

UNEP/MED WG.572/5

# Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): SCCF

Rabat, 6 June 2023

-  
Report of the Meeting



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



Global Water  
Partnership  
Mediterranean



SCCF

Enhancing regional  
climate change adaptation  
in the Mediterranean Marine  
and Coastal Areas

## Report of the Meeting

### Introduction

1. The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) held its Third Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) of SCCF Project (GEF ID 9670) “Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” on 6 June 2023 in Rabat, Morocco. This Child Project falls under the overall umbrella of the GEF UNEP programme (GEF ID 9607), entitled “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security”.
2. The primary objective of this Third PSCM was to review progress in the project delivery and discuss and approve the project’s annual workplan and budget forecast for 2023-2024.
3. The presentations for all agenda items are provided in Annex VI to the present report.

### Participation

4. The meeting was attended by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, and Tunisia. the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as lead GEF Implementation Agency, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP), as executing agency and PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC and GWP Med, as executing partners, were also represented.
5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 2:00 PM (CET) on 6 June 2023 by the Head of Multilateral Cooperation Unit of the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, Ms. Khaoula Lagrini. Mrs Lagrini welcomed the participants and expressed the greetings of the Minister of the Environment of Morocco for the Day of the Environment. Ms. Lagrini expressed gratitude to the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention for its central role in coordinating MedProgramme activities towards the achievement of planned goals and supporting administrative and financial management of Child Projects. Ms. Lagrini also expressed gratitude to the Executing Partners of Child Projects 2.1, 2.2 and SCCF for their commitment, collaboration and support in the implementation of national and regional activities. Ms. Lagrini summarized the state of the art of the ratification of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention by Morocco and confirmed national determination and commitment in protecting the Mediterranean coastline and ecosystems of the country in close coordination and collaboration with all the regions, In particular she mentioned the Directorate of the Environment of the Tangiers-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region and its essential role in the implementation of the MedProgramme which is providing valuable financial support and technical expertise for reinforcing environmental management capacities as well as environmental resilience and protection of essential ecosystems.
7. UNEP Climate Change Task Manager, Ms. Atifa Kassam, underlined the importance of organizing the first in-person Steering Committee meeting for the SCCF project which has now arrived at an important juncture when important outputs by PAP/RAC and PB/RAC are expected for the development of Coastal Plans in Morocco and Montenegro and key contributions to the regional work on climate change adaptation are also expected from GWP-Med. Ms. Kassam pointed out that the experience underaken and the lessons learned in the pilot areas will contribute to increase climate change adaptation capacities in all the region.
8. The MedProgramme Programme Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan, Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Ms. Olfat Hamdan recalled the structure of the MedProgramme, its three thematic Components plus the knowledge management and programme coordination activity line and the different Child Projects, also the MedProgramme governance structure. Ms. Hamdan mentioned the importance of the Annual Stocktaking Meeting of the MedProgramme as the annual appointment for sharing experiences and lessons-learned among Partners and Countries. She

reviewed the expected outputs of Child Projects and recalled the end of project targets and means of verifications of CPs 2.1 2.2 and SCCF. Ms. Hamdan stressed the importance for the MedProgramme of providing in a timely manner the required co-financing reports and explained how the structure of GEF projects requires the provision of annual co-financing reports.

9. Ms. Hamdan thanked the colleagues for their kind words and explained the objectives of this meeting, which are to approve the 2023/2024 work plan and budget for the implementation of this Project. She introduced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work**

10. The meeting elected Ms. Sabria Bnoui, Director General of the International Cooperation Unit of the Ministry of Environment of Tunisia as Chair of the Meeting, and the Provisional Agenda was adopted (please find as Annex II to the present report). Participants introduced themselves and their functions regarding this Project.

### **Agenda item 3: Progress since the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting**

11. Mr. Michael Karner, Plan Bleu/RAC Programme Management Officer illustrated how the work of Child Projects 2.1 and SCCF is developing in parallel both in the two pilot sites in Morocco and Montenegro and illustrated the following actions implemented since the last PSCM meeting:
- a. Finalization of two gender-sensitive climate risk assessment studies to better understand through qualitative observations and a quantitative mathematical model developed by the MedSea foundation how climate risks are affecting the two pilot sites. The main issues identified were reviewed along their expected impact on the different groups according to a thorough socio - economic assessment: water scarcity, unsustainable tourism, excessive infrastructure building, impermeabilization of soils. Mr. Karner provided some highlights on the mathematical model utilized and how gender-based variables were identified and connected to expected climate risks;
  - b. Two capacity building workshops in Morocco and Montenegro aimed at engaging stakeholders in analyzing the needs of the different coastal stakeholders with focus on gender differences, including on adaptation and coping capacity, managing food and water resources. Mr. Karner indicated that one of the main outcomes of these workshops is the necessity of tailoring policies and actions to valorize women's capacities to manage food and water security in a changing climate scenario. Mr. Karner also pointed out that the collaboration among the two consultants who developed the two studies and the national stakeholders is an excellent example of mutual capacity building and knowledge exchange, and that Plan Bleu is reflecting on the best way to integrate the coastal risk index in the activities of the Mediterranean Observatory on Environment and Sustainable Development;
  - c. Two workshops on coastal adaptation solutions in Morocco and Montenegro aimed at identifying more relevant adaptation solutions, also taking into account the WEF Nexus solutions identified under CP 2.2.

Mr. Karner also introduced the activities under preparation:

- d. A regional training for 50 technical experts on nature-based adaptation solutions to be organized in Albania in September. If possible, representatives of all countries participating in CP 2.1 will be invited to participate.
  - e. Two workshops on how to engage the private sector companies and international financing institution on climate risk adaptation with focus on the integration of climate risk in development plans and on effective, efficient and bankable nature-based solutions.
12. Ms. Daria Povh, PAP/RAC Senior Programme Officer summarized the recommendations from the previous PSCM and how the Executing Partners responded to them by securing links with ICZM plans under development by CP 2.1 . CP 2.1 expert teams composed by experts in the following sector marine biology, waste, water, tourism and GIS, reviewed the impact of Climate Change on their topic of interest

and contributed to identify possible adaptation measures which were then scrutinized by the representatives of national and local institutions and technical and scientific bodies for relevancy and consistency. Ms. Povh also illustrated how the different outputs of the work in the pilot areas (stakeholder analysis, scoping report, recommendation measures) are being integrated in the ICZM plans. Ms. Povh also reported on the participation by PAP/RAC at the COP 27 in Egypt and on the SCCF visibility and dissemination activities which were done. She also mentioned how the Land Cover Change indicator being developed under CP 2.1 also serves the work done under SCCF, in particular for assessing the potential impacts of sea level rise. Ms. Povh also introduced the cost benefit analysis of the identified adaptation solutions in the two pilot areas which is starting. Ms. Povh encouraged Montenegro and Morocco to provide data to support cost benefit analysis, a formal request could be sent out by the MedPCU when requesting the co-financing reports. Ms. Povh also explained that the planned report on “the main legal, policy and institutional barriers and opportunities for implementing adaptation solutions” will be released by the end of the year.

13. Cost-benefit-assessed and prioritized coastal adaptation solutions will be integrated in the Coastal Plans of the two pilot sites by the end of the year.
14. Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, GWP-Med Deputy Director, reported on progress in the implementation of Component 3 on improving access to international climate change adaptation finance. Mr. Constantianos illustrated the results of a study on trends in the availability and utilization of public and private climate change adaptation funds in Morocco, Tunisia and Albania and pointed out that the study clearly shows that climate change adaptation players are not using available public and private financial resources to protect Mediterranean coastal and marine areas. Mr. Constantianos illustrated the structure and the progress in the preparation of the “Guidelines Document for preparing a financing plan for CC adaptation” which reviews all available funding options along with the key steps for successful mobilization of fundings. He highlighted that this document is expected to be the first step towards the set-up of a stable climate change funding framework and stressed the important linkages that this document makes with the NEXUS adaptation and mitigation co-benefits being outlined under CP 2.2. Mr. Constantianos also illustrated the proposed modality for identifying two participating countries for developing 2 project proposals for implementing pilot adaptation solutions to be brought to the attention of international donors. The draft selection criteria was illustrated and it was agreed that it will be shared with the participating countries for comments and manifestation of interest in participating to this activity by the end of June 2023 and that they will be finalized and endorsed during a “Regional consultation workshop on options and roadmap” scheduled for September 2023. The proposed draft selection criteria can be found as Annex III to the present report
15. It is suggested that elaborated project proposals focus on the utilization of nature-based adaptation solutions for coastal areas. Some of those have been already documented by PAP/RAC in the Adriadapt platform.
16. Information on the respective climate risk assessment and adaptation framework of the participating countries could be gathered in preparation of the selection procedure. A questionnaire/template could be sent to the countries together with the selection criteria by the end of June 2023
17. Lebanon, although not participating in the SCCF project, highlighted the interest in participating to this activity and asked the MedPCU to investigate this possibility.
18. PAP/RAC suggested to consider the funding possibilities offered by the Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) and the approach adopted by PAMEX in financing identified adaptation measures for coastal plans

#### **Agenda Item 4: The national perspective**

19. The representative of the Montenegrin Ministry of the Environment, Ms. Milica Rudic, presented the national regulatory framework for climate risk adaptation, starting from the ICZM protocol and Action Plan until 2030 and the ongoing activities of the coastal planning and adaptation projects in Boka

Kotorska area. Mrs. Rudic mentioned the key features of the area together with the identified climate risk and the worrying impact they may have. Mrs Rudic summarized the implemented activities and the preliminary outcomes of the project: CC gender sensitive risk assessment, recommendations for adaptation measures, cost benefit analysis. She concluded that SCCF is a very important project for Montenegro, it allows to develop the first management plan with climate change adaptation measures which is being developed as a strategic document and whose structure will become the national standards for management plans.

20. The representative of the Environment Directorate of the Regional Government of the TTA Region of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Amrani, reviewed the activities implemented in Morocco by the SCCF project and the coordination with the parallel activities under CP 2.1. Mr. Amrani acknowledged the important technical support being received by the MedProgramme and stressed on the importance of the participatory approach implemented through different mechanisms and working groups which allowed to mobilise and coordinate the contribution of all stakeholders involved in the management of the coastal area and its resources.

#### **Agenda item 5: SCCF Project Workplan 2023-2024**

21. The MedPCU, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC and GWP-Med presented the workplan for component 1, 2, 3 and 4 of SCCF Project. The implementation of planned activities requires an extension of project duration of six months until the end of June 2024. The PSCM meeting approved the work plans.

#### **Agenda item 6: SCCF Budget Forecast for Workplan 2023-2024**

22. Ms. Minaei presented the budget forecast for Q3 2023-Q1 2024, including the required revisions to the budget.
23. The Steering Committee approved the revision of the budget and the budget forecast for 2023-2024 with no objections or adjustments.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Any other Business**

24. Nothing to be reported under this agenda item.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations**

25. The Meeting participants reviewed, amended, and adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations from the Meeting discussions, which appear in Annex IV of this Meeting report.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting**

26. Ms. Hamdan and Ms. Kassam provided closing remarks at the end of the Third Steering Committee Meeting.

**Annex I**  
**List of Participants**

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**Annex II**  
**Provisional Agenda**

- Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3:** Progress since the Inception Meeting
- Agenda item 4:** The national perspective: the implementation in Morocco and Montenegro
- Agenda item 5:** SCCF Project Workplan 2023
- Agenda item 6:** SCCF Project Annual Budget 2023
- Agenda item 7:** Update on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the SCCF Project
- Agenda item 8:** Any other Business
- Agenda item 9:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 10:** Closure of the Meeting

**TIMETABLE**

<b>Tuesday 6 June 2023</b>		
Please note that all times are local		
14:00 – 14:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
14:15 – 14:30	Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	UNEP/MED WG.572/1
14:30 – 15:10	Agenda item 3: Progress since the 2 <sup>nd</sup> SC Meeting	presentation
15:10 – 15:30	Agenda item 4: The national perspective: the implementation in Morocco and Montenegro	presentation
15:30 – 16:00	Agenda item 5: SCCF Project Workplan 2023-2024	UNEP/MED WG. 572/2
<i>16:00 – 16:30</i>	Break	
16:30 – 17:00	Agenda item 6: SCCF Project Annual Budget 2023-2024	UNEP/MED WG.572/3
17:00 – 17:15	Agenda item 7: Implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the SCCF Project	presentation
17:15 – 17:30	Agenda item 8: Any Other Business	
17:30 - 17:45	Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations	UNEP/MED WG.572/4
17:45	Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting	

## Annex III

**DRAFT SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE PROJECT'S  
PROPOSAL COUNTRIES AND CONTENTS TO ACCESS INTERNATIONAL FINANCING  
SUPPORT FOR CCA IN COASTAL ZONE WITH AT LEAST TWO COUNTRIES**

**A. Proposal's Countries:**

- Are beneficiaries of the SCCF project.
- Are eligible for the international climate fund that will be selected for submission and, in case applicable, have not exceeded related financing quota.
- Request their participation at the project proposal.
- Commit to mobilise required capacities to assist the elaboration of the proposal, including technical contributions, endorsement processes, etc.
- Geographically, including the countries combination, match the requirements of the international climate fund that will be selected for submission.
- Their number meets the international climate fund requirements, and does not jeopardise the success of the submission.

**B. Proposal's Contents:**

- Are in the beneficiary country priorities, like NAPs, NDCs and other strategic frameworks
- Align with the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework
- Align with priorities identified within SCCF, including on adaptation in the coastal and marine area identified under Component 2
- Are within the explicit priorities of the international climate fund that will be selected as convenient for the submission
- Are innovative for the country or the region and/or follow up results of previous 'pilot' experience, addressing current internationally applied concepts like Source-to-Sea, Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus, etc.
- Justify the potential for impact within sustainable development objectives and for paradigm shift
- Are cost-effective
- Have a high replication and/or scalability potential
- Are likely to attract funding from countries, donors, IFIs
- Are likely to attract synergies with the private sector
- Include gender balance and equity considerations

## **Annex IV**

### **Conclusions and recommendations of the Third Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) for the SCCF Project “Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” (GEF ID 9717) of the “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security” (GEF ID 9607)**

**Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 6 June 2023**

1. The Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the SCCF Project entitled “Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” (SCCF Project – GEF ID 9717) was held in Rabat, Morocco, on 6 June 2023.
2. The Meeting was organized by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU in collaboration with the GEF Climate Change Task manager and the Executing Partners PAP/RAC, P, and GWP – Med.
3. The SCM thanked Morocco and GWP-Med for their kind support to organize the meeting in Morocco.
4. MedPCU presented an overview of the MedProgramme and its structure, the targets to be achieved at the end of the project.
5. The Executing Partners presented the progress achieved since MedProgramme’s Second Steering Committee Meeting, in addition to the Annual Work Plan 2023 Q1-2024 Q2. Further to its deliberations, the SCM reached the following conclusions:
  - i. The SCM took note of the progress achieved since the MedProgramme’s Second Steering Committee Meeting held by videoconference on May 2022;
  - ii. The SCM took note of the proposed criteria for the selection of the countries to take part in the preparation of the funding proposal and agreed that MedPCU would share, in collaboration with GWP-Med, these criteria with the countries and continue follow-up bilateral discussions with them. In addition, countries will be invited to send a letter of interest to the MedPCU/GWP Med to be part of this selection and to prepare a description of the national framework concerning climate change adaptation funding and priorities. A virtual meeting will be organised (early September) among PSC members to present the final criteria and agree on the selection procedure.
  - iii. The SCM took note of the funding opportunities offered by the PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) with regard to the implementation of planned activities under Component 3 and encouraged GWP Med and the countries to strongly consider this initiative
  - iv. The SCM approved the Annual Work Plan 2023 Q1-2024 Q2 as presented. In addition, the Steering Committee Meeting took note of the delays encountered during the implementation of SCCF project, especially with respect to Component 3 and 4 of the Project and endorsed the extension of the project with no additional cost for one year until Q2 2024

- v. The SCM approved different execution arrangements to be executed by the project for the following items:
  - Plan Bleu/RAC's request to organize one single, regional flagship training on Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Nature-based Solutions for coastal managers and decision-makers of the SCCF Project Countries, back-to-back with Mediterranean Coast Day instead of one training per pilot site.
  - Plan Bleu/RAC's request to mobilize its SCCF Budget to lead a session at the third MEDCOP focusing on the WEF Nexus and Coastal Management (Co-leads: PAP/RAC and GWP-Med).
  - The procedure and the criteria to be utilized for the identification of the four participating countries which will be supported in the preparation of a project proposal on climate change adaptation in view to access international financing support.
  
6. MedPCU presented the budget forecast for the SCCF project for the period 2023 Q1-2024 Q2. Further to its deliberation, the Steering Committee reviewed and approved the annual project budget as presented, including the following items:
  - i. PAP/RAC's request to allocate the necessary resources to assist in preparing materials on the setback for IFIs from the Sub-Contractors class or from the Consultant class depending on the results of the planned competitive bid, and of shifting the required budget between those classes accordingly.
  - ii. Plan Bleu/RAC's request to mobilize its SCCF Budget (\$3500) to pursue the work on applying the Coastal Risk Index-Local Scale to Kotor Bay, Montenegro, further building on the outcomes of Activity 1.1 of the project.
  - iii. PAP/RAC's request to reallocate funds from "Grants to IP" to "Operating and Other Direct Costs" to organize meetings to launch the implementation of ICZM Plans.