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

Tangier, Morocco, 11-13 July 2023

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

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

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 European Union (EU) – the 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 UNEP/MAP Secretariat and implemented through its Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) and Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). It covers a period of 48 months starting in August 2019, with an overall budget of EUR 3,999,660 (USD 4,459,309).
3. The project includes very specific monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements and the present documents aims at highlighting them to all members of the Steering Committee. This document is an updated version of the working document UNEP/MED WG.478/4, approved by the 1st IMAP-MPA SC.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring Plan:

4. The Project will follow UN Environment standard processes and procedures and the General conditions of the agreement annexed to the agreement signed with the European Commission. Reporting is an integral part of the UN Environment Project Manager’s responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.
5. A progress and financial report together with a request of payment will be submitted to the contracting authority on a yearly basis. The progress report will have to cover the same period than the financial report. To this extent, progress and financial reports are expected to be prepared and timely submitted for the following periods:
 - a) August 2020 – August 2021;
 - b) September 2021 – August 2022; and
 - c) September 2022 – August 2023
 - d) September 2023 – August 2024.
6. To this extent it is very important to establish well-coordinated monitoring mechanisms between project’s implementing partners (i.e. SPA/RAC and the beneficiary countries). The yearly reports should be finalized by end of January of each subsequent year (e.g. for the Jan. – Dec. 2020 the report should be finalized by 31 January 2021). Implementing partners should be in a position to provide with a draft progress report by end of December of each year, and their workflows should be organized accordingly.
7. Every yearly report, whether progress or final, shall provide a complete account of all relevant aspects of the implementation of the Action for the period covered. The report shall describe the implementation of the action according to the activities envisaged in the description of the action as well the degree of achievement of its results (Outcomes and outputs) as measured by corresponding indicators. The report shall be drafted such a way as to allow monitoring of the objectives and the means envisaged and employed. The report will as well describe the problems encountered and the actions taken to overcome the difficulties.
8. The project will as well send intermediary 6 monthly narrative reports. Those reports should be simple and will serve as basis for coordination discussions with the Task Manager in charge of the project. This report should not be accompanied by a financial report. To this extent, intermediate 6 monthly reports are expected to be prepared and timely submitted for the following periods:

- a) April 2020; b) April 2021; c) April 2022; d) April 2023

9. The project management team will regularly communicate with project partners to follow up with them on project progress and relevant expenditures. Project partners will submit financial reports to the project manager based on the schedule outlined in the project documents agreed.

Evaluation

10. The evaluation of the progress of implementation of the project will be assessed based on the set of ambitious but realistic, Indicators, Baseline Values, and Targets as provided for under Section 9 “*Logical Framework*” of the project document, and Annex I to the present report.

11. The evaluation will use the indicators defined in the log-frame matrix as indicators on to what extent the project contributes to the global consensus and promotion of tools and training approaches, in striving towards global consensus.

12. Special attention will be drawn throughout the project implementation on the gender-balanced related indicators and relevant targets.

13. Most of project’s targets are spread towards the 23 of August 2023, namely:

- a) 7 National IMAPs;
- b) 2 countries reporting data related to IMAP indicators;
- c) One set of quality assured data per national/pilot IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online;
- d) 191 MPAs designed and included in the MPA network;
- e) MPA related GES assessments showing positive trends based on data collected in during the project in at least in 5 MPA;
- f) 5 trainings, workshops and exchange visits for 100 experts;
- g) Submission of quality assured data on IMAP implementation at national level for 7 countries;
- h) 18 workshops, national trainings;
- i) Minimum of 50 National experts from the beneficiary countries are trained on different aspects of IMAP;
- j) 7 needs assessment reports for the integration of biodiversity & NIS, and pollution and marine litter (including microplastics) and coastal hydrography, are submitted;
- k) 2-3 complementary studies to the national IMAPs showcasing integrated monitoring areas in and outside of MPAs;
- l) 7 national mechanisms are in place the submission of quality assured data to regional data platforms;
- m) 18 workshops, national trainings, dedicated trainings, country missions, ‘Train the trainers’, exchange of specific best -practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), assistance in monitoring protocols/policy developments, in line with national IMAPs and specific country needs;
- n) 2 regional best practices meetings;
- o) Minimum 50 experts trained proportionately in the different areas of expertise;
- p) 14-21 (2-3/country) designed and implemented integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas;
- q) 7 integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas;
- r) 7 sets of National data (i.e., at least one per country) and one data set per each selected indicator;
- s) Minimum 50 national experts trained for the implementation of the national integrated monitoring programmes;
- t) 14-21 new integrated monitoring stations, both in MPAs and high-pressure areas;
- u) 20 Contracting Parties having an MPA National Strategy/Action Plan;

- v) 1 national MPA policies prepared;
- w) MPA network (4 MPAs) established in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt;
- x) Minimum 20 trainings delivered directly through training workshops organized in Egypt for the MPA Network Strategy;
- y) Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas (300 participants) in the Mediterranean to pave the way for the post-2020 MPA agenda process in the Mediterranean;
- z) Strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs in line with the CBD post-2020 orientations;
- aa) 45 stakeholders/experts consulted for the post-2020 MPA agenda;
- bb) 14 new/existing MPAs receiving support for effective management;
- cc) 8 new/existing MPAs receiving support for strengthening their financial sustainability;
- dd) 3 MPA management plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context;
- ee) 3 MPA business plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context;
- ff) 3 consultation workshops for MPA management;
- gg) 90 stakeholders contributing to the management plans elaboration processes;
- hh) 3 complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps;
- ii) 3 complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies;
- jj) 3 training workshops are organized for improved MPA management;
- kk) 2 exchange country visits;
- ll) 2 case studies on MPA socio-economic benefits; and
- mm) 20 stakeholders involved in MPA management advisory committees.

14. With regards to project management, the following indicators have been established:

- a) 15 project indicators are observed in a regular way throughout the project implementation;
- b) 2 reports per year per country (per executing partner) throughout the project implementation;
- c) Percentage of budget expense against approved budget at half yearly basis; and
- d) 4 Steering Committee Meetings.
- e) 10 activities/actions that promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
- f) 6 staff trained on gender governance and management, disaggregated by sex, age and position
- g) 3 communication products with evidence of gender mainstreaming
- h) 100% of stakeholder consultations that are inclusive / gender-responsive
- i) 1 gender assessment report submitted

15. As part of the overall project management, UNEP MAP will conduct an independent final evaluation of the Programme that will cover all components. This final evaluation will be conducted towards the end of the implementation period and the evaluation report will be annexed to the final report of the project.

16. In May and June 2023, a ROM review was implemented by the DG NEAR. The project Management Unit, as well as beneficiary countries and local stakeholders were interviewed by the ROM expert. Conclusions and Recommendations will be attached to the final report of the project.

Annex I

Project Log-frame: Indicators, Baseline Values, Targets, Current Values (as per May 2023)

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Current value	Source	Assumption
Impact (Overall objective)	The Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean is strengthened through a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs.	1. Number of national IMAPs implemented	1. Baseline: 0 Countries 30 Jun 2019	1. Target: 7 national IMAP (7 Countries) 22 August 2023	6	1. Barcelona Convention Reporting System	N/A
		2. Number of countries reporting data related to IMAP indicators	2. Baseline: 0 Countries 30 June 2019	2. Target: 7 Countries 22 August 2023	4	2. IMAP InfoSystem (At least one set of quality assured data per country accessible for each chosen common indicator in the IMAP Info system)	
		3. Number of National quality assured datasets available online per national/site IMAP selected indicator	3. Baseline: 0 National quality assured data available online 30 June 2019	3. Target: Minimum one set of quality assured data per national/pilot IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online 22 August 2023	4	3. MAPMED database	
		4. Number of nationally designed MPAs included in the regional MPA network (Baseline: 186; Target: 5)	4. Baseline: 186 MPAs) 30 June 2019	4. Target: 191 MPAs 22 August 2023	191	4. Report on MPA status in the Mediterranean	
		5. MPA related GES assessments showing positive trends based on data collected in during the project	5. Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	5. Target: at least in 5 MPA 22 August 2023	3		

		6. Number of capacity building activities: trainings, workshops and exchange visits	6.Baseline: 0	6.Target: 5 trainings, workshops and exchange visits for 100 experts 22 August 2023	5	6. Trainings, workshops and exchange visits reports; Interim and final reports of the IMAP-MPA project	
Outcome 1	Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators	Number of mechanisms set up to submit quality assured data on IMAP implementation at national level	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Targets: 7 countries 22 August 2023	6	Country integrated biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes ; Barcelona Convention Reporting System; IMAP Info system ; Guideline documents	Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable
		Number of workshops, national trainings	Baseline: 11 30 June 2019	Targets: 18 22 August 2023	17		
		Number of experts benefitting from training on different aspects of IMAP	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: Minimum of 50 National experts from the beneficiary countries 22 August 2023	72		
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	Number of in depth needs assessment reports for the integration of biodiversity & NIS, and pollution and marine litter (Including microplastics) and coastal hydrography.	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Targets: 7 reports (One per country) 22 August 2023	7	Country integrated biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes ▪ Consultation workshops minutes ▪ Lists of participants ▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System	Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable

	data for the MED 2023 QSR	Number of complementary studies to the national IMAPs showcasing integrated monitoring areas in and outside of MPAs	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Targets: 2-3 per country depending upon the selected sites 22 August 2023	14		
		Number of mechanisms set up for the submission of quality assured data to regional data platforms	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Targets: 7 22 August 2023	6		
Output 1.2	Capacity building and exchange of best practice at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings	Number of workshops, national trainings. Dedicated trainings, country missions, 'Train the trainers', exchange of specific best - practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), assistance in monitoring protocols/Policy developments, in line with national IMAPs and specific country needs.	Baseline: 11 30 June 2019	Target: 18 22 August 2023	18	Guideline documents ▪ Training / workshop reports ▪ Exchange meeting reports ▪ List of participants	Political instability ▪ Change in country priorities ▪ Lack of commitment from countries ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas ▪ Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable
		Number of regional best practices meetings	Baseline: 1 30 June 2019	Target: 2 22 August 2023	1		

		Number of experts trained	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: Minimum of 50 experts trained proportionately in the different areas of expertise 22 August 2023	72		
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	Number of designed and implemented integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 14-21 (2-3/country, in line with IMAP, one or two in MPAs, and one in a high-pressure area) 22 August 2023	14	Integrated monitoring programmes reports ; Quality assured data National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards ▪ Bad weather conditions preventing from running marine field surveys
Output 2.1	Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for the agreed common indicators	Number of integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 7 22 August 2023	6	Integrated monitoring programmes reports ▪ Quality assured data ▪ National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards ▪ Bad weather conditions preventing from running marine field surveys
		National monitoring data uploaded in the IMAP Compatible Info System	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 7 sets of National data (i.e., at least one per country) and one data set per each selected indicator 22 August 2023	2		
		Number of national experts trained for the implementation of the national	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: Minimum of 50 national experts 22 August 2023	34		

		integrated monitoring programmes					
		Number of new integrated monitoring stations, both in MPAs and high-pressure areas	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Targets: 14-21 22 August 2023	14		
Outcome 3	Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Mediterranean countries	Number of Contracting Parties having an MPA National Strategy/Action Plan	Baseline: 19 30 June 2019	Target: 20 22 August 2023	19	The document of the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt; Barcelona Convention Reporting System; Info-MAP System ▪ SPA/RAC Focal Point Report	The concerned Contracting Party facilitates the elaboration of its MPA National Strategy/Action Plan
Output 3.1	Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast	Number of national MPA policies prepared	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 1 22 August 2023	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document of the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt ▪ Workshops/meetings reports/minutes/lists of participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country facilitates experts participation in field surveys in areas located in politically sensitive sectors ▪ Political instability ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some areas ▪ Long institutional porcedures
		An MPA network established in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.	Baseline: 1 30 June 2019	Target: 4 22 August 2023	1		
		Number of workshops/meetings and experts	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: minimum 20 people trained through training/consultation workshops 22 August 2023	- 3 training/consultation workshops - 36 stakeholders trained		

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	The Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is organised	Baseline: 2 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	3	Proceedings, Declaration and recommendations of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean ▪ List of participants to the 2020 Forum	High mobilisation and commitment of MPA stakeholders ▪ Lack of commitment from governmental bodies
		Number of participants to the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 300 which is representative and balanced proportionate of stakeholders (50% of stake holders policy makers) 22 August 2023	690		
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	A strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs in line with the CBD post-2020 orientations (and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean will be elaborated).	Baseline: 2 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	3	The strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs ▪ Responses to the consultation	▪ Key national and regional partners involved in the process ▪ Lack of responsivity to electronic consultations
		Number of consulted stakeholders/experts (Baseline: 0; Target: 45)	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 45 22 August 2023	45		
Outcome 4	Improvement of on-site MPA management and identification of mechanisms which	Marine areas under a) protection and b) sustainable management with EU support (km ²) (EU RF 2.22)	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target : 1376 km ² 22 August 2023	1376	▪ Management plans documents ▪ Business plans documents ▪ Barcelona Convention	Key national and local stakeholders involved in the manageemnt plans elaboration processes

	ensure MPA sustainability	Number of kilometer square of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems of new/existing PAs receiving support in view of an effective management (EU RF. 2.23)	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target : 54 km ² 22 August 2023	54	Reporting System ▪ MAPAMED database	
		Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support in view of an effective management	Baseline: 9 30 June 2019	Target: 14 22 August 2023	14		
		Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support for strengthening their financial sustainability	Baseline: 5 30 June 2019	Target: 8 22 August 2023	5		
Output 4.1	Elaboration of MPA management plans and provision of support for their effective implementation	Number of MPA management plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	0	Management plans documents ▪ Business plans documents ▪ consultation workshops minutes ▪ Lists of participants	Key national and local stakeholders involved in the management plans elaboration processes ▪ Political instability ▪ Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at

		Number of MPA business plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	0		<p>least in the beginning of the process ▪ Turnover of governmental staff</p> <p>▪ Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas</p>
		Number of consultation workshops	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	5		
		Number of stakeholders contributing to the management plans elaboration processes	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 90 22 August 2023	80		
		Number of complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	3		
		Number of complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	3		
Output 4.2	Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of	Number of training workshops	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 3 22 August 2023	3	Training workshops reports ▪ Exchange visits reports ▪ MPA socio-economic	Key local stakeholders involved in the MPA management
		Number of exchange visits	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 2 22 August 2023	2		

	management plan implementation	Number of case studies on MPA socio-economic benefits	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 2 22 August 2023	0	benefits case study reports Minutes of the MPA management advisory committees meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least in the beginning of the process ▪ Use conflicts between MPA stakeholders
		Number of stakeholders involved in MPA management advisory committees	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 20 competent authorities per country 22 August 2023	42 (22 in Morocco and 20 in Tunisia).		
Outcome 5	Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured	Number of project indicators observed in a regular way throughout	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 15 22 August 2023	15		
Output 5.1	Project management and coordination Project	Number of reports during implementation of project received	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: Minimum 2 per year per country per executing partner 22 August 2023	12		Steering committee reports - Yearly report - List of participants to the training and certificates
		Percentage of budget expense against approved budget	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target half yearly 22 August 2023	More than 50% budget associated to each year disbursed		
		Number of Steering Committee meetings held	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 4 (Annually) 22 August 2023	3		

		Number activities/actions that promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target : 10 22 August 2023	10	
		Number of project implementation staff trained on gender governance and management, disaggregated by sex, age and position	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target : 6 22 August 2023	6	
		Number of communication products with evidence of gender mainstreaming	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target : 3 22 August 2023	1	
		Percentage of stakeholder consultations that are inclusive / gender-responsive	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 100% 22 August 2023	100	
		Number of gender assessment report submitted	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 1 22 August 2023	1	