats to biodiversity

93. Goal 2. Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people's needs

94. Goal 3. Enable the necessary transformative change, putting in place tools and -solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

5.3. Targets

95. The Post-2020 SAPBIO aims at accomplishing a short number of action Targets (outputs) which add up to achieve the Goals and the Mission (outcome).

96. Targets are, as possible, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART). In total there are 27 Targets, addressing the accessible, direct drivers of biodiversity loss. The Post-2020 SAPBIO is not aimed at coping with general drivers of unsustainability⁽⁶⁾, although its Targets and Actions consider those that can be readily influenced by the Strategy.

97. Targets are flexible enough to allow that implementation takes into account the precise conditions and opportunities of each country; their indicators may adapt as needed to each national context, as the *CBD/GBF* suggests, it will be the “*Countries to establish their national targets/indicators aligned with this framework*”.

98. Some target components and monitoring elements are difficult to measure due to the current availability of indicators and data. Whilst there may initially be gaps in indicators for new and important subjects in the framework, through specific Actions (see section 6) it should be possible to develop suitable baseline indicators and data over time.

99. The targets (T) are selected based on criteria of high regional significance, responding to the main priorities and opportunities identified in the Post-2020 SAPBIO Subregional reports, adding-up to achieve the Goals, framed within the CBD Framework and its draft Targets and thus, to the SDGs, and harmonized (Annex II) with those proposed/adopted by the other main Mediterranean biodiversity frameworks⁷

⁶ Such as e. g. trade and financial principles, circular economy, sustainable production and consumption, business models, mitigation of greenhouse gases, chemical pollution...

⁷ EU: *MSFD, WFD, MSP, BD Strategy 2030, Habitats Directive; Birds Directive; GFCM Strategy draft 2030; UNEP Marine and Coastal strategy (2019) and reviewed in Nov.2020; MAP/UNEP MTS 2022-2027; IMAP; Barcelona Convention ICZM-CRF (2016), MCPAs & OECMs Strategy (under-preparation); ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014-2025; and considering targets proposed/adopted by other relevant regional organizations such as IUCN, MedPAN, and WWF.*

100. For each of the three Goals, Targets are grouped under headings⁸ that stem from the priority axes identified by the Subregional Post-2020 SAPBIO analyses and consultation process undertaken within the framework of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAPBIO conducted following a bottom-up approach.

Goal 1 Reduce the threats to biodiversity

ADDRESS PRESSURES

- T 1.1. on specific pressures:

By 2030 the specific anthropogenic pressures on all habitats and species protected under the SPA/BD Protocol have been minimized, in particular for those whose resilience or survival depends on such actions, including from oil and gas activities and seabed mining, ensuring no deterioration in their conservation trends and status.

- T 1.2 on NIS/IAS:

By 2030, prevent, manage and control NIS and in particular invasive non-indigenous species and their introduction pathways to minimize/reduce their impact on ecosystem integrity, including inter-alia, by (i) protecting most vulnerable ecosystems (ii) implementing the Regional strategy addressing ship's ballast water management and invasive species in all countries around the Mediterranean Sea and (iii) manage other pathways of introduction.

- T 1.3 on pollution control

By 2030 all types of pollution are prevented, controlled and significantly reduced to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity, including through the significant reduction of plastic and nutrient leakage into the environment, and the significant reduction of light and noise pollution and the amounts of biocides used.

101. MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS⁹

- T 1.4. on effective systems of MCPAs and OECMs

By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective⁽¹⁰⁾ systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.

- T 1.5. on areas with enhanced protection levels

By 2030, the number and coverage of marine and coastal protected areas with enhanced protection levels is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems

⁸ Headings have no relevance for the contents or structure of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, they just allow to ease the flow of the reading

⁹ These targets are itemized under the proposed Post-2020 regional strategy on MCPA and OECM. A detailed monitoring framework with specific indicators and milestone on MPAs and OECMs will be developed under the Post 2020 regional MPA strategy, and will be proposed for adoption by the COP 23

¹⁰ Effective systems are understood to comprise the four components identified by the IUCN Green List standards: Good governance; sound design and planning, management effectiveness and achieving conservation outcomes. <https://iucngreenlist.org>

102. ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

- T 1.6. on ecosystem restoration

By 2027 develop the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or regeneration potential (as nursery areas and/or carbon stocks), and by 2030 complete the restoration of most of those selected.

- T 1.7. on the achievement of GES¹¹

Related to the biodiversity Ecological Objectives within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach EcAp/IMAP, by 2027 the Mediterranean Sea is on track to achieving the Good Environmental Status, and 100% countries have identified, and in case needed received support, to fill the gaps that hinder good GES evaluation, so that by 2030 most of the countries have reached appropriate GES in an effective implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and its roadmap.

- T 1.8. on climate change

By 2030, all countries have adopted and started implementing short- and medium-term measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly to warming, acidification and contributing to disaster risk reduction, through reducing emissions, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and restoration as appropriate, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity, thereby also contributing to halt global warming and acidification.

Goal 2 Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people's needs

103. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE

- T 2.1. Improve knowledge on threatened species

The georeferenced distribution, values and status of marine species protected under the SPA/BD Protocol is established, and information gaps have been filled to improve the conservation status of all marine and coastal species covered by Mediterranean Regional Action Plans.

- T 2.2. Improve knowledge on threatened habitats

By 2030 the sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic and dark habitats, together with critical habitats for species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol, and the status, distribution, trends, and functional aspects of habitats protected under the SPA/BD Protocol is established and mapped at highest feasible resolution for all MPAs and OECMs, continuously monitored and shared through a biodiversity platform.

- T 2.3. on knowledge sharing

By 2027 georeferenced Information on Mediterranean Biodiversity key components is centralized in an open access platform.

¹¹ Good Environmental Status for the Mediterranean is understood as described in annex I of “Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets”, adopted at the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, available online: https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/ecap/ig21_3_eng.pdf

104. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

- T 2.4. on fishing gears, by-catch, IUU

By 2027 start in all countries the implementation of science-based management plans to effectively regulate sustainable harvesting and to end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including measures to minimize discards and to eliminate all intentional or accidental killing, capture and trade of protected species, so by 2030 all ecologically destructive and unsustainable fishing practices have been halted by limiting the use of fishing gears most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed, as appropriate according to the impact of each specific fishery on marine ecosystems and/or vulnerable species.

- T 2.5. on small-scale fisheries (artisanal, recreational)

Promote shared responsibility and strong participatory management practices in professional small-scale fisheries, advised by traditional ecological knowledge and the best available science, by 2027 in all MPAs, with controlled IUU and recreational fishing, and by 2030 in all fishing grounds within OECMs.

- T.2.6. on sustainable and biodiversity-friendly aquaculture

By developing the Post-2020 GFCM Aquaculture and Fisheries strategy, and in synergy with the relevant work on pollution from aquaculture led by MEDPOL, in 2027 the best practices in aquaculture, such as innovation, improving aquatic health and biosecurity, encouraging the responsible use of antimicrobials, supported by certification, traceability and nature-based solutions, have been promoted across the Mediterranean countries, so that by 2030 the Mediterranean aquaculture industry is transformed in line with the ecosystem approach, through science-based solutions and marine spatial planning tools.

105. MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

- T.2.7. on the ecosystem approach and marine and coastal spatial planning

By 2030, 100% of MPAs and as appropriate OECMs, and 50% of the remaining marine areas are sustainably managed by applying ecosystem-based approaches including biodiversity and climate change-informed marine spatial planning, and by conducting environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.

- T 2.8. on cross-sectoral integration and biodiversity accounts

By 2030, biodiversity values and related targets have been integrated into national and local development strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national policies, national accounting as appropriate, and reporting systems, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into the assessment of environmental impacts.

- T 2.9. on governance and stakeholder participation

By 2030 the ratification of all protocols of the Barcelona Convention and their enactment in national legislation has significantly advanced, enhancing the necessary political will to apply all processes of the Barcelona Convention, a governance framework ensuring co-responsibility and co-ownership by all relevant actors in meeting the Post-2020 SAPBIO commitments has been

developed, including raising the profile of environmental administrations, supporting cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, administrative transparency, stakeholder dialogue, and participatory governance at different levels.

Goal 3 Enable the necessary transformative change, putting in place too ls and nature-based solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

106. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

- T 3.1. on the IMAP compliance

By 2027 most countries conduct baseline conservation, monitoring and assessment studies, update national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements of IMAP, and report regularly quality assured data, with a 100% of countries by 2030.

- T 3.2. on the SAPBIO assessment and reporting

By 2025, countries have identified their national contributions and targets for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, enacting national legislation and updating their NBSAPs as appropriate, reporting and reviewing periodically the status of implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO at the COP of the Barcelona Convention.

- T 3.3. Means for the assessment mechanisms

By 2025, the necessary means for running the regional Post-2020 SAPBIO follow-up and assessment mechanisms, are in place within the MAP system, allowing the timely analysis of progress based on objective/numerical elements of targets towards the Post-2020 SAPBIO goals and targets.

107. CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

- T 3.4. on capacity development

By 2030, key officers, managers, field technicians, and local authorities responsible for the environment, fisheries, and enforcement, are sufficiently trained for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO in their respective professional environments.

- T 3.5. on networking and knowledge sharing

By 2025 assess the knowledge sharing and networking needs and opportunities, inter alia on topics as NIS/IAS, migratory species, MPA management, GES, monitoring, law enforcement, and other relevant activities related to the Post-2020 SAPBIO, so that by 2030 any needed human networks at national, sub-regional and regional level have been developed and strengthened to ensure the enhancement of capacities, knowledge, good practices, experience sharing, and the development of joint actions.

108. OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

- T 3.6. on public awareness

By 2025 outline a communications and awareness strategy, including the development of any necessary indicators to follow-up the extent and reach of awareness, so that by 2030 quality

information is available for the effective management of biodiversity, and significant progress has been made to increase awareness, understanding and appreciating of the values and threats to the marine environment, of the responses and good practices, by targeting decision-makers and the general public, through reinforced and renewed mechanisms, including mass communications.

- T 3.7. on outreach and education

Contracting parties, with the assistance of SPA/RAC, should help integrate marine biodiversity and ecosystems into school, higher education and professional training, incorporating the biodiversity conservation and related strategies and tools into the curricula in as many countries as possible, and by 2030, supporting multidisciplinary scientific research, strengthening citizen science, ensuring that best practices and innovative technologies are more accessible, and replicable, within policy makers, industry and civil society.

109. MOBILIZING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

- T 3.8. on employment

By 2030, employment in direct relation to biodiversity conservation, particularly in the public sector (or redirecting the existing one) has increased by 300%.

- T 3.9. on sustainable funding sources

By 2027 at the Mediterranean level, and at the national level in most countries, sustainable funding strategies have been developed, with innovative approaches to mobilize alternative financial sources, covering fiscal incomes that could be redistributed, and relevant actions to fund, including regional funds and other type of national or local financing mechanisms, so that by 2030 there is a significant increase of financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors.

- T 3.10. on cooperation

Increase cooperation both north/south and between governmental and non-governmental actors at different levels, to support national plans particularly in southern Mediterranean countries and non-EU countries, identifying potential donors and by 2023 organise a conference of donors for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, achieving by 2030 a significant increase in the international financial flows on biodiversity conservation towards developing countries.

6. PROPOSAL FOR ACTIONS

110. The Post-2020 SAPBIO addresses clear actions that countries can reasonably achieve with the coordination of relevant international organizations and the support of donors and funding agencies.

111. The number of Actions is kept short as possible. The main criteria for their selection are:

- Concrete Actions building on the main needs expressed by the Mediterranean countries at national and sub-regional levels (Annex I).
- Supporting the needs of the less advanced countries, optimizing the north/south collaboration opportunities, trying to narrow the gap between subregions.

- Cross-cutting Actions which serve different Targets¹²

112. The Actions try to be ambitious and transformational, but realistic, relevant, focused and timely to achieve the Targets.

113. The proposed Actions provide a thematic and geographical balance, and try to avoid additional layers of institutional requirements, engaging other actors, seeking for complementary, building as possible on existing plans and strategies¹³ and on what already works, as identified in the subregional and national reports.

114. Timelines and indicators are set to 2027 and to 2030 (Annex III); trying to consider not only what needs to be done, but how to achieve it, each Action includes a start-up, preparatory activity, e. g. setting the baseline to assess progress.

115. The Post-2020 SAPBIO is a Mediterranean framework (saving any clear subregional specificities), providing the setting to which only minor adjustments will be done at the national level. A large part of the Actions is recommended for the National level, where most of the implementation takes place on issues as e. g. pressures on biodiversity, monitoring, MPA coverage/management, enforcement, integration of non-conservation sectors. Actions expressed by all 4 sub-regions are considered as a priority at the Mediterranean level, without reducing the importance of others which may be relevant for a given subregion or for a part of the Mediterranean Sea. Some Actions may have both a Regional and National scope; and taking account of specificities, other Actions have a sub-regional or transboundary character.

116. Each Action presents timelines to 2027 and to 2030, in which progress of measures taken will be assessed. Given the strict selection criteria and the relatively short number of Actions, their relevance is defined in just 2 levels of priority: High, or Very High.

117. The table in Annex III presents 42 Actions and their expected results for 2027 and 2030, also recommending their start-up activities, on the following subjects:

118. **GOAL 1**

1. SPECIES PLANS
2. URGENT SPECIES RECOVERY
3. MARITIME TRAFFIC
4. NIS/IAS COMMITMENT
5. NIS/IAS CAPACITY
6. NIS/IAS CONTROL AND MONITORING
7. LITTER
8. EIA/SEA
9. WIND ENERGY
10. MINERALS
11. SPATIAL PLANNING
12. RESTORATION
13. CLIMATE CHANGE
14. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS
15. EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS OF MCPAs AND OECMs

¹² For example, some Targets need several Actions, e. g. “MPA management” has Actions in governance, monitoring, capacity building, funding...

¹³ NAPs, IMAP and data sharing, NIS/IAS and migratory species, expanding EIA/SEA, GES, MSP, Natura 2000, FRAs and other tools; GFCM Strategy, EU Third country incentives, regional and subregional initiatives from specialized NGOs, networks, academia...

119. GOAL 2

16. BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM
17. INVERTEBRATES (status)
18. VERTEBRATES (status)
19. HABITATS
20. NIS/IAS (data bases)
21. OVERFISHING and IUU
22. BY-CATCH AND FISHERIES PLANNING
23. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES (incl. recreational)
24. AQUACULTURE
25. TOURISM
26. INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY
27. STREAMLINE Post-2020 SAPBIO
28. POLITICAL WILL AND COORDINATION
29. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION
30. UP-DOWN BOTTOM-UP INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS
31. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

120. GOAL 3

32. IMAP REFINEMENT
33. IMAP IMPLEMENTATION
34. Post-2020 SAPBIO MONITORING
35. SUPPORT TO RUN the Post-2020 SAPBIO
36. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE Post-2020 SAPBIO AT NATIONAL LEVEL
37. NETWORKING AND COMMON KNOWLEDGE
38. AWARENESS
39. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
40. EMPLOYMENT
41. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING
42. COOPERATION

7. SAPBIO IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PROGRESS

121. The success of the Post-2020 SAPBIO largely relies on the cooperation among Contracting Parties supported by international organisations, institutions and fora. A strong and effective implementation mechanism promoting responsibility, accountability and transparency from all actors involved in its implementation is proposed to ensure that Mediterranean countries define national contributions that add up to the regional Goals and Targets.

122. Targets and Actions which are quantified will serve as indicators of implementation progress. By 2022 a Table on monitoring tools will be distributed so that by 2025 countries will have identified their national contributions and targets for the implementation of the Strategy, updated their NBSAPs as appropriate, reviewed their national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements, duly harmonized with IMAP and other UNEP/MAP monitoring frameworks, avoiding duplication of efforts for reporting and reviewing periodically the status of implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO at the COP of the Barcelona Convention. Also, by 2025, the necessary means for running the regional Post-2020 SAPBIO assessment mechanisms should be in place within the MAP system, allowing the timely analysis of progress based on objective/numerical elements of targets towards the Strategy Goals.

123. The Strategy will be monitored as an alive/dynamic document, so the monitoring framework will need flexibility to allow adaptation. The Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation status will be periodically

reviewed at the Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention, through systematic national reporting of progress, facilitated by the relevant Regional Activity Centres. The reports will include progress with regards to the implementation of the national contributions to the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and data on the Common Indicators of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) to monitor the effectiveness of the actions put in place¹⁴, altogether building the basis of a Mediterranean assessment on the collective implementation of the SAP BIO, to ensure that by 2030 the regional targets are achieved through the compilation of national and regional actions.

124. The Barcelona Convention provides a two-fold mechanism to ensure enforcement of its provisions, which have yet to be fully enacted: (i) the Compliance Committee and (ii) reports by the Contracting Parties on the measures implemented and their effectiveness (Article 26 of the SPA/BD Protocol), reviewed by the Conference of the Parties to recommend potential corrective measures (Article 27 of the SPA/BD Protocol).

Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents:

125. SPA/RAC has, as institutional governance body, a network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents, with a member from each state that is Party to the Convention, appointed by the country's authorities. The National Correspondent is for several Mediterranean countries the same person as the SPA / BD Focal Point. She/he ensures liaison with SPA/RAC on the technical and scientific aspects of implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO in her/his country, in particular, but also at the Mediterranean level.

126. Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents will assess the progress made in implementing the Strategic Action Programme and update the work and projects scheduled. In close consultation with the SPA/BD Focal Points they will act on:

- Identifying and establishing appropriate contacts with the national institutions/bodies concerned with the implementation of Post-2020 SAP BIO Programme;
- Organizing, with the support and assistance of SPA/RAC, the national consultation process/workshop, eventual updating, needed for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and in particular the preparation of projects and the implementation of NAPs;
- Passing on information and communication regarding SAPBIO from the national side to SPA/RAC and to the Network, and vice-versa;

127. In the light of this assessment, the Meeting of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents suggests recommendations to be submitted to SPA/BD Focal Points Meeting and, where necessary, proposes amendments to the work schedule. Meetings of the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents, if not decided otherwise, would be convened once a year.

128. The National Correspondent, to carry out her/his tasks, must necessarily be supported by resource persons, to be identified at national level, including by NGOs and the National Focal Points of the organizations that are members of the Advisory Committee.

Post-2020 Advisory Committee:

¹⁴ The validity of the IMAP will be reviewed once at the end of every ecosystem approach six-year cycle, and in addition it should be updated and revised as necessary on a biennial basis, based on lessons learnt of the implementation of the IMAP and on new scientific and policy developments.

129. The SAPBIO Advisory Committee is a regional institutional governance body envisaged since the first SAPBIO adopted in December 2003, to act as advisory, not steering, character.

130. The Advisory Committee includes nominated representatives by international and Mediterranean regional bodies with technical and scientific expertise in marine and coastal Mediterranean biodiversity issues and policies.

131. To promote coordination and avoid duplication, the Post-2020 SAP BIO takes due account of what already has been developed at the national and regional levels, so it is established to (I) ensure co-ordination with the relevant organisations and (II) provide SPA/RAC with technical and scientific advice in the process of the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration and implementation.

132. In particular, the Committee will provide for:

- Technical and scientific advice concerning the process of elaboration and implementation of Post - 2020 SAPBIO;
- Periodic inventory of relevant activities already realised in the region. For that aim, each member organisation will provide the committee with lists of its activities and outputs done in connection with the Post -2020 SAPBIO;
- Flow and exchange of relevant information on activities implemented, on-going or planned by the member organizations, within the Committee membership and with SPA/RAC;
- Harmonization, as appropriate, of activities and results of member organizations concerning issues of relevance for Post -2020 SAPBIO.

133. It is understood that member organizations, besides their participation in the activities directly related to the Advisory Committee itself, may be involved in some national and/or regional activities of Post-2020 SAPBIO.

134. Membership of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee can be updated every two years. Each member organisation is invited to keep the same representative in the Advisory Committee and to ensure continuity, through appropriate transfer of files, in case of a necessary change.

135. Meetings, if not decided otherwise, would be convened once a year.

List of ANNEXES

- Annex I. Needs, gaps and challenges identified by the subregional assessments
- Annex II. Correspondences of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Targets with the international biodiversity-related frameworks
- Annex III. Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions table
- Annex IV. References in the text

List of ACHRONYMS

| | |
|----------|--|
| ABNJ | Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction |
| ACCOBAMS | Agreement for the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area |
| BC | Barcelona Convention |
| BD | Biodiversity |
| BWM | The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CBD/GBF | Convention on Biological Diversity/Global Biodiversity Framework (<i>draft</i>) |
| CC | Climate Change |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| EBSAs | Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (from CBD) |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EO | Ecological Objective |
| EU | European Union |
| EWS | Early Warning System (for climate change) |
| FAO | UN Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FVGSS | Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small Scale Fisheries |
| FRA | Fisheries Restricted Area (designated by the GFCM) |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GES | Good Environmental Status |
| GNI | Gross National Income |
| GFCM | General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO) |
| ICZM | Integrated Coastal Zone Management |
| ICZM/CRF | ICZM Common Regional Framework (2016) |
| IMAP | Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast |
| IMO | International Maritime Organization |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| IUU | Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries |
| MAMIAS | Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Database |
| MAP | Mediterranean Action Plan |
| MAP/MTS | MAP Mid-term Strategy 2022-2027 |

| | |
|------------|--|
| OECM | Other Effective areas-based Conservation Measures |
| MAPAMED | Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean |
| MedECC | Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change |
| MedFund | Environmental Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas |
| MedPAN | Mediterranean MPA managers' network |
| MED POL | Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MPAs | Marine Protected Areas |
| MSFD | EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive |
| MSP | Marine Spatial Planning |
| MSSD | Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 |
| NB SAPs | National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans |
| NETCCOBAMS | Network on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Adjacent Atlantic Area |
| NGOs | Non-governmental Organizations |
| NIS/IAS | Non-Indigenous Species / Invasive Alien Species |
| NTZs | No-take zones |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OECMs | Other Effective Conservation Measures |
| PSSAs | Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (of IMO) |
| QSR | Quality Status Report in the Mediterranean (UNEP/MAP 2017) |
| RSP | Regional Seas Programme (UNEP) |
| SAPBIO | Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (2004-2018) |
| SCP | Sustainable Consumption and Production |
| SDGs | United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SMART | Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound |
| SoED | State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (2020) |
| SPA/BD | Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Protocol to the Barcelona Convention) |
| SPA/RAC | Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre |
| SPAMI | Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance |
| SSF | Small-scale Fisheries |
| ToRs | Terms of reference |

| | |
|----------|---|
| UfM | Union for the Mediterranean |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNEP/MCS | UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy (2019) |
| UNWTO | UN World Tourism Organization |
| VME | Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (of FAO) |
| WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature |

ANNEX I

Needs, gaps and challenges identified by the subregional assessments

ANNEX I

Needs, gaps and challenges identified by the subregional assessments

| | <i>ADRIATIC</i> | <i>AEGEAN- LEVANTINE</i> | <i>IONIAN – CENTRAL</i> | <i>WESTERN</i> |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Addressing current pressures and threats | -NIS/IAS -Climate changes -Maritime traffic | -NIS/IAS -Climate changes -Maritime traffic | -NIS/IAS identify GES Thresholds and control | -NIS/IAS -Pollution, noise -Cumulative effects and restoration of disturbed habitats |
| 2. Spatial protection measures | -New MPAs -Improvement of MPA management -Coastal Wetland management | -New MPAs -Improvement of MPA management -Coastal Wetland management | -Adaptive management approach in MPAs | -New MPAs and OECM -Increase strictly protected areas -Effective management |
| 3. Ecosystem health | -Adopt the EcAp to achieve GES. -CC stressors and impacts | -Adopt the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to achieve the GES. -Fully understand effects of CC | -Include habitat restoration in national legislations. -Value ecosystem services, assess impacts and consequences of climate change | -CC monitoring of impacts over BD. Improve data collection for the evaluation of GES -Promote restoration of disturbed habitats |
| 4. Improve knowledge on biodiversity | -Inventorying, mapping and monitoring of priority habitats and status of species | -Habitats -Biodiversity components -Adequate knowledge on NIS and IAS | -Filling important gaps -Harmonized monitoring | -Inventories , mapping of habitats and species -Synergies in data collection and monitoring (Improve data through IMAP) |
| 5. Sustainable fisheries | -Improved surveillance of IUU fisheries, and fisheries interactions with BD | -Improved surveillance of IUU fisheries -focus on by-catch and fisheries interactions with BD | -Overexploitation of fish stocks, assess bycatch of non-target species, and discards. Assess and control recreational fisheries | -Stocks overexploited. -Establish effective mechanisms to limit IUU fishing - Assess recreational fisheries |
| 6. Mainstreaming biodiversity in other sectors | -Improvement of cooperation between different sectors and stakeholders involvement | -Cooperation between sectors, ministries responsible for nature conservation/fisheries | -Integration of biodiversity protection tools with relevant economic and social policies and sectoral or intersectoral plans -Identification of ecosystem services | -MSP /ICZM -Integration of biodiversity at the country's local levels -Citizen science -Promote gender and equity concepts |
| | <i>ADRIATIC</i> | <i>AEGEAN- LEVANTINE</i> | <i>IONIAN – CENTRAL</i> | <i>WESTERN</i> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 7. Legislation framework /Conservation Policies | -Improvement of legislative framework -Development of national action plans for marine species and habitats | -Development of new National Biodiversity Strategies. -Address CC in legal frameworks | -Harmonise legislations and foster sub-regional collaboration to implement them | -Improve legal frameworks for OECMs |
| 8. Capacity building | -Improvement of institutional and human capacities, and expertise for GES assessment under IMAP or MSFD | -Improvement of institutional and human capacities, and expertise for GES assessment under IMAP or MSFD | -Map and assess the human and institutional capacities to define capacity-building needs | -Capacity building for managers, field technicians, local authorities |
| 9. Outreach and awareness raising | -General public specific marine sectors | -General public or specific marine sectors | -Training and awareness to reduce mortality deriving from bycatch - | -For the involvement and support of civil society in the objectives of MPAs |
| 10. Financing | -Stable financial resources for monitoring, MPAs and conservation actions | -Stable financial resources for monitoring, MPAs and conservation actions | -Funding using existing sources at national, regional and international levels | -Strengthening the capacity of MPAs to develop long-term financial mechanisms to support their management |

ANNEX II

Correspondences of the Post- 2020 SAPBIO Targets with the international biodiversity-related frameworks

ANNEX II

a) Coincidences among the Needs identified at the subregional level,
and the objectives in the main marine biodiversity frameworks

| | SDGs | <i>CBD/GBF</i> | EU BD Strategy for 2030 | UNEP/MCS | MAP/MTS 2022-2027 | ACCOBAMS Str.2014-25 |
|--|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Addressing current pressures & threats | G.14 | T.3 /T.5 /T.6 /T.14 | Key Commitment | Obj.2 | Progr.2, EO 1,2,5 | Chapter B2 |
| 2. Spatial protection measures | G.14.5 | T.1 / T.2 | MSP, MPAs, OECM | Strat.Obj.3 | Pr.2, Output | B5.1 |
| 3. Ecosystem health | G.13 / G.14.1 | T.6 /T.7/T.10 | Key Commitment. | Objs.2 and 4 | Pr.2, EO 6 | B2.2 & B.2.3 |
| 4. Improve knowledge on BD | G.14.2 | T.19 | Enabling condition | Expected Outcome | Progr.2 | Ch.B1 |
| 5. Sustainable fisheries | G.14.4, 14.6 | T.4 /T.17 | Key Commitment. | Obj.3 | Pr.2, EO 3 & 4 | Ch.B2 |
| 6. Mainstreaming BD in other sectors | G.17 | T.13 /T.14 /T.17 | Key Commitment. | Obj.1 | Progr.2 | Ch.A2 |
| 7. Legislat. Framewk / Conservat.Policies | G.14.c | T.20 | Enabling condition | Obj.3 | Progr.2 | Ch.A4 |
| 8. Capacity building | G.13.3 | T.19 | Key Commitment. | Obj.3 | Progr.2 | Ch.B4 |
| 9. Outreach and awareness raising | G.13.3 | T.19 | Key Commitment. | Expected Outcome | Progr.2 | Ch.B3 |
| 10. Financing | G.17/1.4.6.9. | T.18 | Key Commitment. | Strat.Obj. 4.a | Core Prod.7 | Ch. A3 |

b) Contribution of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Targets to the main frameworks of relevance for biodiversity

| Post-2020 SAPBIO TARGET | UN SDG | CBD/GBF (draft) Target | EU Biodiversity Strat. 2030 Commitments | UNEP/MCS Strategic Objectives & Outcomes | MAP/MTS 2022-2027 Prog., EOs, & Core Prod. | GFCM Str. 2030 (draft) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------|
| GOAL 1 | | | | | | |
| 1.1. Specific pressures | G.14.2 | T.3 | Key Commitment. | Str.Obj.2 | Progr.2, EO 1,2,5 | Target 1 |
| 1.2. NIS/IAS | G.14.2 | T.5 | Action 2.2.10 | | Progr.2 EO.2 | |
| 1.3. Pollution | G.14.1 | T.6 | Action 2.2.9 | Str.Obj. 2.1 | Pr.2, EO 6 | Target 1.4 |
| 1.4. MPCA/OECM effective systems | G.14.5 | T.1 / T.2 | Specific Commitment & Key Action | Str.Obj.3.d | Pr.2 Output | Target 1FRAs |
| 1.5. MPCA/OECM enhanced protection | G.14.2 | T.2 | Key Commitment & Key Action | Str.Obj.3.d | Pr.2 Output | |
| 1.6. Restoration | G.13.1. | T.6/T.7/T.10 | Specific Commitment | Str.Obj.3c & 4 | Key deliverable | |
| 1.7. GES | G.13 / G.14 | T.6 / T.10 | MSFD Directive | | Several EOs | |
| 1.8. Climate change | G.13 / G.14.1 | T.7/T.10 | Specific and Key Commitment | Str.Obj.4 | Progr.3 & Core Prod. 9 | Target 1.4 |
| GOAL 2 | | | | | | |
| 2.1. Species | G.14.2 | T.3 | Key Commitment | | Progr.2 EO.1 | |
| 2.2. Habitats | G.14.2 | T.3 | Key Commitment | | Progr.2 EO.1, 5 | |
| 2.3. Knowledge | G.14.2, 14.a | T.19 | Enabling condition | Expected Outcome | Progr.2 Core Prod.10 | |
| 2.4. By-catch, IUU | G.14.4, 14.6 | T.4 /T.17 | Key Commitment. | Str.Obj.3.e | Pr.2, EO 3 & 4 | Target 2 |
| 2.5. SSF | G.14.b | T.3 /T.8 /T.9 | | Str.Obj.2.c | | Target 4.4 |
| 2.6. Aquaculture | G.14.c | T.9, T.14 | Aquacult. Strategic Guidelines (2021) | Str.Obj. 2.b | Core Prod. 8 | Target 3 |
| 2.7. EcAp/MSP | G.14.5 | T.1 / T.2 | MSP Directive | Str.Obj.3 | Pr.2, Output | |
| 2.8. Biodiversity Integration | G.13.2., G.17 | T.13 / T.17 | Key Commitment. | Str.Obj.1 & 2 | Progr.2 | |
| 2.9. Governance | G.14.c | T.20 | Specific Commitment | Str.Obj.3.a | Progr.2 | Target 2 |
| GOAL 3 | | | | | | |
| 3.1. IMAP, monit | G.14a | T.19, T(iii) | MSFD Directive | Exp. Outcome | Core Prod. 7 | |
| 3.2. SAPBIO assessment | G.17.1 | T(i) (iii) | | Exp. Outcome | Core Prod. 1 | |
| 3.3. SAPBIO running | G.17.6 17.9 | T.18 | | Exp. Outcome | Core. Prod. 1 | |
| 3.4. Capacity building | G.13.3 G.17.9 | T.19 | Key Commitment | Str.Obj.3 | Progr.2 | Target 5.1 |
| 3.5. Networking | G.14.3 /G.17.6 | T(ii) | Enabling Condit. 3.3.4 | Exp. Outcome | Core Prod. 12 | |
| 3.6. Awareness | G.13.3 | T.15, T.19 | | Exp. Outcome | Progr.6 & 7 | |
| 3.7. Outreach | G.13.3 | T.19 | Key Commitment. | Exp. Outcome | Progr.7, Core Prod. 11 | |
| 3.8. Employment on biodiversity | | T.18 | | Exp. Outcome | | |
| 3.9. Funding | G.17.1.4.6.9. | T.18 | Specific Commitment | Str.Obj. 4.a | Core Prod.7 | |
| 3.10. Cooperation | G.17.2, 17.4 | T.18 | Enabling condition | Str.Obj. 3.1. | | Target 5.2 |

ANNEX III

Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions Table

ANNEX III

Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions Table

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|--|---|---|---|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| GOAL 1 | | | | | | | |
| 1. SPECIES AND HABITATS PLANS Update Mediterranean action plans for selected species and habitats listed under the SPA/BD Protocol | T1.1. T2.1. T2.2. | Establish the list of priority habitats and species which are not in GES category, including recent updates to Annexes II and III of the SPA / BD Protocol, and the new 2019 habitat classification | The updated regional action plans for the selected priority habitats and species are adopted and passed on to national planning and implementation processes in most Mediterranean countries | At least 30% of species and habitats which were not in favourable status in 2020, are in GES category or show a strong positive trend, especially in priority benthic habitats, where the decline of coralligenous habitats and marine vegetation has been halted and sea-floor integrity is maintained | High | REGIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 ACCOB/2025 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021) |
| 2. SPECIES RECOVERY Develop recovery plans and implement emergency actions for endangered and threatened species whose continued survival depends on such actions, including their habitats | T1.1. T2.1. T2.2. | Recovery plans are developed in <i>several countries</i> , including measures to eliminate all intentional or accidental killing or capture | Recovery plans are developed and emergency actions implemented, both <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> as required, for species whose continued survival depends on such actions, including when relevant an agreement to establish a functional stranding network for at least two Mediterranean ecological subregions | All Mediterranean countries are implementing recovery plans and emergency actions, as appropriate, for threatened and endangered species, including, when relevant, a Mediterranean network of stranding centres | Very High | NATIONAL and REGIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 ACCOB/2025 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021) |
| 3. MARITIME TRAFFIC Reduce the impact of maritime traffic (noise & collision) on sensitive marine | T1.1. T1.5. T1.7. T2.7. T2.9. | Identify noise pollution and collision hotspots where there is a strong interaction with cetaceans, sea turtles and other affected species, and approach | Protection measures against noise and collision have been developed <i>and</i> adopted as by IMO guidelines (2014) in most Mediterranean countries, and | The impact of noise and collision from maritime traffic, is considerably reduced in most of the identified | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.6. EU/2030 UNEP/MAP 2017 |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|---|---|---|--|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| species (Cetaceans, Turtles, others) | T3.4. | the main sources and administrations in order to develop adequate protection measures in these areas | basic monitoring systems are in place in the most vulnerable areas | vulnerable areas, through appropriate regulation reducing noise levels and collision events. | | | IMAP/EO 11 ACCOB/2025 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021) |
| 4.NIS/IAS COMMITMENT Ratification of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ballast Water and Sediments from Ships (BWM Convention), and adoption of the Regional strategy addressing ship's ballast water management and invasive species (2022-2027) | T1.2. T3.2. T6.3. T7.1. | Countries have started the necessary steps to express in national laws the provisions of the IMO Convention on the management of ballast waters and the BWM Biofouling Guidelines | Most Mediterranean countries have taken the necessary steps to express in their national laws the provisions of the IMO Convention on the management of ballast waters and the BWM Biofouling Guidelines | All Mediterranean countries collaborate in the enforcement of the Mediterranean Ballast Water Management Strategy (2022-2027) implementing the guidelines to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species | High | NATIONAL | CBD/GBF T.5 Aichi T.9 MAP/UNEP (2017) EU/2030 IUCN (2020) SoED 2020 REMPEC/2031 CSO.5 WWF(2021) |
| 5. NIS/IAS CAPACITY Strengthen the capacity of the Mediterranean countries to deal with alien marine species | T1.2. T1.7. T3.4. | Countries have started baseline studies, (year of first record, pathway of introduction and its level of certainty (direct evidence, most likely, possible), and the status of the population | Most countries have conducted baseline studies, plus dated and georeferenced records of NIS presence; and have designed, and are implementing monitoring and assessment programmes for data collection, within the framework of IMAP | All countries have conducted a baseline study, and are collecting data and monitoring within the framework of IMAP, on the presence of alien marine species, the pathways of their introduction, and the state of their population trends, including those used in aquaculture | Very High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | CBD/GBF T.5 UNEP/MAP (2017) UNEP/MAP (2021) EU/2030 IUCN (2020) SoED 2020 REMPEC/2031 CSO.5 WWF(2021) |
| 6. NIS/IAS CONTROL Take the necessary field actions to mitigate the impact from NIS/IAS | T1.1. T1.2. T1.7. T3.1. T3.4. | Most countries have identified the vulnerable areas and priority sites for urgent mitigation action, and initiated monitoring of non-indigenous species, with particular attention to the main port enclosures and entry pathways | At the Mediterranean level, a <i>significant</i> reduction in the rate of new introductions has been achieved, and control or eradication actions are implemented for the selected, most problematic IAS, including in at least 50% of priority sites | The introduction and spread of the most harmful invasive alien species is regulated, preventing their impacts in 100% of the most vulnerable areas and/or priority sites, decreasing the number of protected species they threaten by 50%, and effectively managing 50% of | High | NATIONAL | CBD/GBF T.5 UNEP/MAP (2017) UNEP/MAP (2021) EU/2030 IUCN (2020) SoED 2020 |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|---|--|--|--|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | | | the most significant pathways of introduction | | | REMPEC/2031 CSO.5 WWF(2021) |
| 7. LITTER Prevent leakage and remove marine litter to mitigate its impact on the ecosystem | T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T1.7. T2.4. T2.8. T2.9. T3.4. T3.7. | Undertake an updated assessment of marine litter, as provided by the Regional Plan on Marine Litter (2014), Art.11, including baseline indicators to monitor progress, covering the lost fishing gears and other sources | In most Mediterranean countries new technologies to prevent and remove marine litter have been tested, <i>inter alia</i> through a full ban on plastic bags and/or changing how waste is collected and managed in cities and touristic destinations, captured in rivers and dams, and by the fishing and aquaculture sectors where appropriate, so abandonment of fishing gear and the leakage of plastic to the sea is already decreasing | All countries report the effective prevention and removal of marine litter, so the leakage of plastic to the sea has significantly and the removal from the sea and beaches has increased compared to 2027. | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | SDG 14.1. Aichi T.8. CBD/GBF T.6. BC/COP21 BC/ LBS Protocol (1996) EU/2030 GFCM/2020 T.1. UNEP/MAP 2017 IMAP/EO 11 UfM (2021) ICZM/CRF (2016) ACCOB/2025 WWF(2021) |
| 8. EIA/SEA Implement environmental assessments, considering cumulative impacts on the coastal zones and their carrying capacity. | T1.1. T1.3. T.1.5. T2.6. T3.4. | Guidelines for EIA/SEA on the integration of biodiversity values in coastal and marine economic activities, based on the use of EcAp EOs and related indicators, are ready for submission to the next COP | Several countries adopted within the national EIA/SEA procedures, a framework of specific measures and indicators for addressing the values of biodiversity and the impact from tourism, aquaculture, and maritime traffic | Most Mediterranean countries adopted within the national EIA/SEA procedures, a framework of specific measures and indicators for addressing the impact on biodiversity and of specific measures favouring nature-based solutions | Very High | NATIONAL | SDG 14.2. UNEP/MCS – 3.5 & 6.1. MAP/MTS (2020) ICZM/CRF (2016) |
| 9. WIND ENERGY Advocate that wind farms, are regulated in MCPAs, and cannot be developed elsewhere before their effects on the marine environment, | T1.1. T1.3. T1.7. T1.8. T2.7. T2.8. T2.9. | | A proposal for the regulation and impact assessment of the installation of wind farms within areas identified as important for marine and coastal biodiversity, is presented to consideration of | The Barcelona Convention, has adopted the proposal | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | SDG 13 RFCCA Str.Dir. 1.2. ICZM/CRF (2016) EU/2030 - EIAs |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| biodiversity and human activities have been sufficiently researched, the risks are understood and alternatives assessed | | | the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties | | | | <i>IUCN (2020)</i> <i>WWF (20021)</i> |
| 10. MINERALS In line with the precautionary principle, the exploitation of minerals should not be authorised until the effect on the marine environment, biodiversity and related human activities have been sufficiently researched and the risks are understood and alternatives assessed. | T1.1. T1.3. T1.7. T1.8. T2.7. T2.8. T2.9. | | A proposal to regulate prospection or exploitation of inorganic minerals over or under the seabed, is presented to consideration of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties | The Barcelona Convention, has adopted the regulation of the prospection or exploitation of inorganic minerals in or under the seabed | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>SDG 13</i> <i>RFCCA Str. Dir. 1.2.</i> <i>ICZM/CRF (2016)</i> <i>EU/2030 - EIAs</i> <i>IUCN (2020)</i> <i>WWF (20021)</i> |
| 11. SPATIAL PLANNING Support countries for the development of systematic conservation planning taking into account ICZM, land use/marine use planning and management aspects in the context of MSP | T1.4. T1.6. T1.7. T2.6. T2.7. T2.8. | Developed a baseline of indicators to assess the implementation of maritime and of coastal spatial plans, covering all coastal and maritime sectors and activities with area-based conservation-management measures | 50% of coastal length and marine surface, and 100% of SPAMIs, is included within formulated maritime and coastal spatial plans, covering biodiversity values in all coastal and maritime sectors and activities | 100% of MPAs, and as appropriate OECMs, and 50% of the remaining marine areas are sustainably managed by applying ecosystem-based approaches including biodiversity and climate change-informed marine spatial planning | Very High | NATIONAL | <i>SDG 14.2</i> <i>CBD/GBF T.1</i> <i>UNEP (MCS SO.3</i> <i>EU/2030 SPA/RAC (2021)</i> <i>BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)</i> <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> <i>WWF (2021)</i> |
| 12. RESTORATION Support restoration of ecosystems providing key services, those degraded and | T1.6. T1.8. T3.5. T3.7. | Countries have developed the inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or regeneration | Most Mediterranean countries have completed the inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or | All Mediterranean countries have developed inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or | High | | <i>SDG 14.2.</i> <i>Aichi T.15</i> <i>CBD/GBF T.1</i> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|--|--|---|--|--|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| expected to become increasingly critical in a changing climate, such as wetlands and shallow seashore habitats among others | | potential (as nursery areas, carbon stocks, avoiding coastal erosion, preventing or reducing the impact of natural disasters) such as Posidonia beds, coralligenous assemblages, wetlands, and dune systems, among others | highest regeneration potential, and have started restoration activities on 30% of those selected, favouring nature-based solutions | regeneration potential, and most Mediterranean countries have completed restoration activities on most of those selected between the identified priority areas | | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>EU/2030 MAP/MTS 9 & 15 P BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)</i> |
| 13. CLIMATE CHANGE Increase climate change impacts monitoring and contributions to mitigation and adaptation, particularly to warming, acidification, and to disaster risk reduction, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches | T1.3. T1.7. T1.8. T2.8. T3.10. | A working group has agreed on factsheets for baseline indicators follow up on the effects of CC on marine environment, based in SPA/RAC developed ones; particularly in a pilot network of SPAMIs | SPAMIs are coordinated into a climate change monitoring network and most countries have developed Early Warning Systems (EWS), mapping, risk assessment and reduction strategies, by which adaptation plans, based on nature-based solutions, are integrated into planning and budgeting processes | All Countries have developed EWS, mapping, risk assessment and reduction strategies over nature-based solutions, and a climate change monitoring network in MPAs representative of the Mediterranean conditions is fully operational | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | SDG 14.2 Aichi T.14 CBD/GBF T.7 EU/2030 UNEP/MCS 2019 SO.3 MAP/MTS CP-9 BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020 |
| 14. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS Promote actions, including scientific research, with the view of achieving GES for all biodiversity-related ecological objectives within the Ecosystem Approach EcAp/IMAP | T1.7. T2.1. T2.2. T3.1. T3.4. T3.5. | Promote scientific research, particularly on trophic networks and the functioning of ecosystems in general, to consolidate science base for the evaluation of GES within the Ecosystem Approach EcAp/IMAP | Related to the biodiversity-relevant ecological objectives within the IMAP framework, Mediterranean countries have reached the Good Environmental Status and all countries have identified, and in case needed received support, to fill the gaps that hinder good GES evaluation | All the biodiversity-related ecological objectives of GES show positive trends, being verifiable by scientific knowledge, and most Mediterranean countries have reached GES in an effective implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and its roadmap | Very High | NATIONAL | IMAP EU MSFD AP/MTS EO4 ACCOB/2025 |
| 15. MCPAs and OECMs Assist countries in the implementation of the Post- | T1.4. T1.5. T2.7. T2.9. | SPA/RAC, assisted by the Mediterranean ad-hoc group of experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean | The Post-2020 Regional Strategy on MCPAs and OECMs is being effectively implemented; including specific actions on: | The Post-2020 Regional Strategy on MCPAs and OECMs has been implemented by the | Very High | | UNEP/MCS (2019) - 61 |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|--|--|---|--|--|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs | T3.5. | (AGEM) has prepared relevant guidelines to support the implementation of the Strategy, including on ecological representativity and , connectivity and effectiveness of MPA systems; identifying, recognizing and reporting OECMs | enhancing improving governance arrangements of MCPAs and OECMs, expanding soundly-designed, ecologically representative and well-connecting systems of MCPAs, identifying, recognizing and reporting marine and coastal OECMs, management effectiveness of MCPAs, mobilizing actions and support for MCPAs and OECMs | Contracting Parties, resulting in expanded and effective systems of MCPAs and OECMs that successfully deliver biodiversity conservation outcomes | | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | GFCM (2020) MAP/MTS-3, 11, 61 SPA/RAC(2021) ACCOB/2025 <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> |
| 16. BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM Establish an open access Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform | T2.1. T2.2. T2.3. T3.2. T3.5. T3.7. | Update manuals of priority habitats and species identified under the BC, including recent updates to the list of species in Annexes II and III of the SPA /BD protocol, and the new 2019 habitat classification | By 2027 georeferenced Information on Mediterranean Biodiversity key components is centralized in an open access Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform | | High | REGIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF-IPBES</i> UNEP(MCS-IPBES MAP/MTS (2020) EU/2030 – IPBES |
| 17. INVERTEBRATES Survey distribution and abundance, and assess status and main anthropogenic pressures, over priority invertebrate species with focus on <i>C.rubrum</i>, <i>P.nobilis</i>, and vermetid platforms | T1.1. T1.2. T1.6. T2.1. T2.2. T2.3. | Research projects are launched in countries which had not yet started their relevant marine invertebrate studies | The distribution, abundance, and status assessment studies are progressing in most Mediterranean countries and research projects are prepared for the rest of the countries | The distribution, abundance, and status assessment are finished in all countries, at least for <i>C. rubrum</i> , <i>P. nobilis</i> , and vermetid platforms | High | NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021) |
| 18. VERTEBRATES Establish the distribution, status, and the main anthropogenic pressures of species listed under Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol | T1.6. T1.7. T2.1. T2.3. T3.2. | | Ready in most Mediterranean countries | Ready in all Mediterranean countries | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
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| | | | | | | | UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 ACCOB/2025 IUCN (2020) WWF (2021) |
| <p>19. HABITATS In coastal and offshore waters, inventory and cartography key Mediterranean habitats, and assess their status and main anthropogenic pressures</p> | <p>T1.2. T1.4. T1.6. T2.2. T2.3. T2.7. T3.2. T3.10</p> | <p>Using the updated SPA/RAC repository, prioritize areas to map</p> | <p>Start mapping key habitats, at the highest possible resolution, including those for vulnerable vertebrates, seabed and dark habitats, in all the SPAMIs, MPAs and OECMs</p> | <p>Achieved cartography of key habitats in the identified priority areas, covering 100% protected areas, and also including FRAs and OECM, and their status and responses to threats and impacts have been assessed</p> | <p>Very High</p> | <p>REGIONAL and NATIONAL</p> | <p><i>CBD/GBF</i> T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 ACCOB/2025 BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)</p> |
| <p>20. NIS/IAS Database Develop the shared georeferenced database (MAMIAS), user-friendly platform, to continuously monitor the status and pathways of non-indigenous species and support early warning</p> | <p>T.1.2. T2.1. T2.2. T2.3. T3.1. T3.2. T3.5. T3.7.</p> | <p>National level baseline values and early warning systems established and data on NIS/IAS are started to be shared with the georeferenced online platform MAMIAS covering national lists of alien species, their habitats, introduction pathways, and impacts on biodiversity, human health, and ecosystem services</p> | <p>Data on NIS/IAS are shared with the georeferenced user-friendly database web site, with online tools and web services for searching and extracting data (MAMIAS)</p> | <p>All Mediterranean countries continuously monitor the status and pathways of non-indigenous species and share it within the MAMIAS platform, aiding to mitigate detrimental effects of NIS/IAS</p> | <p>Very High</p> | <p>REGIONAL</p> | <p><i>CBD/GBF</i> T.5 MAP/UNEP (2017) EU/2030 IUCN (2020) SoED 2020 REMPEC/2031 CSO.5 WWF (2021)</p> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|--|---|--|--|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 21. OVERFISHING and IUU Implement science-based management plans to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including phasing out harmful fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing | T1.1. T2.4. T2.5. T2.8. T3.1. T3.4. T3.5. | Identify all forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. Based on the MoU GFCM/UNEP-MAP, develop an efficient and standardized data collection and discharge control system, and make available guidelines covering measures, tools and best practice to eliminate IUU | The reform of fisheries subsidies is promoted at the regional/country levels and in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Science-based management plans to regulating harvest and to end overfishing, and a standardized data collection and discharge control system are in process of adoption in most Mediterranean countries. The stretch of IUU in the Mediterranean is assessed and monitored | In the Mediterranean, the data-collection system and discharge control are standardized and adopted, there is zero-tolerance for illegal practices, overfishing has drastically dropped compared to 2020 levels so that marine resources are harvested sustainably. | Very High | NATIONAL | SDG 14.4 & 14.6 <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.17 Aichi T.3 and T.6 EU/2030 GFCM (2020) T.1 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS EO3 - CP-8 IUCN(2020) |
| 22. BY-CATCH Develop a national mechanism and implement agreed and scientifically tested by-catch mitigation measures, to eliminate all intentional or accidental killing of threatened or endangered species and/or in bad conservation status | T1.1. T2.1. T2.4. T2.5. T2.8. T3.1. T3.4. T3.5. | Data collection and assessment of the bycatch effect on non-targeted species; and develop guidelines to adapt or ban the use of fishing gear most harmful to the seabed, to sharks and rays, marine turtles, seabirds, and cetaceans, in support to countries to develop a mechanism for by-catch mitigation strategies | Most Mediterranean countries are implementing guidelines and are developing a By-catch mitigation mechanism to adapt or ban the fishing gear most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed, and their implementation started in <i>several countries</i> so that the by-catch of species in bad conservation status is reduced to a level that allows full recovery | All countries have developed a mechanism to deal with By-catch mitigation including the adaptation and/or ban of fishing gears most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed; their implementation is undertaken in all Mediterranean countries so that fishing gears have no significant adverse impacts on endangered and threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems | Very High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | SDG 14.4 <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.19 EU/2030 FAO (2021) GFCM (2020) T.2 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS CP-8 ACCOB/2025 IUCN (2020) |
| 23. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES Promote the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small Scale Fisheries (VGSSF) and co-management practices in professional small-scale fisheries, advised by | T1.1. T2.4. T2.5. T2.8. T2.9. T3.1. T3.4. T3.5. | Based on the MoU GFCM/UNEP-MAP, promote the FAO-VGSSF in every country, and assess, in a selected sample of MPAs, the opportunities for SSF co-management, and to control illegal practices in marine recreational fishing (MRF) | In MPAs and OECMs the capacity of small-scale fisher organizations has been enhanced to engage and partner to institute co-management models, and the practice of IUU fishing, including recreational fishing, is controlled with full participation from the respective sectors involved | In MPAs and OECMs, and in fishing grounds, the capacity of small-scale fisher organizations has been enhanced to engage and partner co-management models, and the practice of IUU fishing, including recreational fishing, is controlled with full | High | NATIONAL | SDG 14.7 <i>CBD/GBF</i> T.4 & T.18 Aichi T.14 UNEP/MCS (2019) SO.2 FAO (2021) GFCM (2020) T.4 IUCN (2020) |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| traditional ecological knowledge and the best available science | | | | participation from the respective sectors involved | | | WWF (2021) <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> |
| 24. AQUACULTURE Support developing the Post-2020 GFCM Aquaculture and Fisheries strategy and Fisheries strategy - transforming the aquaculture industry through science-based solutions and marine spatial planning (MSP) tools | T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T1.61. T1.7. T2.6. T2.7. T2.8. T2.9. T3.4. T3.5. T3.7. | Collaborate in the development of the Post 2020 GFCM Aquaculture and fisheries strategy, including guidelines on best practices to improve aquatic health and biosecurity | Best practices in aquaculture, such as innovation, improving aquatic health and biosecurity, encouraging the responsible use of antimicrobials, supported by certification, traceability and nature-based solutions, have been promoted across the Mediterranean countries, and adopted in most Mediterranean countries | The Mediterranean aquaculture industry is fully transformed in line with the ecosystem approach, through science-based solutions and marine spatial planning tools | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>FAO (2021) GFCM (2020) UNEP/MCS (2019) SO.3 BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)</i> |
| 25. TOURISM Develop a framework of specific indicators for assessing the impact of marine and coastal tourism on destinations and for promoting ecotourism | T1.3. T1.5. T1.8. T2.8. T2.9. T3.4. T3.7. T3.9. | Identify preliminary indicators and hotspots of pressure from the tourism industry in marine and coastal biodiversity (including habitat disruption, noise, light, water quality, garbage) , in coordination with the PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu/RAC, as appropriate | A framework of specific indicators for assessing the impact of marine and coastal tourism on destinations and for promoting ecotourism is adopted within environmental assessments in tourism hotspots in several Mediterranean countries | Environmental assessments including the framework of specific tourism indicators, taking into consideration the cumulative impacts on the coastal zones and their carrying capacity, is in process of adoption in all countries and implemented in most Mediterranean countries | High | REGIONAL | <i>MAP/MTS-D82 SPA/RAC (2021) PAP/RAC ICZM (2016) ACCOB/2025 UfM (2021) IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)</i> |
| 26. INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY Integrate biodiversity values into national and local development planning processes, into the strategies and planning processes of marine-related economic sectors, into national accounting as appropriate, reporting systems, and into | T1.3. T1.7. T2.8. T2.9. T3.4. T3.6. T3.7. T3.9. | Establish a common classification of economic activities that substantially contribute to protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems and assess opportunities to redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate harmful incentives | The level of consideration of biodiversity conservation concerns in the strategies and planning processes of MSP, including fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, coastal tourism, ports, maritime transportation, wind farms, and also in EIA/SEA frameworks, has been assessed in every country, and proposals are being drafted to include them, to | In most Mediterranean countries biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed in the strategies and planning processes of MSP, including fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, coastal tourism, ports, maritime transportation, education, and also in EIA/SEA frameworks | High | NATIONAL | SDG 14.2., 14.4 & 14.6 <i>CBD/GBF T.13. & T.17 Aichi T.2, T.3. and T.6 EU/2030 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS - 2</i> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|--|--|--|---|---|----------------|----------|---|
| the assessment of environmental impacts | | | enhance economic activities that substantially contribute to protecting and restoring biodiversity | | | | BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) UfM (2021) MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020 |
| 27. STREAMLINE Post-2020 SAPBIO Streamline the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Regional strategies and action plans, developed in the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol, into national strategies, action plans and legal frameworks | All targets | Adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention and assistance provided, as necessary, to countries for its integration within national biodiversity conservation and development frameworks; Mediterranean countries are integrating and streamlining the Post-2020 SAPBIO in national biodiversity conservation and development frameworks | | All Mediterranean countries have integrated and streamlined the Post-2020 SAPBIO in national biodiversity conservation and development frameworks | Very High | NATIONAL | MAP/MTS (2020) |
| 28. POLITICAL WILL AND COORDINATION Ensure political will and recognition at the highest levels of Government or State, to develop appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination | T1.5. T1.6. T1.7. T1.8. T2.4. T2.6. T2.7. T2.8. T2.9. T3.6. T3.8. T3.9. | Prepare an executive document in the appropriate fora, presenting the socio-economic and cost/benefit profit and the urgency of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, its significant input to SDGs, CBD and UNEP-related commitments, and the cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination needs | Most Mediterranean countries are promoting appropriate coordination between the various competent authorities for both the marine areas and the land parts of coastal zones, in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels | Each Party has incorporated Post-2020 SAPBIO in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan | Very High | NATIONAL | SDG 14 Aichi T.17 CBD/GBF g) k) UNEP/MCS MAP/MTS (2020) EU/2030 BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) ACCOB/202 5 WWF (2021) |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|---|--|---|---|----------------|----------|--|
| 29. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION Facilitate stakeholder engagement to address conflict between users, build capacity to contribute to the SAPBIO enforcement, particularly in MPA planning and management, through proper participation of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process | T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T1.5. T1.6. T2.3. T2.4. T2.5. T2.6. T2.8. T2.9. T3.4. T3.5. | All countries have identified the relevant sectors and stakeholders to participate in the effective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions, and started the relevant contacts particularly in priority fields, e. g. MPAs, fisheries, and enforcement means | In most Mediterranean countries, formal and informal platforms to ensure the participation of the relevant sectors and stakeholders in priority sectors (e. g. MPAs, fisheries, and enforcement means) are established and operative, including local and subnational authorities, the private sector, civil society, women, youth, academia and scientific institutions | In all countries, formal and informal platforms to ensure the participation of the relevant sectors and stakeholders in priority sectors are established and operative, including local and subnational authorities, the private sector, civil society, women, youth, academia and scientific institutions, in a whole-of-society approach | Very High | NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF T.20</i> <i>UNEP/MCS EU/2030 P BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)</i> <i>ACCOB/2025</i> <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> <i>WWF (2021)</i> |
| 30. TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP SCALING OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS Scale down international commitments into national plans and to local level, streamlining the approach, targets and actions of the Post-2020 into national strategies and into local planning processes, while facilitating the bottom-up feeding of local proposals into future planning processes at the national and Mediterranean levels | All targets | Parties identify the sub-national and local plans related to the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation and to set up mechanisms to mainstream its provisions into local planning and action, updating their NBSAPs and Action Plans as appropriate, through coordination between local administrations and central and decentralized sectoral technical services | In most Mediterranean countries, active alliances of governments, businesses, scientists and opinion leaders are built to implement the Goals of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, ensuring co-responsibility and co-ownership by all relevant actors, through administrative transparency, stakeholder dialogue, and participatory governance at different levels, adapting the proposed Actions to local context while recuperating any relevant proposals from the local level to feed future Mediterranean planning processes | All countries can present positive results in implementing the updated 1995 Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol, and in effectively scaling-down and adapting the proposed SAPBIO Actions to the local context, while recuperating any relevant proposals from the local level to feed future Mediterranean planning processes | High | NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF T.15 & T.20</i> <i>MAP/MTS (2020)</i> <i>SPA/RAC (2021)</i> <i>BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)</i> <i>MedPAN Strategy 2019-2023</i> |
| 31. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT | T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. | Prepare practical guidelines for the enforcement of the SAPBIO provisions | Several countries have started capacity building for judiciary and administrative | Most Mediterranean countries have completed capacity building for judiciary and | | | <i>SGD 14 EU/2030</i> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
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| Enable the compliance of the provisions of the SPA/BD and the ICZM Protocols and related Action Plans at national level by strengthening capacities and cooperation between judiciary and administrative bodies | T1.5. T1.7. T2.4. T2.8. T2.9. T3.1. T3.4. T3.7. T3.8. | through appropriate capacity building, and coordination between the various authorities competent for both the marine and the land parts of coastal zones in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels | resources along the enforcement chain, on environmental legal frameworks, including environmental agencies, inspectors, auditors, police, prosecutors and judges | administrative resources along the enforcement chain, on environmental legal frameworks, including environmental agencies, inspectors, auditors, police, prosecutors and judges | <i>Very High</i> | <i>REGIONAL and NATIONAL</i> | <i>GFCM (2020) MAP/MTS 41.8 SPA/RAC (2021) BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> |
| GOAL 3 | | | | | | | |
| 32. IMAP REFINEMENT Identification of the gaps that hinder the good environmental status evaluation, and in case needed, support countries to fill them out | T2.1. T2.2. T2.3. T3.1. T3.2. T3.5. | Support the identification and assessment of the data gaps - identified in the MED QSR- that hinder evaluation of the good environmental status in each country, especially in relation to scales of assessment, specification, and further quantification of GES | Most Mediterranean countries have refined their ecological objectives in relation to scales of assessment, specification and further quantification of GES, and have further developed the candidate indicators, expanding monitoring to also cover drivers, pressures on biodiversity, and adequate responses | All countries have refined their ecological objectives in relation to scales of assessment, specification and further quantification of GES, | Very High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | IMAP EU-MSFD MAP/MTS CP.7 MAP/NIS- IAS (2017) BC/ICZM Protocol (2016) |
| 33. IMAP IMPLEMENTATION Update national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements of IMAP, and achieve regular reporting | T2.1. T2.2. T2.3. T3.1. T3.2. T3.5. | Start developing region-wide, electronic, common indicator-based reporting formats and up-to-date tools for data exchange, based on the structure of the Common Indicator Fact Sheets | Based on harmonized reporting formats in synergy with other reports such as CBD reports, most Mediterranean countries are reporting on common indicators for the biodiversity-related ecological objectives of GES | All countries are reporting on common indicators for the biodiversity-related ecological objectives of GES | High | NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF 15 (ii) (iii) EU-MSFD MAP/MTS CP.7 MAP/NIS- IAS (2017) BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)</i> |
| 34. Post-2020 SAPBIO MONITORING | T3.1. T3.2. | Based on a simplified monitoring table developed by SPA/RAC, considering | The implementation and monitoring process of the Post-2020 SAPBIO is set in every | In all countries a reporting schedule is consistently used by all institutions | Very High | REGIONAL and | <i>CBD/GBF H (i) (iii) EU/2030</i> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Allow the Contracting Parties to periodically review and report, harmonized with IMAP and UNEP/MAP monitoring frameworks, on the status of implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO | And all Targets | harmonization with other monitoring frameworks and with input, as appropriate, from the SAPBIO governance bodies, in synergy with other bodies and GBF, the Countries identify their monitoring needs for the Post-2020 SAP BIO targets, requesting regional support as appropriate, to update their national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements, harmonized with other MAP frameworks, and ensuring quality data and reporting | country, duly harmonized with IMAP and other UNEP/MAP monitoring frameworks, and most Mediterranean countries have started recording biennial progress towards these targets and report to the Barcelona Convention system. The possibility of performing collective assessments may be considered | involved, recording biennial progress in the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and report to the Barcelona Convention system, supported when appropriate by the Secretariat and/or by voluntary in-depth peer review by experts including from other parties | | NATIONAL | UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS KD.90 ACCOB/2025 |
| 35. SUPPORT TO RUN THE SAPBIO Provide sufficient human and financial resources to the MAP system in order to efficiently run the implementation, follow-up and assessment mechanisms for the Post-2020 SAPBIO | T3.2. T3.3And all Targets | Approach international and EU funding sources and appoint one project to resource countries and the Secretariat for the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation, run the assessment and reporting mechanisms | The regional Post-2020 SAPBIO follow-up and assessment mechanisms, are in place and resourced within the MAP system, allowing the timely analysis of progress based on objective/numerical elements of targets towards the Post-2020 SAPBIO goals and targets | The MAP system is sufficiently resourced to efficiently run the Post-2020 SAPBIO at national and regional levels and to formulate a Post-2020 SAPBIO update for beyond 2030 | Very High | REGIONAL | UNEP MAP system and All Contracting Parties |
| 36. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE Post-2020 SAPBIO AT NATIONAL LEVEL Enhance the national capacities to implement the Post-2020 SAPBIO, to manage MPAs and vulnerable marine and coastal habitats and species within and across national | T3.4. T3.5. And all Targets | Map and assess the human and institutional capacities to define the capacity-building needs, gaps and priorities in the next future, targeting managers and field technicians, and national and local authorities responsible for the environment, fisheries and enforcement, and design a regular and interactive training programme | In all national and subnational administrations, particularly in developing countries, the capacity to address the needs and priorities of marine conservation objectives has been assessed. Impacting training modules have been designed, and tested by groups of countries and user networks, reinforcing the capacity of national administrations to monitor and | In every country key officers, MPA managers, field technicians, and local authorities responsible for the environment, fisheries, and enforcement, are sufficiently trained and remain in close coordination with Mediterranean partners, for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO in their | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>SDG 13b</i> <i>CBD/GBF (ii)</i> <i>FAO (2021)</i> <i>MAP/MTS (2020)</i> <i>SPA/RAC (2021)</i> <i>BC/ICZM Protocol (2016)</i> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|---|---|--|---|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| jurisdictions, with particular attention to less developed countries, and towards reducing the gender and the digital divide | | | improve management effectiveness | respective professional environments | | | <i>MedPAN Strategy 2019-2023</i> |
| 37. NETWORKING Support existing regional, subregional and/or transboundary networks, or develop new ones as needed, to enhance capacities, knowledge, experience and opportunity sharing, <i>inter alia</i>, on topics as NIS/IAS, migratory species, MPA management, habitat restoration, reduced by-catch, harmonized monitoring, compliance with law and regulations, and other subjects relevant to the Post-2020 SAPBIO | T1.1. T1.2. T2.2. T1.6. T2.3. T2.4. T2.5. T2.6. T2.9. T3.2. T3.4. T3.5. T3.9. T3.10. | Taskforces including scientists, experts, and managers on priority issues may be called to design new, or reinforce existing, human networks to improve dialogue, networking, capitalizing and making accessible the existing scientific, practical, and traditional knowledge, best practices and local innovations | Human networks participated by most countries in several priority themes have been established either at regional, or sub-regional or national levels as appropriate, and sufficiently resourced to keep a hub, a user-friendly website, and to regularly meet and exchange knowledge and practice, particularly to cover the capacity building needs in the less developed countries, in recently established MPAs, and in all SPAMIs | Human networks at national, sub-regional and regional level - <i>inter alia</i> on NIS/IAS, migratory species, MPA management, habitat restoration, reduced by-catch, harmonized monitoring, compliance with law and regulations- have been developed and strengthened to ensure the enhancement of capacities, knowledge, good practices, experience sharing, and the development of joint actions | Very High | REGIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF (ii)</i> <i>UNEP/MCS (2019)</i> <i>MAP/MTS (2022-2027)</i> IMAP ACCOB/2025 PAP/RAC ICZM/CRF (2016) IUCN (2020) WWF (2021) <i>MedPAN Strategy 2019-2023</i> <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> |
| 38. AWARENESS Increase awareness, understanding and appreciating of the values and threats to the marine environment, stimulating improved behaviour, and of the responses and good practices, by targeting decision-makers and the general public, through reinforced and renewed | T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T1.5. T1.7. T2.4. T2.8. T2.9. T3.6. T3.9. | Call on a task-force to outline a communication and awareness strategy, assessing the needs, gaps and opportunities of biodiversity communication, including the development of any necessary indicators to follow-up the extent and reach of awareness, in order to target decision makers from different administrations and economic sectors, and the general public | A Mediterranean communication and awareness strategy, with recommendations for each national level context, has been presented to the NFPs and its implementation started in several countries, regularly storytelling and informing the media about cetacean, turtle and other flagship species conservation activities, raising awareness on negative impacts of plastic waste, ghost nets, the added values of MPAs, the risks | The Mediterranean communication and awareness strategy is being adopted by all Parties, targeting mass media, policymakers, economic stakeholders involved in land and marine activities, associations, universities and researchers, and civil society. A marine biodiversity day on mass media and schools has been introduced and its annual celebration promoted | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>SDG 23</i> <i>Aichi T.1</i> <i>CBD/GBF T.19, c)</i> <i>EU/2030</i> <i>UNEP (MCS (2019)</i> ACCOB/2025 SPA/RAC (2021) PAP/RAC ICZM/CRF (2016) |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| mechanisms, including mass communications | | | of introducing alien marine species, and other aspects of SPA/RAC work | | | | IUCN (2020) WWF (2021) <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> |
| 39. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION Promote the integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems conservation concerns into school, higher education, professional training, and citizen science, so that best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems are more accessible and replicable | T1.3. T2.8. T3.4. T3.7. | Elaboration by the Contracting Parties, with the support of relevant regional organisations of the definition of the contents of bachelor and master (pre- and post-graduate) curricula, including practicum and field training about marine ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and its relevant strategies Identify a network of pilot universities in Southern and Eastern countries or other universities targeting students from all over the Mediterranean | The marine biodiversity conservation and its relevant strategies/tools are included in the curricula of schools and universities in several countries, and at least several multi-national or bilateral network (North-South and South-South exchanges) among Mediterranean universities is established, a training of trainers has been developed, and at least several MPAs are used as a framework for education and awareness activities, involving NGOs and citizen science | The marine biodiversity conservation and its relevant strategies/tools are included in the curricula of schools and universities in as many countries as possible, where universities are networking in North-South and South-South exchanges, and many MPAs are used as a framework for education and awareness activities, involving NGOs and citizen science | High | REGIONAL and NATIONAL | <i>SDG 23</i> <i>CBD/GBF T.2. T.19</i> <i>EU/2030</i> <i>UNEP/MCS (2019)</i> <i>MAP/MTS CP.11</i> <i>ACCOB/2025</i> <i>UfM (2021)</i> <i>SPA/RAC (2021)</i> <i>PAP/RAC</i> <i>ICZM (2016)</i> IUCN (2020) WWF (2021) <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> |
| 40. EMPLOYMENT Adequately increase the employment, notably public employment in direct relation to marine biodiversity conservation (and eventually include redirecting existing one) as basic component for future blue economy wise development | All Targets | Contracting Parties identify their present baseline of employment, notably public employment in direct relation to marine biodiversity conservation (human resources at different technical and institutional levels), and assess (considering women, youth, and local communities) employment needs to implement the Post-2020 SAPBIO | As related to the baseline, the employment, notably public employment in direct relation to marine biodiversity conservation, has grown in most Mediterranean countries | As related to the baseline, the employment, notably public employment, in direct relation to marine biodiversity conservation has significantly grown in the region, and not less than doubled in any country | Very High | NATIONAL | <i>CBD/GBF F.a) 1 UE/2030 3.2.</i> UNEP/MCS (2019) All Parties |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>41. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING Develop sustainable funding strategies with, as appropriate, innovative approaches to mobilize alternative financial sources, covering fiscal incomes that could be redistributed, and relevant actions to fund, including The MedFund and other types of national or local financing mechanisms</p> | <p>All Targets</p> | <p>Develop an overall Mediterranean cost/benefit analysis, including the economic value of ecosystem services, particularly blue carbon sinks, prevention of coastal erosion, fisheries breeding ground, and assessing the national contributions to marine biodiversity conservation. Foster countries to develop a strategy and action plan for long term funding of nature conservation needs, or similar instruments, considering all the necessary components</p> | <p>At the Mediterranean level, and at the national level in most Mediterranean countries, sustainable funding strategies have been drafted, and have been adopted in several countries including, as appropriate, the establishment of national or local trust funds, <i>inter alia</i> by tolls on tourism, fishing licences, plastic bags, EIA compensations and other, and made available to local environmental budgets- so that the financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors has significantly increased as appropriate.</p> | <p>Sustainable funding strategies are being implemented, so there is a significant increase of financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors.</p> | <p>Very High</p> | <p>REGIONAL AND NATIONAL</p> | <p><i>SDG 17.1</i> <i>Aichi T.20</i> <i>CBD/GBF T.18</i> <i>CBD/GBF 5 EU/2030</i> <i>UfM (2021)</i> <i>UNEP/MCS (2019)</i> <i>MAP/MTS (2020)</i> <i>ACCOB/2025</i> <i>SPA/RAC (2021)</i> <i>PAP/RAC ICZM (2016)</i> <i>IUCN (2020)</i> <i>MedPAN Strategy 2019-2023</i> <i>MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020</i> <i>WWF (2021)</i></p> |
| <p>42. COOPERATION Increase cooperation both north/south, south-south, and between governmental and non-governmental actors at different levels, to support the Post-2020 SAPBIO, particularly in the less developed countries</p> | <p>All targets</p> | <p>Call an international donor conference in support of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including environmental funds such as GEF, Green Climate Fund, and bilateral agencies to fulfil their official development assistance commitments, and prepare broad Mediterranean projects backed with official country requests, inviting ODA agencies to consider MPAs as live</p> | <p>Parties are regularly informed about project call of proposals and other funding possibilities. Three broad Mediterranean projects with official country backing have started and other 3 are being prepared for international and bilateral environmental and development funds and agencies, covering priority subjects in the less developed countries, <i>inter alia</i> implementing the national action plans, developing</p> | <p>Significant increase of international financial flows towards developing countries takes place, in order to meet the needs for the effective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO</p> | <p>Very High</p> | <p>REGIONAL and EU Countries</p> | <p><i>SDG 17</i> <i>CBD/GBF 18, 14.e</i> <i>Aichi T.20</i> <i>EU/2030</i> <i>UfM (2021)</i> <i>UNEP/MCS (2019)</i> <i>MAP/MTS (2020)</i> <i>ACCOB/2025</i> <i>SPA/RAC (2021)</i></p> |

| ACTION | Contributes to SAPBIO Targets | Start-up activities | Expected Results for 2027 | Expected Results for 2030 | Priority Level | Scope | Links to relevant Strategies |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|----------------|-------|---|
| | | examples of nature-based solutions for food security, long-term planning and participatory management, all in the interest of poverty alleviation and the SDGs | environmental funds at the national levels, restoration and disaster risk reduction arising from climate change on coasts and at sea, supporting research, management, and monitoring networks. | | | | <i>PAP/RAC ICZM (2016) IUCN (2020) MedPAN Strategy 2019-2023 MPA Forum Roadmap post-2020 WWF (2021)</i> |

ANNEX IV

References in the text

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References in the text

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