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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

Report of the 4th Steering Committee Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

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Introduction

1. The Final Event of 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”), took place in Tangier, Morocco, on 11,12 and 13 July 2023, at the kind invitation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and its Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The IMAP-MPA project is funded by the European Union’s (EU) Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

2. 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 doing so, the Project proposes to consolidate, integrate and strengthen the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) 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.

Participation

3. The 4th IMAP-MPA Steering Committee was attended by representatives of Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC, as well as regional thematic experts/consultants.

4. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 5: Opening of the 4th IMAP-MPA Steering Committee meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

5. The 4th IMAP-MPA Steering Committee of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project was opened on Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 09:30am (UTC+1), by UNEP/MAP IMAP-MPA Project Manager and SPA/RAC Director.

6. Mr. Philippe Théou, UNEP/MAP IMAP-MPA Project Manager, welcomed the participants to this Steering Committee. He thanked the EU Commission for its financial support to the IMAP-MPA project and underlined that this 4th and final Steering Committee will be the opportunity to present and discuss the activities implemented and results obtained within the last year of the project implementation period. The discussion will allow to consolidate the results of the project and recommendations will be included in the inception period of the upcoming new project “Bolstering Mediterranean biodiversity and MCPAs for nature (SEMPA),funded by the EU Commission

7. Mr. Khalil Attia, Director of SPA/RAC, welcomed in his turn the participants to the fourth and final Steering Committee of the project, recalled its main activities in relation to both IMAP and MPA components and commended the huge work made by the beneficiary countries towards the good implementation of the project despite the issues and difficulties faced. He stressed the need of the southern and eastern Contracting Parties for benefiting from this EC-funded project to respond to their commitments towards the Barcelona Convention and its protocols at national and regional levels for both integrated monitoring and assessment programme (IMAP) and the boosting of the Mediterranean system of marine protected areas (MPAs) in line with the orientations of the (i) Post-2020 SAPBIO (ii) the regional strategy on marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and the global CBD targets. He also emphasizes that the projects achievements will serve to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices among the beneficially countries in view of their replication at both national and Mediterranean levels.

Agenda item 6: IMAP-MPA Project: Progress achieved since the last meeting of the Steering Committee

8. Mr. Philippe Théou initiated the presentation by the structure of the IMAP component of the project and its national and regional objectives. He thanked the work carried out during the project duration by regional experts and national authorities, through a collaborative approach to answer needs identified at national level.

9. Mr Yassine Ramzi SGHAIER, SPA/RAC IMAP Officer, recalled that the IMAP-related component of the project aims to contribute towards the achievement of the Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and coast through the monitoring and assessment of the IMAP common indicators, in MPAs and high-pressure areas, in a comparative and integrated manner.

The SPA/RAC IMAP Officer presented the progress achieved during the reporting period related to the implementation of the IMAP in the beneficiary countries including:

- National and Sub-regional levels : National experts from Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia were supported through the Small-Scale Fund Agreement (SSFA) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). A meeting took place in Tunis on 11 October 2022 with the Libyan experts, alongside a training workshop on reporting monitoring data into the IMAP Info System for Libya from 12-13 October 2022. The national experts responsible for implementing IMAP in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, and Israel actively participated in two sub-regional workshops: (i) the first workshop taking place in Athens on 7-8 March 2023; (ii) The second workshop also took place in Athens on 20-21 March 2023. In line with the MoAs signed between the Ministry of Environment in Libya and SPA/RAC, as well as ANPE and APAL in Tunisia and SPA/RAC, and in synergy with the EcAp MED III and Marine Litter II projects, national meetings were organized in Tunis on 7 and 8 December 2022.
- Regional level : A national list of Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) and regional/sub-regional NIS baselines have been prepared. The development of monitoring and assessment scales, criteria, thresholds, and baseline values for common indicators 1 and 2, focusing on benthic habitats, was presented at the CORMON meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries in Athens on 9 and 10 March 2023. Representatives from the IMAP-MPA project beneficiary countries received assistance to participate in CORMON meetings held in March and June 2023. During the Mediterranean symposia on marine vegetation, coralligenous, dark habitats, and non-indigenous species in Genoa, Italy, from 19 to 23 September 2022, the results of the assessment scales, criteria, thresholds, and baseline values for marine habitats and NIS were shared. Experts and scientists from the IMAP-MPA project beneficiary countries were supported in attending the symposia and presenting their national monitoring activities and preliminary results related to IMAP. To facilitate the implementation of the IMAP component for the Biodiversity cluster, a report is being updated by the regional biodiversity expert. The report includes an analysis of the national IMAPs and proposes the integration of national monitoring programs on biodiversity with the pollution and hydrography clusters.

10. Mr. Atef Limam, SPA/RAC MPA Officer, recalled that the MPA-related component of the Project aims at strengthening and further developing the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored MPAs, and presented together with Ms Asma Kheriji, SPA Programme Officer, the progress made so far, as follows:

- At regional level: the project supported (i) the organisation of the 3rd edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum and delivery of its Post-2020 MPA Roadmap, which is meant to be a tool to contribute to the implementation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) and in particular the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation

Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, and (ii) the elaboration of an active and transformative Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.

- At national level, the project has paved the way and led to:
 1. elaborate the national strategy for MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt
 2. elaborate the management plan of Rachgoun island in Algeria, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Labanon and Shash area in Libya. It led also to declarations of Shash MPA in November 2022 and Rachgoun island in April 2023.
 3. develop and implement a regional capacity-building programme with the organisation of two training courses as follow: 1. Training on management effectiveness and sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs that was held from 7 to 10 February 2022 online; and 2. Training on the socio-economic sustainability of Mediterranean MPAs that was held from 14 to 18 November 2022 in Gokova, Türkiye. Within these trainings, and in order to apply the knowledge gained during the training and to contribute to the effective management of their MPAs, several post-training activities were proposed by the different participant delegations, are currently being implemented.
 4. elaborate Integrated Socio-economic Programmes and communication strategies for Jbel Moussa (Morocco) and Kerkennah Islands future MCPA
 5. organize a scientific and technological immersion camp in Kerkennah in July-August 2022, engaging 53 children aged 9 to 13. The camp aimed to raise awareness, foster a sustainable approach, and involve local youth in the project to support the creation of the future MCPA.

11. The SPA/RAC Director recalled that The MedFund is supporting the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, which are the same beneficiary IMAP-MPA Project countries as well as some Adriatic countries, and that these countries could also benefit of their support.

12. The representative of Egypt, while thanking SPA/RAC for the work done, highlighted the great efforts and assistance provided for the successful and collaborative process to elaborate the National Strategy of MPAs in Med Egypt. He stressed the need to improve the procedural aspect related to logistics such as visa obtention, travel, reimbursements, etc. Also, he added that in terms of substantial aspect, further attention should be paid to the evaluation of the Project activities impact and capacity development of national teams.

13. The representatives of Morocco commended the efforts made to put in place the different project activities at both regional and national levels, and expressed the interest of Morocco to benefit from the education awareness activities targeting youth in the framework of the following project. She also added that it would be important to communicate on the project results at national and regional levels, including in the forthcoming Barcelona Convention COP23 in December 2023.

14. They highlighted the key outcomes of the IMAP-MPA project in Morocco, specifically focusing on the IMAP component. Firstly, the project facilitated the establishment of national governance for IMAP in Morocco, ensuring the country's ongoing commitment to the Barcelona Convention. Secondly, it fostered stronger collaboration among government institutions, the research community, and civil society. The project also contributed to Morocco's implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, particularly in monitoring IMAP indicators related to biodiversity, pollution, coastline, and hydrography. Moreover, it led to the development of a national information system platform that integrates IMAP Common Indicators and environmental indicators, aligned with sustainable development objectives and regional conventions. The project's support was crucial for the MED QSR 2023 by providing historical and newly collected data to the IMAP-Info system. Additionally, awareness-raising initiatives, including marine litter campaigns with NGOs and fisher-focused programs, were carried out. The project included an extensive capacity-building program, benefiting over 200 participants through 13 training modules.

15. They raised a number of issues related to data collection and data reporting and recommended to make the platform more friendly-user in order to facilitate data upload and emphasized the need to enhance and update the CI 15 related to Coast and Hydrography component to consider integration with

CI1 and CI 2 related to benthic habitats and to adapt the list of species and habitats monitored under IMAP to the context of the countries concerned.

16. In response to this request, SPA/RAC explained that the implementation of the IMAP-MPA project provided an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the IMAP information/system, as well as Data standards DS and Data dictionaries DD, within the national context. The feedback received and lessons learned from this project will serve as the foundation for the upcoming cycle of the EcAp roadmap.

17. Finally, a recall on the work undertaken by SPA/RAC since 2012 through the EU-funded MedMPAnet and MedMPA Network projects, the MAVA-funded MedKeyHabitats and NTZ/MPA projects has been made which led to set up a national roadmap to help Morocco establishing and boosting its national MCPAs network, where Jbel Moussa was identified as a priority area. An integrated management plan and a communication strategy were developed, along with concrete actions towards the effective management of the site, in synergy with initiative from other regional and local partners, such as The MedFund and GREPOM association.

18. The representative of Tunisia acknowledged the SPA/RAC support and highlighted the importance of the scientific camp and its indirect impacts on local sustainable economy, in particular related to the eco-tourism in Kerkennah. Besides, he underlined the importance of the post-training activities developed within the Capacity building programme, since it helps to implement the knowledge gained in the training courses, and to regain the trust of the local communities and in particular the locals, which are the main actors of the area. On another note, he highlighted the importance of the integrated socio-economic programme as well as the communication strategy both elaborated with the project activities, which would help to communicate on the role and benefits of the MPA.

Agenda Item 7: IMAP-MPA Project: Annual Work Plan and Budget

19. The Secretariat presented the detailed review of the workplan and budget until the end of the proposed extension of the Project as reflected in the document UNEP/MED WG. 524/3 “Annual Work Plan and Budget”.

20. Israel delegation requested the PMU to share additional information regarding budget allocation by country.

21. The project coordination unit took note of the steering committee's request and suggested to add the table to the final report.

22. The IMAP-MPA Steering Committee approved the proposal from the PMU to include the requested information in the 4th Steering Committee Meeting Report (UNEP/MEDWG.623/5), to be approved by the Steering Committee after the meeting as per UNEP/MPA rules

23. In addition to regional activities including all beneficiary countries, part of the IMAP-MPA project budget was allocated to countries for the implementation national specific activities as per project document.

24. The following table is providing the budget allocation by country for specific national activities, as per Add. 2 approved by the 3rd Steering Committee of the project:

Beneficiary Country	IMAP Component	MPA Component	Total USD
Algeria		80,741	80,741
Egypt	196,898	128,140	325,038
Israel	171,038		171,038
Lebanon	196,898	128,140	325,038

Libya	200,828	72,524	273,352
Morocco	211,123	124,089	335,212
Tunisia	156,813	148,564	305,377
	1,133,598	601,457	1,815,796

25. The document UNEP/MED WG. 524/3 “Annual Work Plan and Budget” was approved by the Steering Committee.

26. The Meeting’s final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 8: Review of the Communication during the project implementation

27. The Secretariat presented an updated version of the project communication and visibility progress (UNEP/MED WG.563/4) including specific information on its objectives and target groups, the regular communication activities, and the required resources. Special attention was provided by the Secretariat on the proposed innovative communication activities.

28. Israel asked to rectify the title of the Agenda Item 8, to be in line with the UNEP/MED WG. 524/4 “Communication and Visibility Plan”

29. Participants expressed the need to further explain the relevance and the impact of the Communication activities presented during the Steering Committee meeting, notably the international events attended. It was underlined that participation to international events is a tool of communication as it supports sharing best practices among the region.

30. One representative underlined the importance of Communication language used between stakeholders with different background as a key to have positive impact and share the data and results collected in the frame of project activities.

31. The Meeting’s final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 9: Synergies and Cooperation with other Projects and Initiatives

32. The Secretariat briefly presented the links with the EU-funded Projects, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II, as well as the MED Programme, which are coordinated by UNEP/MAP and MAP Components.

33. The Project Steering Committee welcomed the Secretariat’s efforts to coordinate and enhance the synergies between the projects in an effective manner.

34. The SPA/RAC Director recalled the current programme and initiatives that are being implemented by SPA/RAC ensuring synergy and complementarity with the IMAP-MPA Project such as the Post-2020 SAPBIO, the PAMEX initiative and The MedFund support.

35. Several participants highlighted also other initiatives and programmes such as the EU-funded ODYSSEA and ILIAD Projects.

36. The IMAP-MPA Steering Committee pointed out the importance of ensuring full complementarity among those projects and other related activities with a view to ensuring and providing enhanced and well-coordinated support to the project’s beneficiary countries. To this aim, it requested the UNEP/MAP Secretariat to pay necessary attention to ensure a high level of synergies and complementarities among these projects at national level, especially for future projects.

37. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

38. With the approval of the Steering Committee, a presentation regarding the Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH - Morocco) was made, to present this national institution mission and relevant programmes. The Moroccan authorities kindly invited all participants to the Steering Committee to visit the regional center of the INRH located in Tangiers after the closure of the IMAP-MPA Final Event on Thursday 13th July, as well as the proposed MCPA of Jbel Moussa.

Agenda Item 11: Conclusions and Recommendations

39. The Meeting reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations and adopted them as revised and presented in **Annex III** to the present report.

Agenda Item 12: Closure of the Meeting

40. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the IMAP-MPA project was declared closed at 17:05 on Wednesday, 12 July 2023 by the IMAP-MAP Project Manager.

Annex I

List of Participants

List of participants**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
REPRESENTANT.E.S DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

EGYPT / EGYPTE	<p>Mr. Mostafa Fouda Minister Advisor on Biodiversity Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Ms. Maha Moawed Abdelrahem Abdelrahman Director of Marine Pollution Control and Ports Affair Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Abass Elsayed Tahoon Director of the Department of Lakes Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Said Abdelwarith Attea Environmental Researcher Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)</p>
ISRAEL / ISRAEL	<p>Mr. Ran Amir Director Marine Environment Protection Division Ministry of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Mr. Simon Nemtsov Wildlife Ecologist and Head of International Relations Israel Nature and Parks Authority</p>
MOROCCO / MAROC	<p>Ms. Nassira Rheyati Head of the International Cooperation Division Directorate of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Mohammad El Bouch Director of the National Laboratory for Pollution Studies and Monitoring (LNEP) Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Ms. Naoual Zoubair Head of Coastal Unit Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p>

	<p>Mr. Reda Benhima Head of Unit / Biodiversity Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Kabriti Responsible for Micropollutant Analysis Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Abdeslam Abid Head of Water and Waste Pollution Analysis Unit National Laboratory for Pollution Studies and Monitoring (LNEP) Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Chaoui Expert 'Pollution and Marine Litter'</p> <p>Mr. Houcine Kasmi Engineer Multilateral Cooperation Unit Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Ms. Amina Cherki El Idrissi Chef de Service Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Ms. Bouchra Oujidi Head of Marchica Observatory / Antenne Nador-Driouch Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Ms. Salima Demnati Regional Director (Oriental) Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Ali Skalli Professor University of Mohammed I / Nador</p> <p>Mr. Hocine Nibani President AGIR</p> <p>Mr. Samir Benbrahim Head of Department National Institute of Fisheries Research (Institut National de Recherche Halieutique - INRH)</p>
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	<p>Ms. Rhimou El Hamoumi President of Research Group for the Protection of Birds (Groupe de recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux - GREPOM)</p> <p>Ms. Samia Bachiri Engineer National Park of Al Hoceima</p> <p>Mr. Mostapha Terhzaz Head of Observation Division Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Lahsen Chafiq Head of Laboratory National Institute of Fisheries Research (Institut National de Recherche Halieutique - INRH)</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Amrani Head of Unit Regional Direction of Environment Tangier, Tetouan, Al Hoceima Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Ms. Elihali Kaoutar Engineer Regional Direction of Environment Tangier, Tetouan, Al Hoceima Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr. Mustapha Benomar Researcher National Institute of Fisheries Research (Institut National de Recherche Halieutique - INRH)</p> <p>Ms. Asma Damghi Project Manager AGIR</p>
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	<p>Mr. Ahmed Ben Hmida Engineer Coastal Protection and Planning Agency / Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL)</p>

IMAP-MPA REGIONAL EXPERTS / *EXPERT.E.S REGIONAUX/ALES*

<p>REGIONAL EXPERTS / <i>EXPERTS REGIONAUX</i></p>	<p>Mr. Chedli Rais IMAP-MPA Team Leader of Regional Consultants</p> <p>Ms. Carine Pionetti IMAP-MPA Gender Expert</p> <p>Mr. Tomaso Fortibuoni IMAP-MPA Regional Consultant</p> <p>Mr. Elias Ntemian IMAP-MPA Final Evaluator</p> <p>Mr. Abdelhafid Chalabi Regional Expert on Biodiversity Consultant SPA/RAC</p> <p>Mr. Hocein Bazairi Professor University of Mohammed V / Rabat Regional Expert SPA/RAC</p>
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SECRETARIAT / *SECRETARIAT*

<p>UNEP/MAP – United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan</p> <p><i>PNUE/PAM – Programme des Nations Unies pour l’Environnement / Plan d’Action pour la Méditerranée</i></p>	<p>Mr. Philippe Théou IMAP-MPA Project Manager</p> <p>Ms. Polyxeni Kritsotaki IMAP-MPA Admin & Finance Assistant</p>
<p>SPA/RAC – Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre</p> <p><i>SPA/RAC – Centre d’Activités Régionales pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées</i></p>	<p>Mr. Khalil Attia SPA/RAC Director</p> <p>Mr. Atef Limam MPA Project Officer</p> <p>Ms. Asma Kheriji SPA Programme Officer</p> <p>Mr. Yassine Ramzi Sghaier IMAP Officer</p> <p>Ms. Samar Kilani</p>

	<p>IMAP Associate Officer</p> <p>Ms. Dorra Maaoui Communication Assistant</p>
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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda

Day 1

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the EU-IMAP-MPA final event
- Agenda Item 2:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work for the Best practices workshop on IMAP implementation and MPAs creation and management
- Agenda Item 3:** Best practices workshop on IMAP implementation and MPAs creation and management
- Agenda Item 4:** Closure of the Workshop

Day 2

- Agenda Item 5:** Opening of the 4th IMAP-MPA Steering Committee and Adoption of the Agenda
- Agenda Item 6:** IMAP-MPA Project: Progress achieved since the last meeting of the Steering Committee
- Agenda Item 7:** IMAP-MPA Project: Annual Work Plan and Budget
- Agenda item 8:** Review of the Communication during the project implementation
- Agenda item 9:** Synergies and Cooperation with other Projects and Initiatives
- Agenda Item 10:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 11:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 12:** Closure of the Meeting

Day 3

- Agenda Item 13:** High-level event for the closure of the IMAP-MPA project

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations of the

Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project

Tangier, 12 July 2023

1. The Fourth and final Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project took place in Tangier, Morocco, on 12th July 2023 at the kind invitation of Ministry of Energetic Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, UNEP/MAP and its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).
2. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) was attended by representatives of Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, SPA/RAC and regional thematic experts/consultants as observers.
3. The IMAP-MPA PSCM thanked the European Commission for the continuous support and contribution provided on issues related to IMAP implementation and strengthening MPA network effectiveness and sustainability in the Mediterranean.
4. Following the presentation by the Secretariat of the working documents prepared for the needs of the IMAP-MPA PSCM, their review and discussion (i.e., UNEP/MED WG.623/1 to UNEP/MEDWG.623/4), the IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Agenda Item 6: IMAP-MPA Project: Progress achieved since the last meeting of the Steering Committee

5. The IMAP-MPA PSCM, while commending the instrumental role of the IMAP-MPA Project in introducing the integrated implementation at country/pilot level of IMAP, coupled with enhanced MPA management, as well as delivering to the extent possible an integrated assessment; acknowledged the progress achieved during the reporting period.

Agenda Item 7: IMAP-MPA Project: Annual Work Plan and Budget

6. Regarding the Annual Work Plan and Budget (UNEP/MEDWG.623/4), one delegation requested the PMU to share additional information regarding budget allocation by country. The IMAP-MPA PSCM approved the proposal from the PMU to include the requested information in the 4th Steering Committee Meeting Report (UNEP/MEDWG.623/5), to be approved by the Steering Committee after the meeting as per UNEP/MAP rules. Based on this agreement, the annual workplan and budget as presented by the Secretariat in document UNEP/MED WG.563/3 was approved.

Agenda item 8: Review of the Communication during the project implementation

7. The IMAP-MPA PSCM reviewed and approved the updated Communication and Visibility Plan (UNEP/MED WG.563/4).

Agenda item 9: Synergies and Cooperation with other Projects and Initiatives

8. The IMAP-MPA PSCM welcomed the information provided by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat pertinent to the approved EU-funded projects EcAp-MED III and ML MED II, as well as the GEF-funded MED Programme.
9. The IMAP-MPA PSCM pointed out the importance of ensuring full complementarity among those projects and other related activities with a view to ensuring and providing enhanced and well-coordinated support to the project's beneficiary countries. To this aim the PSCM requested the UNEP/MAP Secretariat to pay necessary attention to ensure a high level of synergies and complementarities among these projects at national level, especially for future projects.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

10. With the approval of the PSCM, a presentation regarding the Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH - Morocco) was made, to present this national institution mission and relevant programmes. The Moroccan authorities kindly invited all participants to the Steering Committee to visit the regional center of the INRH located in Tangiers after the closure of the IMAP-MPA Final Event on Thursday 13th July.

Agenda Item 11: Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

11. It was agreed to disseminate the full draft report of the fourth IMAP-MPA PSCM, in French and English, to its members in 2 weeks at the latest (i.e., by 26 July 2023), for formal approval as appropriate by the PSCM.