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First Steering Committee of the EU-funded SEMPA Project

Athens, Greece, 7 February 2024

**Agenda item 3: SEMPA Project: Objectives, Annual Work Plan, Budget and progress
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

Introduction

1. The Project “Bolstering Mediterranean biodiversity and MCPAs for nature” (hereafter referred to as SEMPA project), is funded by European Union (EU) – the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) through the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instruments (NDICI): Regional South Neighbourhood for 2021-2023 financial instrument.
2. The project is coordinated and implemented by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and through its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). It covers a period of 48 months starting in August 2023, with an overall budget of EUR 4,000,000 (USD 4,390,779).
3. The project includes very specific monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements and the present documents aims at highlighting them to all members of the Steering Committee.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring Plan:

4. The Project will follow UNEP standard processes and procedures and the General conditions of the agreement annexed to the agreement signed with the European Commission. Reporting is an integral part of the UNEP Project Manager’s responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.
5. A progress and financial report will be submitted to the contracting authority on a yearly basis. In addition, and if not request during the submission of the yearly report, updated progress and financial reports have to be joined to any request of payment sent to the European Commission. To this extent, progress and financial reports are expected to be prepared and timely submitted to the donor for the following periods:
 - a) 23rd August 2023 – 31st August 2024;
 - b) 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025;
 - c) 1st September 2025 – 31st August 2026
 - d) 1st September 2026 – 31st August 2027
6. To this extent it is very important to establish well-coordinated monitoring mechanisms between project’s implementing partners and the Project Management Unit (i.e. SPA/RAC and the beneficiary countries), in order to have up-to-date information with the Project Management Unit when the yearly report is in preparation. Implementing partners should be in a position to provide with a draft progress report by end of June of each year, and their workflows should be organized accordingly.
7. Every yearly report, whether progress or final, shall provide a complete account of all relevant aspects of the implementation of the Action for the period covered. The report shall describe the implementation of the action according to the activities envisaged in the description of the action as well the degree of achievement of its results (Outcomes and outputs) as measured by corresponding indicators. The report shall be drafted such a way as to allow monitoring of the objectives and the means envisaged and employed. The report will as well describe the problems encountered and the actions taken to overcome the difficulties.
8. The project will as well share intermediary narrative reports to the Steering Committee, as per UNEP/MAP rules, one month before the meeting in English, and 15 days before the meeting in French.
9. The project management team will regularly communicate with project partners to follow up with them on project progress and relevant expenditures. Project partners will submit financial reports to the project manager based on the schedule outlined in the project documents agreed.

Evaluation

10. The evaluation of the progress of implementation of the project will be assessed based on the set of ambitious but realistic, Indicators, Baseline Values, and Targets as provided for under Section 9 “*Logical Framework*” of the project document, and Annex I to the present report.
11. The evaluation will use the indicators defined in the log-frame matrix as indicators on to what extent the project contributes to the global consensus and promotion of tools and training approaches, in striving towards global consensus.
12. Special attention will be drawn throughout the project implementation on the gender-balanced related indicators and relevant targets.
13. As part of the overall project management, UNEP MAP will conduct an independent final evaluation of the Programme that will cover all components. This final evaluation will be conducted towards the end of the implementation period and the evaluation report will be annexed to the final report of the project.

Annex I

Project Log-frame: Indicators, Baseline Values, Target

<p>Impact</p>	<p>The Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean is strengthened through a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs) as well as through the setting up of mechanisms which ensure reliable, regionally agreed assessment of biodiversity and hydrography aspects</p>	<p>1. Number of nationally designed MPAs included in the regional MPA network</p> <p>2. Number of new SPAMI sites included in the SPAMI network</p> <p>3. Number of National quality assured datasets available online per national/site IMAP selected indicator</p>	<p>1. Baseline : 191 MPAs (December 2022)</p> <p>2. Baseline: 39 (June 2023)</p> <p>3. Baseline : One set of quality assured data per national/pilot IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online (August 2023)</p>	<p>1. Target : 194 MPAs (August 2027)</p> <p>2. Target: 42 (August 2027)</p> <p>3. Target: At least 4 set of quality assured data per national/site IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online (August 2027)</p>		<p>- Report on MPA status in the Mediterranean & MAPMED Database - IMAP InfoSystem - Official List of SPAMI</p>	<p><i>Not applicable</i></p>
<p>Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.Improved on-site MCPA management and mechanisms that ensure MCPA sustainability</p>	<p>1.1 Number of kilometer square of new/existing MPAs receiving support under management of endorsed management/business plans (EU RF 2.22)</p>	<p>1.1 Baseline : 0 km2. (August 2023)</p>	<p>1.1 Target : 1200 km2 (August 2027)</p>		<p>- Management plans documents - Business plans documents -Barcelona Convention Reporting System</p>	<p>Key national and local stakeholders involved in the management plans elaboration processes</p>

		<p>1.2 Number of kilometer square of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems of new/existing PAs receiving support under management of endorsed management/business plans (EU RF. 2.23)</p> <p>1.3 Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support for strengthening their financial sustainability</p>	<p>1.2: Baseline : 0Ha (August 2023)</p> <p>1.3 Baseline : 8 (August 2023)</p>	<p>1.2: Target : 12000 Ha (August 2027)</p> <p>1.3 Target : 11 (August 2027)</p>		<p>-MAPAMED database</p>	
<p>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.1 Identification and designation of new MCPA and elaboration of MCPA management and business plans supported through participatory process with stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.1.1 Number of MPA management plans developed based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context ▪ 1.1.2 Number of MPA business plans developed based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider 	<p>1.1.1 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p> <p>1.1.2 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p>	<p>1.1.1 Target : 3 (August 2027)</p> <p>1.1.2 Target : 3 (August 2027)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management plans documents - Business plans documents - Studies - Results of IMET assessments 	<p>Key national and local stakeholders involved in the management plans elaboration processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political instability ▪ Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least in the beginning of the process ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas

		<p>social and economic context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.1.3 Number of consultation stakeholder workshops held with women representing at least 30% of the participants ▪ 1.1.4 Number of stakeholders that contributed to the management plans elaboration processes ▪ 1.1.5 Number of complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps prepared in collaboration with stakeholders ▪ 1.1.6 Number of complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies prepared in collaboration with stakeholders 	<p>1.1.3 : 0 (August 2023)</p> <p>1.1.4 : 0 (August 2023)</p> <p>1.1.5 Baseline: 0 (August 2023)</p> <p>1.1.6 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p>	<p>1.1.3 : 8 (August 2027)</p> <p>1.1.4: 120 (at least 30% of women) (August 2027)</p> <p>1.1.5 : Target : 4 (August 2027)</p> <p>1.1.6 : Target : 4 (August 2027)</p>		<p>- consultation workshops minutes</p> <p>- Lists of participants</p>	
<p>Output 2 related to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.2 Stakeholders trained on MCPA management and technical and financial support provided for management plan implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.2.1 Number of stakeholder training workshops held with women representing at least 30% of the participants 	<p>1.2.1 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p> <p>1.2.2 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p>	<p>1.2.1 Target : 5 (August 2027)</p> <p>1.2.2 Target : 4 (August 2027)</p>		<p>- Training workshops reports</p> <p>- MPA socio-economic benefits case study reports</p> <p>- Minutes of the MPA management advisory committees meetings</p>	<p>Key local stakeholders involved in the MPA management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2.2 Number of MPAs supported for implementation of management actions 					<p>in the beginning of the process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use conflicts between MPA stakeholders
Outcome 2	2.Enhanced collaboration at regional scale between local, national and regional stakeholders involved in management and communication on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.MPA Roadmap updated based on collaborative work with regional organisations and local, national and regional stakeholders 	2.1 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)	2.1 Target : 1 (December 2026)		- Published updated MPA Roadmap	<p>High mobilisation and commitment of MPA stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of commitment from governmental bodies
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean organised (fourth edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is organized 2.1.2 Number of participants to the 2024/2025 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean with women representation of 40% of the participants 	2.1.1 Baseline : 3 (August 2023)	2.1.1 Target : 4 . December 2026		<p>- Proceedings, declaration and recommendations of the 2024/2025 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean</p> <p>- List of participants to the 2024/2025 Forum</p>	<p>High mobilisation and commitment of MPA stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of commitment from governmental bodies
Outcome 3	3. IMAP biodiversity, NIS and Hydrography clusters and its interlinkages with climate change endorsed by COP for implementation to	<p>3.1 Number of experts benefitting from training on different aspects of IMAP, per country</p> <p>3.2 Number of COP decision regarding</p>	3.1 : Baseline : 0 (August 2023)	3.1 Target : 40 (at least 40% women) (December 2026)		<p>- Training / workshop reports</p> <p>- List of participants</p> <p>- COP working Documents</p>	Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable

	generate evidence-based assessment of policy implementation including on the relative aspects of EU green Deal.	the update of the IMAP	3.2: Baseline : 0 (August 2023)	3.2 Target : 1 (January 2027)			
Output 1 related to Outcome 3	3.1 Support provided to the development of the IMAP toward the integration of climate change, biodiversity and hydrography related indicators and indicators related to pressures and drivers, in synergy with H2020 indicators	3.1.1 Number of indicators developed 3.1.2 Number of meetings organised to establish the new indicators, with women representing at least 40% of the participants	3.1.1 Baseline :27 (August 2023) 3.1.2 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)	3.1.1 Target : 30 (December 2026) 3.1.2 Target: 10 (December 2026)		- IMAP indicator list approved by CORMON - Meeting reports	▪ Lack of commitment from countries
Output 2 related to Outcome 3	3.2 Integrated monitoring operational in identified pilot sites for biodiversity, NIS and hydrography common indicators and national experts trained in IMAP implementation	3.2.1 National monitoring data accessible in the IMAP Compatible Info System 3.2.2 Number of national experts trained (at least 40% women) for the implementation of the national integrated monitoring programmes	3.2.1 Baseline : 7 sets of National data (two per country) August 2023 3.2.2 Baseline: 50 (August 2023)	3.2.1 Target : 28 (Minimum 3 sets of data for each selected IMAP CI under EO1, EO2 and EO7 & EO8 reported by the Contracting Parties) (August 2027) 3.2.2 Target : 75 (at least 40% women) (August 2027)		- Integrated monitoring programmes reports - Quality assured data - National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	Political instability ▪ Change in country priorities ▪ Lack of commitment from countries ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas ▪ Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable

Output 3 related to Outcome 3	3.3 National experts trained on IMAP implementation and best practices exchanged amongst IMAP implementation stakeholders at the national, sub-regional and regional level	<p>3.3.1 Number of workshops, national trainings. Dedicated trainings, country missions, ‘Train the trainers’, exchange of specific best - practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), with women representing at least 40% of the participants</p> <p>3.3.2 Number of regional best practices meetings held with national experts</p> <p>3.3.3 Number of experts trained (at least 40% trained)</p>	<p>3.3.1 Baseline: 18 (August 2023)</p> <p>3.3.2 Baseline: 2 (August 2023)</p> <p>3.3.3 Baseline: 50 (August 2023)</p>	<p>3.3.1 Target : 25 (August 2027)</p> <p>3.3.2 Target: 3 (August 2027)</p> <p>3.3.3 Target: 100 (at least 40% women) (August 2027)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guideline documents . - Training / workshop reports - Exchange meeting reports - List of participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of commitment from countries Political instability
Outcome 4	4. Effective and timely project coordination	4.1 Number of UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Programme of Work that the project is align with	4.1 : Baseline : 1 (August 2023)	4.1 : Baseline : 3 (August 2027)		-UNEP/MAP PoW	

	and implementation ensured						
Output 1 related to Outcome 4	4.1 Effective Project management and coordination	4.1.1 Number of reports received from IP on activity implementation	4.1.1 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)	4.1.1 Target : 2 per year per country per executing partner during the implementation period			
		4.1.2 Number of Steering Committee meetings held	4.1.2 : Baseline: 0 (August 2023)				
		4.1.3 Number of SEMPA project activities/actions implemented that promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	4.1.3 : Baseline :0 (August 2023)	4.1.2 : Target : 4 (August 2027)			
			4.1.4 : Baseline: 6 (August 2023)	4.1.3 : Target : 20 (August 2027)			
		4.1.4 Number of project implementation staff trained on gender governance and management, disaggregated by sex, age and position	4.1.5 Baseline : 0 (August 2023)	4.1.4 : Target : 10. (August 2027)			
				4.1.5 : 6 (August 2027)			
		4.1.5 Number of communication products with evidence of gender mainstreaming	4.1.6 Baseline: 75% (August 2023)	4.1.6 : Target : 100%. (August 2027)			
4.1.6 Percentage of stakeholder consultations that are inclusive / gender-responsive	4.1.7: Baseline: 1 (August 2023)	4.1.7 : Target : 2 (August 2027)					
4.1.7 Number of gender assessment reports submitted							
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steering committee minutes - reports from executing partners - Communication material - Gender assessment reports 	Lack of commitment from national authorities regarding gender aspects, especially regarding participants gender balanced

		<p>4.1.8 number of UNEP/MAP official documents, including Governance but also Communication material, including SEMPA description of activities and results</p>	<p>4.1.8 : Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p>	<p>4.1.8 : Target : 10 (August 2027)</p>			
		<p>4.1.9 number of activities organised at national and local level including communication aspects</p>	<p>4.1.9 : Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p>	<p>4.1.9 : Target: 20 (August 2027)</p>			
		<p>4.1.10 number of references of the project in regional and international events</p>	<p>4.1.10 : Baseline : 0 (August 2023)</p>	<p>4.1.10 : Target : 10 (August 2027)</p>			