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POST-2020 SAPBIO

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

Post-2020 SAPBIO

Draft 2 Ver. 3~~2~~

~~*May*~~ *June ~~21st~~22th, 2021*

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

(Post-2020 SAPBIO)

DRAFT 2. Ver. 32

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introductory remarks

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 (draft) 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~~all~~ people”.

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]”.

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

Vision (to 2050) / Mission to 2030 / Goals to 2030 / Objectives / Targets / Actions

The Post-2020 SAPBIO is action-oriented, scientifically based, and built through concise realistic objectives. 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.

The Post-2020 SAPBIO subregional assessments proposed 10 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 constitute the Post-2020 SAPBIO Objectives, each of which is precisely described through a series of Targets. Following the “theory of change” that also inspires the CBD/GBF (draft) and the UNEP/MCS (2019), the Post-2020 SAPBIO Targets (as outputs) add up to achieve the Objectives, and thus, 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.

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.

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 and objectives

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

Goal 1 Reduce the threats to biodiversity

Objective 1. 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

Objective 2. MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

T 2.1. on the 30% MPA/OECM coverage, and 10% ~~[~~strictly ~~] [strongly]~~ protected areas

T 2.2. on equitable and effective management, and monitoring

Objective 3. ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

T 3.1. on ecosystem restoration, 30% of those with the highest relevance and potential

T 3.2. on the achievement of the Good Environmental Status

T 3.3. 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

Objective 4. IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE

T 4.1. on the distribution and status of species protected under the SPA/BD Protocol

T 4.2. on sea-floor cartography, status and integrity of threatened habitats

T 4.3. on knowledge sharing (Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform).

Objective 5. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

T 5.1. on halting by-catch and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

T 5.2. on small-scale fisheries (professional, recreational), particularly in MPAs

T.5.3. on sustainable and biodiversity-friendly aquaculture

Objective 6. MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

T.6.1. on the ecosystem approach, and marine and coastal spatial planning

T 6.2. on cross-sectoral integration, including tourism, mining, energy

T 6.3. on reinforced governance, compliance, and stakeholder participation

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

Objective 7. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

T 7.1. on the IMAP refinement and full compliance

T 7.2. on the Post-2020 SAPBIO assessment and reporting mechanisms

T 7.3. on adequate means to run the Post-2020 SAPBIO

Objective 8. CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

T 8.1. on capacity building, particularly in the less developed countries

T8.2. on networking and knowledge sharing (NIS, migratory species, MPAs, GES…)

Objective 9. OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

T 9.1. on raising awareness, targeting decision-makers, media, and general public

T 9.2. on integrating marine biodiversity into school, higher education, and professional training

Objective 10. MOBILIZING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

T 10.1. on public employment in direct relation to biodiversity conservation

T 10.2. on sustainable funding, national commitments and innovative sources

T 10.3. on international cooperation and increased north/south financial flows

Strategic actions

To achieve these Targets, the Post-2020 SAPBIO addresses clear Actions that countries can reasonably attain with the coordination of relevant ~~i~~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.

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 Objectives. 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.

The ~~SAPBIO life-cycle is of 15 years, and so the validity of its contents; however, the~~ expected results of the SAPBIO, through its 46 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).

About one third of the Actions has a rRegional 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

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 Objectives.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

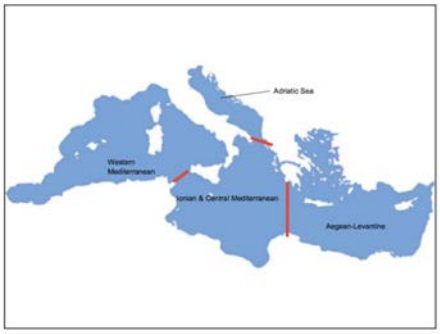
While ambitious, the Post-2020 SAPBIO tries to be realistic, concise, and action oriented. It builds on the main needs expressed by the Mediterranean countries at national and sub-regional levels, avoiding additional layers of institutional commitments, to minimize the burden on Parties, the Secretariat 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.

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

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.

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 (1)~~Ecosystem Approach Roadmap following 4 ecological subregions, which were~~ 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.



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.

The Post-2020 SAPBIO indicates the objectives 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.

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 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; among others

1 Ecosystem Approach Rodmap: 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.

The content of the Post-2020 SAPBIO is scientifically based and built on concise realistic objectives. 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

~~*[Extensive and constructive cooperation on invasive alien species of Indo-Pacific origin passing through the Suez Canal is also important, being one of the most important threats to marine ecosystems, species and habitats in the Mediterranean Basin; all countries need to take the necessary measures within the principle of sharing responsibility to prevent the transit of these species]. [It should be focused on scientific studies, legislative arrangements, awareness studies and suppression of stocks required to control all NIS/IAS entry pathways, to reduce the rate of new entry and to eliminate or reduce its effects].*~~

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.

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.

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**

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).

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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).

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.

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).

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 EU waters 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).

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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.

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

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

4.1. Addressing current pressures and threats

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.

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).

While countries should hold to their commitment to substantially reduce their CO2 emmisions (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.

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.

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 efects 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

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.

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 criteria for OECMs (CBD Decision 14/08) and IUCN definition (2019), such as protected cultural areas, and military zones; 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).

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

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.

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.

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. 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 meassures 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.

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 conficts arising with professional fishers.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Biodiversity loss threatens our food systems[2], putting our food security and nutrition at risk. Globally, the overall cost/benefit ratio of an effective programme for the conservation of remaining wild nature is estimated to be at least 100 to 1 [3]. 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.

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 biodiversity[4].

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.).

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, OBJECTIVES, and TARGETS

5.1. Vision and Mission

2 World Economic Forum (2020), The Global Risks Report 2020.

3 Balmford et al. (2002), Economic reasons for conserving wild nature.

4 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.

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

"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".

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~~)~~"*

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

Vision (to 2050) à *[Mission to 2030]* à Goals (to 2030) à Objectives à Targets à Actions

5.2. Goals 2030 for the Post-2020 SAPBIO

The Post-2020 SAPBIO subregional assessments, based on the main 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 Objectives, which significantly match with the goals and targets of the [draft] CBD/GBF, and with all the main and most recent Mediterranean biodiversity agreements (correspondences in Table 4 in Annex II). The 10 Objectives are clustered under 3 overarching Goals, adapted from those of the CBD/GBF because of their thematic balance and global relevance:

Goal 1. Reduce the threats to biodiversity

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

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

5.3. Objectives

The Objectives follow the 10 axes identified after the Subregional Post-2020 SAPBIO analyses:

Goal 1 **Reduce the threats to biodiversity**

Objective 1. ADDRESS PRESSURES

> *Reverse the decline of critical and vulnerable ecosystems, protected species and habitats, particularly wetlands, coastal dunes, coralligenous, marine vegetation and deep sea in the Mediterranean Sea, by ~~[~~addressing~~]~~ ~~[mitigating]~~ anthropogenic and climate change pressures with the active cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.*

Objective 2. MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

> *At least ~~[~~30%~~]~~ of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative, and effective systems of protected areas, ~~strictly protected areas,~~*

including among others strictly protected areas, ABNJ and transboundary protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems.

Objective 3. ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Achieve positive trends in all the ecological objectives of GES, and improve the resilience of the Mediterranean Sea ecosystem through the restoration of the most endangered ecosystem, and by the adoption of key measures and nature-based solutions ~~ns~~ to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

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

Objective 4. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE

Establish the georeferenced distribution, values, status and trends of marine species and habitats protected under the SPA/BD Protocol, and regularly monitor and assess them.~~Establish the distribution, values, status and trends of marine species and habitats protected under the SPA/BD Protocol, [significantly] georeferenced, regularly monitored and assessed, and shared through related Mediterranean platforms.~~

Objective 5. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Sustainably harvest all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, having no significant adverse impacts on endangered and threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems, so the marine biological resources exploitation is within safe ecological limits.

Objective 6. MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

~~[Significantly] i~~Integrate biodiversity values and related targets into policies, regulations, spatial planning, development processes, social strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all the major relevant sectors.

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

Objective 7. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Support the ratification of all protocols of the Barcelona Convention and their enactment in national legislation, and achieve the implementation and monitoring process of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, considering the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and a reporting schedule that will be used consistently by all institutions involved, allowing the Contracting Parties to periodically review the status of implementation of the Strategy, with support from the Secretariat sufficiently resourced for running the implementation and assessment mechanisms.

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Objective 8. CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

Support government and non-government actors at all levels, particularly in developing countries, to set forth, retain, and exchange, requisite capacities for the effective implementation of the SAPBIO.

Objective 9. OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

Ensure that quality information is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity, through promoting awareness, education and citizen support, as key elements for transitions and raising the political profile of environmental issues.

Objective 10. MOBILIZING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

Significantly increase adequate financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors, prioritizing investment in the sustainable blue economy favouring marine conservation, including an increase of international financial flows towards developing countries, to meet the needs for implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

~~*Increase by [xx%] the financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors, prioritizing investment in the sustainable blue economy favouring marine conservation, including an [xx%] increase of international financial flows towards developing countries, to meet the needs for implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO.*~~

5.4. Targets

Following the "theory of change"[5] that also inspires the CBD/GBF *[draft]* and the UNEP/MCS (2019), the Post-2020 SAPBIO aims at accomplishing a short number of action Targets (outputs) which add up to achieve the Objectives, and thus, the Goals and the Mission (outcome).

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) ~~7~~8, although its Targets and Actions consider those that can be readily influenced by the Strategy.

[1] 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 *[draft]* suggests, it will be the *"Countries to establish their national targets/indicators aligned with this framework"*.

5 In a stringent logic to aggregate from the lowest level to what the higher level supposed to achieve, the theory of change acknowledges that ambitious and urgent policy action is required so that the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss will be removed and biodiversity loss will start to be reversed by 2030.

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

~~7 Such as e. g. trade and financial principles, circular economy, sustainable production and consumption, business models, mitigation of greenhouse gases, chemical pollution…~~

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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 indicators and data over time.

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 10 Objectives, framed within the CBD Framework draft Targets and thus, to the SDGs, and harmonized (Annex II) with those proposed/adopted by the other main Mediterranean biodiversity frameworks[9]

Objective 1. 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 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.~~By 2027 implement the Regional strategy and Action Plan addressing ship's ballast water management and invasive species, and establish and continuously monitor within a shared compendium of georeferenced databases (including MAMIAS) the pathways and status of non-indigenous species in the Mediterranean, and by 2030 [manage, and where possible control pathways for the introduction of IAS, achieving [50%] reduction in the rate of new introductions, and eradicate, control and manage IAS to eliminate or reduce their impacts, including in at least [50%] of priority sites and in [100%] of [the most vulnerable areas] [marine protected areas] [the loss of biodiversity they cause is reversed, regulating [50%] of the most harmful invasive alien species, preventing their impacts in [100%] of the most vulnerable areas, decreasing the number of Red List species they threaten by [50%], and effectively managing [50%] of the most significant 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 elimination of plastic and nutrient leakage into the environment, and the significant reduction ~~by at least [50%]~~ of light and noise pollution and the amounts of biocides used.

9 *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.

Objective 2. MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

- T 2.1. on coverage
  By 2030 at least ~~[~~30%~~]~~ of the Mediterranean Sea ~~in every country~~ is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective 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, and at least ~~[~~10%~~]~~ of the Mediterranean Sea are ~~[~~strictly~~]~~ ~~[strongly]~~ protected (10 ~~(footnotes will explain these definitions), including no-take zones, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems.~~).

- T 2.2. on effective management
  By 2030 at least 75% ~~for [100%]~~ protected areas, conservation measures have been defined and long-term and integrated management plans/regimes developed, in participation with stakeholders, and formally adopted, including zoning and regulations as appropriate, and at least [70%] of the areas are sufficiently resourced with human capacities, adequate funding, effective enforcement measures, and regular monitoring of the objectives defined in the respective management plans/regimes.

Objective 3. ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

- T 3.1. on ecosystem restoration
  By 2025 develop the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest regeneration potential and ecological relevance (as nursery areas and/or carbon stocks), and by 2030 complete the restoration of [30%] of those selected.

- T 3.2. on the achievement of GES[11]
  Related to the biodiversity Ecological Objectives within the framework of IMAP and the MSFD, by 2027 [xx%] of Mediterranean countries have reached the Good Environmental Status in their jurisdictional waters, and [100%] countries have identified, and in case needed received support, to fill the gaps that hinder good GES evaluation, so that by 2030 [xx] countries have reached appropriate GES in an effective implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and its roadmap.

- T 3.3. on climate change
  By 2030, all countries have adopted and implemented measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly to warming, acidification. and to disaster risk reduction, from reducing emissions, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and restoration as appropriate, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity.

10 *"Protected areas that are strictly set aside to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable reference areas for scientific research and monitoring"* (IUCN definition for Category 1a, Strictly Protected Area).

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

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Objective 4. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE

- T 4.1. on threatened species
  The distribution 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 4.2. 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 [250x250m] [highest feasible] resolution for all jurisdictional waters, FRAs and OECM, continuously monitored and shared through a biodiversity platform.

- T 4.3. on knowledge sharing
  By 2027 georeferenced Information on Mediterranean Biodiversity key components is centralized in an open access platform.

Objective 5. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

- T 5.1. on gears, by-catch, IUU
  By 2027 start in all countries the implementation of science-based management plans to effectively regulate harvesting and 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 gear most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed.

- T 5.2. 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 and jurisdictional waters.

- T.5.3. 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.

Objective 6. MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

- T.6.1. on ecosystem approach and marine and coastal spatial planning

By 2030 [100%] of MPAs and OECMs, [50%] of all marine areas [and xx% coastal areas] are under biodiversity and climate change-informed spatial planning, addressing land/sea use exchange, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, and allowing to restore [xx%] of degraded coastal and marine natural ecosystems and the connectivity among them.

- T 6.2. on cross-sectoral integration and biodiversity accounts
  By 2030, acknowledging the existing obligations (e.g. UNCLOS Art.192) and high-level commitments (SDG 12.1) requiring States to ensure the sustainable management of all marine and coastal ecosystems and resources, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into 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 6.3. on governance and stakeholder participation
  By 2030 a governance framework ensuring co-responsibility and co-ownership by all relevant actors in meeting the Post-2020 SAPBIO commitments has been developed, enhancing the necessary political will to apply all processes of the Barcelona Convention, raising the profile of environmental administrations, supporting cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, administrative transparency, stakeholder dialogue, and participatory governance at different levels.

Objective 7. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

- T 7.1. on IMAP compliance
  By 2027 [xx 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 7.2. 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 7.3. 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.

Objective 8. CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

- T 8.1. on capacity development
  By 2025 assess, in all national and subnational administrations, particularly in developing countries, the capacity to address the needs and priorities of marine environment conservation objectives, with particular attention to data-poor regions and towards reducing the gender and the digital divide, so that by 2030 a [xx%] of 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.

- T8.2. 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.

Objective 9. OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

- T 9.1. 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 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 9.2. on outreach and education
  By 2027 help integrate marine biodiversity and ecosystems into school, higher education and professional training, incorporating the SPA/BD Protocol and its relevant strategies and tools into the curricula in [xx countries], and in [xx countries] 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.

Objective 10. MOBILIZING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

- T 10.1. on public employment
  By 2030, public employment in direct relation to biodiversity conservation (or redirecting the existing one) has increased by 300%.

- T 10.2. on sustainable funding sources
  By 2027 at the Mediterranean level, and at the national level in [xx 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 an added increase of [500%] financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors.

- T 10.3. 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 [300%] increase in the international financial flows on biodiversity conservation towards developing countries.

6. PROPOSAL FOR ACTIONS

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

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 Targets[12]

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

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 strategies[13] and on what already works, as identified in the subregional and national reports.

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.

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.

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.

The table in Annex III presents 46 Actions and their expected results for 2027 and 2030, also recommending their start-up activities, on the following subjects:

12 For example, *"Marine spatial planning in every country…"* serves Objective 1 (Pressures), Objective 3 (MPAs), Objective 6 (Integration). *"Mitigation and eradication of selected NIS/IAS in every country…"* supports Objective 1 (Knowledge), Objective 2 (Impacts), Objective 4 (Restoration), Obj. 8 (Capacity).
Likewise, 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…

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. ENERGY AND MINERALS
10. SPATIAL PLANNING
11. RESTORATION
12. CLIMATE CHANGE
13. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS
14. MPA GAPS AND OECMs
15. MPA/OECM COVERAGE
16. NTZs
17. MPA/OECM PLANNING
18. MPA/OECM MANAGEMENT
19. MPA/OECM EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT MONITORING

GOAL 2

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

GOAL3

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

7. SAPBIO IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PROGRESS

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 Objectives.

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.

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 place[14], 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.

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:

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 ToRs of their mandate are presented in Annex IV. 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.

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.

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;
- Preparing annual Progress Reports for SPA/RAC, also to be distributed to the network constituted by all the SAP BIO National Correspondents members.

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.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Meetings, if not decided otherwise, would be convened once a year. The ToRs of their mandate are presented in Annex V.

List of ANNEXES

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 *(draft)*
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

	ADRIATIC	*AEGEAN-LEVANTINE*	*IONIAN – CENTRAL*	*WESTERN*
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 restauration 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
	ADRIATIC	*AEGEAN-LEVANTINE*	*IONIAN – CENTRAL*	*WESTERN*

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 Objectives and 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	CBD/GBF	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 biodiversity frameworks

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	UNCLOS ref.	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
2.1. MPA/OECM coverage	G.14.5	T.1 / T.2	Specific Commitment & Key Action	Str.Obj.3.d	Pr.2 Output	Target 1FRAs
2.2. MPA/OECM management	G.14.2	T.2	Key Commitment & Key Action	Str.Obj.3.d	Pr.2 Output	
3.1. Restoration	G.13.1.	T.6/T.7/T.10	Specific Commitment	Str.Obj.3c & 4	Key deliverable	
3.2. GES	G.13 / G.14	T.6 / T.10	MSFD Directive		Several EOs	
3.3. 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						
4.1. Species	G.14.2	T.3	Key Commitment		Progr.2 EO.1	
4.2. Habitats	G.14.2	T.3	Key Commitment		Prog.2 EO.1, 5	
4.3. Knowledge	G.14.2, 14.a	T.19	Enabling condition	Expected Outcome	Progr.2 Core Prod.10	
5.1. 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
5.2. SSF	G.14.b	T.3 /T.8 /T.9		Str.Obj.2.c		Target 4.4
5.3. Aquaculture	G.14.c	T.9, T.14	Aquacult. Strategic Guidelines (2021)	Str.Obj. 2.b	Core Prod. 8	Target 3
6.1. EcAp/MSP	G.14.5	T.1 / T.2	MSP Directive	Str.Obj.3	Pr.2, Output	
6.2. BD Integration	G.13.2., G.17	T.13 / T.17	Key Commitment.	Str.Obj.1 & 2	Progr.2	
6.3. Governance	G.14.c	T.20	Specific Commitment	Str.Obj.3.a	Progr.2	Target 2
GOAL 3						
7.1. IMAP, monit	G.14a	T.19, T(iii)	MSFD Directive	Exp. Outcome	Core Prod. 7	
7.2. SAPBIO assessment	G.17.1	T(i) (iii)		Exp. Outcome	Core Prod. 1	
7.3. SAPBIO running	G.17.6 17.9	T.18		Exp. Outcome	Core. Prod. 1	
8.1. Capacity building	G.13.3 G.17.9	T.19	Key Commitment	Str.Obj.3	Progr.2	Target 5.1
8.2. Networking	G.14.3 /G.17.6	T(ii)	Enabling Condit. 3.3.4	Exp. Outcome	Core Prod. 12	
9.1. Awareness	G.13.3	T.15, T.19		Exp. Outcome	Progr.6 & 7	
9.2. Outreach	G.13.3	T.19	Key Commitment.	Exp. Outcome	Progr.7, Core Prod. 11	
10.1. Public BD Employment		T.18		Exp. Outcome		
10.2. Funding	G.17.1.4.6.9.	T.18	Specific Commitment	Str.Obj. 4.a	Core Prod.7	
10.3 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. T4.1. T4.2.	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 *[xx 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	CBD/GBF 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**	T1.1. T4.1. T4.2.	Recovery plans are developed in *[xx countries]*, including measures to eliminate all intentional or accidental killing or capture	Recovery plans are developed in *[xx countries]* and emergency actions implemented, both in situ and ex situ as required, in *[xx countries]* for species whose continued survival depends on such actions, including an agreement to establish a functional stranding network for at least two Mediterranean ecological subregions	All Mediterranean countries have developed and are implementing recovery plans and emergency actions for threatened and endangered species, including a Mediterranean network of stranding centres	Very High	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF 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 species (Cetaceans, Turtles, others)**	T1.1. T2.2. T3.2. T6.1. T6.3. T8.1.	Identify noise pollution and collision hotspots where there is a strong interaction with cetaceans, sea turtles and other affected species, and approach the main sources and administrations in order to develop adequate protection measures in these areas	Protection measures against noise and collision have been developed *[and adopted] [by IMO guidelines]* and *[xx]* Mediterranean countries, and basic monitoring systems are in place in the most vulnerable areas	The most significant sources from maritime traffic are regulated and their impacts prevented in *[100%]* of the most vulnerable areas, where the noise levels and collision events have decreased by *[50%]*	High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.6. EU/2030 UNEP/MAP 2017 IMAP/EO 11 ACCOB/2025 IUCN(2020) 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
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**	T1.2. T3.2. T6.3. T7.1.	*[xx 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	*[xx 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 have ratified the BWM Convention, and collaborate in the enforcement of the Mediterranean Ballast Water Management Strategy 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. T3.2. T8.1.	*[xx countries]* have conducted a baseline study, reporting an inventory of alien species in their jurisdictional waters (year of first record, pathway of introduction and its level of certainty (direct evidence, most likely, possible), and the state of the population	*[xx countries]* have conducted a baseline study, including the state of the population, plus dated and georeferenced records of alien species presence in their jurisdictional waters; and *[xx countries]* have designed, and are implementing, programmes for data collection, monitoring and assessment, 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. T3.2. T7.1. T8.1.	*[xx 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	At the Mediterranean level, a *significant~~[xx%]~~* reduction in the rate of new introductions has been achieved, and control or eradication actions, both in the most significant pathways and in at least [30%] of priority sites , are implemented for the selected, most problematic IAS	The introduction and spread of the most harmful invasive alien species is regulated, *[managed, and where possible controlling pathways for the introduction of IAS, achieving [50%] reduction in the rate of new introductions, and eradicate, control and manage IAS to eliminate or reduce their impacts, including in at least [50%] of priority sites and in [100%] of [the most vulnerable areas] [marine protected areas]. `[preventing their impacts in [100%] of the most vulnerable areas and/or priority sites, decreasing the*	High	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.5 UNEP/MAP (2017) UNEP/MAP (2021) EU/2030 IUCN(2020) SoED 2020 REMPEC/2031 CSO.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
				number of protected species they threaten by [50%], and effectively managing [50%] of the most significant pathways of introduction to achieve [80%] mitigation of their introduction role]			
7. LITTER **Prevent leakage and remove marine litter to mitigate its impact on the ecosystem**	T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T3.2. T5.1. T6.2. T6.3. T8.1. T9.2.	Undertake an updated assessment of marine litter, *[with regional support as appropriate]*, as provided by the Regional Plan on Marine Litter (2014), Art.11, including indicators to monitor progress, covering the lost fishing gears and other sources	In *[xx countries], [with regional support as appropriate]*, new technologies to prevent and remove marine litter have been tested, *inter alia* 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, 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 decreased by *[50%]*, and the removal from the sea and beaches has increased by *[xx%]*	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.2. T5.3. T8.1.	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	*[5 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	*[xx 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. ENERGY AND MINERALS **Advocate, together with other BC/Protocols, -that major infrastructure investments, e.g. wind farms, are regulated and subject to risk and environmental assessment, and the exploitation**	T1.1. T1.3. T3.2. T3.3. T6.1. T6.2. T6.3.	Map all marine areas under the potential interest for energy production, sea-bottom, subsoil, drilling and exploration for oil and minerals, together with other BC/Protocols as appropriate, and assess their spatial	A proposal to *[ban] [regulate]* the installation of wind farms and to prospect or exploit minerals over or under the seabed, is presented to consideration of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties	The Barcelona Convention, , *[has adopted] [is in process of adoption]* the *[banning] [regulation]* of wind farms and *[banning] [regulation] of* the exploitation of minerals in or under the seabed in *[MPAs*	High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	*SDG 13* *RFCCA Str.Dir. 1.2.* *ICZM/CRF (2016)* *EU/2030 -EIAs* *IUCN (2020)* *WWF (20021)*

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
of minerals in or under the seabed is banned in [*EBSAs] [MPAs and OECM*], and cannot be developed elsewhere before their effects on the marine environment, biodiversity and human activities have been sufficiently researched, the risks are understood and alternatives assessed		coincidence with MPAs, OECMs, biological corridors, and other ecologically vulnerable areas		*and OECM] [and elsewhere in the Mediterranean Sea]*			
10. 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**	T2.1. T3.1. T3.2. T5.3. T6.1. T6.2.	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	[xx%] 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	Cross-sectoral MSP covering biodiversity values in all coastal and maritime sectors and activities, is approved in every country taking into consideration all MPAs and OECMs	Very High	NATIONAL	SDG 14.2 CBD/GBF T.1 UNEP(MCS SO.3 EU/2030 SPA/RAC (2021) BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)* WWF (2021)
11. RESTORATION **Support the development of a Med. Sea and Coasts Restoration Strategy under the UNEP/MAP, and start restoration of ecosystems providing key services, those degraded and expected to become increasingly critical in a changing climate, such as wetlands and shallow seashore habitats**	T3.1. T3.3. T8.2. T9.2.	*[5 countries]* have developed the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest regeneration potential and ecological relevance (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	A Mediterranean Sea and Coastal Restoration Strategy under the UNEP/MAP has been developed for adoption, and *[10 countries]* have completed the inventory of ecosystems with the highest regeneration potential and ecological relevance, and *[xx countries]* have started restoration activities on *[30%]* of those selected , favouring nature-based solutions	*[All]* Mediterranean countries have adopted the Mediterranean Sea and Coastal Restoration Strategy under the UNEP/MAP, developed the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest regeneration potential and ecological relevance, and *[xx countries]* have started restoration activities on *[50%]* of the identified priority areas	*High*	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	*SDG 14.2. Aichi T.15 CBD/GBF T.1 EU/2030 MAP/MTS 9 & 15 P* BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)*
12. CLIMATE CHANGE **Increase climate change impacts monitoring and contributions to mitigation and adaptation, particularly to warming,**	T1.3. T3.2. T3.3. T6.2. T10.3.	A working group has agreed on factsheets for baseline indicators follow up on the effects of CC on marine environment, , based in	*[10 SPAMIs]* are coordinated into a climate change monitoring network and *[5 countries]* have developed Early Warning Systems (EWS), mapping, risk assessment and	While countries hold their commitment to reduce by *[50%]* their CO2 emissions, *[10 countries]* have developed EWS, mapping,	High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	SDG 14.2 Aichi T.14 CBD(GBF T.7 EU/2030

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
acidification, and to disaster risk reduction, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches		SPA/RAC developed ones; particularly in a pilot network of SPAMIs	reduction strategies, by which adaptation plans, based on nature-based solutions, are integrated into planning and budgeting processes	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			UNEP/MCS 2019 SO.3 MAP/MTS CP-9 BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)*
13. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS **Promote actions, including scientific research, with the view of achieving GES for all biodiversity-related ecological objectives within the framework of IMAP and the MSFD**	T3.2. T4.1. T4.2. T7.1. T8.1. T8.2.	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 framework of IMAP and MSFD	Related to the biodiversity-relevant ecological objectives within the IMAP framework, [xx%] of Mediterranean countries have reached the Good Environmental Status in their jurisdictional water, verifiable through good scientific based knowledge, and [100%] 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 [xx] 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
14. MPA GAPS and OECMs **Assist countries in the preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan for MPAs and OECMs, or update of the relevant national biodiversity strategies as appropriate, based on a gap analysis, and the adequacy of their institutional and legal system for ensuring a full development of their network of MPAs and OECMs**	T2.1. T6.3. T8.2.	A Mediterranean group of experts has prepared guidelines to define how to measure coherence and representativity, how to define and measure connectivity, and proposing a definition of OECM (based on the CBD definition and IUCN guidelines) to introduce this concept at the national level, defining criteria, listing and screening potential sites, including frameworks for improved governance and management of ABNJ, all to be discussed in relevant Mediterranean fora	A Strategy and Action Plan for MPAs and OECMs is drafted; it includes: addressing gaps in representativity of habitats and species from the annexes of the SPA/BD Protocol in the existing MPA network, and priority areas identified. It provides guidance to parties and sectors for the application of OECM criteria, considering EBSAs and PSSAs, the establishment of SPAMIs in the open seas, recognizing FRAs as OECMs, and recommending large MPAs in international waters, by strengthening the collaboration between neighbouring countries to settle territorial waters, and OECMs as tools to preliminary address	The Strategy and Action Plan for MPAs and OECMs has been approved by the Contracting Parties, and OECMs have been included in national reports to international and regional instruments, and in the regional database MAPAMED	Very High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	UNEP/MCS (2019) - 61 GFCM (2020) MAP/MTS-3, 11, 61 SPA/RAC(2021) ACCOB/2025

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
			disputes on national marine boundaries				
15. MPA/OECM COVERAGE **Support countries to develop the coordinated declaration of an ecologically representative network of MPAs and OECMs, in line with their correspondent national strategies, particularly in countries that have still not designated MPAs, or are protecting very small marine areas and that are still to achieve the 10% coverage target**	T1.1. T2.1. T4.1. T4.2. T6.1. T8.2.	*[xx countries]* have started identifying priority areas for marine conservation and *[2 countries]* have adopted the OECM concept into their national legislation. MPAs are promoted as pilot sites on MSP, ICZM, sustainable fisheries policies, participatory governance and monitoring, and science-based management	*[50% countries]* have identified priority areas to establish MPAs and OECMS, *[10 countries]* have adopted the OECM concept into their national legislation, and *[15%]* of the Mediterranean is already protected under MPA and OECMs, including MPA expansion and enlarging the existing Natura 2000 areas in the EU waters	~~[~~*30%* ~~]~~ of the Mediterranean Sea in every country is protected through a well-connected system of ecologically representative network of protected areas and OECMs, including open sea and transboundary MPAs to protect unrepresented habitats and highly mobile and migratory species	*Very High*	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.2 Aichi T.11 EU/2030 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS-3, 11, 61 ACCOB/2025 SPA/RAC(2021)
16. [Strongly] [strictly] protected areas **Increase the coverage of *[strongly] [strictly]* protected areas inside existing MPAs, particularly within the SPAMI network and the Natura 2000 marine sites**	T1.1. T2.1. T2.2. T5.2. T6.1.	*[xx countries]* have identified potential ~~*[strongly] [*~~*strictly*~~*]*~~ protected zones within their MPA network, and regional support is provided, as appropriate, to all other countries to achieve this identification	A *[3%]* of *[the Mediterranean Sea] [the MPA and OECM network]* are declared as *[strongly] [strictly]* protected areas allowing only non-extractive and non-damaging human activities	A 10% of *[the Mediterranean Sea] [the MPA and OECM network]* are *[strongly] [strictly]* protected areas allowing only non-extractive and non-damaging human activities	High	NATIONAL	SPA/RAC(2021) EU/2030 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021)
17. MPA/OECM PLANNING **Define, in participation with stakeholders, and formally adopt, long-term and integrated management plans/regimes for the effective management of MPAs or OECMs**	T2.2. T3.1. T5.2. T5.3. T6.1. T6.2. T8.1.	Start management planning in ~~*[30%]*~~ MPAs and OECMs that do not have management plans/regimes -with support to national requests from regional coordinated efforts, as needed; with the participation of stakeholders and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge where appropriate	*[xx%]* protected areas have adopted, or are in process of adoption, a formal management plan/regime, -including basic cartography, ecological and socioeconomic baselines, zoning and regulations as appropriate, SMART objectives, and governance and funding frameworks	For *75%*~~*[100%]*~~ protected areas, conservation measures have been defined and long-term and integrated management plans/regimes developed in participation with stakeholders, and formally adopted, including zoning and regulations as appropriate	Very High	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.2 SDG 14.2 Aichi T.11 EU/2030 UNEP/MCS (2019) ACCOB/2025 MAP/MTS-44 SPA/RAC (2021)
18. MPA/OECM MANAGEMENT **Provide the necessary resources, both human and financial, to *[75~~5~~0%]* protected areas, with**	T2.2. T3.1. T5.2. T5.3. T6.1.	In ~~*[xx]*~~ protected areas, different administrations collaborate for the effective management and enforcement of the provisions in	In *[*~~*x*~~*50%*~~*x*~~*]* protected areas, and 100% SPAMIs, the different administrations *(e.g. environment, fisheries, ports, coastguard)* collaborate for the effective	*[*~~*1*~~*7500%]* of all MPAs and OECMs are in process of an efficient and equitable management, the other 25% at least under planning process,	*Very High*	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.2 SDG 14.2 Aichi T.11 EU/2030

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
adequate collaboration between different administrations, effective enforcement measures, and regular monitoring of their management objectives	T6.2. T8.1. T10.2	management plans/regimes, as assessed through regionally agreed MPA monitoring standards	management and enforcement of the provisions in their management plans/regimes, as assessed through regionally agreed MPA monitoring standards	and at least *[75~~0~~%]* of the areas under planned management/regimes are sufficiently resourced with human capacities, adequate funding, effective enforcement measures, and regular monitoring			UNEP/MCS (2019) ACCOB/2025 MAP/MTS-44 SPA/RAC (2021)
19. MPA/OECM MONITORING OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT **Defining guidelines for measuring effective and equitable management through harmonized monitoring systems, providing comparable data sets to facilitate future follow-up of the MPA status at national and regional levels**	T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T4.1. T4.2. T4.3. T7.1. T7.2. T8.1. T8.2.	The SPA/RAC through a Mediterranean group of experts, using the IUCN criteria, has prepared a set of basic and harmonized indicators and guidelines for effective and equitable management and enforcement standards in all MPAs and OECMs	The basic harmonized MPA/OECM monitoring system is incorporated as pilot experience and in a participatory basis, in at least *[xx]* MPAs and OECMs of *[8]* Mediterranean countries, and is in process of adoption by the Contracting Parties	The harmonized MPA/OECM monitoring system, including the effectiveness and management performance , has been adopted by the Contracting Parties, and is incorporated in at least *[xx]* MPAs and OECMs of *[15]* Mediterranean countries	High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.2 SDG 14.2 Aichi T.11 EU/2030 UNEP/MCS (2019) ACCOB/2025 MAP/MTS-44 SPA/RAC (2021)
GOAL 2							
20. BD PLATFORM **Establish an open access Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform**	T4.1. T4.2. T4.3. T7.2. T8.2. T9.2.	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 2025 georeferenced Information on Mediterranean Biodiversity key components is centralized in an open access Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform		High	REGIONAL	CBD/GBF-IPBES UNEP(MCS-IPBES MAP/MTS (2020) EU/2030 - IPBES
21. INVERTEBRATES **Survey distribution and abundance, and assess status and main anthropogenic pressures, over priority invertebrate species with focus on *C.rubrum, P.nobilis,* and vermetid platforms**	T1.1. T1.2. T3.1. T4.1. T4.2. T4.3.	Research projects are launched in *[xx]* countries	The distribution, abundance, and status assessment are finished in *[xx]* countries and research projects are written in other *[10]* countries	The distribution, abundance, and status assessment are finished in *[20]* countries	High	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021)
22.VERTEBRATES	T3.1. T3.2.		Ready in (xx) countries	Ready in *[xx]* Mediterranean countries			CBD/GBF T.3

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
Establish the distribution, status, and the main anthropogenic pressures of species listed under Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol	T4.1. T4.3. T7.2.				High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 ACCOB/2025 IUCN(2020) WWF(2021)
23. HABITATS **In coastal and offshore waters, inventory and cartography -key Mediterranean habitats, and assess their status and main anthropogenic pressures**	T1.2. T2.1. T3.1. T4.2. T4.3. T6.1. T7.2. T10.3	Using the updated SPA/RAC repository, prioritize areas to map with a *[250x250m pixel]* and with a *[50x50m pixel]* resolution	Start mapping at *[250x250m pixel]* key habitats, including those for vulnerable vertebrates, seabed and obscure habitats, in jurisdictional waters of *[xx countries]*, in all the SPAMIs and in *[xx%]* MPAs and OECMs, and at *[50x50m pixel]* in *[xx]* SPAMI surface	Achieved cartography of key habitats in the priority areas within jurisdictional waters of *[xx countries]* at *[250x250 pixel]*, covering *[100%]* prote cted areas including OECM, in *[xx%]* of all Mediterranean, and at *[50x50m pixel]* in *[xx]* SPAMI surface, and their status and responses to threats and impacts has been assessed	Very High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	CBD/GBF T.3 SGD 14A. & 17.6. Aichi T5. & T12 UNEP/MTS EO5 EU/2030 ACCOB/2025 BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)* IUCN(2020) WWF(2021)
24. 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**	T.1.2. T4.1. T4.2. T4.3. T7.1. T7.2. T8.2. T9.2.	National level baseline values and early warning systems established in *[5 countries]* and data on NIS/IAS are 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	National level baseline values and early warning systems established for very high priority countries, and 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)	All Mediterranean countries have established baseline values and early warning systems, 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	Very High	REGIONAL	CBD/GBF T.5 MAP/UNEP(2017) EU/2030 IUCN(2020) SoED 2020 REMPEC/2031 CSO.5 WWF(2021)
25. OVERFISHING and IUU **Implement science-based management plans to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including**	T1.1. T5.1. T5.2. T6.2. T7.1. T8.1.	Identify all forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. Based on the MoU GFCM/UNEP-MAP, develop an efficient and standardized	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	In the Mediterranean, the data-collection system and discharge control are standardized and adopted, there is zero-tolerance for illegal practices~~, and its reach~~	Very High	NATIONAL	SDG 14.4 & 14.6 CBD/GBF T.17 Aichi T.3 and T.6 EU/2030

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
phasing out forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing	T8.2.	data collection and discharge control system, and make available guidelines covering measures, tools and best practice to eliminate IUU	overfishing, and a standardized data collection and discharge control system are in process of adoption in *[xx]* countries. The stretch of IUU in the Mediterranean is assessed and monitored	~~has fallen by [xx], so that~~ overfishing has dropped by *[100%]*, so that and marine resources are harvested sustainably.			GFCM (2020) T.1 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS EO3 - CP-8 IUCN(2020)
26. BY-CATCH **Develop a national strategy [with regional support as appropriate] and implement agreed and scientifically tested by-catch mitigation measures, to eliminate all intentional or accidental killing of species in bad conservation status**	T1.1. T4.1. T5.1. T5.2. T6.2. T7.1. T8.1. T8.2.	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 National by-catch mitigation strategies	*[8 countries]* have adopted guidelines [with regional support as appropriate] and are developing a National By-catch mitigation strategy to adapt or ban the fishing gear most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed, and their implementation started in *[xx countries]* 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 National By-catch mitigation strategy, and adopted the guidelines fishing gear most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed; their implementation has started in *[xx countries]* so fishing gears have no significant adverse impacts on endangered and threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems	Very High	[REGIONAL and] NATIONAL	SDG 14.4 CBD/GBF T.19 EU/2030 FAO (2021) GFCM (2020) T.2 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS CP-8 ACCOB/2025 IUCN (2020)
27. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES **Promote the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small Scale Fisheries (VGSSF) and strong participatory management practices in professional small-scale fisheries, advised by traditional ecological knowledge and the best available science**	T1.1. T5.1. T5.2. T6.2. T6.3. T7.1. T8.1. T8.2.	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 strong participatory management and to control illegal practices in marine recreational fishing (MRF)	In *[15]* 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 *[xx]* MPAs and OECMs, and in fishing grounds within jurisdictional waters in *[3]* countries, the capacity of small-scale fisher organizations has been enhanced to engage and partner strong participatory management models, and the practice of IUU fishing, including recreational fishing, is controlled with full participation from the respective sectors involved	High	NATIONAL	SDG 14.7 CBD/GBF T.4 & T.18 Aichi T.14 UNEP/MCS (2019) SO.2 FAO (2021) GFCM (2020) T.4 IUCN (2020) 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
28. AQUACULTURE **Support developing the Post-2020 GFCM Aquaculture and Fisheries strategy - transforming the aquaculture industry through science-based solutions and marine spatial planning (MSP) tools**	T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T3.1. T3.2. T5.3. T6.1. T6.2. T6.3. T8.1. T8.2. T9.2.	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 *[xx]* 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	*FAO (2021)* *GFCM (2020)* UNEP/MCS (2019) SO.3 BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)* IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)
29. TOURISM **Develop a framework of specific indicators for assessing the impact of marine and coastal tourism on destinations and for promoting ecotourism**	T1.3. T2.2. T3.3. T6.2. T6.3. T8.1. T9.2. T10.2.	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, as appropriate	A framework of specific indicators for assessing the impact of marine and coastal tourism on destinations and for promoting ecotourism is in process of adoption within environmental assessments in tourism hotspots within *[xx]* 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 [xx] countries	High	REGIONAL	*MAP/MTS-D82* *SPA/RAC (2021)* *PAP/RAC ICZM (2016)* *ACCOB/2025* *UfM (2021)* *IUCN (2020)* WWF (2021)
30. INTEGRATING BD **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 the assessment of environmental impacts**	T1.3. T3.2. T6.2. T6.3. T8.1. T9.1. T9.2. T10.2.	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 fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, coastal tourism, ports, maritime transportation, wind farm, MSP, and in EIA/SEA frameworks has been assessed in every country, and proposals are being drafted to include them, to enhance economic activities that substantially contribute to protecting and restoring biodiversity	In *[xx]* countries biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed in the strategies and planning processes of fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, coastal tourism, ports, maritime transportation, education, MSP, and in EIA/SEA frameworks and a reduction of *[xx]* in the most harmful subsidies has been achieved	High	NATIONAL	SDG 14.2., 14.4 & 14.6 CBD/GBF T.13. & T.17 Aichi T.2, T.3. and T.6 EU/2030 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS -2 BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)* *UfM (2021)*
31. STREAMLINE Post-2020 SAPBIO	All targets	Adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO by the Barcelona Convention and assistance	*[xx]* countries have streamlined the Post-2020 SAPBIO in national biodiversity conservation and	All countries have adopted the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Strategy [or streamlined to be			MAP/MTS (2020)

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
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		provided, as necessary, to countries for its integration within national biodiversity conservation and development frameworks	development frameworks, and particularly developed and adopted its monitoring and assessment requirements	in synergy with other reporting processes and CBD/GBF monitoring framework] and are regularly reporting on progress in its implementation.	Very High	NATIONAL	
32. 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**	T2.2. T2.3. T3.2. T3.3. T5.1. T5.3. T6.1. T6.2. T6.3. T9.1. T10.1. T10.2.	Prepare in the appropriate highest-level fora, the socio-economic and cost/benefit profit and the urgency of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, its significant input to S DGs, CBD and UNEP-related commitments, highlighting its realism and the cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination needs	In *[5]* countries, Ministries of Environment, Fisheries, Interior, Infrastructure, Transport, Energy, Education, and other ministries or specialized agencies are promoting appropriate coordination between the various authorities competent for both the marine areas and the land parts of coastal zones, in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan incorporating the Post-2020 SAPBIO in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels, and reporting to Parliament	Very High	NATIONAL	SDG 14 Aichi T.17 CBD/GBF g) k) UNEP/MCS MAP/MTS (2020) EU/2030 BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)* *ACCOB/2025* *WWF (2021)*
33. 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. T2.2. T3.1. T4.3. T5.1. T5,2, T5.3. T6.2. T6.3. T8.1. T8.2.	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 *[xx]* 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	CBD/GBF T.20 UNEP/MCS EU/2030 *P* BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)* *ACCOB/2025* *WWF (2021)*
34. TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP SCALING OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS	All targets	Enhance Parties to identify the sub-national and local plans related to the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation and to set up mechanisms to	In *[xx]* countries, active alliances of governments, businesses, scientists and opinion leaders are built to implement the Post-2020 SAPBIO commitments, ensuring co-	All countries can present positive results in translating into national legislation the updated 1995 Specially Protected Areas and	High	NATIONAL	*CBD/GBF T.15 & T.20* *MAP/MTS (2020)* *SPA/RAC (2021)*

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
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		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	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 systematically recuperating any relevant proposals from the local level to feed future Mediterranean planning processes	Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol, and in effectively scaling-down and adapting the proposed SAPBIO Actions to the local context, while systematically recuperating any relevant proposals from the local level to feed future Mediterranean planning processes			BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)*
35. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT **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**	T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T2.2. T3.2. T5.1. T6.2. T6.3. T7.1. T8.1. T9.2. T10.1.	Prepare, at the regional level, practical guidelines for the enforcement of the SAPBIO provisions 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	*[xx]* countries have started capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain, on environmental legal frameworks, including environmental agencies, inspectors, auditors, police, prosecutors and judges	*[xx]* countries have completed capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain, on environmental legal frameworks, including environmental agencies, inspectors, auditors, police, prosecutors and judges	*Very High*	*[REGIONAL and] NATIONAL*	*SGD 14* *EU/2030* *GFCM (2020)* *MAP/MTS 41.8* SPA/RAC (2021) BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)*
GOAL 3							
36. IMAP REFINEMENT **Identification of the gaps that hinder the good environmental status evaluation, and in case needed, support countries to fill them out**	T4.1. T4.2. T4.3. T7.1. T7.2. T8.2.	Support the identification and assessment of the data gaps - identified in the 2017 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	*[10]* 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)*
37. IMAP IMPLEMENTATION	T4.1. T4.2. T4.3.	Start developing region-wide, electronic, common indicator-based reporting formats and	Based on harmonized reporting formats *[10]* countries are reporting on common indicators for the	All countries are reporting on common indicators for the	High	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF 15 (ii) (iii) EU-MSFD

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
Update national monitoring programmes in light of the new elements of IMAP, and achieve regular reporting	T7.1. T7.2. T8.2.	up-to-date tools for data exchange, based on the structure of the Common Indicator Fact Sheets	biodiversity-related ecological objectives of GES	biodiversity-related ecological objectives of GES			MAP/MTS CP.7 MAP/NIS-IAS (2017) BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)*
38. Post-2020 SAPBIO MONITORING **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**	T7.1. T7.2. And all Targets	Based on a monitoring table developed by SPA/RAC, with input, as appropriate, from the SAPBIO governance bodies, 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	The implementation and monitoring process of the Post-2020 SAPBIO is set in every country, duly harmonized with IMAP and other UNEP/MAP monitoring frameworks, and at least *[5]* countries record biannual progress towards these targets and report to the Barcelona Convention system. The possibility of preforming collective assessments may be considered-	In all countries a reporting schedule is consistently used by all institutions involved, recording biannual progress in the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and reporting 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	Very High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	CBD/GBF H (i) (iii) EU/2030 UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS KD.90 ACCOB/2025
39. 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**	T7.2. T7.3. And all Targets	Approach international and EU funding sources and appoint one project to resource the Secretariat in assisting countries 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 assistance to countries 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 (i) assist countries to implement run the Post-2020 SAPBIO and (ii)to formulate a Post-2020 SAPBIO update for beyond 2030	Very High	REGIONAL	UNEP MAP system and All Contracting Parties
40. CAP. 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**	T8.1. T8.2. And all Targets	With regional support as appropriate, 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	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. *[xx]* training modules have been designed, and tested in at least *[7]* countries and *[2]* user networks, reinforcing the capacity of	In every country at least *[20]* officers, MPA managers, field technicians, and local authorities responsible for the environment, fisheries, and enforcement, are sufficiently trained and remain in close coordination with	High	[REGIONAL and] NATIONAL	*SDG 13b* *CBD/GBF (ii)* *FAO (2021)* *MAP/MTS (2020)* *SPA/RAC (2021)* BC/ICZM Protocol *(2016)*

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
and across national jurisdictions, with particular attention to less developed countries, and towards reducing the gender and the digital divide		local authorities responsible for the environment, fisheries and enforcement, and design a regular and interactive training programme	national administrations to monitor and improve management effectiveness	Mediterranean partners, for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO in their respective professional environments			
41. NETWORKING **Support existing regional, subregional and/or transboundary networks, or develop new ones as needed, to enhance capacities, knowledge, experience and opportunity sharing, *inter alia,* 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. T3.1. T4.3. T5.1. T5.2. T5.3. T6.3. T7.2. T8.1. T8.2. T10.2. T10.3.	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 at least *[15]* countries in at least *[5]* 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 "young" MPAs, and in all SPAMI	Human networks at national, sub-regional and regional level - *inter alia 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	*CBD/GBF (ii)* *UNEP/MCS (2019)* *MAP/MTS (2022-2027)* IMAP ACCOB/2025 PAP/RAC ICZM/CRF (2016) IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)
42. 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 mechanisms, including mass communications**	T1.1. T1.2. T1.3. T2.2. T3.2. T5.1. T6.2. T6.3. T9.1. T10.2.	Call on a task-force to outline a communications 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 communications and awareness strategy, with recommendations for each national level context, has been presented to the NFPs and its implementation started in at least *[5]* 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 of introducing alien marine species, and other aspects of SPA/RAC work	The Mediterranean communications and awareness strategy is being adopted by all Mediterranean countries, 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	*SDG 23* *Aichi T.1* *CBD/GBF T.19, c)* *EU/2030* *UNEP(MCS (2019)* *ACCOB/2025* *SPA/RAC (2021)* *PAP/RAC* *ICZM/CRF (2016)* IUCN (2020) 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
43. 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. T6.2. T8.1. T9.2.	Definition of the contents of bachelor and master (pre- and post- graduate) curricula, including practicum and field training about the SPA/BD Protocol 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 SAP/BD Protocol and its relevant strategies/tools are included in the curricula of schools and universities in *[xx countries]*, and at least *[one]* 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 *[5]* MPAs are used as a framework for education and awareness activities, involving NGOs and citizen science	The SPA~~P~~/BD Protocol and its relevant strategies/tools are included in the curricula of schools and universities in *[xx countries]*, and at least *[10]* Mediterranean universities are networking in North-South and South-South exchanges, and at least *[10]* MPAs are used as a framework for education and awareness activities, involving NGOs and citizen science	High	REGIONAL and NATIONAL	*SDG 23* *CBD/GBF T.2. T.19* *EU/2030* *UNEP/MCS (2019)* *MAP/MTS CP.11* *ACCOB/2025* *UfM (2021)* *SPA/RAC (2021)* *PAP/RAC ICZM (2016)* IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)
44. EMPLOYMENT **Sharply increase the 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 public employment in direct relation to marine biodiversity (human resources at different technical and institutional levels), and assess (considering women, youth, and local communities) the public employment needs to implement the Post-2020 SAPBIO	As related to the 2024 baseline, the public employment in direct relation to marine biodiversity conservation has grown in every country and has doubled in *[12]* countries	As related to the 2024 baseline, the public employment in direct relation to marine biodiversity conservation has grown by [300%] in the region, and not less than doubled in any country	Very High	NATIONAL	CBD/GBF F. a) 1 UE/2030 3.2. UNEP/MCS (2019) All Parties
45. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING **Develop sustainable funding strategies with 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**	All Targets	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	At the Mediterranean level, and at the national level in *[xx countries]*, sustainable funding strategies have been drafted, and have been adopted in other *[xx countries]* - including the establishment of national or local trust funds, fed *inter alia* 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	In *[xx countries]*, sustainable funding strategies [or appropriate parts of NBSAPs and similar document related National financial plans] -are being implemented, so there is an increase of *[500%]* financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private	Very High	REGIONAL AND NATIONAL	*SDG 17.1* *Aichi T.20* *CBD/GBF T.18* *CBD/GBF 5* *EU/2030* *UfM (2021)* *UNEP/MCS (2019)* *MAP/MTS (2020)* *ACCOB/2025* *SPA/RAC (2021)*

ACTION	Contributes to SAPBIO Targets	Start-up activities	Expected Results for 2027	Expected Results for 2030	Priority Level	Scope	Links to relevant Strategies
		long term funding of nature conservation needs considering all the necessary components	international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors has increased by *[200%]*. The status of national and regional financing of MPAs should be regularly presented to the Parties to the Barcelona Convention as an indicator of their compliance	actors from different sectors. *[xx]* countries acknowledge reduced or avoided fiscal instruments and subsidies that have a negative impact on the environment			*PAP/RAC ICZM (2016)* IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)
46. 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**	All targets	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 *[3]* broad Mediterranean projects backed with official country requests *inter alia* for countries that still have to achieve the 10% MPA coverage target, inviting ODA agencies to consider MPAs as live examples of nature-based solutions for food security, long-term planning and participatory management, all in the interest of poverty alleviation and the SDGs	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, *inter alia* implementing the national action plans, developing environmental funds at the national levels, spreading the Natura 2000 network into non-EU Mediterranean waters, restoration and disaster risk reduction arising from climate change on coasts and at sea, supporting research, management, and monitoring networks.	In biodiversity concerns, developed countries and the EU achieve the target of 0.7 % GNI for official development assistance, and the GEF, mobilization of climate finance e, g, the Green Climate Fund on disaster risk reduction, philanthropies and large private corporations are also contributing for an overall *[300%]* increase of international financial flows towards developing countries, in order to meet the needs for the effective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO	Very High	REGIONAL and EU Countries	*SDG 17 CBD/GBF 18, 14.e Aichi T.20 EU/2030 UfM (2021) UNEP/MCS (2019) MAP/MTS (2020) ACCOB/2025 SPA/RAC (2021)* *PAP/RAC ICZM (2016)* IUCN (2020) WWF (2021)

ANNEX IV

Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents ToRs

Terms of Reference for the National Correspondents of the Post-2020 SAPBIO

The Post-2020 SAPBIO envisages Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents as part of the institutional implementation governance arrangements. These Correspondents will have to act at dual level:

a) as individual National Correspondents, with the role, function and tasks to be implemented at national level, and

b) as an institutionalised body (the Network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents), with the role, function and tasks to be implemented at regional level.

Accordingly, the Terms of Reference related to the National Correspondents are presented herein:

I. Role, tasks and institutional framework for National Correspondents

Individual Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents will be responsible for facilitating the implementation of the Strategy at national level in their respective countries. Their main role is to stimulate and coordinate activities at national level aimed at the Post-2020 SAPBIO as well as to facilitate inputs for implementing the regional components of Post-2020 SAPBIO actions. These activities will also include defining and coordinating any needed national consultation processes. The National Correspondent will constitute UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC ’s main contact point for examining the progress of preparing and implementing the national and regional activities. Within the national institutional arrangements, individual National Correspondents will act under the guidance and according to the instructions of the SPA/BD Focal Point of the Party.

Individual National Correspondents, acting at national level, will,, in particular, provide for:

- Identifying and establishing appropriate contacts with the national institutions/bodies concerned with the implementation of Post-2020 SAPBIO Programme

- Organizing, with the support and assistance of SPA/RAC, national consultations, workshops, etc., to facilitate the preparation of projects; as well as contribution to any needed updating process, for the smooth implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO

- Passing on information and communication regarding Post-2020 SAPBIO from the national side to SPA/RAC and to the Network, and vice-versa

- Preparing annual Progress Reports for SPA/RAC, also to be distributed to the network constituted all the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents

In addition, the National Correspondents will be directly involved (I) in the process of formulating and implementing the relevant national participatory activities, and (II) in the process of evaluating/updating the Post-2020 SAPBIO regional documents along its implementation, when requested by the Parties.

The National Correspondent, to carry out her/his tasks, should be supported by resource persons, to be identified at national level, including by NGOs and the National Focal Points of the organisations with such contacts that are members of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee.

To this end, those member organisations are invited to circulate information about the Post-2020 SAPBIO to their Focal Points in the Mediterranean countries, asking them to keep contact with the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondent.

II. Nomination and profile of National Correspondents

Individual National Correspondents will be nominated by their respective MAP Focal Points. If possible and appropriate, they will preferably be members of the respective Post-2020 SAPBIO national implementation lead Agency or, where nationally decided, consultants/contractuals appointed by the National Lead Agency.

Their affiliation, academic degrees and professional background and references should guarantee their competence and capacity for implementing the role and tasks defined by these Terms of Reference.

It is recommended that the National Correspondents meet certain requirements, as follows:

- be at a convenable level in the hierarchy of the respective institution
- have a good knowledge of aspects related to coastal and marine biodiversity and be able to deal also with topics concerning fishing and socio-economic aspects
- have a good command of either English or French
- be accustomed to elaborating reports/documents of the kind
- be familiar with the principles and practices of consultation participatory processes, in particular, within national conditions
- -be realistically available to carry out the envisaged tasks.

Further detailed obligations and tasks of each individual Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondent with respect to SPA/RAC will be defined by the concerned Party on a case-by-case basis, considering the specific national conditions.

III. Internal arrangements

Individual National Correspondents will be members of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents.

At national level they will act under the responsibility of Party SPA/BD focal point and according to:

- instructions from the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Lead Agency
- guidance from SPA/RAC, taking into account the recommendations made by the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee and by the Network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents.

IV. The role, tasks and institutional framework of the Network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents

The Network of Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents is envisaged to act at regional level.

The Network is composed by all individual National Correspondents and includes in practice the activities to be implemented jointly by all the National Correspondents including their regular meetings and possible further meetings, either presential or virtual ones. Most of envisaged activities are of regional character.

The Network will start acting after Post 2020 SAPBIO adoption, through the first meeting of Post 2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents, following a meeting of the Post 2020-SAPBIO Advisory Committee and considering the advice made by that Meeting.

The basic role and task of the Network is to provide detailed technical advice and recommendations in the process of implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

Advice and recommendations of the Network will be addressed to:

- SPA/RAC, for advice and recommendations of a general nature, concerning the Post-2020 SAPBIO
- the responsible national authorities and teams, concerning the preparation and execution of Post-2020 SAPBIO actions
- international consultants involved in helping national teams on Post-2020 SAPBIO actions implementation issues.
- SPA/RAC related international consultants and/or regional team(s) involved in preparing and executing regional/transboundary projects addressed to implement the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

In particular, the Network will provide for:

(a) flow and exchange of information about national activities directly related to the Post-2020 SAPBIO (implemented, ongoing or planned) within the Network membership and with SPA/RAC
(b) information to Network members and SPA/RAC about other activities implemented and/or about documents prepared or in preparation at national level that are of relevance for the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation
(c) harmonization among countries, as appropriate, of activities and results at the level of individual countries concerning the activities envisaged by the Post-2020 SAPBIO
(d) evaluation of and recommendations concerning the Post-2020 SAPBIO institutional governance arrangements at regional and national level, in particular, related to the role and functions of:

I. the Network of National Correspondents itself
II. the individual National Correspondents, at national level
III. other national arrangements envisaged or developed by countries
IV. mechanisms for coordinating transboundary projects' activities
V. technical and scientific advice concerning the entire process of Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation

ANNEX V

Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee ToRs

Terms of Reference for the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee

I. The role, tasks and the institutional framework of the Committee

The SAPBIO Advisory Committee was one of the institutional governance bodies envisaged by the first SAPBIO (adopted in December 2003 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention), to act at the Mediterranean regional level.

To promote coordination and avoid duplication, the Barcelona Convention COP21 decision IG 24/7 confirmed that in the process of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, due account has to be taken of what already has been developed at national and regional levels. Therefore, the SAPBIO Advisory Committee having served as advisory body to the SAPBIO adopted in December 2003 since its inception until 2019, continued supporting SPA/RAC to (I) ensure co-ordination with the relevant organisations for the Mediterranean Region and (II) provide SPA/RAC with technical and scientific advice in the process of the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration.

The running of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, governance implementation tool of the SPA/BD Protocol, may further benefit by keeping the advisory committee, which so much aided the previous SAPBIO implementation and the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration phase.

The re-established Committee is called Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee, and includes representatives nominated by international and regional bodies (hereinafter member organizations) with technical and scientific expertise and/or relevant environmental policy role on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity issues, including live resources. The Components of the Mediterranean Action Plan are also represented in the Committee.

In particular, the Committee provides for:

(a) technical and scientific advice concerning the process of implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO and its relevant related projects

(b) periodical inventory of relevant activities already realised in the region. For that aim, each member organisation will periodically provide to the Committee lists of its activities and outputs done in connection with the Post-2020 SAPBIO

(c) flow and exchange of relevant information on strategies, programmes/activities and outputs implemented, on-going or planned by the member organizations, within the Committee membership and with SPA/RAC, in connection with the Post-2020 SAP BIO

(d) information to member organizations on activities and documents prepared or in preparation relevant to Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation

(e) the harmonization, as appropriate, of activities and results upraising of member organizations concerning issues of relevance for Post-2020 SAPBIO; and

(f) recommendations concerning the running of institutional governance arrangements, envisaged within the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and in particular related to the role and functions of: (I) the individual National Post-2020 SAPBIO Correspondents, (II) the emanating National Post-2020 SAPBIO Correspondents Network for the Programme implementation (III) other relevant national arrangements envisaged, and (IV) mechanisms of coordination of programme activities.

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

Furthermore, each member organization is invited to send a representative (preferably the respective Committee member) to attend as an observer the Meetings of the National Correspondents of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

II. Membership

The international and regional bodies invited as member organizations of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee follows (alphabetical order):

1. UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan / Coordinating Unit): (Co-Chair)
2. SPA/RAC: (Co-Chair)
3. ACCOBAMS
4. ALECSO
5. Bern Convention/ Council of Europe
6. CBD
7. CIESM
8. CMS
9. Conservatoire du Littoral
10. EEA
11. GFCM
12. IUCN Med
13. MedECC
14. MedPAN
15. MedWet
16. OCEANA
17. UfM
18. UNEP Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit
19. UNESCO /IOC
20. UN/FAO
21. WWF MedPO
22. INFO/RAC
23. MEDPOL
24. PAP/RAC
25. Plan Bleu/RAC
26. REMPEC
27. SCP/RAC

Membership of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee may be reviewed and updated every two years, starting from the adoption of the Post 2020 SAPBIO

At each meeting of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee, a Rapporteur has to be elected among the member organisations.

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.

Organizations Invited as Observers

Other organizations may be invited, as observers to the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee meetings, after proposal to SPA/RAC by any current member up to one month before the celebration of any such meeting.

III Meetings' periodicity

Meetings will be convoked by SPA/RAC and, if not decided otherwise, will be convened once a year.

IV. Internal arrangements

At each meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee:

I. UNEP MAP / Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC will Co-Chair

II. the Committee will elect a Rapporteur
III. the SPA/RAC Director, and the Rapporteur will act as the Committee Secretariat. They shall remain in office until Rapporteur successor is elected at the following meeting
IV. SPA/RAC will provide for the needed technical and logistical support during meetings.

Committee members will be regularly informed by SPA/RAC on the progress of Post-2020 SAPBIO Programme related activities.

If needed and agreed, the Committee will be supplied with specific technical and/or scientific information, to be provided by SPA/RAC directly or by contribution of reputed international consultancies.

The outputs of the Committee (meeting reports, recommendations, proposals, etc.) will be prepared by SPA/RAC in consultation with the Rapporteur and cleared by the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee Secretariat . The reports and recommendations of Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee

Meetings shall be circulated, by e-mail, for comments by the members, before their submission for final clearance by the Rapporteur.

ANNEX VI

References in the text

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References in the text

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