



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG. 563/2



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

12 June 2023
Original: English

Final Event, Best practices workshop on IMAP implementation and MPA management, 4th Steering Committee of the EU-funded project Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas (IMAP-MPA) project.

Tangier, Morocco, 11,12 and 13 July 2023

Agenda item 6: IMAP-MPA Project: Progress Report

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

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List of Abbreviations

ALG	Algeria
APAL	Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (Tunisia)
ANPE	Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (Tunisia)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CI	Common Indicator
CNRS-L	National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon
CORMON	Correspondence Group on Monitoring
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
DG ENV	Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission
EC	European Commission
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EcAp MED Project	Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EGY	Egypt
EO	Ecological Objective
EU	European Union
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
IMAP-MPA project	Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas
INFO/RAC	Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre
INPA	Israel Nature and Parks Authority
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISR	Israel
JOR	Jordan
LEB	Lebanon
LIB	Libya
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCPA	Marine and Coastal Protected Area
MED POL	Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme
MED QSR	Mediterranean Quality Status Report
MedPAN	Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MOR	Morocco
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NIS	Non-Indigenous Species
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
OWG	Online Working Group
PAL	Palestine
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
SPA/BD	Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
SSFA	Small-Scale Funding Agreement
TCNR	Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon)
ToRs	Terms of Reference
TUN	Tunisia
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1. Introduction

1. The Project “Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas” (hereafter referred to as “IMAP-MPA project”), is funded by the European Union (EU) – the European Commission’s (EC) Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Green MED III: ENI South regional environment and water programme 2018-2022 financial instrument.
2. The project is coordinated and implemented by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and implemented through its Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) and Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). It covers a period of 48 months starting in August 2019 until August 2023, with an overall budget of USD 4,459,309 (EUR 3,999,660).
3. The beneficiary countries for the specific national activities are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia; while Jordan and Palestine can also benefit from the regional / capacity building activities of the project.
4. This progress report represents a substantive update of the report submitted to the Project Third Steering Committee Meeting held in June 2022, by videoconference, with a particular focus on the activities and outputs delivered during April 2022-May 2023.

2. Project Summary and Objective

5. The overall objective of the IMAP-MPA project is to contribute towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and along its coast. In so doing, the project proposes to consolidate, integrate and strengthen the ecosystem approach (EcAp) for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and their sustainable development. This will be achieved through the monitoring and assessment of environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, including MPAs, in a comparative and integrated manner.
6. The project aims at enhancing MPA management through coordinated implementation of the MAP Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, as well as enhance the integration of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in this process. The IMAP-MPA project is strengthening and is further developing the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, inter-connected, effectively managed and monitored MPAs. This is achieved through improving national biodiversity-related governance and policies; preparing and implementing management plans for MPAs and improving MPA management with targeted actions.
7. The project is supporting the process for aligning the Mediterranean priorities with the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as with other global and regional emerging issues.
8. The project is contributing to the assessment of MPA effectiveness through the implementation of the IMAP biodiversity and non-indigenous species, pollution and marine litter and hydrography clusters in an integrated manner. This is showcased by presenting and highlighting environmental status differences between MPAs and areas that are under high-pressure due to human activities. In so doing, the project is also contributing to the overall Mediterranean Sea and coast status assessment and providing support to the beneficiary countries in enhancing their relevant capacities, e.g., through targeted trainings, exchange of specific best practices, and undertaking of pilot IMAP monitoring activities in new areas, in MPAs and outside with a focus on the sub-regional level.

3. Project Structure

9. The project is structured around 3 major components, with 5 outcomes and 9 outputs, as hereunder described:

Component 1: Promotion and support of IMAP implementation at the regional, sub-regional and national scale

Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators.

- Output 1.1: In depth identification at country level of the capacities required to enable IMAP implementation and facilitate the provision of reliable and quality assured data for the MED 2023 QSR.
- Output 1.2: Capacity building and exchange of best practices at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings.

Outcome 2: Harmonized monitoring and assessment including at sub regional level, of IMAP common indicators for biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS); pollution and marine litter; and hydrography both within and surrounding MPAs.

- Output 2.1: Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for agreed common indicators.

Component 2: Improvement and support for the development of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed and monitored MPAs to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in the Mediterranean

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Mediterranean countries.

- Output 3.1: Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast.
- Output 3.2: Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to pave the way for the post 2020 MPA agenda process in the Mediterranean.
- Output 3.3: The development of a strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework through a participatory process.

Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability.

- Output 4.1: Elaboration of MPA management plans and provision of support for their effective implementation.
- Output 4.2: Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation.

Component 3: Effective project management ensured for guidance during the project as well as coordination for overall project implementation.

Outcome 5: Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured:

- Output 5.1: Project management and coordination.

4. Country Support

10. The project provides support to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, through concrete national and regional activities with regard to IMAP implementation and effective MPA management; Jordan and Palestine through inviting them to the project regional events or capacity building activities. Table 1 presents in a summarized way the different types of support provided by the different outputs to the respective beneficiary countries.

Table 1: Different types of support provided to the respective beneficiary countries through the different outputs.

	ALG	EGY	ISR	LEB	LIB	MOR	TUN	JOR	PAL	Regional
Output 1.1										
Output 1.2										
Output 2.1										
Output 3.1										
Output 3.2										
Output 3.3										
Output 4.1										
Output 4.2										
Output 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

5. Activity Progress during the Period: April 2022 – May 2023

Component 1: Promoting and supporting IMAP implementation at regional, sub-regional and national scales

Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators.

Output 1.1: In depth identification at country level of the capacities required to enable IMAP implementation and facilitate the provision of reliable and quality assured data for the MED 2023 QSR

11. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalized by the end of the project, following the closure of legal agreements between the UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC and beneficiary countries. The implementation period was slightly increased in order to accommodate national needs and delays faced due to the COVID pandemic.
12. The national experts for Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia are being supported under the relevant legal agreements (Small Scale Fund Agreement (SSFA) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)). Regular online meetings, as well as field visits from the IMAP-MPA team, are being organized with them to follow up on the preparation of the field work and the implementation status of the IMAP at the national level.
13. Field work and data collection were finalized in Israel and Morocco and is ongoing in Egypt, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia. Four beneficiary countries (Israel, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) have started reporting data on the IMAP common indicators regarding biodiversity and pollution clusters into the IMAP Info System.
14. In person meeting was organized with the Libyan experts on 11 October 2022 in Tunis back-to-back with the training workshop on reporting monitoring data into the IMAP Info System for Libya (12-13 October 2022) to prepare and coordinate the implementation of the monitoring activities and the field work in Libya for the biodiversity and pollution clusters.

15. Despite several official and unofficial reminders that were sent by SPA/RAC and the UNEP/MAP to Algeria regarding the signature of the legal agreement to support the implementation of the national monitoring programme, Algeria did not sign the MoA. The budget dedicated for this activity was reallocated to other beneficiary countries (Morocco, Libya, Egypt and Lebanon), in agreement with the donor.
16. The regional experts on biodiversity and NIS, Eutrophication, Marine Litter, Pollution and Coast and Hydrography supported the national teams in the finalization of their monitoring plan and the upload of the available data into the IMAP Info System
17. The next steps for Output 1.1 are described hereunder:
 - Regular follow up meetings with the national experts' teams in Egypt, Libya, Lebanon and Tunisia to ensure the smooth implementation and ensure the quality control of the national activities in the framework of the signed MoAs.

Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators.

Output 1.2: Capacity building and exchange of best practices at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings.

18. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalized by the end of the project, following the closure of legal agreements between the UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC and beneficiary countries. The implementation period was slightly increased in order to accommodate national needs and delays faced due to the COVID pandemic.
19. Follow-up correspondence and bilateral meetings are frequently organized between the respective countries, the Secretariat and SPA/RAC to support as much as possible the timely implementation of the planned activities.
20. Specific trainings and on-job training on monitoring common indicators related to biodiversity (Habitats characterization, mapping of marine habitats, bird and cetacean estimation, NIS identification) and pollution clusters (sampling and processing of water for pollution evaluation) are on-going and were held at national level (Morocco, Libya, Egypt and Lebanon) by national authorities, in the framework of the MoA signed.
21. Training session on data reporting was organized for Libya in cooperation with the INFO/RAC in Tunis, Tunisia on 12 and 13 October 2022 aiming at strengthening national capacities to report data into the IMAP Info System. All the national experts involved in the implementation of IMAP in Libya participated in this training session.
22. The national experts involved in the implementation of IMAP in Morocco and Tunisia participated in the sub-regional workshop for pollution and marine litter, biodiversity and hydrography monitoring and GES assessment organized by the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit with the support of SPA/RAC (Athens, 7-8 March 2023) and facilitated by the regional experts on biodiversity, pollution, and hydrography.
23. The national experts involved in the implementation of IMAP in Egypt, Israel, Libya and Lebanon participated in the sub-regional workshop for pollution and marine litter, biodiversity and hydrography monitoring and GES assessment organized by the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit (Athens, 20-21 March 2023) and facilitated by the regional experts on biodiversity, pollution and hydrography.
24. The next steps for Output 1.2 are described hereunder:

- Specific trainings sessions on reporting the monitoring data collected during the field works will be organized in cooperation with the INFO/RAC in synergy with the EcAp-MED III project and Marine Litter II projects before August 2023 aiming at strengthening national capacities to report data into the IMAP Info System.

Outcome 2: Harmonized monitoring and assessment including at sub regional level, of IMAP common indicators for biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS); pollution and marine litter; and hydrography both within and surrounding MPAs.

Output 2.1: Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for agreed common indicators.

25. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalised by the end of the project, following the closure of legal agreements between the UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC and beneficiary countries. The implementation period was slightly increased in order to accommodate national needs and delays faced due to the COVID pandemic.
26. The Regional consultant in charge of the elaboration of the NIS baseline prepared a first draft of the scientific paper on NIS baseline that was shared with the national and regional experts involved in the elaboration of this work for their input and review. This paper is under final review for publication.
27. The work on the development of monitoring and assessment scales, assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for common indicators 1 and 2 related to benthic habitats was submitted to the CORMON meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries (Athens, 9 and 10 March 2023). The conclusions and suggestions of the meeting were integrated in the updated version that is submitted for discussion by the Meeting of the Integrated Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups (Athens, Greece, 27-28 June 2023). Representatives from the IMAP-MPA project beneficiary countries will be supported to attend the Integrated CORMON meeting, organized by the Coordination Unit and SPA/RAC within the Barcelona Convention framework.
28. Results of the assessment scales, assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values on marine habitats and NIS were presented during the Mediterranean symposia on marine vegetation, coralligenous, dark habitats and non-indigenous species (Genoa, Italy, 19-23 September 2022). Experts and scientists from the IMAP-MPA project beneficiary countries were assisted to attend and present their national monitoring activities and the preliminary results on IMAP during these periodic meetings dedicated to scientific investigation on marine and coastal biodiversity and its conservation, organized by SPA/RAC within the Barcelona Convention framework
29. The progress achieved within the project framework was showcased at the Sixteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points held in Malta from 22nd to 24th May 2023. The presentation focused on the status of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Roadmap during the 2022-2023 period, including the progress made at national and regional levels regarding the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its common indicators including the IMAP/MAP activities. Specifically, the presentation covered various aspects such as assessment scales, assessment criteria, baseline data, and threshold values related to the IMAP common indicators. Its purpose was to update the meeting attendees on the assistance provided to countries for implementing their national monitoring programs. The contracting parties acknowledged the progress made and shared their respective achievements in their countries. They expressed gratitude to the European Union for its continuous support and requested further assistance in the upcoming IMAP cycle.
30. Reports including analysis of the national IMAPs and proposal for integration of the national monitoring programmes between biodiversity, pollution and hydrography clusters were prepared by the regional experts

to support the implementation of IMAP component for Biodiversity, Pollution and Hydrography clusters. In addition, support is being provided to the different countries through regular exchanges on monitoring methodologies, selection of sites, common indicators, data collection and reporting.

31. In the frame of the MoAs signed between the SPA/RAC and LNEP (Morocco) and in synergy with the EcAp MED III and Marine Litter II projects, a national meeting was organized in Rabat and field visit in Tangier Area held between 18th and 20th July 2022. It gathered 20 participants (4 women and 16 men) from national teams, local stakeholders and the UNEP/MAP to present and finalize the national monitoring plan to start the field work in early 2023.
32. In the frame of the MoAs signed between the ANPE, APAL and SPA/RAC and in synergies with the EcAp MED III and Marine Litter II projects, a national meeting was organized in Tunis on 7 December 2022. It gathered 24 participants (9 women and 15 men) from national teams, regional consultants, SPA/RAC and the UNEP/MAP to present and finalize the national monitoring plan.
33. The call for consultancy prepared by APAL (Tunisia) under the MoA to hire thematic consultants in charge of coordinating the implementation of the monitoring programme was published in March 2023. National experts have been selected, and their contracts are in the process of being signed.
34. An addendum to the MoA with the ANPE (Tunisia) was prepared to update the period of the contract implementation following the extension of the project. However, following the resignation of the General director and the no appointment of a new one, the addendum has not been signed yet and all the activities planned under this MoA were suspended during this period. Official contact with ANPE was made in order to unlocking the situation.
35. Under the MoA signed between the Ministry of Environment in Libya and SPA/RAC and in synergies with the EcAp MED III and Marine Litter II projects, a national meeting was organized in Tunis on 8 December 2022 with the participation of 23 representatives (7 women and 16 men) of the national teams, regional consultants, SPA/RAC and the UNEP/MAP to present, discuss and finalize the national monitoring plans for biodiversity and pollution to start the field work in Libya in 2023.
36. Under the MoA signed between the Ministry of Environment in Libya and SPA/RAC, and in synergies with the EcAp MED III, the national team field work in ongoing focusing on benthic habitats, seabirds, NIS, eutrophication and marine litter.
37. Several meetings were organized with the coordination team of the MoA implementation in Egypt to follow up on the progress made, discuss the different monitoring activities to be implemented and finalize the monitoring plan including the common indicators, monitoring sites and stations, methodologies, and timeframe. Once official authorization has been obtained, field work is ongoing for all common indicators.
38. Activities organised under the SSFA signed between INPA (Israel) and the Coordinating Unit were all finalised within the timeframe agreed. Outcomes were received and reviewed by the Coordinating Unit and final payment disbursed.
39. Regular meetings and exchanges with the national team in Lebanon are being organized to finalize the monitoring plan for pollution and biodiversity clusters, follow up the progress in the implementation of the field work and provide the necessary support when needed. Field work is ongoing for all common indicators.
40. Despite the numerous reminders from SPA/RAC and UNEP/MAP since the beginning of the project, no answer was received from the national authorities of Algeria regarding the signature of the MoA. As an alternative to that situation and based on the decision taken by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, the funds dedicated to the IMAP implementation in Algeria were reallocated to other activities in Egypt, Libya, Lebanon and Morocco. Addenda to the MoA for Morocco, Egypt, Libya and Lebanon were signed.

41. The following table summarizes the current status of the MoA signed with beneficiary countries:

Country	MoA signature status
Algeria	Not signed and budget reallocated to Egypt, Lebanon, Libya and Morocco
Egypt	Addendum to the MoA with the additional budget was signed
Israel (SPA/RAC allocated funds)	SSFA signed between the UNEP/MAP and INPA, and finalized on December 2022.
Lebanon	Addendum to the MoA with the additional budget was signed
Libya	Addendum to the MoA with the additional budget was signed and funds are managed by SPA/RAC
Morocco	Addendum to the MoA with the additional budget was signed
Tunisia (APAL)	Addendum to the MoA with deadlines extension was signed
Tunisia (ANPE)	Addendum to the MoA with deadline extension was not signed waiting the appointment of a new director

42. The next steps for Output 2.1 are described hereunder:

- Follow up with the countries regarding the implementation of the field surveys and upload of data,
- Follow up the situation of the signature of the addendum to the MoA with ANPE (Tunisia) and implementation of the field activities of the pollution cluster in Tunisia.

Component 2: Improvement and support for the development of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed and monitored MPAs to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in the Mediterranean

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Mediterranean

Output 3.1: Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast

43. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalised by the end of the project, as per approved workplan.
44. The national MPA network strategy for the Egyptian Mediterranean coast is planned to be produced considering both conservation objectives and the requirement for MPAs to be integrated within their economic and social environment, based on a consultation process involving related stakeholders at national and local levels.
45. The national consultants in charge of the elaboration of the national strategy started the work related to the assessment diagnosis phase of the strategy. Hence, a draft inception report has been prepared in view of its discussion with the relevant stakeholders during the first consultation workshop on the national strategy.
46. The first consultation workshop on the diagnosis-assessment phase of the strategy took place at Port Said on the 4th and 5th of October 2022 to which 36 national representatives along with the project MPA Officer took part. The participants include 24 male and 12 female belonging respectively to the central and local ministries and departments of the environmental agency (EEAA), fisheries, tourism, culture and heritage, agriculture and water, national defence, interior. They include also representatives of 5 marine and coastal protected areas namely Ashtoum El Gamil, El Omid, Borollus, Sallum and Zaranik along with researchers from different academic institutes and representatives of local Civil Society Organisations.
47. The consultation workshop allowed discussing and exchanging views and suggestions on the scope of the work, its objectives, its expected outcomes and deliverables along with the best options and timeline of implementation. It served as an excellent opportunity where the draft inception report has been revised and complemented by crucial information from the participants.
48. Following the organisation of the first consultation workshop at Port Said on the 4th and 5th of October 2022 where the scope of the work, its objectives, its expected outcomes and deliverables along with the timeline of implementation have been discussed and agreed with the relevant stakeholders, the national consultants in charge of the elaboration of the national strategy have elaborated the the draft diagnosis-assessment report in view of its discussion with the relevant stakeholders during a second consultation workshop.
49. A second consultation workshop took place at Borj El Arab, Alexandria on the 13th and 14th of March 2023 to which 29 national representatives along with the project MPA Officer took part. The participants include 19 male and 10 female belonging respectively to the central and local ministries and departments of the environmental agency (EEAA), fisheries, tourism, culture and heritage, agriculture and water, national defence, interior and oil and gas private company along with representatives of 5 marine and coastal protected areas namely Ashtoum El Gamil, El Omid, Borollus, Sallum and Zaranik but also researchers from different academic institutes and representatives of local Civil Society Organisations.
50. The second consultation workshop allowed discussing and exchanging views and suggestions on the diagnosis-assessment report. It served as an excellent opportunity where the vision and the strategic pillars of the strategy have been discussed and drafted together with the relevant stakeholders.

51. Following the workshop organisation, the diagnosis-assessment report has been completed by the consultants and submitted to SPA/RAC by end of March 2023.

52. On the other hand, SPA/RAC supported the participation of the Egyptian SPA/BD focal point to COP CBD 15 where he actively contributed to the “The Mediterranean Corner” initiative, an open space set up and coordinated by SPA/RAC at the CBD COP 15 exhibition area, from 10 to 16 December 2022. Daily talks and encounters were organized at the Mediterranean Corner, set up and coordinated by SPA/RAC including an event on the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project as a supporting initiative for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries for establishing, planning and managing effective networks of marine protected areas in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. The Egyptian SPA/BD focal point took part to the IMAP-MPA event where he showcased the inclusive process of the development of the National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast, in line with the Post-2020 GBF goals and targets.

53. The next steps for Output 3.1 are described hereunder:

- The third and final consultation workshop is planned to take place on the 5th and 6th of June 2023 during which the second phase report of the strategy on MCPAs and OECMs will be presented and discussed with the relevant national stakeholders in view of its official endorsement.

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Mediterranean

Output 3.2: Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to pave the way for post-2020 MPA agenda progress in the Mediterranean

54. **General overview:** The objectives of this output were reached and finalised, as per approved workplan.

55. The 5th meeting of the MPA Forum Steering Committee was held on 17th May 2022. The members discussed the new version integrating the feedback following the Forum event and made some last comments. This version was finalised and then validated by the governance bodies of SPA/RAC and MedPAN in December 2022.

56. The 6th meeting of the MPA Forum Steering Committee was held on 28 February 2023 to discuss about the next steps of the MPA Forum, through the elaboration a mechanism to monitor and evaluation the voluntary commitments related to the implementation of the MPA roadmap recommendations and proposed actions, as well as the preparation of an engagement.

57. The MPA roadmap was translated into French and English, with the forum graphic charter. It will be disseminated once the layout of the 3 versions is reviewed and validated.

58. The next steps for Output 3.2 are described hereunder:

- Review the layout and content of the MPA roadmap translated into French and Arabic and its dissemination.

Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Mediterranean

Output 3.3: The development of a strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework through a participatory process

59. **General overview:** The objectives of this output were reached and finalised, as per approved workplan.
60. COP 22 adopted the “Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean” and called upon the Contracting Parties to take effective measures to implement it, thus enhancing the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol in the Mediterranean region. COP 22 also requested SPA/RAC to develop an evaluation and monitoring framework for the strategy, with the technical support of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM), using to the extent possible existing monitoring tools in the region, in particular those established under UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention as well as in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and related target monitoring (Decision IG.25/12).
61. In view of developing an evaluation and monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Regional Strategy, a first phase of data collection, based among others on the results of the CBD COP 15 and the adopted post-2020 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, was finalized and led to the compilation, in March 2023, of an extensive background document.
62. The document was circulated to AGEM members as a basis for the development of the draft Evaluation and Monitoring Framework, and two online meetings were planned among a working group formed of AGEM volunteer members. The first meeting took place on 30 March 2023 and the second meeting on 5 April 2023. These drafting meeting allowed the elaboration of a draft of the framework that has been submitted to the SPA/BD Focal Points for informal consultation, before being officially submitted as a working document and endorsed by the 16th meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points (Malta, 22-24 May 2023) in view of its submission, as amended, to the MAP focal points meeting and the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.
63. The next steps for Output 3.3 are described hereunder:
- Submitting the draft Evaluation and Monitoring Framework of the MCPAS/OECMs regional strategy to the MAP focal points meeting and the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability

Output 4.1: Elaboration of MPA management plans and provisions of support for their effective implementation

64. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalised by the end of the project, as per approved workplan.
65. The existence of a management plan is one of the major criteria for qualifying as an MPA. This means that under this activity, and for each of the three involved protected areas, namely Rachgoun future MPA in Algeria, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon and Shash area-Gulf of Sirte future MPA in Libya, a thorough reflection should take place, including the definition of strategic and operational objectives, setting of an action plan and a calendar of implementation, allocation of resources, and definition of indicators to assess the management effectiveness.
66. In Algeria, the classification study of Rachgoun island study has been presented for approval to the commission of the protected areas of the wilaya of Ain Témouchent during a workshop held on October 10, 2022, at the headquarters of the Wilaya of Ain Témouchent. The study has been presented to the commission by the Directorate of the Environment of the Wilaya of Ain Témouchent with the presence of the national consultants, in accordance with the national regulations.

67. At first, the classification has been officially endorsed and published by the wilaya of Ain Témouchent through the decision 2295 of the Wali of Ain Témouchent on the 27th of November 2022.
68. Nevertheless, after that endorsement a second round of consultation took place in particular with the Ministry of Fisheries and local fishers at Ain Témouchent which proposed to reduce the peripheric area of the MPA to allow some local activities while the integral and buffer zones perimeters haven't been modified.
69. The classification study of Rachgoun island study has been presented once again for a last approval to the commission of the protected areas of the wilaya of Ain Témouchent during a workshop held on March 21, 2023, at the headquarters of the Wilaya of Ain Témouchent.
70. Finally, the revised classification has been officially endorsed with the view of publication of the new decision by the wilaya of Ain Témouchent early April 2023
71. It is worth noting that the members of the commission of the protected areas of the wilaya of Ain unanimously approved the revised classification study which allowed moving to the last phase of the process consisting at developing a master plan and a management plan of the marine and coastal area of Rachgoun island.
72. For TCNR in Lebanon, due to some delay occurred because of the political and social situation and context related to the organization of the legislative elections in the country which made difficult holding local consultations and meetings, the national consultants submitted the diagnosis-assessment report on January 2023.
73. The national consultants have then submitted the draft report of the management plan at the end of February 2023 which has been presented and discussed with 30 relevant national and local stakeholders during the second consultation workshop held in Tyre on the 10th of May 2023. The participants to the above-mentioned consultation workshop include 20 male and 10 female belonging respectively to the central and local ministries of Environment, agriculture, tourism, culture and heritage. They include also many representatives of local Civil Society Organisations.
74. In Libya, notwithstanding the political situation prevailing in the country and in the area of Sirte in particular, the national consultants started implementing the process of the elaboration of the management plan in particular its first phase of diagnosis-assessment. For that purpose, the ecological and socio-economic studies elaborated and endorsed since 2021 have been translated into Arabic in order to share them with the local stakeholders and facilitate gathering any additional information that might be useful for the diagnosis-assessment process.
75. The first workshop, planned initially to take place in July 2022, has been finally held with local stakeholders on 10 and 11 October 2022 in Tunis, Tunisia. It gathered 23 representatives (1 woman and 22 men) of institutional, academic and associative sectors in particular fishers associations, and served to present and consult on the diagnosis-assessment phase including the scope of the work, the vision and objectives of the future MCPA, the approach and the best options to reach the expected results of the activity.
76. It has been jointly agreed with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment that a consultation workshop would be held in Libya on 13 and 14 June to discuss and finalise with the relevant stakeholders both diagnosis-assessment and management plan reports.
77. Furthermore, the IMAP-MPA project supported the organization of the Mediterranean symposia on marine vegetation, coralligenous, dark habitats and non-indigenous species (Genova, Italy, 19-23 September 2022) which represents a unique gathering dedicated to scientific and citizen science investigations on marine and coastal biodiversity and related conservation actions. Participants from the beneficiary countries of the IMPA-MPA project have benefited from 2022 gathering where results of studies on key habitats and

inventories of non-indigenous species along with habitats monitoring activities within IMAP in MPAs and other areas under anthropogenic pressures were presented and discussed. The symposia allowed providing key recommendations for the conservation of the aforementioned habitats and species in the Mediterranean basin with a special focus on the strengthening of the investigations and monitoring on the eastern and southern basin.

78. On another note, both MPA officer and MPA technical assistant of the IMAP-MPA project have attended the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congresses (IMPAC 5) which was held at Vancouver, Canada, from 3-9 February 2023, and where the world's leading ocean conservation professionals will meet to chart a course towards protecting 30 per cent of the global ocean by 2030. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the IMAP-MPA project activities in particular towards the improvement of on-site MPA management measures and mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability in the Mediterranean, through two specific events organized. First one "The Road to 2030: The Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Forum and Roadmap, A Unique and Key Process for Reaching MPA Targets" and the second on "Conserving the Mediterranean Sea through Sound Systems of MPAs and OECMs: Advances, Challenges and Prospects" during which IMAP-MPA project activities were presented. USB keys were also distributed, containing IMAP-MPA project documents and other strategic SPA/RAC files.

79. The next steps for Output 4.1 are described hereunder:

- In Algeria, the draft management plan of the Rachgoun MCPA will be presented and discussed with the stakeholders during a national workshop by the end of June 2023.
- The consultants in charge of the management plan elaboration will finalise it taking into account the suggestions coming from the second consultation workshop and submit the revised version of the management plan to the Ministry of Environment for official endorsement.
- In Libya, the national workshop to discuss both the diagnosis-assessment and the management plans draft reports will be held on 13 and 14 June 2023.

Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability

Output 4.2: Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation

80. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalised by the end of the project, as per approved workplan.

81. A group of consultants (5 female experts) were hired to prepare and deliver the training Course on Socio-economic Sustainability of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas was prepared. A Memorandum was also signed with the Mediterranean Conservation Society (AKD) to help with the logistics and on-site organization of the training, such as choice of the hotel, photographs, airport-hotel shuttle and other service providers, printing materials, preparation and organization of the field visit, etc. AKD were of crucial importance in the training preparation and organization in Gokova since they play an important role at local level as co-manager of the Gokova MPA.

82. The Mentors training was held on 13th November 2022, and the training with all the participants from 14 to 18 November, in Gokova, Turkey under the supervision of the Project MPA officer and MPA Associate officer.

83. Regarding the first training course on “Mastering management effectiveness and financial sustainability of Marine Protected Areas” held from 7 to 10 February 2022, 4 national delegations (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon) proposed common tailor-made project (1, 2, 2 and 2 proposals respectively) for their respective countries/MPAs, through which the country delegation would apply the knowledge and skills gained during the training received. These proposals were reviewed and related MoU were proposed and signed.
84. Participants to the second training course on “socio-economic sustainability of Mediterranean MPAs were also asked to provide proposal for the post-training activities. Five delegations (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon) submitted projects. These were reviewed and MoU to launch activities are being finalized for signature.
85. The MPA Project Associate Officer has participated to the MedPAN sharing experience workshop that was organized from 24 to 27 October 2022 in Montenegro, and seized the opportunity to share the activities and outcomes of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project during the relevant sessions on the workshop, such as the capacity building activities, the gender equity, Forum of MPAs, etc.
86. Regarding Jbel Moussa future MCPA in Morocco, the consultants in charge of developing a communication strategy to promote the future MCPA of Jbel Moussa and its translation into a communication plan have submitted, in December 2022, the second phase report on the mapping of target groups and the determination of the communication objectives.
87. Later, at the end of March 2023, the consultants have submitted, the third and last phase report on the mapping of target groups and the determination of the communication objectives.
88. On the other hand, the consultants in charge of developing an integrated socio-economic have started their work on the first phase of diagnosis-assessment by gathering and compiling all the available information. A questionnaire especially targeting the fishers sources of incomes and the alternative income-generating activities has been circulated to the local fishers.
89. Local consultations have been run at Jbel Moussa from 18 to 20 March 2023 under the supervision of the the MPA officer where a questionnaire especially targeting alternative income-generating activities has been circulated to the local stakeholders in view of complementing the diagnosis-assessment which has been submitted end of April 2023.
90. The integrated socio-economic programme is expected to be submitted by end of June 2023.
91. For Kerkennah Islands future MCPA in Tunisia, following the technical visit to the supplier manufactory and the verification that all technical specifications of the boat are in conformity with the contractual technical terms and after obtaining its preclearance, the boat has been delivered on the 13th of January 2023 to the management unit of the APAL in charge of Kerkennah MCPA establishment and development in the presence of the MPA officer.
92. On the other hand, the national consultants in charge of developing an integrated socio-economic programme at the Kerkennah future MCPA have started implementing the diagnosis-assessment phase. Hence, further to the literature review and collection of the data, two rounds of field visit for local consultations and meetings took place with the local stakeholders, respectively from 24 to 27 December 2022 and 1st and 2nd of March 2023. Consequently, the diagnosis-assessment report has been submitted by end of April 2023.
93. The integrated socio-economic programme is expected to be submitted by end of June 2023.

94. As for the communication strategy to promote Kerkennah MCPA, the consultant team has been recruited in December 2022. A first kick-off meeting took place on 18 January 2023 where the scope of the work, its objectives and expected deliverables have been jointly agreed.
95. The consultants team undertook then a field survey for local consultations and meetings, supervised by the MPA officer, on 27 and 28 February 2023 which led to the submission of the first phase of diagnosis-assessment by end of March 2023.
96. The second phase report on the mapping of target groups and the determination of the communication objectives has been submitted by end of April 2023 while the third and last phase report on the communication activities and related action plan is expected to be submitted, by mid-June 2023.
97. On the other hand, SPA/RAC supported the participation of a Tunisian representative from the Ministry of Environment to the COP CBD 15 where he actively contributed to the talks and encounters organized at the “The Mediterranean Corner” initiative, an open space set up and coordinated by SPA/RAC at the CBD COP 15 exhibition area, from 10 to 16 December 2022, in particular those related to solutions for effective biodiversity conservation from the Mediterranean, especially those linked to marine protected areas, in line with the Post-2020 GBF goals and targets.

The next steps for Output 4.2 are described hereunder:

- Follow the implementation of the post-training activities with the participants to the first training course on management effectiveness.
- Finalise the signature of the post-training activities with the participants to the second training course on socio-economic sustainability and follow their implementation.
- Finalise the the integrated socio-economic programme for Jbel Moussa in Morocco.
- Finalise of the integrated socio-economic programme for Kerkennah MCPA in Tunisia.
- Finalise the third and last phase of the communication strategy to promote Kerkennah MCPA in Tunisia.

COMPONENT 3: Project Management and Implementation

Outcome 5: Effective and timely coordination and implementation ensured

Output 5.1 : Project Management and Coordination

98. **General overview:** The objectives of this output are expected to be finalised by the end of the project, as per approved workplan.
99. During the reporting period, the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit has provided conditions for the effective implementation of the projects, namely:
- a) Following the departure of the G5 staff in December 2022, an Individual contractor was recruited to support the project implementation, while the recruitment of a new G5 is on-going.
 - b) The project’s outputs and expert knowledge have been showcased during MAP meetings and external events such as the COP CBD 15 or IMPAC5
 - c) The Project Management Unit has prepared the ROM review in collaboration with the donor and the ROM expert
 - d) The Final evaluator has been selected and initiated his work
 - e) A gender expert was selected and recruited. The expert-initiated data collection with all beneficiary countries during online meetings while mission on the field are foreseen in May and June. The main purpose of the expert is to assess the current situation in MCPAs (institutional, local stakeholders involvement, impact of the management) in the different beneficiary countries, in order to raise awareness and to propose recommendation, in line with the UNEP/MAP and project’s Gender Action

Plans but also resolution from the COP CBD 15, and MPA roadmap in MED. This also include sex-disaggregated data that are currently missing in the region.

f) Implementation of the IMAP-MPA Gender Action Plan, including capacity building for the IMAP-MPA staff and synergies with other activities

g) Ensure timely and effective communication with the beneficiary countries for the national activities (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia).

h) Ensure the preparation and implementation of regional events, including the two sub-regional workshops on IMAP implementation, final event of the project and last steering committee.

h) Keep updated the Project's dedicated section at UNEP/MAP website and implementation of the communication plan of the project.

100. Next Steps:

- Organization of an online webinar on Gender and MPAs for MPA managers around the Mediterranean Sea (27 June 2023)
- Organization of the final event of the project and last Steering Committee (Tangier, Morocco, 11-13 July 2023)
- Final Report to the Donor
- Final evaluation of the project
- ROM Review finalised

6. Issues at stake and new challenges

101. The delays in signing the addendum to the MoA with the ANPE and the suspension of the pollution related activities implementation waiting for the appointment of the new director can hinder the achievement of the project objectives regarding the IMAP implementation in Tunisia.

7. Synergies with other initiatives

102. The project is structured mainly to build on the achievements and outputs of the previous EcAp MED II (funded by DG ENV) and MedMPA Network (funded by DG Near) projects.

103. MoAs signature and bilateral meetings with countries are conducted in synergy with the EU funded EcAp MED III and Marine ML MED projects.

104. The MPA component of the project is based on the outcomes of the previous EU-funded MedMPA Network Project, and is executed on the ground, at national level, in full synergy and complementarity with two regional projects financed by the MAVA Foundation, namely No-Take Zones/MPAs and Sea Turtles projects. The synergetic actions concern Rachgoun Islands future MPA (Algeria) and Jbel Moussa future MPA with regard to the No-Take Zones/MPAs project, and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon) and Gulf of Sirte future MPA (Libya) with regard to the Sea Turtles project.

105. It is also worth noting that the MPA component of the project is executed on the ground, at Tyre Coast level, in full synergy and complementarity with the project ENSERES (ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas) which is funded by the European Union under the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation program ENI CBC Med, especially with regards to the involvement of local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the management and sustainable development in and around the area as a SPAMI.

106. Furthermore, under the MPA component, SPA/RAC particularly worked in synergy with two regional partners, MedPAN and WWF, with regard to the MPA agenda in the Mediterranean, by running the process towards the organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean with the purpose to pave the way for the post-2020 MPA agenda progress in the Mediterranean.

107. The project has a strong link and is executed in synergy with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), which is participating with one member in the project Steering Committee. The links are based on promoting regional, sub-regional, and transnational cooperation in the sectors falling within its mandate, focusing on environmental protection.
108. In the framework of its programme of work 2020-2021, SPA/RAC anticipated to develop an MPA management effectiveness tool for the Mediterranean region and to make it available to MPA managers and planners. However, while making its preliminary research about existing tools for assessing MPA management effectiveness, SPA/RAC was informed about the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET). The IMET Form was developed by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC). It is a very comprehensive tool based on the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) Framework proposed by IUCN/WCPA, and that was tested in many regions of the world. A presentation meeting of the IMET was organized on 3 December 2021 in presence of representatives of UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC, EC and JRC. Based on this presentation and on the comprehensiveness of this IMET digital tool, it was decided to not engage in developing a separate tool and to pursue discussions with JRC in view of making the best use of the IMET for Mediterranean MPAs. This work will continue in the framework of the current and potential future EU-funded projects.
109. The IMAP-MPA project is supporting the organization of the 2022 (20th of May) and 2023 (15th of April) editions of the SPAMI Day established under the Barcelona Convention. The SPAMI Day celebration is a process that aims at raising awareness and mobilizing decision-makers, donors, national institutions, managers, civil society organizations, influencers and the general public on the challenges of Mediterranean ecosystem conservation and marine and coastal resources management through the creation and management of marine and coastal protected areas.
110. The IMAP-MPA project also supported the organization of the Mediterranean symposia on marine vegetation, coralligenous, dark habitats and non-indigenous species (Genova, Italy, 19-23 September 2022). The Mediterranean symposia, organized by SPA/RAC within the Barcelona Convention framework, represent unique gatherings dedicated to scientific and citizen science investigations on marine and coastal biodiversity and related conservation actions. The symposia allowed providing key recommendations for the conservation of the aforementioned habitats and species in the Mediterranean basin with a special focus on the strengthening of the investigations and monitoring activities on the eastern and southern basin. The related proceedings have been finalized and published at the end of October 2023.

8. Gender aspects

111. Gender balance and equality are among the project's core values and pertinent provisions and are taken into account in most project's activities. Gender equality and women's empowerment is also recognized as a cross-cutting priority across all aspects of UNEP's work, including for UNEP/MAP. The Secretariat, through its core work but also through projects' implementation promotes women and men's participation in all environmental protection and sustainable development activities.
112. Provisions for gender balanced participation has been also included in the calls for the recruitment of regional experts/consultants for IMAP, and in this regard a balanced ratio between male and female experts should be expected. Indeed, of the six thematic regional experts involved, three of them are females.
113. Moreover, the Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean symposia were gender balanced and this is clearly documented in the respective meetings reports.
114. The SPA/BD Focal Points were invited to consider the gender aspect when designating the participants to the MPA management effectiveness training.

115. The gender balance participation has been strongly considered within the organisation of the consultation workshops on the elaboration of the MCPA strategy in Egypt. Hence 24 male and 12 female representatives of central and local administrations, institutions and organisations took part to the workshops and actively contributed to its smooth and successful running.
116. On another note, and based on the IMAP-MPA Gender Action Plan and the on-going discussion of the Gender Task Force of the UNEP/MAP System, a in-person gender exercise session on Gender with the SPA/RAC staff has been organized on the 6th of December 2022 in Tunis. The session which gathered 7 female and 7 male staff members helped supporting SPA/RAC understanding how to mainstream gender in projects management and more generally on a daily base work. It constituted an excellent occasion to SPA/RAC staff to discuss about gender aspects, potential needs and linked opportunities, with the technical support from IMAP-MPA & MedProgramme gender specialist and the IMAP-MPA project officer.
117. A Gender expert is currently assessing the inclusion of gender aspects at MCPA level in beneficiary countries, in line with the project Gender Action Plan, the UNEP/MAP PoW and the MPA Road Map. The draft reports will be shared with the Steering Committee and will be used to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women empowerment and participation to MCPAs development and management at local, national and regional level.

9. Communication

Webpages

118. All relevant information regarding the project (EN / FR), communication products, and news articles are made available on the project's webpage on UNEP/MAP website and SPARAC website.

IMAP sub-regional workshops

119. Two sub-regional workshops on the implementation of the IMAP and the way forward were organized in Athens in March 2023. <https://twitter.com/UNEPMAPNews/status/1641013263839158272>

Participation to regional and international events to present the IMAP-MPA project

120. Thanks to the support of the project, all the sessions of the Forum of Marine protected Areas in the Mediterranean were made available online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSp0T2hZFgfMhGGVvftCYA/videos> and a video to present the forum has been produced <https://youtu.be/Op6trGmthhg>

121. A video on the EU-funded projects including the IMAP-MPA has been elaborated at the occasion of the COP 22 of the Barcelona Convention. The video has been displayed on a giant screen in the exhibition hall and shared on the webpage of the virtual exhibition “two years of Barcelona Convention achievements”, as well as the giant panel including information on the three EU funded projects, prepared by INFO/RAC for the COP 22. <http://www.info-rac.org/cop22exhibition/> Communication at the COP (link to videos):

- English: <https://youtu.be/0RPbPoOul88>
- French: <https://youtu.be/MyRV6Bfstak>
- Arabic: <https://youtu.be/CHauC9wMGz0>
- Spanish: <https://youtu.be/CpF8GcR7NWQ>

122. An event called “The 2020 Forum and Post-2020 Roadmap of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: Post-2020 challenges and solutions” has been organized on the occasion of Monaco Ocean Week held from 21 to 26 March 2022.

123. SPA/RAC coordinated “[The Mediterranean Corner](#)” initiative which is an open space set up at the CBD COP 15 exhibition area, from 10 to 16 December 2022, to showcase solutions for effective biodiversity conservation from the Mediterranean, especially those linked to marine protected areas, and to discuss present and future strategies and actions to support the Post-2020 GBF goals and targets. Talks and encounters were organized at the Mediterranean Corner every day and included an event on [The EU-funded IMAP-MPA project](#) as a supporting initiative for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries for establishing, planning and managing effective networks of marine protected areas, in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

124. SPA/RAC participated in the fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (Vancouver, Canada, 3-9 February 2023). Through the events it organised and participated in, SPA/RAC highlighted some of the key approaches and actions needed to ensure effective conservation and management of 30% of the ocean by 2030 and beyond. Experiences from the IMAP MPA project were presented on this occasion.

Public awareness

125. SPARAC, through its different projects including the IMAP-MPA one, has supported ENVIROFEST, the environmental film festival, which contributes to raising public awareness in Tunisia on the importance of protecting marine biodiversity through the creation of marine and coastal protected areas. Film screenings and debates on environmental issues were held as part of the EnviroFest Environmental Film Festival, attracting around 4,000 spectators annually.

126. In addition to the support provided by the IMAP-MPA project to the organization of the first edition of the SPAMI Day (15 April 2022), a campaign has been undertaken by SPA/RAC to (i) raise awareness on MPAs in the Mediterranean, (ii) to strengthen the SPAMI managers network as well as (iii) initiating new paths of collaboration among them.
127. Within the framework of the scientific and technological immersion camp for 9–13-year-olds organised in Kerkennah from 31 July to 7 August 2022, several articles and reports have been published in the Tunisian press :
- 1 Article <https://bit.ly/3JoSpqa>
 - 1 Report <https://bit.ly/3w4hiSi>
 - Interview with Mr Atef Limam, IMAP-MPA Project Officer at SPA/RAC: <https://bit.ly/3JYLjsO>
 - Interview with Ms. Rym Zakhama, Scientific responsible of the camp: <https://bit.ly/3zRXov4>
128. Furthermore, news on social networks about the camp, have been published using the hashtag #BiodiversityYouthCamp and

Donor conference

129. To drive the implementation of the « very high priority actions » identified in the Post-2020 SAPBIO, SPA/RAC elaborated a resource mobilization strategy and project proposals that have been presented at a Donor Conference, organized on 16 March 2023 in Paris, France. This conference has been supported by the IMAP/MPA project as an initiative to sustain the efforts for the development of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed and monitored MPAs. The website developed for the conference and the project sheets are available here: <https://post2020sapbio-donorconference.org/documents-resources/>

Videos

130. Taking advantage of the [training organized in Gokova](#) (Türkiye), on 13-18 Nov. 2022, SPA/RAC produced video capsules to share participants' learnings and experiences in terms of participatory MPA management and NTZ development. The courses (theoretical part) were also made [available online](#).
131. Within the framework of the scientific and technological immersion camp for 9–13-year-olds organised in Kerkennah from 31 July to 7 August 2022, a [short video](#) showing the camp activities and its pleasant ambiance where children learn by playing was produced by SPA/RAC and the NGO Youth For Science Foundation.