

Cooperation between UNEP MAP-Barcelona Convention and FAO-GFCM

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Two organizations, one vision:

“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” (SDG14)

and common key targets, covering common international challenges:

pollution, 14.1;

habitats, ecosystems, MPAs, 14.2, 14.5;

ocean acidification, 14.3;

fisheries, including overfishing, IUU, destructive subsidies, 12.4, 14.6, 14b;

economic benefits, SIDS, LDCs, small scale fisheries, 14.7, 14.b;

knowledge and technology transfer, 14.a,

implementation needs of legal obligations, 14.c

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Background information on UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention:

Regional Sea Convention for the Mediterranean-key regional ocean governance body; Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols set legal framework for marine and coastal protection in the Mediterranean. COP19 aims to further strengthen the Mediterranean regional ocean governance, through various relevant draft decisions, such as:

- MSSD;
- IMAP;
- Sea-based Pollution Strategy;
- Offshore Action Plan
- SCP Action Plan;
- Climate Change Adaptation Framework;

They complement existing frame of Programme of Measures to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to achieve Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and in overall, sustainable development in the region.

Guiding principles (key area based management tools): Ecosystem Approach and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

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Background information on FAO/GFCM:

Regional Fisheries Management Organization competent over the Mediterranean Sea, established on the basis of a constitutive agreement adopted in 1949 pursuant to Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. 4 Amendments of the GFCM Agreement were approved by the Commission, the latest occurring in 2014

Objective of the GFCM: to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the area of application

24 members: 19 Mediterranean States, 3 Black Sea States, Japan and the EU; 2 Cooperating Members (Georgia and Ukraine)

Power to adopt recommendations which are binding upon its Members, consistent with United Nations and FAO policies

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2012 Memorandum of Understanding

On May 2012, on occasion of the 36th Session of the GFCM, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two organizations

The MOU between UNEP-MAP and FAO-GFCM includes the following areas of cooperation:

- Promotion of ecosystem based approach for the conservation of marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources
- Mitigation of the impacts of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species
- Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean Sea
- Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning
- Legal and policy cooperation

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A technical annex with the activities relating to the areas of cooperation was also included. Among the numerous activities in the annex that have led to concrete actions and tangible results the following are worth singling out:

- regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points to monitor the status of the marine environment (MedSuit Project with Italy)
- key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development, especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture
- Collaborate to harmonize existing respective criteria to identify Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), in particular those located partially or wholly on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Res. GFCM/37/2013/1 “on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of FRAs and coordination with the UNEP-MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs”)
- Participate to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development so to formulate sustainable development frameworks

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Ongoing joint activities to strengthen existing obligations under UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention (SPA/Biodiversity, ICZM Protocols) and relevant GFCM legislation

- Coordinated work on the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (in line with the MoU), to achieve the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives biodiversity, NIS, marine food webs and marine litter, next to fisheries;
- GFCM proposed common indicators for Ecological Objective on Fisheries (EO3) for IMAP;
- SPAMIs (including ABNJ);
- Endangered species assessments;
- MCSD participation of GFCM.

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Ongoing joint activities :

Joint Strategy with GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN-MED in cooperation with MedPAN

- Coordinated work towards establishment of SPAMIs in open seas between key regional players;
- Achieve SDG14, Aichi Target 11;
- ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP in cooperation with MedPAN to develop a Joint Strategy on how to address issues of common interest;
- Strategic alliance- based on an analysis of mandates, existing MoUs;
- To be developed during 2016, with aim to have final draft by end of 2016.

Conclusions, recommendations (UNEP-MAP)

Building on the existing framework of cooperation:

- Even closer, strategic and operational cooperation will be necessary in order to strengthen regional ocean governance in the Mediterranean and specially to:
 - achieve SDG14 and its specific targets in an effective manner;
 - achieve Aichi 11 and closer cooperation on management of SPAMIs;
 - collaborate for implementation of IMAP, especially in relation to EO3 and exchange of data for the purpose of assessment;
 - strengthen the common Contracting Parties' efforts and capacities to implement their existing legal obligations under the respective frameworks of GFCM and UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention (especially SPA/Biodiversity Protocol, ICZM Protocol, Marine Litter Regional Plan, SAP/BIO, further work on Joint Strategy and on its implementation) through coordinated/joint activities;
- Regular monitoring of achievements and sharing of information on implementation of MOU;
- Key to enhance cooperation between GFCM and relevant UNEP MAP FPs.

Conclusions, recommendations (FAO-GFCM)

Building on the existing framework of cooperation:

Annual UNGA resolution on sustainable fisheries urges States to strengthen cooperation among RFMOs (such as FAO-GFCM) and regional seas conventions (such as UNEP-MAP)

Proposal by the EU to include a new paragraph in this year resolution whereby RFMOs and regional seas conventions are encouraged to increase their cooperation and co-ordination, in order to promote more holistic management of the oceans and their resources, while respecting their respective mandates and competences

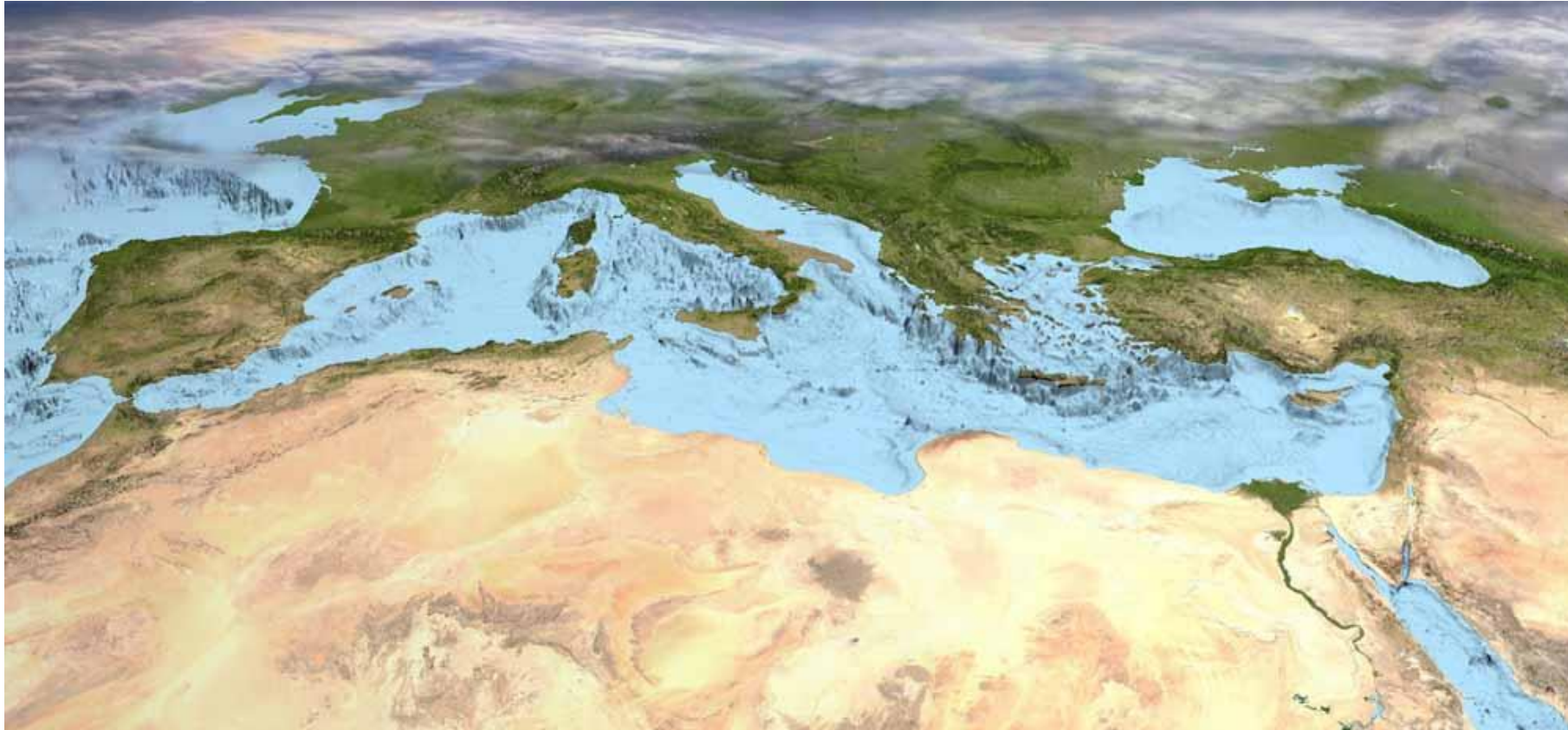
The MOU between UNEP-MAP and FAO-GFCM is one of those instances where cooperation has been established and its ongoing. More tangible results, in addition to those already obtained, could be attained through the MOU

A number of activities foreseen in the MOU require support from the Members of both organizations. The MOU between UNEP-MAP and FAO-GFCM should be seen as a potential framework for projects, following areas of common interest and donor priorities (e.g. marine spatial planning, joint strategies, etc.)

Need to continue to promote synergies and avoid duplications

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Thank you for your attention!



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