



# GPGC/ ENRTP UNEP Project Document Format

(updated and issued for use Jan 2015)

## Project Document

*Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD*  
*January 2015*

### Project Executive Summary:

The overall objective of this project is to support UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the ecosystem approach (EcAp) in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, the project seeks to support the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement the EcAp Roadmap agreed in Decision IG. 21/3, through assisting them in establishing new monitoring programmes in line with EcAp. This will enable for the first time a quantitative monitoring of the status of the Mediterranean sea and coast on a regional basis, covering biodiversity and non-indigenous species, coast and hydrography, and pollution and marine litter monitoring in an interlinked manner.

In addition, the project will address some specific challenges of the EcAp Roadmap implementation, strengthening science-policy interface, addressing sub-regional implementation needs, and responding to data and information challenges in the region.

The project covers the period of six semesters from October 2015-September 2018, with a budget of 2,675,000 EUR. It builds on the achievements of the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 EU-funded project and aims for potential co-financing both from the Mediterranean Trust Fund and other resources.

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### SIGNATURES

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Name of Subprogramme Coordinator:	<b>Review Signature</b> <i>(prior to project submission for PRC review):</i>
Name: _____	_____ Date: ____/____/20__
Name of Director of Division managing the Project:	<b>Review Signature</b> <i>(prior to project submission for PRC review):</i>
Name: _____	_____ Date: ____/____/20__
In Approval of the Project submitted by the above Director and Coordinator: UNEP Deputy Executive Director	<b>Approval Signature</b> <i>(following PRC review):</i>
	_____ Date: ____/____/20__

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>EcAp</b>	Ecosystem Approach
<b>MSFD</b>	Marine Strategy Framework Directive, 2008/56/EC
<b>GES</b>	Good Environmental Status
<b>PoW</b>	Biennial Programme of Work of the Barcelona Convention
<b>COP18</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
<b>EcAp-MED project 2012-2015</b>	EU (ENRTP) funded project on the “Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean by the Contracting Parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols”
<b>EcAp Roadmap</b>	Roadmap agreed in Decision IG. 21/3 at COP18, to implement the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean
<b>MTF</b>	Mediterranean Trust Fund
<b>Southern Mediterranean</b>	Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties applicable for GPGC funding as EU Southern Neighbourhood Countries
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>UNEP/MAP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan
<b>UNEP/MAP components</b>	UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Coordinating Unit (CU) and the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centres
<b>CU</b>	Coordinating Unit
<b>RACs</b>	Regional Activity Centres of UNEP/MAP
<b>MED POL</b>	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
<b>RAC/SPA</b>	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
<b>PAP/RAC</b>	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
<b>PLAN BLEU</b>	Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre
<b>INFO/RAC</b>	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
<b>REMPEC</b>	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
<b>GFCM</b>	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
<b>ACCOBAMS</b>	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
<b>MedPan</b>	Network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>UfM</b>	Union for the Mediterranean
<b>CIESM</b>	Mediterranean Science Commission
<b>Horizon 2020 Initiative</b>	The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution.

**SEIS**  
**SEIS project**

Shared Environmental Information System  
The ENP SEIS project aims to promote SEIS principles in the  
European Neighbourhood South and East regions.

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# 1 Project Overview

## Project Information

**Table 1: Required Project Information**

<b>Identification</b>	<i>Insert IMIS no.</i> <i>Insert PIMS no.</i>					
Project Title	<i>Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD</i>					
Division managing project	UNEP/MAP					
Project Manager and Org. Unit/Division <sup>1</sup>	New staff member to be hired	Level P3	UNEP/MAP CU	<i>Funding source [RB/EF/XB?]:</i>	Percent of staff time on project 100%, 36 months	New staff member
Project Assistant	New staff member to be hired	G5	UNEP/MAP CU	<i>Funding source [RB/EF/XB?]:</i>	Percent of staff time on project 100%, 21 months	New staff member
Other Members of Project team	New staff member to be hired	Biodiversity Expert local contract	RAC/SPA	<i>Funding source [RB/EF/XB?]:</i>	100% for 24 months	New staff member
	New staff member to be hired	Coastal expert Local Contract	PAP/RAC	<i>Funding source [RB/EF/XB?]:</i>	50% for 36 months	New staff member
	New staff member to be hired	IT expert	INFO/RAC	<i>Funding source [RB/EF/XB?]:</i>	50% for 24 months	New staff member
	Existing staff member	Knowledge management expert	Plan Bleu	<i>Funding source [RB/EF/XB?]:</i>	20% for 36 months	
Name of Supervisor of UNEP Project Manager <sup>2</sup>	Habib N. El Habr, Deputy Coordinator, UNEP/MAP					
Type/Location	Regional: Mediterranean, with a focus on Southern Contracting Parties					

<sup>1</sup> For a UNEP executed GEF project, indicate name of the project manager executing the project.

<sup>2</sup> For GEF projects, indicate name of UNEP Task Manager's (TM) supervisor. In the case of internally executed GEF Projects, both the TM's and the supervisor of the Project Manager (in the executing unit) should be indicated here.

Region	Africa				
	Europe				
			West Asia		
List Countries	Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a focus on Southern Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia <sup>3</sup> )				
Programme of Work	UNEP/MAP PoW, 2014-2015				
Subprogramme	<i>Insert name of subprogramme</i>				
Expected Accomplishment	The project will enable UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention to implement EcAp as the integrated implementation strategy of the Barcelona Convention legal framework and will assist Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to establish their respective monitoring programmes in line with EcAp, in synergy and coherence with the EU MSFD.				
Most relevant PoW Output to which Project primarily contributes <sup>4</sup>	1.2.4.- Ecosystem Approach implementation in the Mediterranean				
Date of UNEP clearance of concept or relevant Programme Framework	Concept note of project was approved by EC-UNEP Programme Steering Committee (9 December, 2014).				
Other Divisions/Regional Offices involved ( <i>any Division/Reg. Office named here must be shown also in the Project Delivery Plan and Budget section showing what budget and responsibility is accorded to the Div/Regional Office named here</i> )	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>
Name of External Executing Partners	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>	<i>Insert</i>

<sup>3</sup> Noting that currently assistance to Syria is suspended under this programme.

<sup>4</sup> Must be consistent with the Logical Framework

## Projected Duration and Budget Summary

**Table 2: Project Duration**<sup>5</sup>

Project start date: 2015	Planned completion date: 2018	Total duration in months: 36 months
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**Table 3: Budget Summary**<sup>6</sup>

TYPE OF FUNDING	SOURCE OF FUNDING	2015 (half)	2016	2017	2018 (half)	EUR Total	
<b>CASH BUDGET</b>	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)	142 500 EUR	TBC (see under)	TBC (see under)	TBC (see under)	142,500+TBC	
	Regular Budget activity budget						
	Extra budgetary Funding (posts + non-post costs)	Donor funding secured <sup>7</sup> GPGC	438,500	1,283,750	523,250	254,500	2,500000
		Programme Support Costs EC 7%	30,695	89,863	36,628	17,815	175,000
		<b>Subtotal secured XB funding</b>	611,695				
		<b>Unsecured XB funding<sup>8</sup></b>		240,000 (MTF)	340,000 (MTF)	120,000 (MTF)	700,000 <sup>9</sup>
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT CASH BUDGET (=EF or RB activity budget + Secured and unsecured XB funding)</b>	<b>611,695</b>	<b>1,613,613</b>	<b>899,878</b>	<b>392,315</b>	<b>3,517,500</b>	
<b>IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION</b>	Mediterranean Trust Fund/staff salaries <sup>10</sup>	77,100	154,200	154,200	77,100	462,600	
	<b>TOTAL UNEP IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>77,100</b>	<b>154,200</b>	<b>154,200</b>	<b>77,100</b>	<b>462,600</b>	
<b>TOTAL UNEP MANAGED PROJECT BUDGET (=PROJECT CASH BUDGET + UNEP IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION)</b>		<b>688,795</b>	<b>1,767,816</b>	<b>1,054,078</b>	<b>469,415</b>	<b>3,980,104</b>	
<b>COFINANCING CASH CONTRIBUTION<sup>11</sup></b>							

<sup>5</sup> The official start date and eligibility of the funds is at day of (a) EC approval or (b) DED signature

<sup>6</sup> A detailed project budget shall be provided as Annex 1.

<sup>7</sup> For GEF Projects, all funding has to be committed and confirmed by co-financing letters from co-financers at PRC stage and shall be divided between cash and in-kind contributions.

<sup>8</sup> i.e. funding still to be mobilized

<sup>9</sup> Calculations are based on the estimated amount of undertaking the organization of one EcAp Coordination Group Meeting, three Correspondence Group Meetings on Monitoring annually, next to an additional possible pilot in another sub-region, not covered by this project. Please note that the meetings are part of the COP18 approved EcAp governance structure, which are financed fully from 2016 on, by the MTF.

<sup>10</sup> Includes staff time of 5% D1 Coordinator, 10% P5 Deputy Coordinator, 5% of Financial Officer, 20% MED POL Programme Officer, 20% MED POL Monitoring Officer, 35% of Administrative Assistant, 10% of Financial Assistant from the side of the Coordinating Unit and part-time support from regular budget post cost from Plan Bleu.

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<b>COFINANCING BASED ON PARTNERS IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION</b>					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>688,795</b>	<b>1,767,816</b>	<b>1,054,078</b>	<b>469,415</b>	<b>3,980,104</b>

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<sup>11</sup> Funding from a donor to a partner which is not received in UNEP accounts but is used by a UNEP partner or collaborating centre to deliver the results in a UNEP-approved project



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## 2 Project Justification

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For the past forty years, the Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols have represented the political and legal framework for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas in the Mediterranean region.

The ecosystems approach (**EcAp**) is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have engaged into the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Mediterranean, with the ultimate objective to achieve a Good Environmental Status (**GES**) of the Mediterranean Sea

As stated in Decisions IG.17/6, IG.20/4 and IG.21/3 and in the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention biennial Programme of Works (**PoWs**), EcAp is the overarching principle of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, and is being integrated in all of its policies and activities.

The implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (**MSFD**, 2008/56/EC) by the EU Member States in the region presents crucial opportunities and needs for the application of EcAp throughout the Mediterranean region ensuring that the MSFD and EcAp mutually strengthen and build on each other, without duplication of activities and obligations, with the common ultimate aim to achieve GES of the Mediterranean Sea and coast.

The relevant Contracting Parties decisions reflect the wish to strengthen cooperation and seek synergies with EU initiatives such as the Water Framework Directive and the MSFD to achieve a shared vision of “*a healthy Mediterranean with marine and biological ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations*”.

### Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention regarding the Ecosystem Approach

Through **Decision IG.17/6** the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have committed to progressively apply EcAp to the management of human activities with the goal of effecting real change in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. Decision IG.17/6 outlines a roadmap for the implementation of EcAp, consisting of several subsequent steps, such as the development of ecological objectives, operational objectives and respective indicators, the development of GES descriptors and targets, monitoring programmes, and finally the necessary management measures and programmes to achieve GES.

**Decision IG.20/4** on “Implementing the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap”, following up on Decision IG.17/6, validated the work done so far regarding the 11 ecological objectives, operational objectives and indicators for the Mediterranean. It also mandated the Secretariat to prepare an EcAp Monitoring Programme, to determine GES and targets and to prepare an in-depth socio-economic analysis of human activities that impact on, or benefit from, the quality and ecological health of coastal and marine ecosystems. Finally, it asked to integrate EcAp in the overall work of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and mandated the Secretariat to establish an EcAp governance framework.

As most relevant milestone of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (**COP18, 2013**), **Decision IG.21/3** on the “Ecosystem Approach including adapting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets” expresses the agreement on regionally common targets, lists of indicators to achieve GES in the Mediterranean, and an integrated list of Mediterranean GES, targets and indicators. Furthermore, a specific roadmap (**EcAp Roadmap**) was also agreed as part of this decision on how to achieve an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme by the next meeting of the Contracting Parties and based on this, how to ensure a common basis of assessment for the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. The same decision also welcomed work on the socio-economic assessment and endorsed the EcAp governance framework, next to further highlighting the importance of EcAp as the guiding principle for the work of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention.

A specific timeline was adopted in the COP18 EcAp Roadmap, on how to develop an Integrated Mediterranean Monitoring and Assessment Programme by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and how to implement it, following the 6 year EcAp cycles structure (with second EcAp cycle in the Mediterranean of 2016-2021) and with giving additional flexibility and time for capacity building during the initial phase of implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (2016-2019).

Furthermore, the Contracting Parties agreed, in line with the COP18 EcAp Decision and the recommendations of the Integrated EcAp Correspondence Group on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.3940/4), to base the initial phase of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, on a list of common indicators.

In the context of the Barcelona Convention a common indicator is an indicator that summarizes data into a simple, standardized and communicable figure and is ideally applicable in the whole Mediterranean basin, but at least on the level of sub-regions and is monitored by all Contracting Parties. A common indicator is able to give an indication of the degree of threat or change in the marine ecosystem and can deliver valuable information to decision makers.

The Common indicators agreed, which are at the core of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme:

1. Habitat distributional range (EO1);
2. Condition of the habitat’s typical species and communities (EO1);
3. Species distributional range (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles);
4. Population abundance of selected species (EO1, related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles);
5. Population demographic characteristics (EO1, e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles);
6. Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (EO2, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species);
7. Concentration of key nutrients in water column (EO5);
8. Chlorophyll-a concentration in water column (EO5);
9. Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7);
10. Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures (EO8);
11. Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater);

12. Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9);
13. Occurrence, origin (where possible) extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9);
14. Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood (EO9);
15. Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards (EO9);
16. Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);
17. Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor (EO10);
18. Candidate Indicator: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds and marine turtles (EO10);
19. Candidate Indicator: Coastal ecosystems and landscapes

The EU -funded project on the “Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean by the Contracting Parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols” (**EcAp-MED project 2012-2015**), with its 1,7 million EUR budget was instrumental in the implementation of the decisions described above.

The EcAp-MED project 2012-2015, next to strongly contributing to the achievement of the above policy deliveries, especially in relation to the development of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean, has also created great ownership in between the Contracting Parties for EcAp, as showcased at COP 18, where the Contracting Parties agreed to co-finance the EcAp-MED project for 2014-2015 with 440,000 EUR (i.e. dedicating almost 1/4 of the activity budget of the Mediterranean Trust Fund (**MTF**) for that biennium to EcAp).

#### Synergies and coherence with progress under the MSFD

Eight Contracting Parties that are EU Member States have the obligation to implement the MSFD, with the same objective as EcAp, i.e. to achieve GES in the Mediterranean Region. In addition, the EU MSFD indicates a clearly defined role for Regional Sea Conventions (**RSCs**) in its implementation, and highlights the importance of promoting cooperation of Member States with and through the RSCs.

While the country-specific assistance included in the current project does not cover European or candidate countries, MSFD relevant policy and scientific developments will be taken into account during the project implementation to ensure consistency. At the same time, all Mediterranean, i.e. not only Southern Mediterranean countries will be encouraged to participate in the various activities on a no-cost to the project basis.

#### Synergies and interlinkages with SEIS project

While both the SEIS project and the EcAp-MED project cover and follow certain indicators, the SEIS project only covers the area of pollution and litter, while the EcAp-MED project also covers biodiversity, NIS, coast and hydrography.

Furthermore, the indicators of SEIS are pressure based indicators, while the EcAp indicators are state indicators. Thus, the SEIS indicators are the most relevant in the areas of measures and the

EcAp indicators are the most relevant in relation to the establishment of monitoring and assessment.

The only EcAp common indicator, which is currently covered by the Horizon 2020 set of indicators is the nutrient concentration, but only in coastal waters. Thus the EcAp project activities will cover in relation to this indicator only the monitoring of this indicator behind coastal zone.

Since in the framework of the Horizon 2020 project, in the beginning of the next year, the update of the set of Horizon 2020 indicators may take place, the Annual Work Plans of the projects will need to specifically reflect on how to work jointly together, in areas of common interest after an agreement has been reached on possible new SEIS indicators (especially if some of the new SEIS indicators, will use EcAp indicators).

### Objective

The objective of this project is to support UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the EcAp Roadmap in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the EU MSFD.

With the ultimate objective of achieving GES of the Mediterranean Sea, the project seeks to support the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement the EcAp Roadmap agreed in Decision IG. 21/3, through assisting them in establishing new monitoring programmes in line with EcAp.

In addition, the project will address some specific challenges of the EcAp Roadmap implementation, strengthening science-policy interface, addressing sub-regional implementation needs, and responding to data and information challenges in the region.

## 3 Project Statement & Approach

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### Project Statement<sup>12</sup>

This project will enable UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention to implement EcAp as the integrated implementation strategy of the Barcelona Convention legal framework and will assist Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to establish their respective monitoring programmes in line with EcAp, in synergy and coherence with the EU MSFD.

### Project Approach

This project builds on the relevant Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, especially on IG. 21/3, which describes key steps, timeline needed to be fulfilled, to achieve GES in the Mediterranean, as well as on the achievements and challenges identified during the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 project implementation.

The project is not meant as a follow-up phase to current work on EcAp Programmes of Measures. The latter covers a wider area of issues involving the whole work of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and will be followed up separately by the Secretariat as part of its future programme of work in cooperation with other partners, relevant projects, and possible Global Environment Facility (GEF) financing.

The project proposal has been developed in close cooperation and with synergies taken into account with other relevant projects in the region (specifically SEIS), as well as with other UNEP Regional Seas EcAp related proposals.

In light of the above, the proposed EcAp MED 2015-2018 project aims to address challenges related to EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean, with a focus on integrated monitoring and assessment in the Southern Mediterranean, taking into account different country and sub-region specificities and the need for stronger science-policy interface. Possible replication from 2018 on, and co-financing options both from the MTF and potentially other donors are likely and desired options for the future as they would strengthen the project outcomes. However their non-availability will not risk project outputs.

**In order to address the challenges related to the next steps of EcAp Roadmap implementation in an integrated manner, the project proposes four key activities (outputs) and five key outcomes, as follows:**

#### **Output 1: Progress in the implementation of EcAp new monitoring requirements in selected countries in the Mediterranean (2015-2018)**

The Secretariat is currently undertaking an initial capacity assessment on a regional level, analyzing Southern Mediterranean implementation needs, which already shows key gaps in current monitoring and the planned EcAp monitoring. A more focused country capacity assessment is to be undertaken in the second half of 2015 under this project, when the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean will be already in its final stage. This will be followed up by detailed consultations with interested countries on specific capacity needs and finally by specific capacity building activities, in order to ensure that implementation of the Integrated Monitoring Programme and its new elements

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<sup>12</sup> Typically, the Project Objective is the Project Statement.

(biodiversity, non-indigenous species, hydrography and coast) will be more even in the Mediterranean basin from 2016 on.

***In light of the above, the following planned activities will be undertaken under Output 1, in the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia):***

- 1- Identify specific country capacity needs in the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties, in order to implement EcAp monitoring requirements, based on country-capacity assessments and follow-up bilateral consultations (Output 1.1., ie one country capacity needs analysis/Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party, by end of 2015/early 2016, undertaken in an integrated manner, by the CU)

Under this task, in addition to desk work, missions to the Contracting Parties and outreach both with country experts and high levels are foreseen, with a strong focus on Contracting Parties needs.;

- 2- Draw up country-specific EcAp monitoring implementation plans (One per Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party), with a focus on the additional elements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme , with the participation of all Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties (Output 1.2, by end of 2016/early 2017, undertaken by respective components, i.e. in relation to EcAp common indicators on pollution and litter by MED POL-REMPEC, in relation to biodiversity and NIS by RAC/SPA, in relation to coast and hydrography by PAP/RAC, under the overall management of the CU, who will also integrate the three stream-lines of work to the final national Monitoring and Assessment Implementation Plans);

Under this task, in addition to desk work, missions to the Contracting Parties and outreach both with country experts and high levels are foreseen, with a strong focus on Contracting Parties needs.

- 3- Build capacity through guideline developments, trainings, and exchange of specific best practices based on country capacity needs (Output 1.2., 2016-2017, undertaken by respective components, i.e. in relation to pollution and litter by MED POL-REMPEC, in relation to biodiversity and NIS by RAC/SPA, in relation to coast and hydrography by PAP/RAC, under the overall management of the CU;

Country-specific trainings are to be tailored to main thematic groups of common indicators, based on which monitoring will be performed. Monitoring manuals (based on country capacities and needs) will support the formation of national practices.

Aim is to develop at least one monitoring manual/cluster/country and minimum three training sessions/country (also based on country needs and interest).

- 4- Exchange best practices and lessons learnt between countries participating in this component, possibly also candidate, potential candidate and EU countries on non-cost basis and follow-up at regional level (Output 1.3., ie best practices meetings, minimum 2 and compilation analysis based on meetings undertaken, in an integrated manner, by the CU);

The project will facilitate the flow of experience reached within and beyond the region to optimize implementation of monitoring in the Mediterranean. A guiding document will compile knowledge gathered, which will be discussed in regional setting (undertaken, in an integrated manner, by the CU).

- 5- Analyze funding options for technical assistance at country level, to ensure further support of the EcAp Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme continuation all over the basin (Output 1.4., by end of 2017, undertaken, in an integrated manner, by the CU).

A funding strategy is foreseen to be undertaken in an integrated manner (**EcAp Funding Strategy**, Output 5), with a focus on activities and on sub-regions that cannot be financed under this project. Main aim of the analysis under the EcAp Funding Strategy under Output 1 will be to assist Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to follow-up on the implementation of their country specific monitoring implementation plans (One Country-specific Funding Strategy to be developed/participating Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party, undertaken by the CU).

**Note on link with other projects/operational monitoring activities:**

*In relation to other operational monitoring activities and projects:* During the implementation of activities foreseen under Output 1, as described above, it will be important to ensure link with various other ongoing monitoring frames, including experimental ones, data collection related projects and activities in the region and ensure that their outcomes will be also reflected in the regional long-term Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme and in case they are timely, also in the country specific EcAp monitoring implementation plans. Please see more on this point under science-policy interface.

*In relation to the H2020 Initiative and SEIS project<sup>13</sup>:*

The key target areas of capacity-building will be those that are additional under EcAp monitoring and which are not covered by the current set of Horizon 2020 set of indicators<sup>14</sup> (biodiversity, non-indigenous species, coast and hydrography and *Horizon 2020 not covered areas i* of pollution and litter).

At the same time, coherence will be ensured in between the project and the H2020 Initiative, especially SEIS project in order to avoid duplication, to reflect SEIS principles in the work of the project and to reflect EcAp principles/monitoring needs in H2020 capacity building.

The Annual Work Plans of the Project will be consulted, in line with the above with the SEIS project team.

**Output 2: Establishment of sub-regional cooperation in EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean region**

In light of the challenge to address sub-regional cooperation, as described above, as a first step, the output focuses on one sub-region and at the end of the project aims to mirror achievements in other sub-regions.

The activities under this output aim to include all Contracting Parties (including EU Member States) of the specific sub-region as well, but on a non-cost basis.

***In line with the above, planned activities under Output 2:***

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.h2020.net/the-h2020-initiative.html>

<sup>14</sup> The only EcAp common indicator, which is covered by the Horizon 2020 set of indicators is the nutrient concentration in coastal waters. Thus the EcAp project activities will cover in relation to this indicator only the monitoring this indicator beyond coastal zone. Since in the framework of the Horizon 2020 project, in the beginning of the next year, the update the set of Horizon 2020 indicators may take place, in the Annual Work Plan of the project, cooperation and ensuring potential overlapping with the future SEIS indicators will be specifically addressed.

- 1- Identify a sub-region with most interest in EU Southern Neighbourhood (Output 2.1, by end of 2015/early 2016, undertaken by the CU);
- 2- Establish sub-regional EcAp expert groups on three EcAp sub-clusters (biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and litter, coast and hydrography), to identify sub-regional specificities, both in relation to monitoring and assessment (Output 2.2., during 2015-2016, undertaken by respective components, i.e. in relation to pollution and litter by MED POL-REMPEC, in relation to biodiversity and NIS by RAC/SPA, in relation to coast and hydrography by PAP/RAC, under the overall management of the CU);
- 3- Carry out specific sub-regional pilot testing joint monitoring activities in selected area (Output 2.3., during 2016-2017, to be undertaken by that specific component, which is responsible for area which will be selected by the sub-region's Contracting Parties as a sub-regional pilot testing focus, i.e. in case it is pollution and litter, MED POL-REMPEC, in case it is biodiversity and NIS, RAC/SPA, in case it is in case it is coast and hydrography, PAP/RAC);
- 4- Develop a sub-regional EcAp implementation plan for monitoring, with sub-regional GES and targets identified (Output 2.4., during 2017-2018, undertaken in integrated manner by the CU based on outcome of activities 2-3, undertaken by specific components);
- 5- Identify lessons learnt, draw up possible replication scenarios for other Mediterranean sub-regions, laying out various funding options (Output 2.5., during 2017-2018, undertaken in an integrated manner, by the CU).

Based on results from all the above activities, a model for replication will be built and cost of applying such frame to the different sub-regions and regions will be addressed in the EcAp Funding Strategy.

In addition, link between Outputs 1, 2 and 3 will be ensured, exchanging lessons learnt and key developments in between national monitoring plan developments, sub-regional experience and relevant science-policy interface outcomes (please see more on this latter as well, under the "Note on interlinkages between Outputs 1-4").

### **Output 3: Stronger Ecosystem Approach related science-policy interface in the Mediterranean**

Science-policy interface needs to be pursued from the beginning, i.e. from the stage of scientific project development. In order to do this, the Secretariat of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention is actively participating in relevant project developments and cooperates with other relevant initiatives in the region, such as the EU Joint Research Centre Competence Centre<sup>15</sup> (MCC) providing research and scientific support to the implementation of the MSFD.

However, the need for channeling new scientific input/guidance to specific, based on emerging policy questions and ensuring the efficient use of scientific outcomes and existing knowledge in a rapid manner is a specific challenge for the Mediterranean region.

In order to progress on and implement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme on a regional basis, it will be an absolute necessity to ensure links with various other ongoing monitoring frames and projects, EU initiatives (such as MCC), including projects with experimental and data collection related activities (such as IRIS –SES<sup>16</sup>). In addition, it will be key to ensure that their outcomes will be also reflected in the regional Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme and in case they are timely, also in the country specific EcAp monitoring implementation plans.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.py>

<sup>16</sup> <http://iris-ses.eu/>



A recent Biodiversity Scientific Workshop, co-organized by UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and the PERSEUS<sup>17</sup> project showcased that in case of targeted pre-defined questions, based on clear policy needs and identified scientific gaps, the various (mainly EU FP7) research projects could give specific needed input into the EcAp policy process and with this also overcome in certain cases capacity and knowledge gaps in non-EU countries.

Output 3 thus aims to build on this experience and on the knowledge brokering concept developed by the STAGES project<sup>18</sup>, in order to strengthen the policy-science interaction in relation to EcAp in the Mediterranean region. Practical recommendations to improve interfaces between EU research projects and policy-making provided by the FP7 SPIRAL project on Science Policy Interfaces (SPI) between biodiversity research and policy<sup>19</sup> and the 2012 EC report entitled “Assessing and Strengthening the Science and EU Environment Policy Interface”<sup>20</sup> will be considered, namely: Reinforce the strategic dialogue; Recognize that good interface are resource intensive; Make scientist aware of how policy work; Consider establishing science-policy platforms; No one-size-fits-all SPI and Identify areas of research needing long-term support.

In this context Output 3 aims to ensure that the outcomes and ongoing work of the various relevant research projects in the region can be effectively channeled into the policy discussions taking place under the Barcelona Convention and that these projects can have an impact on the regional level, beyond the EU.

In addition, to ensure that scientific projects will address monitoring challenges in the region, the output also aims to highlight key policy challenges in relation to monitoring, where scientific input is necessary. As such, it will also make the scientific community more aware of policy needs and challenges.

***In line with the above, planned activities under Output 3:***

- 1- Based on the identification by Contracting Parties of key science and policy gaps relevant to EcAp, organize Scientific Workshops on a regional basis, targeting specific areas that were identified by Contracting Parties, with pre-defined questions and by harnessing existing knowledge and MSFD/EcAp-related relevant scientific projects (Output 3.1., during 2015-2018, 2 workshops foreseen per year, undertaken by Plan Bleu and CU in cooperation with all components and under the overall management of the CU);

These scientific workshops will allow exchanging information in between science and policy and will enable scientific projects to actively input policy debate with data and scientific developments.

- 2- Reflect relevant scientific recommendations and results in the documents prepared by the Secretariat (for example in its EcAp Assessment Fact Sheets, State of Environment Reports) and peer-review the planned draft State of Environment Report by the scientific experts (Output 3.2., during 2016-2018 undertaken by Plan Bleu and CU in cooperation with all components and under the overall management of the CU);
- 3- Follow-up with targeted communication material, ensuring further knowledge sharing and specific scientific input both to the development of national work (monitoring implementation plans), sub-regional and regional policy-development (Output 3.3., 2016-2018, with the estimate

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.perseus-fp7.eu/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.stagesproject.eu/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.spiral-project.eu/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://bookshop.europa.eu/fr/assessing-and-strengthening-the-science-and-eu-environment-policy-interface-pbKH3112590/>

of 4-5 communication material, targeting a specific scientific area, undertaken by Plan Bleu and CU in cooperation with all components and under the overall management of the CU).

**Output 4: EcAp related data-management, including quality assurance is established/ strengthened in the Mediterranean**

The ongoing H2020 and SEIS projects have gathered commitment to SEIS principles in the area of pollution. However, data-management in the region continues to present challenges. These relate to the actual implementation of the SEIS principles in the EcAp framework, especially in relation to the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the EcAp common indicators related data quality and coherence, especially in relation to additional monitoring and assessment, data-collecting, sharing, and quality assurance requirements..

In addition, the additional data management needs of EcAp present new challenges for UNEP/MAP, since the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme will also require new streams of data collection, assessment and management at the regional level. Next to the new data-management tasks, coherence between the various reporting requirements (both inside UNEP/MAP, and in between and other Regional Sea Conventions, EU, other international bodies, such as General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean-GFCM) will also need to be strengthened and will need additional resources.

Activities under this Output will be coordinated with Eionet and the future SEIS project (phase II ENP SEIS project)

***In line with the above, planned activities under Output 4:***

- 1- In cooperation with SEIS project, ensure that SEIS principles can be applied to the reporting obligations (and reporting formats) applicable to Contracting Parties under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with a focus on additional areas of monitoring of the EcAp common indicators (Output 4.1., 2015-2018, in relation to pollution and litter, with a focus on additional areas, not covered by SEIS, undertaken by MED POL-REMPEC, in relation to biodiversity and NIS undertaken by RAC/SPA, in relation to coast and hydrography undertaken by PAP/RAC, in cooperation with INFO/RAC, under the overall management of the CU).

These reporting formats will build on existing practices under UNEP/MAP reporting, as well as of other regional practices (under EU, other RSCs).

Under this activity, analyses of SEIS principles usage for new monitoring areas will be undertaken, both in relation to pollution and litter (in areas not covered by the SEIS project), in relation to biodiversity and NIS and in relation to coast and hydrography.

The state of play of existing data sets, relevant for the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme will be reviewed both on national and on regional level.

As a result of the analysis, reporting formats will be prepared to ensure that Contracting Parties can undertake in an efficient manner their reporting under the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, on the basis of the agreed EcAp common indicators. During this activity, consistency will be analyzed and ensured with other reporting systems (including EU and other Regional Seas relevant reporting systems).

- 2- Develop quality assurance programmes for data reporting and collection to enable adequate assessment of the collected data in areas which are additional under the Integrated Monitoring

and Assessment Programme, based on the EcAp common indicators (Output 4.2, during 2016-2018, undertaken by the respective components, ie by MED POL-REMPEC in cooperation with H2020/SEIS project in relation to pollution and litter, by RAC/SPA in relation to biodiversity, non-indigenous species and by PAP/RAC in relation to coast and hydrography, in cooperation with INFO/RAC and under the overall management of the CU);

The specific quality assurance activities will mainly aim to support to inter-calibration exercises necessary for the assessment of the EcAp common indicators, including those related to pollution and litter, as appropriate (in cooperation with SEIS project in areas of common interest).

Additional quality assurance activities may include based on Contracting Party needs and interest:

-Update (in case of areas where methodologies already exist, such as pollution) or draft (in new areas, such as coast for example) monitoring and assessment methodologies, practical guides, in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme;

- Draft Quality Assurance Programme for the new areas of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

- Integrate the methodologies, quality assurance requirements developed into trainings, capacity buildings on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme implementation (undertaken under Output 1).

Based on the future Annual Work Plan, to be developed in cooperation with the SEIS project team, joint trainings, workshops, intercalibration exercises, as appropriate could be foreseen.

- 3- Undertake a Mediterranean specific assessment (user need analysis) on how to further develop the UNEP/MAP InfoMAP platform in line with other regional data-management platforms/reporting obligations, with inter-operability and capable data-management system and develop based on this a pilot information and data system for EcAp (Output 4.3., by mid-2016, undertaken by INFO/RAC, in cooperation with all components, under overall management of CU);
- 4- Build specific partnership with the GFCM and other partners ensuring that relevant data collection can be shared within the EcAp process through establishing a Joint Strategy regarding this, building on existing Memorandum of Understandings (Output 4.4., 2015-2018, undertaken by CU, in cooperation with all components);
- 5- Based on data collected through the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, assess GES through collected monitoring data per ecological objective and in an integrated manner, to be reflected in the State of Environment Report in 2017 (Output 4.5., 2016-2017, undertaken by CU, in cooperation with all components, building on best practices of UNEP/MAP, EU and other RSCs);
- 6- Assess funding opportunities and create further partnerships, for a continued support of the EcAp process in the Mediterranean, regarding data management and quality assurance (Output 4, 2015-2018, undertaking a specific analysis on this in an integrated manner by the CU, feeding into the Funding Strategy).

***Note on interlinkages between Outputs 1-4:***

Outputs 1-4 strongly build on each other and it is the overall responsibility of the CU, as part of the management of the project to ensure that they strengthen each other, based on the following:

- While Output 1 activities will target specific countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), with the aim to develop country-specific implementation plans and undertake country-specific capacity buildings, key links will be ensured between this Output and (i) Output 2, in relation to showcasing Output 1 relevant ongoing work in the sub-regional coordination activities; (ii) Output 3, by sharing the science-policy communication material and other relevant outputs from Output 3 with the participating Contracting Parties of Output 1 during the specific country level development of the monitoring implementation plans and capacity-building activities; (iii) Output 4, both in relation to using data and information developed under Output 1, which will be reflected in the State of Environment Report in 2017 and in relation to ensuring that the country level monitoring implementation plans will be developed in line with foreseen data-sharing structure and principles of SEIS, with the usage of specific methodologies, quality assurance programmes developed under output 4.
- Output 2, while sub-regional in nature, will be benefitting from activities undertaken under Output 1 (as described above) and will take into account outcomes, ongoing work under Output 3 on science-policy interface, while will give input to activities undertaken under Output 4, showcasing the sub-regional specifics.
- Output 3, while regional in nature, will be channeled into the national and sub-regional work of Output 1 and 2. In addition, it will give strong and substantially support the activities undertaken under Output 4, especially in relation to the development of the State of Environment Report 2017. It will aim to address capacity, data and information challenges and gaps in the Initial Phase of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, aiming to input the State of Environment Report with relevant outcome of scientific projects in areas where monitoring data/information is not available yet.
- Output 4, while regional in nature, will be channeled into the national and sub-regional work of Output 1 and 2 (in relation to structure and principles of data-collection, quality assurance to be followed). In addition, it will greatly benefit from the support of Output 3, especially in relation to the development of the State of Environment Report, as described above.

While noting the above, the Project Manager will also ensure that these interlinkages are well reflected in the Annual Work Plans of the Project and followed during the project implementation. In addition, s/he will also aim for mutual support with other relevant regional, international policies, initiatives and projects such as the EU MSFD, the MCC, Horizon 2020 and its' SEIS project and other relevant scientific projects providing research and scientific support to the implementation of the MSFD/EcAp .

**The outputs arising from the above activities, aim to achieve the following project outcomes:**

### **Outcome 1**

- 1.1. EcAp monitoring starts in the Mediterranean basin in 2016, with strengthened capacities in new areas of monitoring, such as biodiversity in the Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighborhood countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia);
- 1.2. Monitoring reports/data are received by the Secretariat in time, enabling the 2017 quality assessment report to be undertaken;
- 1.3. Country-specific analysis is undertaken on further and diversified funding opportunities, for technical, on the ground assistance for countries, who need additional technical assistance (by end of 2017).

### **Outcome 2**

- 2.1. Demonstration of Joint Monitoring and integration of results into the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme;
- 2.2. Sub-regional cooperation is strengthened regarding MSFD/EcAp implementation (EU countries participating on no-cost basis) and replicable activities are identified..

### **Outcome 3**

- 3.1. EcAp regional science-policy gaps analysis;
- 3.2. Communication material on key results of relevant ongoing science projects are presented to Contracting Parties for their usage in their national EcAp implementation.
- 3.3. EcAp regional science-policy gaps are presented and consulted with scientific community, to make sure that they are aware of the policy relevant scientific issues, which need to be addressed by future research projects.
- 3.4. As part of the Funding Strategy, funding opportunities analyzed for strengthening the knowledge brokering concept on a regional basis.

### **Outcome 4**

- 4.1. The country-specific monitoring implementation plans, following the EcAp common indicators, include SEIS principles.
- 4.2. Second State of Environment Assessment developed with input from the project in 2017;
- 4.3. Data-Management Partnership with GFCM and other regional partners results in data sharing programmes, avoiding proliferation of reporting requirements and duplication.
- 4.4. Pilot EcAp data-management and information sharing system is developed;
- 4.4. As part of the Funding Strategy, an analysis of the funding opportunities for further data management strengthening in the Mediterranean.

### **Outcome 5**

- 5.1. EcAp Funding Strategy is developed, and communicated both to donors and Contracting Parties, analyzing both regional, sub-regional and national resource mobilization opportunities, with a focus on areas which cannot be financed by the current project, with the aim to enable efficient co-financing and replication of the project (ie in relation to (i) Output 1, country-based funding strategies developed, on how to get support for the monitoring implementation plans, next to replication potential analyzed of Output 1; (ii) Output 2, funding strategy to duplicate the results of Output2 in other sub-regions; (iii) Output 3, funding strategy to analyze further strengthening the science-policy interface in the Mediterranean on a regional level; (iv) Output 4, funding strategy to analyze further funding opportunities for strengthened data-management on a regional level).

### ***Note on interlinkages between Outcomes 1-5:***

Outcomes 1-5 are strongly connected and it is the overall responsibility of the CU, as part of the management of the project to ensure that they strengthen each other, especially in relation to the following points:

- Outcomes 1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.2 are fully followed-up, integrated in the Second State of Environment Assessment (Outcome 4.2);
- Outcomes 3.1-3.2 and 4.1 are integrated into the work leading up to Outcomes 1.1-1.2 and 2.1-2.2.;
- Outcomes 4.2. and 4.4. strongly builds on outcomes 3.1.-3.2 next to outcomes 1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.2;
- Outcome 5.1 integrates analyses undertaken under Outcomes 1.3, 2.3, 3.4 and 4.4.

## Resource Mobilization Strategy for the project:

*For projects without full funding, describe how the project will mobilize resources during implementation for the project and should full funding not materialize there should also be a documented strategy that enables a scaled down project.*

In order to ensure further resource mobilization, the project has a specific delivery, the so-called EcAp Funding Strategy, which, with a focus on areas which cannot be financed by the current project (will analyze co-financing options from an early stage of the project, as well replication potential during the last year of the project.

The Funding Strategy as a final result of the project, will build on and integrate the specific Funding Strategies, analyses carried out in relation to the four different outputs.

As such, in relation to Output 1, it will analyze support options for the country level monitoring implementation plans, as well as the replication potential of activities undertaken under Output 1. In relation to Output 2, it will focus on analysis of replication potential to other sub-regions of the project outcome, while in relation to Outputs 3 and 4 it will analyze funding options to strengthen the follow-up to the outcomes under these two outputs.

As such, the EcAp Funding Strategy will both analyze funding options for technical assistance at country level (2015-2017, by specific country level funding strategies developed by end of 2017), funding options for replicating the sub-regional project (during 2017-2018) and funding opportunities to create further partnerships, for a continued support of the EcAp process in the Mediterranean, regarding science-policy interface, data management and quality assurance on a regional level (2016- 2018).

## National or Regional Relevance

### Regional Focus

The commitment by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea to the Ecosystem Approach signals recognition of the immense value of the region's seas and coasts, and the singular importance of promoting resources that allow for sustainable use.

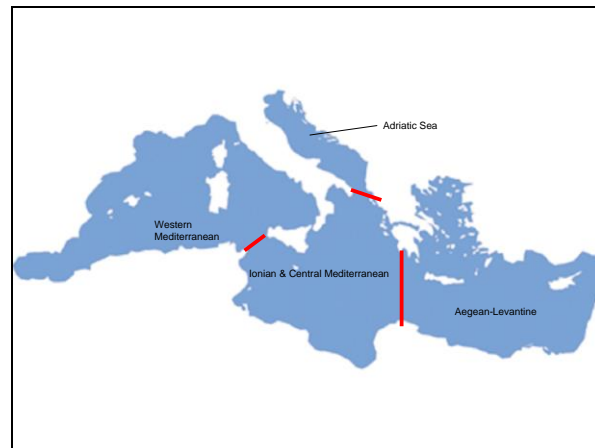
Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems are at risk, and as a result, so too are the communities and countries that border the basin. However, the Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention and its 7 associated Protocols offer an excellent foundation for coordinated and effective management of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas.

The Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Ecosystem was completed in 2011 as part of the road map for the application of EcAp. It presents the region as a conglomerate of linked coastal and marine ecosystems, with many shared resources, species and common approaches to both environmental monitoring and management.

While the integrated assessment was undertaken on the basis of four sub-regions, the overview of the sub-regions, taken together with a review of literature on Mediterranean ecology overall, suggests that commonalities may be more pervasive than are differences between sub-regions.

Common to all regions is the recognition that certain coastal and marine habitats deliver extremely valuable ecosystem services that benefit all Mediterranean inhabitants. These multiple services are provided by a wide range of natural habitats, and include not only fisheries resources and tourism values (things for which economic values can be ascertained relatively easily), but also waste assimilation, medium for transport, ability to buffer land from storms, and maintaining ecological balances that make life on Earth possible.

The characteristics of each sub-region are described briefly below.



The Western Mediterranean sub-region has a high level of industrialization and coastal development-related habitat loss and alteration in this region – especially on the north coasts. Tourism drives much of the coastal development and pressure on resources, and tourism is behind much of the degradation of coasts and near-shore waters. In addition to the physical alteration of the environment and the degradation caused by pollution and loss of key habitats, growth in tourism and urbanization drive increasing pressure on resources, including freshwater (limiting availability in wetlands and estuaries and increasing the need for desalination, with its attendant pollution impacts) and fisheries. In the southern portion of this sub-region, population growth along the coast has led to degradation from sewage inputs and run-off. Maritime industries, including shipping, energy development, and aquaculture also degrade the environment and impact biodiversity, causing localized pollution as well as broader impacts on the delivery of ecosystem services due to trade-offs.

The Central Mediterranean and Ionian sub-region experiences some of the same pressures and drivers, though the major impacts are somewhat different from the western Mediterranean, in part because of the differing physical characteristics of this sub-region. There is no direct exchange with waters of the Atlantic, and in contrast to the wide open basin of the western sub-region, the central sub-region has complex bottom topography and numerous straits through which water masses and species pass. Coastlines are generally not as highly developed as in the Western Mediterranean, though urbanization is a factor in some localized areas. Fishing is a major pressure on species and ecosystems, both due to over-exploitation and incidental catch or by-catch, and due to the use of destructive fishing methods, including dynamite fishing, bottom trawling, and destructive removal of deep corals. Shipping pressures are concentrated in the straits between the African continent and the southern Sicilian coast, and nutrient over-enrichment from sewage and run-off puts the southeastern portion of this subregion at risk of hypoxia.

The Adriatic Sea is a semi-enclosed sea within a semi-enclosed sea; given its limited water exchange, agricultural inputs and urbanization along its western flank, and its relative shallowness, eutrophication is a major issue. Although point source pollution by toxic contaminants has been largely controlled and toxic pollution is confined to a few localized industrial areas, run off and inadequately treated sewage continues to upset the nutrient balances of the narrow sea, leading to algal blooms, mucilages, and spreading hypoxia. Climate changes may be exacerbating the impacts of these pressures, as well as compounding the effects of invasive species in the sub-region. Fisheries over-exploitation is also identified as a pressure, especially in the northern reaches of the central Adriatic. Yet despite the pressures, the Adriatic Sea is remarkably diverse and productive, with a variety of ecosystems providing valuable ecosystem services. Tourism is important to the region, as are fisheries. The Adriatic is also noteworthy in that several of the countries within this sub-region have been exploring ways to coordinate research and management, setting the stage for a facilitated movement towards an ecosystem approach.

The Eastern Mediterranean sub-region is perhaps the least known of the four sub-regions delineated for the initial assessment. This sub-region is also very diverse in large-scale biodiversity: extensive archipelagos exist in the north, while a wide shelf with alluvial sediments is found around the Nile Delta to the south. The coastline and bottom topography is highly varied, as are the human uses of coasts and seas. While all the pressures that exist throughout the Mediterranean are found within this sub-region as well, invasive species and climate change are the top issues of concern. Spreading hypoxia and lowered water quality result from untreated sewage inputs, desalination effluents, and urban run-off. The trends in water quality, invasive species spread, and tropicalization from climate change have not yet devalued this sub-region. The northern portion remains one of the primary coastal tourist destinations in the world, and coastal communities throughout the region continue to depend on marine resources.

The project aims to assist the implementation of EcAp in the regional level, but with one activity planned on sub-regional level and with a special focus on the Southern Mediterranean, where challenges are most complex and where specific country-assistance capacity needs are to be addressed.

It will lead to strategic activities across the Mediterranean at three different levels: 1) at the basin level, ensuring that key challenges of EcAp implementation are overcome (such as data/information and science-policy interface); 2) at the national level, with Southern Mediterranean countries being assisted to implement the EcAp Roadmap, with a focus on monitoring; and 3) at the sub-regional level, where sub-regional expert coordination and joint monitoring will enhance sub-regional cooperation and will address sub-regional specificities.

While the core of the project is assisting Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties (EU Southern Neighborhood, from now on **Southern Mediterranean**)<sup>21</sup>, in establishing monitoring and assessment programmes (Output 1) there will be a specific sub-regional component undertaken to ensure that sub-regional specificities can be channeled into the regional process (Output 2).

The specific sub-region where the project activities will be carried out will be identified based on Contracting Parties' interest, noting that country-level support will be only provided to Southern Mediterranean Countries (other Contracting Parties in the sub-region will be encouraged to participate on a no-cost basis).

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<sup>21</sup> GPGC Funding is available to Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties only, not to Balkans and not to Turkey (ie to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia and after lifting of suspension, Syria).



The science-policy interface and the data and information system will be strengthened on a regional basis, covering the whole of the Mediterranean. However, as mentioned above, country assistance will be given to Southern Mediterranean countries in the context of this project.

## Stakeholder Analysis and roles

UNEP/MAP relies on and has close ties with numerous internal and external stakeholders who are instrumental in ensuring the ongoing success of initiatives and resource efficiency approaches. Challenges to effectively engaging partners and stakeholders include accurately identifying the issues on the table, credibility of the process, impartiality of facilitation and coordination body and vision and commitment of key stakeholders. To avoid problems related to the complex and controversial nature of wide stakeholder engagement, different level of engagement will be established: low that involves of exchange of ideas and perceptions through consultative seminars and interviews with objective to contribute inputs to the process, medium that requires proactive participation in meetings and workshops, and high which is based on key stakeholders engagement also in management of the process.

Specific Stakeholder groups vary from project to project, however an encompassing representation includes:

- **Government decision-makers at national and local levels** - representatives from the beneficiary country ministries of environment, fishery as well as relevant general directorates
- **Scientific community** - expertise of researchers from universities, consultants as well as technical staff based in the regions
- **Civil Society** - most notably non-governmental organizations (NGOs), play a crucial role in society by raising awareness of important issues and linking society with decision makers in both government and the private sector. Due consideration will be given to work with professional association on issues of their mandate and concern such as fishery and aquaculture communities.
- **International Institutions** - global initiatives and institutions incorporating experts and representatives from government, business and industry.
- **Other Regional Seas Conventions around Europe (OSPAR, HELCOM, Bucharest Convention)**
- High level of engagement will be pursued with the following bodies:

- **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)**

Consisting of 23 Member countries along with the European Union, the GFCM's objectives are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters. It plays a key role in the implementation of the Ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean. The GFCM has the authority to adopt binding recommendations for fisheries conservation and management in its Convention Area and plays a critical role in fisheries governance in the Region including its authority for the creation of fisheries restricted areas (FRA) in open seas, including deep seas.

- **The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)**

ACCOBAMS is a cooperative tool for the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. It is an Agreement of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Its purpose is to reduce threats

to cetaceans in Mediterranean and Black Sea waters and improve our knowledge of these animals.

- **MedPAN**

MedPAN is the network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean. The objective of the network is to improve the effectiveness of marine protected areas management in the Mediterranean. The MedPAN network today counts over 59 members, mainly managers of marine protected areas from the entire Mediterranean basin, and 36 partners that are keen to contribute to the strengthening of the network. Its members and partners are mostly public organisations (67 organisations out of 95), the remaining members and partners are private or international organisations. They manage more than 100 marine protected areas representing more than 63% of the total of Mediterranean MPAs effectively managed (national parks, marine parks, Natura 2000 at Sea sites, regional parks, and many more designations), and are working towards the creation of several new sites”.

- **The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN**

Founded in 1948 as the world’s first global environmental organization, IUCN is today the largest professional global conservation network and a leading authority on the environment and sustainable development. It embraces more than 1200 member organizations including 200+ governmental and 900+ non-governmental organizations. It is a neutral forum for governments, NGOs, scientists, business and local communities to find pragmatic solutions to conservation and development challenges. IUCN is being very active in supporting gatherings and exchanges to aid improving governance of the Mediterranean.

- **The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)/Secretariat of the UfM**

The Union for the Mediterranean is a multilateral partnership aiming at increasing the potential for regional integration and cohesion among Euro-Mediterranean countries. The Union for the Mediterranean is inspired by the shared political will to revitalize efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean was created by 43 Euro-Mediterranean Heads of State and Government in 2008, with the mandate to identify, process, promote and coordinate regional projects, which are in line with the principles and rules of international law, and that enhance and strengthen cooperation and positively impact the lives of citizens.

- **CIESM**

The Mediterranean Science Commission, with headquarters in Monaco, has grown from the eight founding countries of its origin to 23 Member States today. These support a network of several thousand marine researchers, applying the latest scientific tools to better understand, monitor and protect a fast-changing, highly impacted Mediterranean Sea. Structured in six committees and various taskforces, CIESM runs expert workshops, collaborative programs and regular congresses, delivering authoritative, independent advice to national and international agencies.

The Commission integrates a broad spectrum of marine disciplines, encompassing geo-physical, chemical and biological processes, along with high-resolution mapping of the sea-bottom. CIESM involves researchers from all shores of the Basin in its activities.

- **Horizon 2020 Initiative/ SEIS project**

The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution. Horizon 2020 was endorsed during the Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in November 2006 and is one of the key initiatives endorsed by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) since its launch in Paris in 2008.

The ENPI-SEIS project under the framework of the Horizon 2020 Initiative aims to promote the SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System) principles in the ENP regions (South and East), through the development of national and regional environmental information systems in line with the EU approach.

- **Other regional level initiatives, EU MSFD and Horizon 2020 Programme EcAp relevant scientific projects**

New scientific projects are emerging currently under various financing instruments of the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework (mainly under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, so called Horizon 2020 Programme) , with specific relevance to the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and more specifically with close links to EcAp implementation. It will be key to closely engage these projects, scientific undertakings, especially under the policy-science interface project component.

## **Partnership Analysis**

UNEP is committed to close cooperation with other UN offices and divisions, as well as with key inter-agency networks and external partners. An extensive external partnership base already exists amongst academics, organizations, universities, governments, IGOs and NGOs. The Project incorporates a range of partners both specific and broader depending on the deliverables and scope of the project.

MED POL and UNEP/MAP's regional activity centres (RACs) will play a critical role in the implementation. The following MAP components will be implementing agencies of the project, as part of the UNEP/MAP system:

### **MED POL Programme (Coordinating Unit, Greece)**

The MED POL Programme (the marine pollution assessment and control component of MAP) is responsible for the follow up work related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (1980, as amended in 1996), and of the dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols. MED POL assists Mediterranean countries in the formulation and implementation of pollution monitoring and assessment programmes, as well as pollution control measures, including drafting of action plans aiming to eliminate pollution from land-based sources.

In addition, MED POL also serves as a co-chair of the H2020 group on monitoring and is a partner in SEIS II project implemented by the European Environmental Agency.

### **Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), France**

The Plan Bleu is an international centre which, in the framework of regional cooperation, is entrusted with producing information and knowledge along with drawing up scenarios for the future in order to alert the decision makers and stakeholders to the challenges facing the Mediterranean countries as well as to assist in the decision making process in matter of environmental issues and sustainable development.

Plan Bleu has developed a recognized experience in science policy interfaces through several recent research projects (Pegaso, PERSEUS).

### **Specialty Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Tunisia**

SPA/RAC focuses on marine and coastal biodiversity and is involved in the protection of Mediterranean species, their habitats and ecosystems. It is responsible for the follow up work related to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (1995), It further implements the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region (2003), develops management plans, information tools for monitoring, and promotes awareness campaigns and the circulation of information among specialists and relevant international organisations including NGOs.

### **Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta**

REMPEC's objective is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2005 which key objectives and targets are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The Centre also assists the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol. REMPEC is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

### **Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia**

PAP/RAC contributes to sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources. In this respect, PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of Article 4(i) of the Barcelona Convention, meeting their obligations under the ICZM Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 2005, and by carrying out, in particular, the tasks assigned to it in Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

### **Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO-RAC), Italy**

INFO-RAC is mandated to establish InfoMAP, the common information management infrastructure to facilitate and support information and communication activities across MAP and to contribute to collecting and sharing information, raising public awareness and participation and enhancing decision-making processes at the regional, national and local levels.

## **Other Socio-Economic Issues and Environmental Safeguards**

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.

The first principle of Ecosystem Approach states that the objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choices. Different sectors of society view ecosystems in terms of their own economic, cultural and societal needs. Indigenous peoples and other local communities living on the land are important stakeholders and their rights and interests should be recognized. Both cultural and biological diversity are central components of the ecosystem approach, and management should take this into account. Societal choices should be expressed as clearly as possible. Ecosystems should be managed for their intrinsic values and for the tangible or intangible benefits for humans, in a fair and equitable way.

The management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level. Decentralized systems may lead to greater efficiency, effectiveness and equity. Management should involve all stakeholders and balance local interests with the wider public interest. The closer management is to the ecosystem, the greater the responsibility, ownership, accountability, participation, and use of local knowledge.

Management interventions in ecosystems often have unknown or unpredictable effects on other ecosystems; therefore, possible impacts need careful consideration and analysis. This may require new arrangements or ways of organization for institutions involved in decision-making to make, if necessary, appropriate compromises.

Recognizing potential gains from management, there is usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context. Any such ecosystem-management programme should:

- Reduce those market distortions that adversely affect biological diversity;
- Align incentives to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- Internalize costs and benefits in the given ecosystem to the extent feasible.

The greatest threat to biological diversity lies in its replacement by alternative systems of land use, which may hamper the poverty eradication efforts.

The changing land use often arises through market distortions, which undervalue natural systems and populations and provide perverse incentives and subsidies to favour the conversion of land to less diverse systems.

Often those who benefit from conservation do not pay the costs associated with conservation and, similarly, those who generate environmental costs (e.g. pollution) escape responsibility. Alignment of incentives allows those who control the resource to benefit and ensures that those who generate environmental costs will pay.

Conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services, is a priority target of the ecosystem approach. Ecosystem functioning and resilience depends on a dynamic relationship within species, among species and between species and their abiotic environment, as well as the physical and chemical interactions within the environment. The conservation and, where appropriate, restoration of these interactions and processes is of greater significance for the long-term maintenance of biological diversity than simply protection of species.

The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales. The approach should be bounded by spatial and temporal scales that are appropriate to the objectives. Boundaries for management will be defined operationally by users, managers, scientists and indigenous and local peoples, with a special emphasis on gender.

Recognizing the varying temporal scales and lag-effects that characterize ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term. Ecosystem processes are characterized by varying temporal scales and lag-effects. This inherently conflicts with the tendency of humans to favour short-term gains and immediate benefits over future ones.

The ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity. Biological diversity is critical both for its intrinsic value and because of the key role it plays in providing the ecosystem and other services upon which we all ultimately depend. There has been a tendency in the past to manage components of biological diversity either as protected or non-protected. There is a need for a shift to more flexible situations, where conservation and use are seen in context and the full range of measures is applied in a continuum from strictly protected to human-made ecosystems

The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices. Information from all sources is critical to arriving at effective ecosystem management strategies. A much better knowledge of ecosystem functions and the impact of human use is desirable.

### **Gender Analysis**

The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines. Most problems of biological-diversity management are complex, with many interactions, side-effects and implications, and therefore should involve the necessary expertise and stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international level, as appropriate.

Traditionally women are key actors in livelihoods directly linked to natural resources. Due to their roles in daily life, they have a unique understanding of the natural resources. By improving the quality of the ecosystems and their resilience, the project outcomes will have direct or indirect positive impacts on socio-economic life, health and social inclusion of women. Gender sensitive indicators and sex disaggregated data will be provided when possible.

Gender considerations will be consistently taken into account, in line with relevant UN guidelines all through the project implementation.

The project implementation, in line while following the relevant UN gender guidelines, will pay special attention to the impact of the project on gender equality, including in relation to the link of pollution impacts, biodiversity loss impacts on women and the role and inclusion of women scientists, relevant advocacy groups.

Moreover, the principles of the internationally recognized information tools, to be promoted within this project, will ensure that gender imbalances are considered and addressed. This will be linked to the international agreed development goals and intergovernmental commitments towards gender equality

### **Environmental Rule of Law**

*Analyse how the project contributes to fair, effective and transparent governance arrangements at the levels of project intervention and the rule of law. Describe any potential impacts or opportunities that could result from this project related to the development and/or implementation of environmental laws and regulations – including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), human rights, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information in environmental matters.*

The project is a pioneer in between UNEP administered Regional Seas Conventions to implement the ecosystem approach through a region-wide agreed common monitoring and assessment system, which will enable for the first time a quantitative analysis of the State of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

While undertaking these activities, as well as applying SEIS principles to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme's implementation, it is contributing to more transparent environmental governance in the region, with experience that will be able to replicated in other Regional Sea Conventions (MEAs).

## **Cost-effectiveness**

*Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the project, stating how this project provides value-for-money.*

The project aims to build on the existing structure of UNEP/MAP, as well as on existing commitments of the Contracting Parties, maximising existing resources and addressing specific gaps, based on the experience of the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 project.

Under its main component (output 1), it will assist Contracting Parties, based on country capacity assessments and will have focused trainings, capacity-building activities carried out based on specific country needs.

The sub-regional component (output 2) of the project aims to establish joint monitoring in an area, which is selected by the Contracting Parties of the sub-region, with this not only establishing stronger sub-regional cooperation, but also more cost-effective monitoring practice.

In addition, through building on the experience and knowledge of the relevant scientific projects undertaken in the region (output 3) , it will ensure a stronger science-policy interface and save resources in Contracting Parties and in the Secretariat, with using outcomes of already existing scientific projects, whenever possible.

At the same time, it will make the scientific community aware of scientific challenges of policy development and with this shape a more timely input of scientific projects to regional policy development, which will be not only a more timely, but also a more cost-effective approach.

The application of SEIS principles and building of the necessary data and information platform will be done based on an analysis not only of regional needs, but also of interoperability with other Regional Sea's and other regional data-collection and management systems, with this ensuring that no duplication will be created to Contracting Parties.

## **Project Sustainability Strategy**

*Describe what approach the project will use to ensure its outcome is sustainable showing clearly how:*

- 1. the stakeholders will have necessary capacity (human, knowledge and skill sets) to sustain the benefits of the project*
- 2. the stakeholders will have the necessary financing mechanism to continue work that requires an injection of funds;*
- 3. the stakeholders will maintain the institutional support needed to maintain the project benefits*

*As part of the sustainability discussion describe the project's exit strategy*

In order to achieve Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea, there is a need for region-wide ownership and implementation efforts. While ownership can be showcased for EcAp already by the fact that it became an integral part of the work of UNEP/MAP from 201 on, with currently 440,000 EUR of

activity budget devoted to its implementation during 2014-2015 PoW (out of which, 144,500 is foreseen to be spent in between June-December 2015 and is a co-financing to this project), the need for strengthening implementation efforts of COP decisions is key for achieving the overall aim of the project, which is also the core focus of the EU MSFD, i.e. to achieve Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea.

Noting the above, it is foreseen that while the next PoW of UNEP/MAP will devote again substantial activity budget to the implementation of the next steps of the EcAp Roadmap, with a special attention to implement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, further support will be also necessary to Southern Mediterranean countries to fully implement their country-specific monitoring implementation plans (Output 1).

In this sense, the project Output aims to assist Contracting Parties in the Southern Mediterranean to implement the COP Decisions, in relation to EcAp and to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment more specifically and the outcomes of the project will be channelled into the regional process under UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention.

In addition to ensure long-term sustainability, the project aims to ensure that ownership for EcAp will continue and grow, through the country-targeted specific capacity building and that the UNEP/MAP system will be able to implement the next steps of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (through strengthened science-policy interface, sub-regional cooperation and EcAp Information and Data system).

Furthermore, it aims to assess future funding options for EcAp implementation. Noting that the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme will continue to be a challenge for the Southern Mediterranean Countries, the project has a specific delivery, the EcAp Funding Strategy, which will analyze both on regional and on national level future funding options, with a focus on the one hand on country-specific funding strategies to assist participating Southern Mediterranean countries implementation efforts and on overall analyze project replication potential and further funding options for follow-up to the project outcomes, to support foreseen MTF funding.

As such, the EcAp Funding Strategy will both analyze funding options for technical assistance at country level (by end of 2017), funding options for replicating the sub-regional project (during 2017-2018) and funding opportunities to create further partnerships, for a continued support of the EcAp process in the Mediterranean, regarding data management and quality assurance (2015- 2018).

## **Project Replicability and Mainstreaming Strategy**

*Describe what activities the project will use to ensure that the approaches/methods/toolkits that it may use are upscaled by partners. Describe which partner agencies UNEP will work with during this project and how UNEP will catalyze their support in replicating the use of products from this project in their own regular work. Describe the project strategy to ensure that the partners would have the funding and institutional means to undertake such upscaling.*

The project is a pioneer in UNEP administered Regional Seas Conventions to implement the ecosystem approach through a region-wide agreed common monitoring and assessment system, which will enable for the first time a quantitative analysis of the State of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.



While undertaking these activities, as well as applying SEIS principles to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme's implementation, it is contributing to more transparent environmental governance in the region, with experience that will be able to replicated in other Regional Sea Conventions (MEAs).

In addition, its specific sub-regional component (output 2) is unique, as it will, for the first time in the Mediterranean region, foresee sub-regional joint monitoring activities. The outcomes of the project will aim to be replicated to other sub-regions in the Mediterranean and potentially in other Regional Seas.

By early 2018, a model for replication will be built and cost of applying such frame to the different sub-regions and regions will be addressed in the EcAp Funding Strategy.

## **Public Awareness, Communications Strategy**

*Describe how the project and its results will be communicated and how results will contribute to further enhancement of global environmental benefits. State the role of DCPI in delivering the communication strategy for this project.*

*If **publications** are planned, state the provisional titles, product types, subjects included. Also state the proposed dissemination format, language/s of proposed publication, purpose and justification of publication, target audience, added value, the publication cost, and peer review plan/process.*

Communication and public awareness raising will be a key component of the project, with various publications foreseen, next to continuously highlighting outcomes of the project to Contracting Parties in relevant UNEP/MAP events, to the scientific community (at planned Science-Policy Meetings and at relevant Conferences, Meetings).

Regarding Output1, a publication is planned on strengthened national implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, based on key outcomes of this activity and exchange of best practices.

Regarding Output2, a publication is planned on key outcomes of the sub-regional cooperation and of the sub-regional joint monitoring.

Regarding Output 3, various publications are planned, on relevant topics of the science-policy interface (topics to be proposed by Contracting Parties, based on the science-policy gap analysis, as described under Output 3).

These publications, which will be an input from the scientific community to the policy dialogue, will be distributed in the relevant regional and sub-regional meetings (ie EcAp Coordination Group, Monitoring Correspondence Group Meetings, sub-regional cooperation meetings) next to the meetings on country level, with Output 1 participant countries, in order to ensure early reflection of results, both in the national monitoring implementation plans, in the relevant country-level capacity-building activities and in the sub-regional, regional policy development.

Regarding Output 4, one key outcome of the output will be the implementation of SEIS and the development of the EcAp pilot data and information system, thus by these, by itself, will strengthen information and communication exchange with interested stakeholders.

As a final outcome of the project, a specific communication material is planned, to highlight key outcomes of the project.

In addition, both the project officer and the Deputy Coordinator and Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, other members of the project team will actively communicate the key outcomes of the project in relevant meetings, Conferences, Workshops.

For more details please see the EcAp Communication and Visibility Plan in Appendix II.

## Use of Legal Instruments

*Based on a partnership analysis, list with which partners you will be sub-contracting, for how much, and what legal instrument will be used (This should also be evident in the Project Delivery Plan and Budget).*

The range of legal instruments commonly used by UNEP, such as procurements, consultancies, internal and external cooperation agreements will be used:

- with institutions to assist in providing technical and logistical support.;
- for individual contracts to provide technical expertise and support to initiative activities and documentation;
- with institutions to define strategic alliances for long-term collaboration on various activities;
- for inter-UNEP project implementation;
- with donors for shared funds and obligations; and
- any other deemed necessary.

For more information please see the Project Delivery Plan and Budget.

## Project Implementation Structure

### Project Organization and Management

The Project organization has assigned roles and responsibilities with respect to:

- Project governance (Project Steering Committee) and links to external partners,
- Project management both on the side of UNEP/MAP (Project Manager) and of partner organizations, and
- UNEP/MAP EcAp Task Force (Task Force for key focal points in project implementation, steered by Project Manager and led by Coordinator of UNEP/MAP).

### Project Management by UNEP MAP

UNEP rules and regulations will be applied to the management of the Project.

Following the example of the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 project, **UNEP/MAP** Coordinating Unit will be responsible for coordination, management, monitoring, supervising and evaluating the implementation of the project. RACs will have programme/project officers working as project managers of their respective activities. RACs will also nominate responsible officers for their respective activities. Where necessary, all divisions will recruit consultants to assist needed activities, in line with applicable UNEP/MAP rules. In order to ensure timely delivery of multiple tasks, project management and fund management, strong coordination needs of the project, as well as close links with activities on EcAp under the PoW, the Project Manager (P3) of the project will be designated at UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit in Athens, Greece.

### **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**

The PSC will have overall responsibility for project activities. It will provide strategic guidance and oversight and approve the work plans and budgets. The members of the PSC will include a representative of European Union, the chair of EcAp Coordination Group and the UNEP/MAP Coordinator (Chairperson). The PSC will meet annually. Additional meetings based on the requirements of the Project may be convened exceptionally. The meetings will be convened by the Chairperson. For emergency issues the PSC may conduct its business electronically. The agenda and supporting documentation will be prepared and disseminated by the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit (project manager). PSC members may make requests for items to be included on the agenda. A quorum of the PSC will consist of all the committee members.

The primary responsibilities of the PSC will be to:

- Review and endorse the Annual Work Plan and Budget submitted by the Project Manager; ensure their conformity with the requirements of the Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme (**GPGC**) and with the current project description; ensure the quality of project documents to receive funding from the GPGC.
- Discuss the project requirements and priorities concerning, inter alia:
  - project management, including consistent and common approaches to project costing, cost recovery, implementation modalities, results-based reporting and impact assessment,
  - information management, including appropriate Fund and donor visibility.
- Ensure that appropriate consultative processes take place with key stakeholders at the regional level in order to avoid duplication or overlap between the Fund and other funding mechanisms.
- Approve the reporting mechanism for the project

### **EcAp Task Force**

The UNEP/MAP EcAp Task Force has been created under the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 project, as an informal, bi-monthly meeting (mainly through electronic means) and communication channel composed of MAP component representatives, with the overall aim to enhance the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the work of UNEP/MAP/Barcelona Convention. Its agenda and meetings are organized and coordinated by the Project Manager.

EcAp Task Force participants represent all UNEP/MAP components.

### **UNEP/MAP components as implementing partners**

Note: As under **Decision IG.19/5**, "Mandates of the Components of MAP", all components are part of UNEP/MAP, the current project proposal does not describe the respective components as partner organizations, but rather showcases unity for the implementation of the project as the UNEP/MAP system.

At the same time, to ensure full transparency, under the budget proposal of the project, the respective UNEP/MAP used, foreseen legal instruments are showcased with specializing core undertakings of the various components.

## 4 Risk Analysis

*Identify and document Project risks with a focus on high impact/high likelihood risks*

**Table 4: Project Risk Log Project Risk Log**

RISK LOG						
Risk Description		Category	Impact Severity	Likelihood	Risk Management Strategy & Safeguards	By When/ Whom?
1.	Scarcity of financial resources	Financial	High	Medium	Identify additional fund sources, MTF co-financing	UNEP/MAP
2.	Scarcity of human resources	Organization	High	Medium	Mobilize resources for adequate support to project execution, including consultants as necessary	UNEP/MAP
3.	Reluctance to participate in an exercise which could end up with new measures, strengthened commitments.	Political	Medium	Medium	Ensure coherence with other legal instruments and specific outreaches to renew commitment of Contracting Parties.	Stakeholders/ Contracting Parties and UNEP/MAP
4.	Possible reluctance for sub-regional cooperation	Political	Medium	High	With specific outreaches renew the commitment of the Contracting Parties to fully cooperate	UNEP/MAP
5.	Reluctance to share scientific information and give input into policy.	Political	High	Low	Strengthen cooperation with relevant scientific bodies, scientific projects.	UNEP/MAP
6.	The overall topic could provoke adverse effect on regional cooperation	Political	Medium	Low	Insist on the technical side of the work to overcome political interference	UNEP/MAP

7.	Part of the information could be considered as sensitive and not communicable	Economic	High	High	Consult the stakeholders and if the risk is confirmed, design a policy on confidentiality of sensitive information	UNEP/MAP
8.	Countries reluctant to apply SEIS principles and make data more accessible	Political	High	High	Strengthen cooperation and assess risks, ensure confidentiality of sensitive information while developing EcAp MED IT system and reporting format.	UNEP/MAP
9.	Sustainability: Countries lack means to contribute national information to the new EcAp information system and further implement the project's deliverables (such as the country-specific monitoring implementation plans)	Financial	High	High	EcAp Funding Strategy, identifying funding for technical assistance and in general further support possibilities for the implementation of EcAp in the region.	UNEP/MAP
10	Duplication: project to address areas, issues which are also tackled by other projects.	Organization/Financial	Medium	Low	Ensuring synergies with relevant projects (such as SEIS) and partner organizations, consulting each other's Annual Work Plans.	UNEP/MAP and partner organizations

## 5 Logical Framework

*[Provide a narrative that describes how the project’s activities lead to the project outputs, which in turn lead to the project outcome/PoW Expected Accomplishment. The description should build a case showing how the planned work in the project will lead to the Expected Accomplishment in the Programme of Work. This theory of change should be described here before filling in the Table UNEP Logical Framework]*

*Consider explaining the Theory of Change with a diagram showing assumptions, inputs etc.*

The project, building on experience and achievements on EcAp Roadmap implementation, both under the PoW and under the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 project, identified as key challenges (i) the lack of country capacities to implement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme; (ii) the lack of sub-regional coordination and input into the Ecap process; (iii) science-policy interface gaps; (iv) UNEP/MAP system gaps to implement SEIS principles and an information, data-management system, which is capable of undertaking a new State of Environment Report in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme Principles.

In order to overcome these challenges, the project foresees specific “game-changer” activities, such as (i) country capacity building in the field of monitoring and assessment; (ii) sub-regional cooperation activities; (iii) Science-Policy Interface strengthening; (iv) EcAp related data and information management, including quality assurance strengthening.

Through the above activities, which as addressing specific identified gaps of the EcAp Roadmap implementation during 2015-2018, the project aims to achieve substantive progress by Contracting Parties in the implementation of the ecosystem approach, especially in the field of monitoring and assessment, with a focus in the Southern Mediterranean.

As its key deliveries, it foresees the State of Environment Report (2017), the EcAp pilot data and information platform (2017) and country monitoring programmes (2017), next to strengthened scientific and sub-regional input into the Ecap process at the regional level.

**Table 5: UNEP Logical Framework<sup>1</sup>**

Relevant Expected Accomplishment in the Programme of Work: <i>Insert the Expected Accomplishment from the Programme of Work</i>		
1. Project Outcome	Indicators	Means of Verification

<p>Substantive progress achieved by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap in full synergy with the EU MSFD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant scientific projects' key outcomes, progress is channeled into the regional monitoring framework and to national monitoring programmes;</li> <li>• Pilot data and information platform is developed, to meet new EcAp monitoring and assessment requirements;</li> </ul> <p>State of Environment Report 2017.</p>	<p>Decisions on the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap, next to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Country monitoring programmes;</li> <li>- EcAp pilot data and information system;</li> <li>- State of Environment Report;</li> <li>- Science-Policy Interface communication material.</li> </ul> <p>Annual Project monitoring report and Final Project report</p>	
<p><b>Project milestones that show progress towards achieving the project outcome</b></p>			<p><b>Expected Milestone Delivery Date</b></p>
<p><b>M1</b> Draft EcAp MED IT and reporting format is developed</p>			<p>End of 2016</p>
<p><b>M2</b> First draft of Funding Strategy for EcAp is developed</p>			<p>End of 2016</p>
<p><b>M3</b> Draft State of Environment Report is steer-reviewed by scientific experts</p>			<p>Mid 2017</p>
<p><b>M4</b> Draft country monitoring implementation plans are discussed by Contracting Parties</p>			<p>Mid 2017</p>
<p><b>M5</b> Sub-regional joint monitoring pilot is launched</p>			<p>Mid 2017</p>
<p><b>M6</b> Country monitoring implementation trainings are completed</p>			<p>End of 2017</p>
<p><b>M7</b> Best practices are exchanged between project implementing countries and other Contracting Parties in the region</p>			<p>Mid 2018</p>
<p><b>M8</b> Sub-regional EcAp implementation plan is adopted</p>			<p>Mid 2018</p>
<p><b>2. Project Outputs:</b></p>	<p><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p><b>Means of Verification</b></p>	<p><b>PoW-EA Output</b></p>
<p><b>A) EcAp new monitoring requirements in selected countries in the Mediterranean are implemented (2015-2018)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country capacity needs analysis/(One per each Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party);</li> <li>• One Country-specific EcAp monitoring implementation plan for each Southern Mediterranean Contracting Party is drawn up, with a focus on new monitoring areas;</li> <li>• Specific guidelines, training events based on country capacity needs;</li> <li>• Best practices and lessons learnt meetings/activities, compilation documents are exchanged between countries participating in this component, possibly also in between candidate, potential candidate and EU countries (latter ones on non-cost basis);</li> </ul> <p>EcAp Funding Strategy, which includes funding options for technical assistance at country level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country specific monitoring implementation plans;</li> <li>• Monitoring data reports sent to the Secretariat to enable the 2017 State of Environment Report to be developed;</li> <li>• Guideline documents, training reports and exchange meeting reports;</li> <li>• Report on best practices and lessons learnt exchanges;</li> <li>• Funding Strategy on EcAp implementation, with a focus on technical assistance is developed.</li> </ul>	<p>1.2.4.</p>



<b>Project output Milestones:</b>			<b>Expected Milestone Delivery Date</b>
M1 Draft country specific monitoring implementation plans developed and discussed with Contracting Parties			Mid-2017
M1 Country monitoring implementation trainings are completed			End of 2017
M1 Best practices are exchanged between project implementing countries and other Contracting Parties in the region			Mid 2018
M1 First draft of Funding Strategy for EcAp is developed (addressing technical assistance further for Contracting Parties)			End of 2016
<b>B) Establishment of sub-regional cooperation in EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean region</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-region for pilot identified;</li> <li>• Sub-regional EcAp expert groups addressed sub-regional specifics of monitoring and assessment;</li> <li>• Specific sub-regional pilot testing joint monitoring activities in selected area are undertaken;</li> <li>• A sub-regional EcAp implementation plan is presented to the Contracting Parties in the sub-region;</li> </ul> <p>Lessons learnt, replication scenarios for other Mediterranean sub-regions are analyzed with possible various funding options as part of the EcAp Funding Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional EcAp policy documents and future COP Decisions reflect sub-regional input;</li> <li>• Report on the sub-regional pilot testing of joint monitoring;</li> <li>• Sub-regional implementation plan is presented to Contracting Parties of the sub-region;</li> </ul> <p>EcAp Funding Strategy includes analysis of replication potential and funding opportunities for replication</p>	1.2.4.
<b>Project Milestones:</b>			<b>Expected Milestone Delivery Date</b>
M2 Sub-regional joint monitoring pilot is launched			Mid-2017
M2 Sub-regional EcAp implementation plan is adopted			Mid-2018
M2 First draft of Funding Strategy for EcAp is developed (addressing sub-regional replication potential)			End of 2016
M2			....
<b>C) Stronger Ecosystem Approach related science-policy interface in the Mediterranean</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 6 Scientific Workshops are organized, targeting specific areas that were identified by Contracting Parties, with pre-defined questions and by harnessing existing knowledge and MSFD/EcAp-related relevant scientific projects;</li> <li>• Relevant scientific recommendations and results are reflected in the documents prepared by the Secretariat (for example in its EcAp Assessment Fact Sheets, State of Environment Reports);</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Workshop reports;</li> <li>• 5-6 Communication materials, which reflect findings on regional science-policy gaps EcAp;</li> <li>• EcAp Assessment Fact Sheets;</li> <li>• State of Environment Report 2017 reflects key scientific</li> </ul>	1.2.4.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific community peer-reviewed the draft State of Environment Report;</li> <li>• 4-5 communication material, targeting a specific scientific area);</li> <li>• Contracting Parties are aware of the results of relevant ongoing science projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• findings and is peer-reviewed by scientific experts;</li> <li>• EcAp relevant policy documents of the Barcelona Convention reflect key relevant scientific project developments.</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Milestones:</b>			<b>Expected Milestone Delivery Date</b>
M3 Targeted Communication Material on Scientific Community’s input is presented and included in draft country-level monitoring implementation plans			Mid-2017
M3 Targeted Communication Material on Scientific Community’s input is included in EcAp relevant policy development on sub-regional and regional level			End of 2017
M3 First draft of Funding Strategy for EcAp is developed (addressing further assistance for science-policy interface)			Mid-2017
M3 Draft State of Environment Report is steer-reviewed by scientific experts			End of 2017
<b>D) EcAp related data-management, including quality assurance is established/strengthened in the Mediterranean</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of the analysis undertaken on how SEIS principles are put into practice in the region during the EcAp monitoring and assessment implementation;</li> <li>• Quality assurance programmes developed for data reporting and collection (with a focus on new monitoring requirements);</li> <li>• A Mediterranean user needs analysis is undertaken on how to develop an IT system and reporting format in line with other regional data-management platforms/reporting obligations;</li> <li>• The pilot EcAp data-management and information system is developed;</li> <li>• Partnership is established with the GFCM and other partners specifically on data-sharing collaboration possibilities (from the first to the sixth semester);</li> <li>• Assessment of GES is undertaken and reflected in the State of Environment Report in 2017;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second State of Environment Assessment in 2017;</li> <li>• Quality Assurance programme(s), trainings</li> <li>• Efficient reporting obligations and data sharing programmes;</li> <li>• EcAp pilot data and information system developed;</li> <li>• State of Environment Report;</li> <li>• Report on established partnerships;</li> </ul> <p>EcAp Funding Strategy.</p>	<p>1.2.4 1.3.1 1.3.2</p>

	EcAp Funding Strategy developed, including an assessment of funding opportunities for data management and quality assurance strengthening.		
<b>Project Milestones:</b>			<b>Expected Milestone Delivery Date</b>
M4 Draft EcAp MED IT and reporting format is developed			End of 2016
M4 First draft of Funding Strategy for EcAp is developed			End of 2016
M4 Draft data-sharing joint strategy is developed with key partners			Mid 2017
M4 Pilot EcAp data-management and information sharing system is developed			End of 2017

**IMPORTANT:** For projects without full funding, state what results from the logframe will be delivered from the funding available.

1: A milestone should represent the achievement of a project stage or a project achievement and be *strictly* answerable with a yes or no answer.

## 6 Monitoring & Evaluation

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### Monitoring Plan

The Project will follow UNEP standard processes and procedures including for reporting and evaluation.

Reporting is an integral part of the UNEP Project Manager's responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.

A unified half-yearly 'Progress & Financial Report' will be submitted to the relevant Programme Framework Coordinating Division in an electronic format with a copy to QAS by:

- 31 July for the period between 1 January and 30 June or parts thereof for any given year **AND** by
- 31 January for the period between 1 July and 31 December or parts thereof for any given year.
- The last Progress & Financial Report (Final Report) must be submitted within 60 days of Project Closure.

### Monitoring

#### Activity reports

On a half-year basis monitoring and evaluation information will be collected from partners and analyzed by the project coordinator and submitted to the Executive Secretary and Coordinator of United Nations Environment Programme Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. Activities will be monitored against the Logical Framework and Objectively Verifiable Indicators. Moreover, the activity reports should include: progress achieved in the planned activities, targets reached, problems encountered and actions taken to overcome the difficulties and expenditures incurred. If deviations from planned project progress are detected corrective actions will be taken.

#### Final report

Within 60 days of the completion of the project, a final report will be prepared by Programme Officers using the format required.

#### Administrative financial reports

Administrative and financial evaluation is to be conducted according to the UN Rules and Regulations and includes a final project evaluation.

The programme officers will regularly communicate with project partners to follow up with them on project expenditures. Project partners will submit financial reports to the project coordinator based on the schedule outlined in the project documents agreed. A final expenditure account will be prepared jointly with the programme officers within 90 days of the end of the project.

#### External evaluation

It will be carried out at the end of the project.

#### Indicators

The indicators proposed for the monitoring and evaluation are measurable (both by its nature and due to availability of information sources) and reflect desired expected accomplishments of the project. They are presented in the logical framework matrix.

## **Evaluation Plan**

The project will be externally evaluated according to UNEP's standard procedures. 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.

The funds for evaluation of activities is included in the project budget, and will cover a desk study, on line data collection, and a representative number of missions to conduct face-to-face interviews.

## 7 Project Work Plan

**Table 6: Project Work Plan**

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO <sup>1</sup>	Partner(s)	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
				Q1	Q2	Q3 16	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3 17	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3 18	Q4
	<b>A) Progress in the implementation of EcAp new monitoring requirements in selected countries in the Mediterranean (2015-2018)</b>	UNEP/MAP													
1	Identify specific country capacity needs in Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement new monitoring requirements, based on country-capacity assessments and follow-up bilateral consultations in all implementing countries (by end of 2015/early 2016);														
2	Build capacity through guideline developments, trainings, and exchange of specific best practices based on country capacity needs (2016-2017);														
3	Exchange best practices and lessons learnt between countries participating in this component, possibly also candidate, potential candidate and EU countries on non-cost basis (2016-2018), and follow-up at regional level;														
4	Analyze funding options for technical assistance at country level, to ensure further support of the EcAp Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme continuation all over the basin (by end of 2017);														
	<b>B) Establishment of sub-regional cooperation in EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean region</b>	UNEP/MAP													
1	Identify a sub-region with most interest in EU Southern Neighbourhood (2015/early 2016);														
2	Establish sub-regional EcAp expert groups on three EcAp sub-clusters (biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and litter, coast and hydrography), to identify sub-regional specificities, both in relation to monitoring and assessment (2015-2016).														
3	Carry out specific sub-regional pilot testing joint monitoring activities in selected area (2016-2017);														

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO <sup>1</sup>	Partner(s)	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
				Q1	Q2	Q3 16	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3 17	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3 18	Q4
4	Develop a sub-regional EcAp implementation plan for monitoring, with sub-regional GES and targets identified (2017-2018)														
5	Identify lessons learnt, draw up possible replication scenarios for other Mediterranean sub-regions, laying out various funding options (by end of 2017).														
.	<b>C) Stronger Ecosystem Approach related science-policy interface in the Mediterranean</b>	UNEP/MAP													
1	Based on the identification by Contracting Parties of key science and policy gaps relevant to EcAp, organize Scientific Workshops, targeting specific areas that were identified by Contracting Parties, with pre-defined questions and by harnessing existing knowledge and MSFD/EcAp-related relevant scientific projects (1-2 workshops foreseen per year);														
2	Reflect relevant scientific recommendations and results in the documents prepared by the Secretariat (for example in its EcAp Assessment Fact Sheets, State of Environment Reports) and peer-review the planned draft State of Environment Report by the scientific experts														
3	In case workshop outcomes allow, follow-up with targeted communication material, ensuring further knowledge sharing (2016-2018, with the estimate of 4-5 communication material, targeting a specific scientific area).														
.	<b>D) EcAp related data-management, including quality assurance is established/strengthened in the Mediterranean</b>	UNEP/MAP													
1	In cooperation with SEIS project, ensure that SEIS principles can be applied, reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols can be met in a coherent manner in relation to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (in areas not covered by SEIS project), 2015-2018														
2	Develop quality assurance programmes for data reporting and collection of EcAp common indicators, to enable adequate assessment of the collected data in additional areas of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, following the EcAp common indicators (2016 in the area of biodiversity, non-indigenous species coast and hydrography and in cooperation with H2020/SEIS project, marine litter, eutrophication, follow-up in 2016-2018);														
3	Undertake a Mediterranean specific assessment on how to develop an IT system and reporting format in line with other regional data-management platforms/reporting obligations, EcAp														

ID	Project Outputs & Activities	Responsible Division/RO <sup>1</sup>	Partner(s)	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
				Q1	Q2	Q3 16	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3 17	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3 18	Q4
	common indicators, with inter-operability and capable data-management system and with a pilot system developed (by end of 2016);														
4	Build specific partnership with the GFCM and other partners ensuring that relevant data collection can be shared within the EcAp process (2015-2018);														
5	Assess GES through collected monitoring data per ecological objective and in an integrated manner, to be reflected in the State of Environment Report in 2017 and in its update in 2019, respectively;														
6	Assess funding opportunities and create further partnerships, for a continued support of the EcAp process in the Mediterranean, regarding data management and quality assurance, by 2017.														

1: Must be the Division/Organisational Unit responsible for delivering Project Outputs (all activities below a Project Output fall under that Responsible Division).

2: Shade boxes below depending on the duration of the activity



**APPENDICES FOR ALL UNEP PROJECTS**

- Appendix 1: Budget by project output and UNEP budget lines
  - Appendix 2: EcAp-MED Communication and Visibility Plan
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