

Areas of cooperation between UNEP/MAP and UNESCO/MAB

- a. Promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Cooperative and coordinated efforts in this common area of interest should include but not limited to:
 - (i) identify synergies between Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and biosphere reserves as models for sustainable development and advancing in the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets;
 - (ii) identification and designation of biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), to achieve both the objectives of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in particular the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol;
 - (iii) identify best practices in governance and management structures in SPAMIs and biosphere reserves of the Mediterranean to ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services in the Mediterranean region and the involvement of local communities.
- b. Engagement in capacity building activities and training programmes under the MAB programme and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Collaboration in this common area of interest should include but not limited to:
 - (i) exchange of best practices on *inter alia* the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with specific emphasis on the use of both biosphere reserves and SPAMIs as tools for Integrated Coastal Zones Management (ICMZ), marine spatial planning, sustainable tourism, non-indigenous invasive species management, marine litter, sustainable fisheries and mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
 - (ii) the promotion of a common network of scientists and relevant NGOs working in SPAMIs and the Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean to build and share expertise;
 - (iii) development of a common programme for communication and promotion of traditional local fishing practices, and
 - (iv) increasing public awareness of the values and benefits of both biosphere reserves and SPAMIs, and integrating sustainability practices into Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and training environments, from schools to universities to research institutes and the wide public by promoting/applying *inter alia* the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), where both UNESCO and UNEP/MAP participate in its governing body, the Mediterranean Committee on ESD.
- c. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change by *inter alia* promoting the Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean and SPAMIs as priority sites in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Parties on other issues of common interest. Under this understanding a potential for wider cooperation with UNESCO may be explored on other relevant areas (marine spatial planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, science-policy interface including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)). Cooperation with UNESCO/MAB should also take into account the on-going work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).