

## ENABLING PROGRAMME 6: TOWARDS MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, KNOWLEDGE AND VISION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND COAST FOR INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

### General introduction

111. Programme 6 reflects a core cross-cutting mandate of UNEP/MAP in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions from its Protocols, such as Articles 8 and 13 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities; Article 5 of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; Articles 3, 15 and 20 of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; and Article 16 of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean.

112. It also contributes to the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (COP 19 Decision IG.22/7). IMAP sets out all the required elements to cover in an integrated manner monitoring and assessment of biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and marine litter, and coast and hydrography. At the core of IMAP are the 23 regionally-agreed common indicators and the 4 candidate indicators (for which scientific knowledge and information is not yet fully developed to allow for regional monitoring and assessment) currently covering 9 out of 11 Ecological Objectives, namely the EO 1, EO 2, EO 3, EO 5, EO 7, EO 8, EO 9, EO 10, EO 11.

113. Programme 6 also includes UNEP/MAP's mandate to produce State of Environment and Development and Quality Status Reports, as well as other key thematic assessments as agreed by Contracting Parties. COP 21 Decision IG.24/4 endorsed the roadmaps for the 2023 QSR and MED 2050 foresight study. In terms of data management, which is also related to this Programme, Contracting Parties endorsed through COP 21 Decision IG.24/2 the main elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy.

### Contribution to global and regional priorities and targets

114. Programme 6 contributes to several SDG targets towards enhanced information and science on the marine and coastal environment, as well as multiple UNEA resolutions, in particular UNEA 4 Resolution 4/23, *Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook*. It also contributes to UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020-2030 Strategic Objective 1, and is in line with the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS programmes and in particular those on Science-Policy and Digital transformations.

115. It also will contribute to relevant key global reports such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) assessments and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and World Ocean Assessment (WOA) reports as well as to the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

#### **Programme 6 key relevant SDG targets:**

Goal 14. Life below Water:	Target 14a
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:	Target 9.5
Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals:	Target 17.6

*Noting that Programme 6 also contributes to all other SDG targets mentioned*

## Objectives

116. Programme 6 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the IMAP-related COP Decisions and the Assessment Studies Decision adopted by COP 21:

1. To strengthen and harmonize implementation of marine and coastal monitoring and assessments in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions of its Protocols and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria, for the purpose of the establishment of common methodologies for the monitoring and assessments for all Contracting Parties;
2. To achieve and/or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through science-based IMAP,
3. To develop foresight and other assessment studies as per the MAP Phase II document, referring to the publication of the Report on the State and Evolution of the Mediterranean Environment at regular intervals, and the relevant COP decisions on assessment studies; and
4. To ensure a fully operational data management Info System based on consolidated and quality-control assured monitoring datasets to support integrated assessments.

## Outcomes

117. The 2022-2027 MTS will achieve the following outcomes and associated Indicative targets/Indicators.

### **Outcome 6.1. Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national and local levels, with associated capacity-building.**

118. Foresight activities conducted in a participatory manner and on a voluntary basis will be essential through the setting-up of multi-stakeholder platforms towards compromises on evidence-based decisions and their shared ownership for a more effective implementation. At regional level, future regional strategic documents, including the reviewed Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2026-2035), will be more powerful because they will build on the results of the participatory foresight activities initiated in the framework of MED 2050. Furthermore, replicating pilot foresight exercises at regional, national and local levels will allow to fine-tune the methodological approach as well as the definition of policies at territorial level. That will also strengthen the ability to conduct such exercises in the future and build capacity through a network of Mediterranean foresight institutes.

### **Outcome 6.2. Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making.**

119. To achieve this outcome, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will increasingly focus on the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in order to progress towards a regular holistic integrated monitoring and assessment of the state of marine and coastal environment based on IMAP Ecological Objectives/Common Indicators and Good Environmental Status (GES) targets. In that context, the main focus will be on the further development of IMAP, implementation of national IMAPs by the Contracting Parties and implementation of QSR Roadmap, following Decisions of the Contracting Parties: Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets (COP 18, 2013); Decision IG.23/6: Mediterranean Quality Status Report (COP 20, 2017); Decision IG.22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related

Assessment Criteria (COP 19, 2016); Decision IG.23/04: Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean and Decision IG.24/4: Assessment Studies (COP 21, 2019) as well as delivery of assessment products. Actions will be undertaken to strengthen links with global initiatives and assessments, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Finally, support will be provided to encourage national and regional exchange of good digital practices and mainstream digitalisation into different policies/actions in order to enable sustainable development.

**Outcome 6.3. IMAP implementation and Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES.**

120. Under this outcome, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will undertake set of actions related to i) transfer of knowledge and hands-on experience related to reliable and cost-effective monitoring of marine environment; ii) use of standardized analytical procedures and equipment for sampling, analysis, processing and quality assurance of data; and iii) optimal data management. These actions must be coupled with effective use of unprecedented achievements in science and technology, including through i) strengthening of synergies with scientific networks to support science-policy interface; ii) upgrading of MAP Info System into a regional platform/node to facilitate sharing of data, information, marine scientific research outputs, marine and digital technologies and knowledge on Mediterranean coastal and marine environment in line with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) principles and best practices; and iii) application of advanced observing, modelling and forecasting techniques and tools to improve and extend a range of multidisciplinary predictive capabilities. Data visualization tools to integrate data in user-friendly formats such as maps, graphs or charts provide an accessible way to see and understand trends, outliers, and patterns, but also to download and use them and can be utilized for policy-making, advocacy, and awareness-raising. Activities will be dedicated to the interconnection and interoperability of the MAP observation and monitoring systems with the global and national ones, including the innovative World Environment Situation Room.