

UNEP/MED WG.558/5

# Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Child Project 4.1

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 16 March 2023

-  
Report of the Meeting



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



4.1

Mediterranean Sea Basin  
Environment and Climate  
Regional Support Project

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## **Report of the Meeting**

### **Introduction**

1. The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) held its Third Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) of Child Project 4.1 (GEF ID 9686) “Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Environment and Climate Regional Support Project” on 16 March 2023 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Child Project falls under the overall umbrella of the GEF UNEP Programme (GEF ID 9607), entitled “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security”.
2. The primary objective of the Third PSCM was to review progress in the project delivery and to discuss and approve the project’s annual workplan and budget forecast for 2023.
3. The presentations for all agenda items are provided in Annex IV to the report.

### **Participation**

4. The meeting was attended by representatives from seven of the ten participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, and Tunisia. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as GEF Implementing Agencies, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP), as executing agency and GRID-Geneva, as the developer of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Platform, were also represented.
5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

6. The meeting was opened at 10:00 AM (EET) on 16 March 2023 by the MedProgramme Management Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Ms. Olfat Hamdan. Ms. Hamdan invited the representative of Tunisia, Mr. Mohamad Benjeddou to chair the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 2: Organizational and Adoption of the Provisional Agenda**

7. The Provisional Agenda was adopted (please find as Annex II to the present report).

### **Agenda item 3: Progress on Child Project 4.1.**

- a) **Knowledge management platform**
- b) **Communication roadmap**
- c) **Gender Mainstreaming**

8. Mr. Kenge James Gunya, Knowledge Management Specialist, presented the progress made on Knowledge Management and Communication activities and provided key highlights on the publication of the first MedBulletin, the Annual Stocktaking Meeting, development of branding and visibility communication products, MedProgramme communication road map, the Knowledge Management (KM) Platform including its three (3) components (Outward facing website, Project Management Tool, and Data visualization tools) and the Task Force for KM (as a consultative forum on user requirements and potential contributions). Mr. Kenge presented the progress made towards the development of the KM platform especially the collaboration with INFO/RAC on the technical specifications of the platform, and GRID-Geneva on the design and development of the platform

including the draft PCA and its related Annexes. He also provided an overview on furthering the partnership with IW-LEARN regarding communication-related products and the upcoming International Waters Conference in November.

9. The GEF-UNEP Task Manager; Ms. Eloise Touni talked about the need to think about and prepare “interim” KM solutions, while the MedProgramme is working at the development of the KM platform, especially for the executing partners and countries that are already operationalizing and implementing actions. She also spoke about the need for knowledge exchanges with other projects that are delivering similar activities in the region and beyond.
10. The MedPCU provided an explanation on the temporary use of the UNEP/MAP website as a solution in the absence of the MedProgramme KM platform where there is a dedicated area/page about MedProgramme. In terms of social media, the accounts of UNEP/MAP are being used in collaboration with Executing Partners by using their communication and visibility tools. Partners that are implementing activities on the ground to enhance dissemination of experiences and lessons learned among participating countries. The MedPCU explained that in order to speed up the implementation of the Communication Roadmap and the availability of the necessary supporting communication tools, the production process for the public out-facing website has been organised in two phases, the first phase will allow to deliver the key visibility and dissemination components of the web site in early Q3 2023.
11. The EBRD representative, Ms. Yukseler spoke on the need to check and revise the current published information about MedProgramme and ensure it is meant for internal and external audiences. For clarity, the revision should also include information on which executing partner is involved in which Child Project with links included to each executing partner’s own website.
12. The MedPCU provided an overview of progress made on the implementation of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. Significant progress has been made in terms of organizing a gender-responsive stakeholders' consultation, having undertaken 3 gender assessments (gender thematic assessment for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis under CP 1.1; and two gender-sensitive climate risk assessments for Morocco and Montenegro under SCCF). Numerous technical briefs were developed, gender technical inputs were provided, and knowledge exchanges were held with partners with a view to build capacity on gender across all GEF Focal Areas as well as all the Executing Partners of the MedProgramme. The MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice convened twice in 2022, with two sessions that focused on Gender Issues in Chemicals and Waste; and Gender Issues in Biodiversity Conservation. A knowledge brief was also prepared on Gender Issues in Marine Protected Areas, that can help guide the implementation of gender activities under CP 3.1.
13. The representative of Libya applauded the work undertaken by the MedPCU on the implementation of gender activities, in particular the workshop held in Tunisia (December 7, 2022) on gender mainstreaming for CP 3.1 Libyan stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This meeting was the first of its kind, bringing together 10 female and 6 male Libyan representatives of Ministry of Environment, local government representatives, academic and research institutes along with civil society organizations. He asked for continued support in this respect. Ms. Eloise Touni noted that now is an opportune time, in light of the upcoming Mid-Term Review (MTR), in Q3 2023, to review the gender indicators of the MedProgramme Gender Monitoring Framework and identify which 4-5 key indicators should be integrated in CPs’ results frameworks (logframes) to ensure coordinated and systematic gender monitoring and reporting.

**Agenda item 4 Development of the KM platform - Technical features and operationalization**

14. Mr. Lacroix from UNEP/GRID-Geneva presented the MedProgramme KM platform and stated that the three (3) components of the platform will be developed in parallel and outlined the various stages of the development and the milestones to be reached in each stage. He especially confirmed that some of the key features of the Outward facing website and the Project Management Tool are planned to be operational for use in early Q3 2023. Consultation workshops with the Task Force for KM in the key design and development stages will be organized. Capacity building for all the executing partners and MedPCU will be conducted once some components become operational. Mr. Lacroix also demonstrated the MapX-based data visualization portal developed by UNEP/GRID for the Cartagena Convention, including the different data sets overlaid.
15. The Task force for KM will follow up with the MedPCU and GRID on the implementation of the platform and the participating countries are welcome to join the discussion for the platform development.
16. Ms. Marialena Vyzaki, Gender Expert noted that it is useful to integrate in the maps gender data and gender gaps in the analysis.

**Agenda item 5: CP 4.1 Proposed Workplan (Q2 2023 - Q1 2024)**

17. Mr. Candeloro presented the workplan which highlighted the key Knowledge Management and communication milestones for Child Project 4.1 (Q2 2023 - Q1 2024).
18. Ms Vyzaki presented the workplan which highlighted key gender milestones for Child Project 4.1 (Q2 2023 – Q1 2024). The EBRD asked that the development of a Gender Action Plan for CP 1.3 is removed as an envisioned activity, as this depends on the identification of a potential EBRD investment that will require the development of an investment-specific Gender Action Plan such as Equal Opportunities Action Plan which may well be beyond the timeframe discussed.
19. The PSCM meeting approved the work plan.

**Agenda item 6: CP 4.1. Proposed Budget for workplan (Q2 2023 - Q1 2024)**

20. Ms. Minaei presented the budget forecast for 2023 including proposed budget modifications. Clarifications were requested regarding the actual commitments and actuals for 2022 and the forecast for 2023. Lebanon stressed on the need to present the budget of the previous year along with detailed expenditures to show to the SC progress in the budget utilization. This should then show the forecast of the budget for the current area. It was noted that more information will be provided to the SC and from now on the new proposed budget presentation will be used in SCMs.
21. The Steering Committee approved the revision of the budget and the budget forecast for 2023 with no objections or adjustments.

**Agenda Item 7: Any other Business**

22. No comments were made under this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations**

23. The Meeting participants reviewed, amended, and adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations from the Meeting discussions, which appear in Annex III of this report.

**Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting**

24. Ms. Yukseler, Ms. Touni, and Ms. Hamdan provided closing remarks at the end of the Third Project Steering Committee Meeting for Child Project 4.1.
25. The Chair closed the Meeting on Thursday 16 March 2023, at 16:30.

**Annex I****List of participants****Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project 4.1 of the MedProgramme  
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**Annex II**

**Provisional Agenda**

- Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3:** Progress on Child Project 4.1.  
(a) Knowledge management platform  
(b) Communication roadmap  
(c) Gender Mainstreaming
- Agenda item 4:** Development of the KM platform - Technical features and operationalization
- Agenda item 5:** CP 4.1 Proposed Workplan (Q2 2023 - Q1 2024)
- Agenda item 6:** CP 4.1. Proposed Budget for workplan (Q2 2023 - Q1 2024)
- Agenda item 7:** Any other Business
- Agenda item 8:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 9:** Closure of the Meeting
- Agenda item 10:** Bilateral discussions with the Partners

**TIMETABLE<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Thursday, 16 March 2023</b>		
10:00-10:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:15-10:30	Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	UNEP/MED WG.558/1
10:30-11:30	Agenda item 3: Progress on Child Project 4.1. a) Knowledge management platform b) Communication roadmap c) Gender Mainstreaming	
11:30-12:00	Agenda item 4: Development of KM platform - Technical features and operationalization	UNEP/MED WG.558/2
12:00-12:30	Agenda item 5: CP 4.1 Proposed Workplan (Q2 2023- Q1 2024)	UNEP/MED WG.558/3
13:00-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30-15:00	Agenda item 6: CP 4.1. Proposed Budget for workplan (Q2 2023- Q1 2024)	UNEP/MED WG.558/4
15:00-15:30	Agenda item 7: Any Other Business	
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:45	Agenda item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations	UNEP/MED WG.558/5
16:45-17:00	Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting	

## **Annex III**

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for the MedProgramme Child Project  
“Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Environment and Climate Regional Support  
Project”  
(Child Project 4.1 – GEF ID 9686)**

**Sarajevo, 16 March 2023**

The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) of UNEP/MAP organized the Third Project Steering Committee Meeting for the Child Project entitled “Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Environment and Climate Regional Support Project” (Child Project 4.1 – GEF ID 9686) in Sarajevo on 16 March 2023

The Steering Committee took note of the progress achieved by the Executing Agency since the Second Child Project Steering Committee Meeting which was held in June 2022 and recommends the following:

1. The Steering Committee encourages MedPCU to enhance its presence online and increase efforts in terms of development and dissemination of communication products for improved visibility of the MedProgramme and Child Project activities, outputs and outcomes;
2. The Steering Committee stresses the importance of preparing a detailed work plan for the Communication Roadmap in coordination with the Child Projects and of accelerating its implementation with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;
3. The Steering Committee urged the MedPCU to prepare and share a calendar of MedProgramme participation and attendance at high-level national, regional and international events and update it on a regular basis;
4. The Steering Committee reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Medprogramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and applauded the MedPCU and Executing Partners on the implementation of gender activities. The Steering Committee recommended that, as part of the Mid-Term Review, existing gender indicators are revised with the aim to integrate them into existing Child Project Results Frameworks (logframes).
5. The Steering Committee welcomes the collaboration framework and the cooperation agreement being established with the University of Geneva in the framework of the UNEP/GRID partnership and urges the finalisation of the relevant legal agreement by Q2 2023;
6. The Steering Committee takes note of the proposed implementation plan for the Programme out-facing website and highlights the importance of anticipating the release of a first version of the web site by 2023 Q3 including linkages with respective web sites of Implementing and Executing Agencies and Partners. The Steering Committee stresses that, while developing the Knowledge Management Platform, the MAP communication and dissemination tools are

utilised in Q2 2023 to ensure proper sharing, dissemination and communication of knowledge products, Programme results and activities.

7. The Steering Committee encourages the active participation of INFO/RAC on the hosting and maintenance of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Platform to ensure the sustainability of MedProgramme achievements and results;
8. The Steering Committee welcomes the establishment of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Task Force as a catalyser for the development and utilization of the Platform and encourages the participation of the Executing Partners and the national counterparts as well as the preparation of detailed ToRs and yearly workplan, possibly by Q2 2023;
9. The Steering Committee stresses the importance of expanding coordination and cooperation of activities with all relevant initiatives on communication, knowledge management and gender mainstreaming at national, regional and global level (e.g., IW-LEARN, CW Community of Practice, GEF Coordination Office, etc.);
10. The Steering Committee reviewed the proposed annual work plan for the implementation of CP 4.1 and approved it as adjusted (updated Annual Gender Assessment available in Q2 2023; Grievance Redress Mechanism set up and communicated in Q2 2023, first version of the web site available in Q2 2023 together with links to the Partners' web sites; removal of the CP 1.3 Gender Action Plan) and annexed to this document, including the proposed new modality and timeline for the Annual Stocktaking Meeting (January 2024);
11. The Steering Committee requested the Executing Agency to present, during the future Steering Committee Meetings, the link between forecasted budget of the previous year and actual expenditures incurred. *The Steering Committee is requested to share with the Partners the figures for year 2022.*
12. The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the annual project budget as presented, including the proposed reallocation of 283,000 USD from the Contractual Services budget class to the Grant to Implementing Partners class for the same activity.