

UNEP/MED WG.541/2

MedProgramme First Annual Stocktaking Meeting

“Assess - Synergize - Move Forward”

Athens, 2-3 November 2022

Report of the Meeting



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

“Assess – Synergize – Move forward”
The First Annual Stocktaking Meeting of the MedProgramme
2-3 November 2022



Contents

Background	1
Opening of the Meeting.....	1
Session 1: The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme) and its context	2
Session 2: Stakeholders’ engagement and institutional coordination.....	2
Session 3: MedProgramme and GEF focal areas	3
3.1 Chemicals and Waste: “Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea”	3
3.2 International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures”	4
3.3 Biodiversity: “Marine ecosystems cannot wait!”	5
Session 4: Group Discussions	6
Session 5: Report back to plenary on themes and discussions.....	6
5.1 Chemicals and Waste: “Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea”	6
5.2 International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures”	7
5.3 Biodiversity: “Marine ecosystems cannot wait!”	7
Session 6: Knowledge management and networking.....	8
Session 7: Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in action.....	8
Session 8: Conclusions	9
Annexes	9

Background

The GEF-UNEP Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security executed by UNEP/MAP, organized its first Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM) in cooperation with the implementing agencies UNEP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the executing partners of the eight Child Projects (CPs). Please see Annex 1 for the Provisional Agenda. The ASM was held in Athens, Greece on 2-3 November 2022 and attended by 53 participants (29 women and 24 men) - *please see Annex 2 for the list of participants*. The meeting brought together representatives from governments of the participating countries and contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). The 2-day event involved an in-depth review of progress on the implementation of actions aimed at addressing priority environmental issues in the Mediterranean basin. The ASM is a major regional event aimed at establishing interactions among the MedProgramme's 8 Child Projects, governments of the participating countries, implementing agencies, executing partners, and with other relevant initiatives and stakeholders, including all other Mediterranean countries (Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties) not participating in the MedProgramme. Its objectives are:

1. To provide a forum for peer-to-peer exchanges and learning among the Programmes portfolios.
2. To catalyse regional and global attention on the issues at stake and on the progress made towards impact in the entire Mediterranean region; and
3. To enable adaptive management at the Programme level.

This first ASM provided an opportunity for face-to-face knowledge and experience sharing, south-south and north-south learning, promoted as well as recommended the broader adoption of MedProgramme approaches and solutions. The participants had the opportunity to learn from each other, tap into respective tacit knowledge, and at the same time benefited from experiences and expertise generated from each of the different disciplines with diverse backgrounds. Moreover, executing partners and countries of different Child Projects had the opportunity to present results further to the execution of the project and discuss difficulties encountered, also to engage with peers and governments of the participating and non-participating countries. They shared the adopted valuable solutions to remedy the difficulties that have arisen.

Opening of the Meeting

The opening remarks were made by Ms. Tatjana Hema, the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and Ms. Leticia Carvalho, the Head of the Marine and Freshwater Branch at the UNEP Ecosystem Division. Ms. Hema welcomed all the participants to the Meeting and emphasized on the value of in-person meetings which were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She alluded to the participants that despite the disruptions caused by this pandemic, the first two years of implementation of the MedProgramme are beginning to bear fruit. In addition, she talked about the expectations and what the vision for the successful implementation of the MedProgramme means for the Mediterranean region. Before addressing some of the elements of the MedProgramme, she reminded the participants of the major commitments the contracting parties had in Antalya's Ministerial declaration last year in Antalya, Turkey.

Ms. Carvalho spoke about ocean global governance, the ocean as one entity. She underlined the important contribution of the MedProgramme to tackle the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and rampant pollution, as well as in implementing the UNEP strategic perspective of joint work on the marine and freshwater connection. She also noted that the successful implementation of the MedProgramme can inspire the work and escalate the impact at the regional and global level.

The activities implemented under the MedProgramme are a key element of ocean governance in the world, and not only for the Mediterranean region.

The ASM is seen by the executing partners as a celebration of the environmentalism as we have the 8 Child Projects being articulated under an umbrella platform and under the leadership of the Barcelona Convention bringing connections or creating bridges with other Conventions such as the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Climate Change agreements.

Session 1: The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme) and its context

This session started with a presentation on the progress and achievements followed by the MedProgramme promotional video which highlighted the rationale of how the MedProgramme was designed from the initial stages including analysis of the problems and challenges that the Mediterranean Sea is facing, which is mainly pollution in different forms, mainly from land-based sources.

The GEF, the contracting parties and UNEP/MAP have worked together in setting the priorities as well as identifying the interventions needed to address the different challenges that the Mediterranean Sea is facing. The MedProgramme is the first programme in the Mediterranean region addressing four different GEF Focal areas. It is also considered innovative as it involves a broader engagement of partners all of which working together. The objective of the MedProgramme is to accelerate the implementation of agreed priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses. This objective is achieved in compliance with the results of the 2005 TDA report which identified the major environmental concerns in the Mediterranean Sea.

To reach this objective, the MedProgramme includes 4 components:

- Reduction of land-based pollution in priority coastal hotspots and measuring progress to impacts.
- Enhancing sustainability and climate resilience in the coastal zone.
- Protecting marine biodiversity.
- Knowledge management and programme coordination.

In a nutshell, the MedProgramme aims to achieve the acceleration and the implementation of agreed-upon priority actions to reduce the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal population. The work is undertaken following the 4 GEF focal areas. The MedProgramme is organized into 8 Child Projects, each one implemented by a group of executing partners.

The MedProgramme was also designed to respond to and to support the achievement of SDGs, in particular SDGs 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, and 14.

Session 2: Stakeholders' engagement and institutional coordination

This session focused on the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the MedProgramme. It started with a Mentimeter exercise where 4 questions were administered with multiple choice answers followed by 3 presentations which explored inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms that have been set up in the participating countries for implementing of actions. The Mentimeter exercise addressed aspects of setting up inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms including challenges and possible solutions identified. The questions specifically focused on the entities involved in the MedProgramme in participating countries, sectors involved in the implementation of MedProgramme, the challenges faced by executing partners and participating countries while working at inter-institutional or inter-sectoral level and finally the tools that can be used to facilitate inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaboration. The results of the Mentimeter are summarised in Annex 3 of this report. The 3 presentations from participating countries (Lebanon, Montenegro, and Morocco) analysed specific examples of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination that involved in the planning process with stakeholders.

The first presentation was made by Lebanon about conjunctive management of services and groundwater in coastal areas in Lebanon. Key areas explored in the presentation included national dialogues for potential

conjunctive management solution and training modules. The project focuses on the national dialogue and training and stakeholders' analysis which was also carried out at national level. The main objective was to engage water actors that have a role in the management of the Damour pilot coastal aquifers, understand their vision and resolve possible conflicts through dialogue. Finally, identify challenges that hinder the proper management of the aquifer and develop solutions to address them. Moving forward, the project is working on a shared vision, skills, resources, incentives, and action plan to boost the project and ensure it has a positive impact. More so, special attention is being paid to the involvement of female participants, as well as women-focused organizations, in all stakeholders' engagement activities and in the national dialogue.

The second presentation was given by Montenegro. It explored experiences of working with multiple stakeholders contributing to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and climate change adaptation under Child Project 2.1 and the SCCF project. It was stated that Montenegro is committed to international regulations, initiatives, and standards. The country already ratified the Barcelona Convention and other international legal instruments (such as the ICZM Protocol) and is already using these legal instruments for coastal zone management and protection of natural resources. Montenegro adopted the national ICZM strategy in 2015, in which the ICZM plan aimed at adaptation, such as one for the Boka Kotorska Bay, was anticipated. The goals of the ICZM plan are promoting sustainable development and building climate resilience in this area creating the necessary conditions for collaborative and multi-stakeholder involvement.

The third presentation was made by Morocco. It illustrated the work done in terms of stakeholders' involvement and coordination at the national and regional level to prepare the implementation of Child Projects 2.1, 2.2 and the SCCF project. A Steering Committee was set-up in 2021 at the regional level involving all stakeholders, from the relevant directorates of the regional government to the national focal points from the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Water, Universities, NGOs, and private sector entities.

The set-up of the Steering Committee was prepared by the dissemination of a questionnaire on ICZM which allowed the illustration of the planned actions under these Child Projects and to identify the respective role and potential contributions by all involved players. To facilitate the implementation of project activities, a more restricted management unit was set up at the regional level involving key players and supported by a national coordination unit to ensure administrative and political back up to the project implementation as well as dissemination of the achieved results. The Steering Committee continues to have a consultation and advisory role and two sub-groups have been created, one working on the regional coastal plan and the other on the Nexus management plan.

Session 3: MedProgramme and GEF focal areas

This session mainly focused on the technical elements of the MedProgramme's GEF focal areas. The session was divided into 3 panels based sub-sessions with in-depth discussions on chemicals and waste, international waters and climate change, and biodiversity. The aim of these sub-sessions was to share specific experiences and case studies from each topic/theme for the participants to draw lessons and linkages across the GEF focal areas and the Child Projects.

3.1 Chemicals and Waste: "Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea"

This sub-session introduced the work being done in the chemicals and waste projects (Child Project 1.1. *"Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts"* and Child Project 1.3. *"Financing Advanced Environmental Technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Region for Water Systems and Clean Coasts EnviTeCC"* and the relevant conventions providing framework for the activities.

The idea was to pick up connections and possible links with the other Child Projects, the other focal areas of the MedProgramme, as well as the other topics that the MedProgramme partners are working on. The focus is increasingly for projects that reduce chemical pollution and have biodiversity and climate change impacts. It is therefore natural to find stronger ways to make explicit links between the different environmental benefits of the programme.

It was noted that the “chemicals and waste” focal area under the GEF aims to support governments of the participating countries to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Minamata Convention on Mercury (Hg). The ones being addressed in MedProgramme are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which are still being used in electrical equipment and transformers in the energy sector. It was also stated that there are newly listed POPs in the last 5 or 10 years, which are very commonly used in industrial applications and/or products in different sectors. These include for example certain POPs-flame retardants or POPs-listed fluorinated compounds, which are used in textiles or plastics and contribute if not properly managed to global pollution including impacts on the Mediterranean Sea.

Child Project 1.1 has a target to reduce 2,000 tons of POPs/PCBs as well as 50 tons of mercury. Child Project 1.3, which is the EBRD project, has a target to reduce 1,250 tons of POPs.

The sub-session also looked at the legal framework used to implement and support national environmentally sound management of hazardous waste. The legal framework used for reporting obligation involve obtaining data to clearly understand the quantities or the production of hazardous waste in the Mediterranean region.

Another important area highlighted was the issue of gathering data, especially on how to obtain relevant and variable data on hazardous wastes, their quantities, and finally, how to support disposal activities.

It was mentioned that there are legal frameworks in place, however there are gaps in enforcement, which is one of the areas that needs to be improved. There is also a need to improve the capacity in terms of laboratory equipment and personnel to be able to analyse hazardous chemicals. Countries were encouraged to push for the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to enhance the implementation of the Mercury related activities of the Child Project CP 1.1.

The overall effort on circular economy on trying to close the loop of products lifecycle was one of the areas highlighted also in this sub-session.

Another key area in this sub-session was on how the EBRD is supporting countries, through its private and public sector Clients, on preventing and reducing the use of chemicals, particularly those chemicals that have been already listed under the Stockholm Convention. EBRD, through Child Project 1.3, which is designed as an environmental technology transfer program, provides technical assistance support and investment grants to private and public companies that are Clients of the Bank for safe removal, disposal and replacement of POPs containing equipment/system.

3.2 International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures”

This sub-session introduced areas of work under international waters and climate change with a focus on coastal zone management as well as climate change adaptation measures. The transboundary aspects of international water management were especially emphasized in relation to the Source to Sea approach to water management and the associated resources and methods. In terms of implementing actions under the MedProgramme, PAP/RAC presented a proposal of an upgraded candidate indicator that focuses on land cover change (IMAP’s Candidate Common Indicator 25) that can tell us the state of coastal space, which is being developed and proposed to the Mediterranean countries for inclusion in the UNEP/MAP monitoring framework IMAP.

A set of indicators have been developed by Plan Bleu to support the design of a conceptual framework for coastal observation. The indicators will enhance the monitoring of trends on coastal zones.

It was emphasized that there is a need for better coordination between existing national capacities including national agencies and ministries, as well as a need to strengthen national capacities to improve science-policy interface. Some of the countries expressed their interest to pilot cases to test the monitoring framework with the proposed indicators.

One of the key observations made in this sub-session was that management in the coastal zone is still implemented on siloed sector-specific approaches which very often fail to address complex problems. In this manner, sectoral planning within the siloed approaches engage only sectoral stakeholders. Only way to address this challenge is through the adoption of the integrated, systemic approach. Participatory Climagine methodology which is applied in Montenegro and Morocco supports the elaboration of the integrated coastal zone management plans. Basically, the implementation of this proposed participatory method involves bringing together all relevant local stakeholders in consultation with the national authorities to include local knowledge to define sustainability dimensions for the coastal plans. The MedProgramme is proposing a holistic participatory governance approach that allows the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders which also caters to feedback in the coastal plan preparation process from the bottom to the top. In this manner the process of coastal plans preparation through integration, engagement and governance, contributes directly to the SDG 17- building partnerships for the goals. Finally, in order to build governance for sustainability and reach integration of different Child Projects, it was proposed to consider organizing IMCs for SDGs.

Another key area explored in this sub-session was the Nexus approach, i.e., the water, food, energy, ecosystem nexus in the Mediterranean, which considers the risks of climate change impacts on those sectors and may influence socio-economic stability, global governance, economic disparity, and geopolitics. The source to Sea approach is very critical in this regard since it's all about flows. In principle focusing on the nexus creates the biggest political leverage.

EBRD also contributed to this sub-session highlighting its ongoing support to its private and public sector clients in water-intensive industries through adoption of advanced environmental technologies that contribute positively to addressing the water challenges by building climate resilient operations allowing for treated wastewater reuse and reduce pollution of water bodies from discharge of untreated wastewater. EBRD is a signatory of the UNEP-FI's Blue Economy Financing Principles since 2020 and also joined the Clean Oceans Initiative in 2022 in the fight to preserve marine environments. EBRD also highlighted the potential links between IW and C&W GEF Focal Areas through POPs releases to wastewater from certain industrial processes.

3.3 Biodiversity: "Marine ecosystems cannot wait!"

The Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were the key focus presented in this sub-session. It was noted that the Mediterranean Sea suffers from uneven geographical representation and large disparities in MPAs.

Basically, there is a considerable lack of MPAs in the south and eastern parts of the Mediterranean, and the main challenges that MPAs are facing in the Mediterranean concern identification, recognition, governance, monitoring and reporting. More support and coordinated efforts from government and stakeholders are required for the establishment and development of a coherent network of well managed MPAs in the region.

The example of the project sites in Libya was discussed. The MedProgramme is supporting Libya in the management and expansion of the network or system of MPAs in the country. This is being done through the enhancement and development of MPAs governance structure involving the elaboration of a new law on MPAs and the update of the national strategy for establishing and managing them. This is being done taking into consideration previous achievement of the Med Partnership when the first strategy was prepared. The strategy is being finalized and will be endorsed by the main stakeholders in Libya. The strategy will be supported through onsite management units and the elaboration of sustainable management plans involving the participation of stakeholders.

Session 4: Group Discussions

This session was composed of 3 discussion groups which was initially designed to take the shape of marketplace style discussions. Each group settled on a specific GEF focal area theme (Chemicals & Waste, International Waters and Climate Change, and Biodiversity). The participants briefly shared some of the key issues highlighted in Session 3. A summary of the discussions for each group was prepared and reported back to the plenary (Session 5).

Session 5: Report back to plenary on themes and discussions

This session followed the order of presentations in Session 3. A presentation by either the facilitator or the note taker was done followed by a Q&A discussion.

5.1 Chemicals and Waste: “Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea”

One of the key aspects highlighted by the group under the chemicals & waste theme was the important role of the national coordination committees and the way that chemicals and waste projects can be presented to a wider group of national stakeholders to better align environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and products-containing listed hazardous chemicals. The rationale is to go beyond the Ministry of Environment that currently seems to be the main ministry working with chemicals and waste although in some countries the Ministry of Energy or other ministries are involved. The group also identified the role of the Ministries of Tourism and Industry as an important player in addressing environmentally sound management of POPs.

It was noted that awareness-raising and communication products are essential for the Chemicals and Waste Child Projects to ensure information materials are available for distribution and dissemination to national stakeholders.

It was also mentioned that consultations among Child Project 1.1 and Child Project 1.3 should be further strengthened to ensure that countries are informed about PCB disposal options. In addition, linkages between chemicals and waste activities and Child Project 1.2 activities related to wastewater treatment plants might be explored.

A recommendation was provided to prepare a visualization map showing all MedProgramme project sites and their activities.

The challenges that were identified included:

- Lack of inter-governmental coordination to support the environmentally sound management of POPs and Hg.
- Lack of stakeholder support due to lack and/or enforcement of existing POP and Hg- integrated legislations as well as lack of awareness about hazardous chemicals/waste and their risks to human and environmental health.
- Lengthy procedures for Minamata ratification and the lack of awareness about Minamata Convention among country stakeholders.

Several recommendations were brought forward among which included:

- Communication & Knowledge management: To prepare a map visualizing the MedProgramme country activities.
- National activities to be re-shared with the chemicals & waste countries.
- Mercury ratification support to be provided through a summary about the mercury, disposal options, and costs. This summary will be prepared in 2023, with the support of UNEP/MAP- MedPCU.

- Mercury awareness among C&W countries and beyond (for hazardous chemicals).

5.2 International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures”

The group on international waters and climate change in the report back plenary session focused their discussion on the question on how to support horizontal and vertical integration in international waters and climate change. Key areas highlighted included the integrated coastal zone management, integrated coastal aquifer management, the Nexus approach, the integration of climate change adaptation in coastal management plans, the science-policy interface, as well as the Source to Sea approach. It was reported that there are 3 modalities for implementing inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration and to be able to include the contributions from different players and stakeholders:

- The first modality is about establishing a new authority with a mandate that covers all the aspects related to resources management.
- The second modality is to bring the authority of the different aspects under one existing ministry.
- The third modality is to enhance the inter-institutional coordination and collaboration among the different involved ministries/institutions/stakeholders.

It was further mentioned that scarce natural resources should be considered an asset, and, in this way, they should be managed with proper regulation. The enforcement mandate may be assigned to an individual authority governing the contributions from involved institutions.

During the Q&A discussions, several other examples were brought up which were based on previous experience with donors and financing institutions. One key example was the experience shared by the European Investment Bank (EIB) which reported the fact that in many cases of water-related projects, the financing institutions are more likely to get results in terms of vertical and horizontal integration for water management than the national or regional government institutions, which are mostly focused on their specific mandates. Besides different mandates, problems may be capacities, different priorities and communication procedures. This is due to the fact that financing institutions are aware that expected results can be achieved only through systemic collaboration and can use financial leverage to involve and coordinate multiple partners and ensure the effectiveness of inter-institutional mechanisms. In this respect, collaboration between insurance, the banking sector, the state and international cooperation players should be established to ensure inter-institutional coordination in the design, establishment, and operation of innovative resources management frameworks. SDGs may provide an axis for such inter-institutional coordination.

It was agreed that all those aspects are integrated in the implementation of MedProgramme Child Projects. The discussion among EPs and participating countries will continue to find better options for this integration.

5.3 Biodiversity: “Marine ecosystems cannot wait!”

In this session, the example of Libya in setting up and managing MPAs was used to inform other contracting parties about the experiences of Libya in managing protected areas. There were three main pillars used as a basis for the discussions which included governance, coverage, and effective management. Specific experiences have been provided under each of these 3 pillars. It was highlighted in this sub session that the mandate of MPAs in Libya is with the Ministry of Environment shared along with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture to create national parks and protected areas. Under this arrangement the engagement and dialogue with key stakeholders including NGOs and the public is important. Several workshops were organized under the Child Project 3.1 (Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya) to create a new protected area. The process would involve approaching the National Council for Protected Areas and the three ministries.

Also, the discussions stressed on the importance of the proper and adequate planning, the involvement of the different stakeholders in the Management of MPAs, and the sustainable financing to guarantee the effective management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.

The group provided also examples and shared experiences from other participating countries (Albania, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia).

Session 6: Knowledge management and networking

This session provided an overview and update on the knowledge management (KM) as one of the key and cross cutting components of the MedProgramme. The session focused on 3 parts i.e., the knowledge management strategy, the knowledge management platform and the draft communication roadmap. The session aimed to update the participants on the progress made in the development of the knowledge management platform. It also explored collaborative mechanisms with the executing partners on the best way to move forward with the implementation of the platform. It further gathered inputs and suggestions on the expectations of the partners about the structural functions of the KM platform.

Regarding the draft communications roadmap, it was suggested to develop a variety of communication promotional products to increase the visibility of the MedProgramme.

Session 7: Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in action

This session provided overview and updates on the activities of mainstreaming gender in the MedProgramme. Significant progress has been achieved on the implementation of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. Overall, 6 Gender Action Plans (GAPs) have been developed and adopted to guide the implementation of gender activities under Child Projects.

Respective targets and indicators were included in all GAPs, harmonized at the programme-level to allow for cumulative, streamlined reporting across all CPs at the programme level. Most importantly, the MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice (CoP), established in June 2021, has acted as a catalyst for knowledge enhancement and capacity-building on gender equality and women's empowerment in sustainable environment within the context of MedProgramme activities. At the same time, capacity-building activities have been delivered to partners, to enhance their understanding of gender-related issues vis-a-vis two GEF Focal Areas, Biodiversity and Chemicals & Waste. Impressively, consultations and workshops organized by MedProgramme partners have so far been attended by more women than men: out of a total 447 participants, 240 have been women and 207 have been men.

The presentation for the session mainly provided an overview of gender activities undertaken at the programme level and provided details on specific Child Project level activities. This was followed by two case studies with innovative approaches on mainstreaming gender at the Child Project level coming from Plan Blue and GWP-Med.

Plan Bleu presented the development of two gender-sensitive climate risk assessments in Morocco and Montenegro in the context of SCCF, whereby sex-disaggregated data were collected, and a gender analysis was undertaken.

GWP-Med presented its gender-responsive approach to stakeholder engagement in the context of CP 2.2. To achieve this, both stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming strategy were integrated into one document.

The session also explored some of the challenges in mainstreaming gender and identified opportunities moving forward. Overall, some progress has been made with regards to the operationalization of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, but there is a clear need to ensure gender-responsive stakeholder engagement.

Finally, continuous capacity-building will be provided by the MedPCU, as well as guidance through the development of gender knowledge briefs and tools.

Session 8: Conclusions

The meeting concluded its activities by presenting and approving the conclusions and recommendations which are listed in Annex 4 to this report.

Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: List of Participants

Annex 3: Mentimeter Session 2, Results

Annex 4: Conclusions and recommendations

Annex 5: Presentations (separate due to large content)

Annex 1
Provisional Agenda

TIMETABLE	
DAY 1	
09h30 – 10h00	Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Tatjana Hema • Welcome speech, Chief of Branch, Ecosystem Division, Leticia Carvalho
10h00 – 10h30	Session 1: The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme) and its context <i>MedProgramme Management Officer, Olfat Hamdan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MedProgramme promotional video • Progress and achievements
10h30 – 11h30	Session 2: Stakeholders' engagement and institutional coordination <i>UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Tatjana Hema</i>
11h30 – 12h00	Break
12h00 – 14h00	Session 3: MedProgramme and GEF focal areas: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. MedProgramme and Chemicals & Waste: “Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea” Eloise Touni (UNEP CW, facilitator); EBRD; MedWaves; Beneficiary Countries</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">B. MedProgramme: International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures” Christine Haffner- Sifakis and Atifa Kassam (UNEP IW and UNEP CC, facilitators); EBRD, PAP/RAC; Plan Bleu; UNESCO; GWP-Med; Beneficiary Countries</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">C. MedProgramme and Biodiversity: “Marine ecosystems cannot wait!” Christine Haffner- Sifakis (UNEP IW, facilitator); SPA/RAC; WWF Med NA; IUCN; Beneficiary Countries</p>
14h00 – 15h00	Lunch Break
15h00 – 16h30	Session 4: Group Discussion: Marketplace style (3 groups) <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. MedProgramme and Chemicals & Waste: “Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of MedProgramme on CW with a focus on POPs and Mercury disposal and pollution prevention • Case studies/experience from other related international/regional/national initiatives

	<p>B. MedProgramme: International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of MedProgramme on Coastal Zone Management, and climate change adaptation measures • Case studies/experiences from other related international/regional/national initiatives <p>C. MedProgramme and Biodiversity: “Marine ecosystems cannot wait!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of MedProgramme on Marine Biodiversity Protection and Protected Areas Management • Case studies/experiences from other related international/regional/national initiatives
16h30 – 17h00	<p>Session 5: Report back to plenary on themes and discussions</p> <p>A. MedProgramme and Chemicals & Waste: “Prevention of POPs and Mercury towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea”</p> <p>B. MedProgramme: International Waters and Climate Change: “Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation Measures”</p> <p>C. MedProgramme and Biodiversity: “Marine ecosystems cannot wait!”</p>
DAY 2	
09h30 – 10h30	<p>Session 6: Knowledge management and networking <i>MedProgramme Coordinating Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MedProgramme knowledge management strategy • The MedProgramme knowledge platform
10h30 – 11h30	<p>Session 7: Gender mainstreaming Strategy in action <i>MedProgramme Coordinating Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of progress made in the implementation of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy • Case studies/Experiences from the Executing Partners
11h30 – 12h00	Break
12h00 – 13h30	Session 8: Conclusions, Recommendations, and next steps
13h30 – 13h45	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Tatjana Hema • Chief of Branch, Ecosystem Division, Leticia Carvalho

Annex 2**List of Participants****Annual stocktaking meeting of the MedProgramme
2-3 November 2022****ALBANIA**

Ms. Artenida Duraku
Director of EU Integration
Coordination, Assistance and Agreements
Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Tirana, Albania
Bulvardi "Zhan d'Ark", No 23
Tirana 1001
Albania
Tel: +355 692817242
Email: artenidaduraku@gmail.com

Ms. Elvana Ramaj
Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Tirana, Albania
Bulvardi "Zhan d'Ark", No 23
Tirana 1001
Albania
Tel: +355 692817242
Email: eramaj@hotmail.com

Ms. Shpresa Mezini
Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Tirana, Albania
Bulvardi "Zhan d'Ark", No 23
Tirana 1001
Albania
Email: Shpresa.Mezini@turizmi.gov.al

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. Senad Oprašić
Head of Environmental Protection Department
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and
Herzegovina
Musala 9
Sarajevo 71000
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel: +387 33953536
Email: senad.oprasic@mvteo.gov.ba

Ms. Selma Cengic
Executive Director
Hydro-Engineering Institute
Sarajevo
Stjepana Tomića 1
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel: +387 33 207 949
Email: selma.cengic@heis.ba

CYPRUS

Mr. Constantinos Antoniadis

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR),
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
P.O. Box 28548, 2080 Strovolos
Lefkosia, Cyprus
Tel: +35722807854
Email: kantoniadis@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

ISRAEL

Mr. Rani Amir

Director
Marine Environment Protection Division
Ministry of Environmental Protection
Pal Yam St. 15a, F 23, Government compound
31007 Haifa
Israel
Tel: +972 4 8633500
Email: rani@sviva.gov.il

LEBANON

Ms. Nancy El Khoury

Chief of Registrar Service
Ministry of Environment
Lazarieh Building
7th Floor
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel: 961 3503978
Email: nancy.khr@gmail.com

Mr. Adel Yacoub

Head of Protection of Natural Resources Department
Acting Chief of Natural Resources Service
Ministry of Environment
Lazarieh Building
7th Floor
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel: +961 1 976555
Email: a.yacoub@moe.gov.lb

Mr. Sabbagh Bassam

Ministry of Environment
Lazarieh Building, Block 2-A
7th Floor, Room 7-16
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel: +961 3646171
Email: b.sabbagh1972@gmail.com

MONTENEGRO

Ms. Milica Rudic

Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism
IV Proleterske brigade 19
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
Email: milicarudic0@gmail.com

MOROCCO**Ms. Khaoula Lagrini**

Department of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development
Ministry of the Environment

Rabat

Morocco

Tel: +212672535777

E-mail: lagrini.env@gmail.com

Mr. Mohammed Amrani

Chef du Service de l'Observatoire Régional
de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
Direction Régionale de l'Environnement

Région Tanger Tétouan Al Hoceima

Immeuble NREA n°183,

angle Avenue Prince Héritier et rue Jabir Tabari,

2ème étage n°48 - 90 000 Tanger

Tel: +212 (0) 539.30.15.95

Email: amrani.env@gmail.com

State of Libya**Mr. Omar Sharif**

GEF Operational Focal Point

Tripoli

Tel: + 218 928165010

E-mail: sharif.omar300@gmail.com

Mr. Abdulmaula Hamza

Marine Conservation Expert

P.O Box 13793

University Post

Tripoli

Libya

Email: abdhamza@gmail.com

TUNISIA**Ms. Sabria Bnoui Ben Ammar**

Director General for International Cooperation

Ministry of Environment

Tunis

Tunisia

Tel : +216 71136407/ +21658827889

Email: sabria.bnoui@mineat.gov.tn/sabriabnoui@gmail.com

Mr. Youssef Zidi

Director

Ministry of Environment

Tunis

Tunisia

Tel: +216 98695949

E-mail: youssef.zidi@mineat.gov.tn

TURKEY

Ms. Ruveyda Ogutlu
Ministry of Environment,
Urbanisation and Climate Change
Ankara
Turkey
Email: ruveyda.ogutlu@csb.gov.tr

Ms. Asli Topalak
Ministry of Environment,
Urbanisation and Climate Change
Ankara
Turkey
Email: asli.topalak@csb.gov.tr

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT -
SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN
D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**

**Convention for the Protection of
the Marine Environment and the
Coastal Region of the
Mediterranean (Barcelona
Convention) and its protocols**

Ms. Tatjana Hema
Deputy Coordinator
Tel: +30210 7273116
Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Ms. Olfat Hamdan
MedProgramme Management Officer
Tel: +30210 7273106
Email: olfat.hamdan@un.org

Ms. Kumiko Yatagai
Fund/Admin. Officer
E-mail: kumiko.yatagai@un.org

Ms. Maren Mellendorf
Programme Management Officer (IW)
Email: maren.mellendorf@un.org

Mr. Erol Cavus
Programme Management Officer MED POL
Athens
Email: erol.cavus@un.org

Ms. Timea Minaei
Associate Budget and Finance Officer
Email: timea.minaei@un.org

UN Environment/MAP
48 Vas. Konstantinou
11635 Athens
Greece

Ms. Marialena Vyzaki
Gender Specialist
Athens
Tel: +30 6956336020
Email: marialena.vyzaki@un.org

Mr. Alessandro Caneloro
IW Specialist
Email : alessandro.caneloro@un.org

Mr. James Kenge Gunya
Knowledge Management Specialist
Email: james.kenge@un.org

**UNEP GEF Component and
International Waters**

Ms. Leticia Carvalho
Chief
Marine and Freshwater Branch
UNEP Nairobi
Email: leticia.reisdecarvalho@un.org

Ms. Christine Haffner Sifakis
GEF Task Manager International Waters
UNEP Nairobi
Email: christine.haffner-sifakis1@un.org

Ms. Eloise Touni
GEF Task Manager
UN Environment
Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +410229187
Email: eloise.touni@un.org

Ms. Atifa Kassam
Programme Management Officer
UNEP Nairobi
Email : atifa.kassam@un.org

European Investment Bank (EIB)

Ms. Camilla Gino
Strategy and Partnerships Division
98-100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg
+352437986272
Email: camilla.gino@eib.org

Mr Salim Walid
Water Sector Expert
Environment and Natural Resources Department
Cairo Regional Office for the Near East
Nile City Towers, North Tower, 9th Floor,
2005 C- Cornish El Nile, Ramlet Beaulac,
11221 Cairo, Egypt
Email : w.salim@eib.org

**European Bank for
Reconstruction and Development
(EBRD)**

Ms. Claudia Neuschulz
Analyst
EBRD
London
Tel : +442073388579
Email: NeuschuC@ebrd.com

Ms. Hande Yukseler
EBRD ENVITECC Programme Manager
Tel: +905316800136
Email: yukseleh@ebrd.com

WWFNA

Mr. Jamel Jrijer
Director
WWF Med North Africa
Tour C-D, Building Saadi, Avenue Habib Bourguiba, 1082 Tunis,
Tunisia
Tel: +216 71 751 550
Email: jjrijer@wwfna.org

GWP Med

Ms. Barbara Tomassini
Senior Programme Officer
Beirut
Tel: (+961)70612732
E-mail: barbara@gwpmed.org

Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos
Senior Programme Officer
Athens
Tel: 00306948827451
E-mail: dimitris@gwpmed.org

Mr. Vangelis Constantianos
Senior Programme Officer
Athens
Email : vangelis@gwpmed.org

UNESCO

Mr. Jose Luis Martin Bordes
Alicante
Tel: +34617678186
E-mail: jl.martin-bordes@unesco.org

Mr. Simone Grego
Simone Grego, Paris
Tel: 0033145680400
E-mail: s.greg@unesco.org

IUCN

Mr. Maher Mahjoub
Maher Mahjoub
Regional Programme Coordinator
Mediterranean Cooperation Center

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
C/Marie Curie 22, P.T.A. 29590, Campanillas, Malaga, Spain
Tel. +34 952 028 430 ext 305;
Email: Maher.MAHJOUR@iucn.org

**PLAN BLEU Regional Activity
Center**

Ms. Lina Tode
Deputy Director
Email: ltode@planbleu.org

Mr. Antoine Lafitte
Programme Officer
Tel: +33 786381720
Email: alafitte@planbleu.org

Mr. Michael Karner
Project Coordinator
Email : mkarner@planbleu.org

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre
16e étage Tour la Marseillaise
2 bis, Boulevard Euroméditerranée - Quai d'Arenc
13002 Marseille

MedWaves

Ms. Magali Outters
Team Leader Policy Area
MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP
(former SCP/RAC)
Sant Pau Recinte Modernista. Pavelló de Nostra Senyora de la Mercè
Carrer de Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167.
08025 Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain)
Tel: +34 93 554 16 66
Email: moutters@gencat.cat

Ms. Kimberly De Miguel Wardle
Project Manager
MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP
(former SCP/RAC)
Sant Pau Recinte Modernista. Pavelló de Nostra Senyora de la Mercè
Carrer de Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167.
08025 Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain)
Tel: +34 93 882 35 01
Email: kdemiguel@gencat.cat

PAP/RAC

Ms. Daria Povh Skugor
Senior Programme Officer
Split
Tel: +38521340478
E-mail: daria.povh@paprac.org

Mr. Ivan Sekovski
Programme officer
Split

Tel: +385981832844
E-mail: ivan.sekovski@paprac.org

Mr. Ante Ivcevic
Programme Officer
Split
Email: ante.ivcevic@paprac.org



1. What are the entities involved in the MedProgramme in your country?

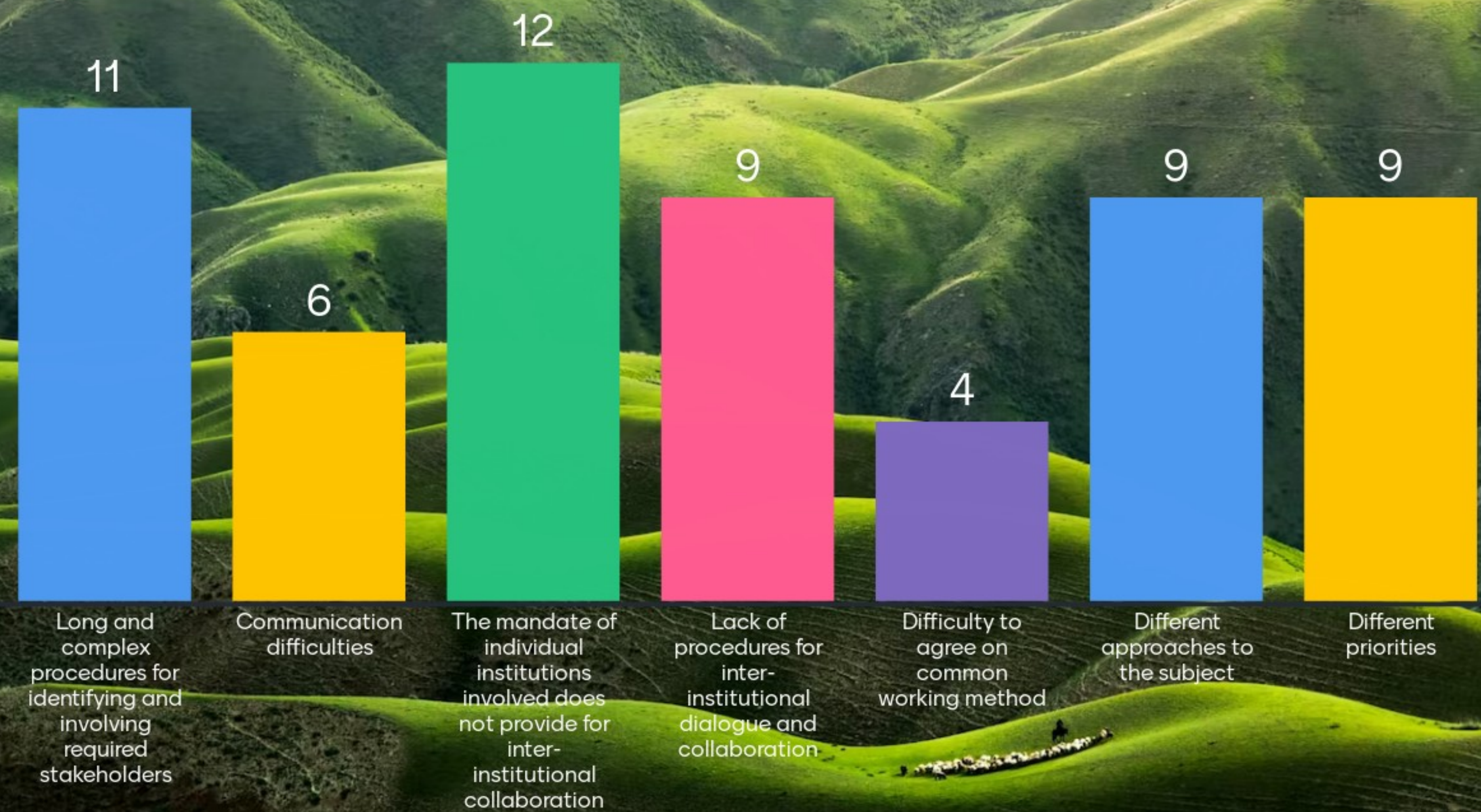
Ann



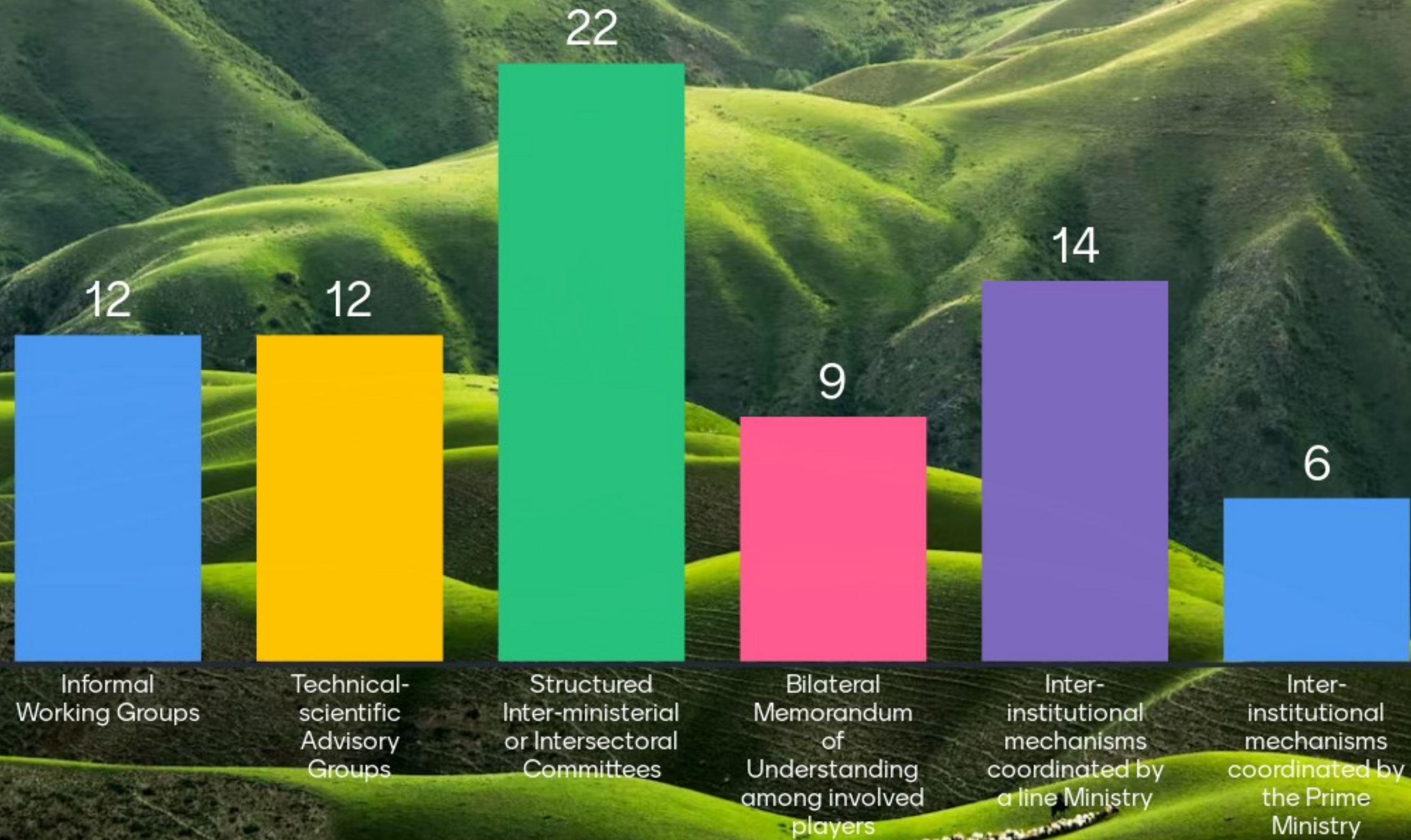
2. Which sectors are involved in the MedProgramme in your country?



3. Which challenges did you face while working at inter-institutional or intersectoral level?



4. Which tools can facilitate the work at inter-institutional and intersectoral level?



Annex 4

Conclusions, recommendations and next steps First Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM) of the MedProgramme Athens, 2-3 November 2022

The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) of UNEP/MAP held the First Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM) of the MedProgramme in Athens on 2-3 November 2022 with the objective of:

1. providing a forum for peer-to-peer exchanges and learning among the Programme portfolio;
2. catalyzing regional and global attention on the issues at stake and on the progress made towards impact in the entire Mediterranean region; and
3. enabling adaptive management at the Programme level.

The ASM underlined the important contribution of the MedProgramme to contrasting the triple planetary crisis and in particular in implementing the UNEP strategic perspective of joint work on the marine and freshwater connection. In this sense the MedProgramme can inspire the work and escalate the impact at the regional and global level.

The ASM stressed that the MedProgramme is a complex and articulated initiative which requires the proactive and coordinated contribution from an important number of actors and players. In this respect the role of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and of the MedPCU is to ensure and support this multi stakeholder, multisector and multilevel collaboration.

The ASM pointed out the importance of the MedProgramme as a catalyst to environmental multilateralism as well as its important contribution to providing technical and financial support to the beneficiary countries, in the framework of achieving their obligations towards the concluded international agreements (Barcelona, Stockholm, Minamata, Basel). The ASM encouraged to pursue full synergy and complementarity between MedProgramme activities and the UNEP/MAP PoW.

The ASM encouraged the Implementing Agencies, Executing Partners and participating countries to enhance mutual exchanges, collaboration and learning from respective experiences and lessons learned including through south-south and north-south cooperation. This may take the form of a Task force. The ASM stressed on the importance of strengthening linkages and coordination arrangements among the different GEF Focal Areas and Child Projects with the support and contribution from all involved stakeholders in the perspective of a more integrated and synergetic environmental action.

The ASM encouraged the MedProgramme to speed up the process of setting up functional Knowledge Management and visibility arrangements, also based on previous experiences and tools established in the framework of UNEP and MAP activities, allowing all involved players and stakeholders to contribute to and to benefit from information being created in the framework of programme activities as well as to contribute to and to benefit from wide visibility which will facilitate Programme implementation, increase impact of achieved results and outscale methods and approaches.

Conclusions from the Working Groups

Recommendations

- Institutional and governance actions:
 - Quarterly meetings and Project Steering Committee Meetings to have stronger input from country activities (especially for C&W projects)
 - ASM encourages countries to establish or piggyback on functional and effective inter-ministerial and intersectoral collaboration and coordination arrangements and mechanisms that connect across different child projects
 - Implementing Agencies and Executing Partners to seek synergies with and set up collaboration with financing institutions and insurance companies to explore options for Nature Based Solutions (especially for international waters)
 - Executing Agency to convene Task Force for Knowledge Management to meet regularly and involve representatives from countries, executing partners and implementing agencies. This Task Force would have the aim to build a cohesive MedProgramme narrative that goes beyond individual child project results to reflect the cumulative impact of the Programme. It would identify and harmonize the results and common topics between child projects and coordinate the production and generation of knowledge products.

- Communication & Knowledge management experts to:
 - Develop priority KM products
 - (a) geographic visualization of project activities in the countries (map)
 - (b) Communication and Knowledge Management Sessions
 - PMU to map the synergies between child projects, partners and participating countries as a basis for designing the knowledge management hub and interactions between child projects; and the work of the Task Force on Knowledge Management (see below)
 - KM lead to immediately prepare and share a calendar of high-level events for the MedProgramme to be represented at; to be accessible to all countries and executing partners and regularly updated by them
 - KM lead to finalize a concrete proposal and scenarios/options to operationalize the KM platform; and present it for discussion with the Task Force

- Gender coordinator and focal points to:
 - Continue the innovative and open space for knowledge exchange on gender that is initiated through the MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice (CoP) and further encourage countries to join the next CoP discussions
 - PMU and executing partners to take the gender aspect into consideration in project activities and outputs (eg. ToRs, legal instruments, methodologies, data collection tools, reporting and meetings/events)
 - Executing Partners and countries to consider how they can prepare case studies on the impact of the MedProgramme on both women and men and request support from the MedPCU Gender Specialist to develop these case studies

- Recommendation:

The PMU to look into options for setting up an official Grievance Redress Mechanism for the MedProgramme. This mechanism to be presented and proposed to the partners and countries.