



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP/MED WG.543/2



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

22 December 2022
Original: English

Second TDA Steering Committee Meeting: MedProgramme - Child Project 1.1- Component 2

Meeting held by videoconference, 13 December 2022

Report of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2022

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Introduction

1. The 2nd TDA Steering Committee (SC) Meeting was held on the 13 December 2022, via videoconference.

Participation

2. The GEF beneficiary countries part of the CP1.1. Component 2, Output 2.1. (TDA update), as well as Turkey participating in the CP1.1. (TDA update) were invited to the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.

3. The following countries were represented at the Meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia.

4. The UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat was represented, by its Coordinating Unit and the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL).

5. The UNEP/MAP/GEF MedProgramme Office and TDA Team was also represented.

6. The full list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

7. The Meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on 4 November 2021 by Mr. Gabino González, Deputy Coordinator, UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention.

8. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator welcomed the participants, introduced the GEF/TDA context and pointed out the multiple dimensions of the TDA Report updated by 2023 as compared by 2005.

Agenda Item 2: CP1.1 – Component 2: Output 2.1: TDA 2023

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a) Update on the TDA process

9. The MEDPOL Programme Officer, Mohamad Kayyal, started with the Meeting agenda for the morning, by introducing the framework of the TDA within the GEF MedProgramme and Child Project 1.1 (CP1.1) and the core content of the TDA Report update by 2023.

10. He detailed the progress made since the 1st TDA Steering Committee (SC) Meeting on the 4 November 2021, via videoconference. In first place, the TDA Team recruitment was concluded with the addition of the four regional thematic consultants. Second, the SSFA legal instruments were finally signed with five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco), and third, a number of documents were already produced by Plan Bleu and MED POL to contribute to the TDA, namely, a Prioritization Report, a Blue Economy Report (drafted), a Climate Change Indicators activity (drafted), and the 5th version of the TDA draft (working) compilation ongoing as a preliminary document to develop the TDA draft Report. Further, he mentioned that the first national stakeholder workshop took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Agenda item 3: TDA 2023 progress and next steps

a) TDA report – Chapters

11. The consultant who is engaged as the TDA coordinator person presented an overview of the TDA methodology by GEF and pointed the differences and updates from the Mediterranean TDA report in 2005 towards a more integrative TDA update by 2023. He explained that whilst the core TDA content had been founded on pollution transboundary concerns, the TDA update need to extend to climate change and biodiversity, including the socioeconomic context, as well as the gender dimension.

12. He continued by presenting the eleven chapters that will compose the TDA report, and particularly, the central chapters [Chapter 3 (Baseline), Chapter 4 (Priority transboundary problems), Chapter 5 (Gender Assessment) and Chapter 9 (TDA (and SAP) indicators and linkages to SDGs)], whilst describing highlights on Chapter 3 and 4. For the latest he pointed out the Causal Chain Analysis (CCA) methodology as the core method for Chapter 4, in development by the TDA Team.

b) Regional TDA experts and workshops

13. He introduced the work undertaken in Chapter 4 and 5 and gave the floor to the regional consultants and the gender specialist.

14. The gender specialist presented and described the approach for Chapter 5 and highlighted the data limitations to undertake a fit-for-purpose gender assessment to contribute to the TDA needs.

15. The regional consultants took the floor and presented their drafted CCA for Pollution, Biodiversity and Climate Change highlighting the primary main transboundary issues to this regard, whilst describing the issues, the direct, intermediate, underlying and root causes, as well as the impacts form an environmental and socioeconomic, points of view.

16. The regional consultant on Environmental Economics updated on the economics of the Mediterranean region regarding the transboundary link with the environmental issues, including the before and after of the COVID impacts in a number of economic sectors.

17. On behalf of Plan bleu (Antoine Laffite), the TDA lead person, presented the slides corresponding to the detailed activities, the development of more elaborated indicators related to climate change and organization of a regional technical workshop to assist GEF CPI.1. beneficiary countries, and the socioeconomic development part of the TDA contributed by Plan Bleu, as well as the report on the Prioritization of the transboundary problems of the Mediterranean LME.

c) National thematic transboundary assessments (SSFAs)

18. The consultant acting as TDA Report coordinator explained the different nature of the national organizations in charge of the SSFA work implementation, highlighting the fact that environmental agencies were the most adequate to undertake the implementation of the work, as well as described the expected content of the thematic national sub-assessments.

d) Pre-publication phase

19. The consultant acting as TDA Report coordinator show a timetable and explained the next steps towards the publication of the TDA report update by 2023. Basically, over the first quarter of 2023 the activities by countries (SSFA), regional consultancies, specific issues (e.g., gender), and interlinks with ongoing processes and the UNEP/MAP system will converge to structure the final layout of the TDA 2023 update.

20. The floor was opened to the participants and interventions for clarifications and support were made by Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Lebanon and the Lead TDA Expert.
21. Tunisia requested about how countries which have not signed the SSFA could contribute to the TDA development and content and the TDA lead consultant mentioned to input the TDA update report during the review phase before publication
21. Libya requested about how the quality data and information was handled by within the TDA report. The lead TDA consultant mentioned that priority was given to research material and publications, under the peer-review system, and therefore, this source was accepted as quality assured.
22. Morocco asked if the national expert's team to be considered under the SSFAs could be part of the existing national expert team already in place for the QSR. The Lead TDA expert mentioned that this option was appropriate if they consider it effective and it is a national decision.
23. Lebanon requested the materials used during the presentations to guide their own work under the SSFA contribution to the TDA. The lead TDA consultant answered positively.

Agenda item 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

24. The Secretariat, MedPCU and MedPOL presented at the meeting the progresses made regarding the TDA process, the content of the TDA chapters highlighting on Chapters 3 (Baseline) and 4 (Transboundary issues), and the implementation of the legal instruments.
25. The 4 regional experts on transboundary thematic issues (Pollution, Biodiversity and Climate Change, as well as Environmental Economy) presented the first assessment results and the preliminary Causal Chain Analysis undertaken related to the core Chapter 4 and its subsections.
26. The Gender specialist presented the draft Chapter 5 (Gender) regarding the preliminary gender assessment outline within the possibilities given by the available existing datasets.
27. On behalf of Plan Bleu, the Lead TDA consultant presented the progresses on blue economy and climate change indicators and work completed on prioritization of transboundary issues related to Chapter 4 (Transboundary issues), 8 (Scenarios) and 9 (TDA/SAP indicators).
27. The Lead TDA consultant coordinating the TDA report update process explained that the first full TDA draft version is expected by end of January 2023 and the completion of the pre-publication phase is expected by March 2023.

Agenda item 5: Closure of the Meeting

24. After final remarks from the MED POL Programme Officer the meeting was closed at 14.05 on Tuesday 13 December 2022.

Annex I

List of participants

Annex I**List of participants****Albania**

Ms. Denisa Shehu
Chemicals Sector
National Environment Agency
Albania
Email: Denisa.shehu@adm.gov.al

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Senida Džajić-Rghei
Researcher/Design engineer | Istraživač/Projektant|
Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo | Institut za hidrotehniku
Sarajevo |
Stjepana Tomića 1, 71000 Sarajevo
Tel/fax: +387 33 207 949|
E-mail: senida.dzajic-rghei@heis.ba | Web: www.heis.ba

Ms. Gorana Basevic
Water Resources Department
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH
Telephone: +38733407312
Email: gorana.basevic@mvteo.gov.ba

Lebanon

Mr. Milad Fakhry
National Centre for Marine Sciences-CNRSL
Director
P.O.Box 534, Batroun, Lebanon
Te & Faxl: +961 9 934763; +961 6 741580
Mobile:+961 3 496680
Email : milosman@cnrs.edu.lb

Ms. Myriam Lteif

Ms. Myriam Ghsoub

Ms. Celine Mahfouz
Email : celine.mahfouz@cnrs.edu.lb

Montenegro

Ms. Milena Batakovic
Senior adviser
Department for nature protection, monitoring, analysis and reporting
Agency for Nature and Environment Protection of Montenegro
IV Proleterske brigade br. 19

81000 Podgorica, Montenegro
Phone: + 382 20 446 531
Email: milena.batakovic@gmail.com

Morocco

Mr. Mohamed El Bouch
Email: elbouch@environnement.gov.ma

Ms. Khaoula Lagrini
Tel: +212672535777
E-mail: lagrini.env@gmail.com

Mr. Abid Abdeslam
Email: ab.abdeslam@yahoo.com

Mr. Btissam El Menouar
Email: btissam.elmenouar@gmail.com

Mr Mohamed Kabriti
Email: mkabriti@gmail.com

Ms. Naoual Zoubair
Email : n.zoubair.env@gmail.com

Mr. Mustapha Hasnaoui
Email: must_hasnaoui@yahoo.com

Department of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development
Ministry of the Environment
Rabat
Morocco

State of Libya

Mr. Omar Sharif
Tripoli
Tel: 218928165010
E-mail: sharif.omar300@gmail.com

Tunisia

Mr. Youssef Zidi
Director
Ministry of Environment
Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 98695949
E-mail: youssef.zidi@mineat.gov.tn

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - SECRETARIAT DE LA
CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**

UN Environment/MAP

Mr. Gabino Deogracia

Deputy Coordinator

Email: gabino.gonzalezdeogracia@un.org

Mr. Mohamad Kayyal

Tel: +6909126963

E-mail: mohamad.kayyal@un.org

Mr. Erol Cavus

Email: erol.cavus@un.org

Ms. Joanne Foden, QSR

Tel: +302107273105

E-mail: joanne.foden@un.org

Consultants

Mr. Carlos Guitart

Tel: +639305081

E-mail: carlos.guitart@un.org

Ms. Marina Markovic

Email : marina.markiovic@t-com.me

Mr. Juan Vilata

Email: juanvilata@gmail.com

Ms. Claudette Spiteri

c.spiteri@mcl-environmentalconsulting.com

Ms. Suzan Kholeif, Ph.D

Mob: +201006635389

Email : suzankholeif@gmail.com

Annex II

Provisional Agenda

Annex II

Provisional Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2: CP1.1 - Component 2: Output 2.1: TDA 2023

a) Update on the TDA process

Agenda item 3: TDA 2023 progress and next steps

a) TDA report – Chapters

b) Regional TDA experts' contributions and workshops

c) National thematic transboundary assessments (SSFAs)

d) Pre-publication phase

Agenda item 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda item 5: Closure of the Meeting

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations Second TDA Steering Committee Meeting Videoconference, 13 December 2022

On 13 December 2022, the Second TDA Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF-funded MedProgramme was held by videoconference. The meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (Med PCU and MED POL Programme). The Meeting was attended by representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, and Tunisia. Also in attendance were the Regional TDA consultants, in addition to UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit/ MED POL.

The Meeting updated on the TDA process and status of the TDA Report by 2023. Following to the meeting presentation, discussion and recommendations, the following statements were presented and described as conclusions:

1. The Regional Thematic Assessments on Pollution, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Environmental Economy, partly presented in the Meeting through the Causal Chain Analysis and Economic updated statements, are ending by December 2022.
2. The 5th TDA draft (working) compilation elaborated by the TDA Team, MedPCU and MEDPOL will become a 1st full draft TDA report in January 2023.
3. The Meeting was informed that the National Workshops under the SSFAs should take place in Montenegro, Albania, Morocco, and Lebanon in 2023.
4. The Meeting was informed that a Regional and 3rd TDA Steering Committee Meeting is under preparation tentatively for the 15 February 2023, were the 2nd draft TDA Report will be presented.
5. The Meeting was reminded that the final date for the SSFAs delivery is the end of March 2023, thus the MedPCU and MEDPOL has the final pre-print TDA report and associated materials deadline of March 2023.
6. The Meeting was informed that after March 2023 the pre-publication (review) and publication phases will start and end by May 2023.

Annex IV

Working documents of the meeting

Agenda and Timetable (UNEP/MED WG.543/1)

Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2: CP1.1 - Component 2: Output 2.1: TDA 2023

- a) Update on the TDA process

Agenda item 3: TDA 2023 progress and next steps

- a) TDA report – Chapters
- b) Regional TDA experts contributions and workshops
- c) National thematic transboundary assessments (SSFAs)
- d) Pre-publication phase

Agenda item 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda item 5: Closure of the Meeting

TIMETABLE¹

Thursday, 4 November 2021		
10:00 – 10:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	UNEP/MED WG.543/1
10:15 – 10:45	Agenda item 2: CP1.1 - Component 2: Output 2.1: TDA 2023 a) Update on the TDA process	Presentation
10:45 – 11:45	Agenda item 3: TDA 2023 preparation a) TDA report – Chapters b) Regional TDA experts contributions and workshops	
<i>11:45 – 12:15</i>	Break	
12:15 – 13:15	Agenda item 3: TDA 2023 preparation b) Regional TDA experts contributions and workshops c) National thematic transboundary assessments (SSFAs) d) Pre-publication phase	
13:15 – 13:45	Agenda item 4: Conclusions and Recommendations	
13:45 – 14:00	Agenda item 5: Closure of the Meeting	

¹ Athens time