



The Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEX) Declaration on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

We, the members of the Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEX), as a voluntary coalition of eleven countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia) and four regional organizations (UNEP/MAP, EU DG MARE, FAO GFCM, UfM) are determined to step up our ambition for the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region.

Considering:

1. Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) to ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative and well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
2. Targets 1.4 on effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), 1.5 on areas with enhanced protection levels and 3.9 on sustainable funding, national commitments and innovative sources of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) adopted by Decision IG.25/11 of the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 22) respectively foreseeing that:
 - i. By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of MCPAs and OECMs, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.
 - ii. By 2030, the number and coverage of marine and coastal protected areas with enhanced protection levels is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems.
 - iii. By 2027 at the Mediterranean level, and at the national level in most countries, sustainable funding strategies have been developed, with innovative approaches to mobilize alternative financial sources, covering fiscal incomes that could be redistributed, and relevant actions to fund, including regional funds and other type of national or local financing mechanisms, so that by 2030 there is a significant increase of financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors.
3. The 2nd Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Action Declaration of 4 October 2021:
 - i. highlighting that the protection, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems and tackling climate change in an integrated manner must be an essential part of immediate action with near and mid-term targets, to be coherent with longer-term strategies for the protection of human health and well-being; and
 - ii. declaring intentions to join efforts in developing policies to protect, manage and restore biodiversity, in particular supporting the implementation of the Convention on Biological



Diversity and preparations for the adoption of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would include mainstreaming biodiversity into other policy areas, in particular agriculture and fisheries among others, creating an ambitious, ecologically representative, well-managed and well-connected system of protected areas, representing 30 per cent of marine and 30 per cent of terrestrial ecosystems, and implementing nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches as a fundamental part of actions addressing climate change.

4. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that has set the goal of protecting at least 30 per cent of the land and 30 per cent of the sea in the EU, through a coherent network of protected areas, at least one-third of which - representing 10 per cent of EU land and 10 per cent of EU sea - should be strictly protected.

We, therefore:

1. *Reaffirm* our determination to achieve the successful completion of the above-referred targets adopted at the regional, sub-regional, and global levels.
2. *Commit* to achieving 10 per cent marine protected areas under strict protection at the regional level in the Mediterranean region.
3. *Call* on all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement effectively in a synergetic way the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Target 3 and the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region Targets 1.4 and 1.5, with national legislations aiming for effective protection and their seas and coasts, including through protected areas with effective management and enhanced protection levels, as well as the identification and effective management of OECMs.
4. *Stand in support* of the channeling of financial flows to bridge the marine protected areas' financing gap, mobilizing financial and non-financial resources from all international and domestic sources, including governmental, non-governmental, and private actors from different sectors.
5. *Encourage* the development and implementation of projects supporting regional Mediterranean capacities to achieve these targets, and to support the development of a coherent network of MCPAs including through the PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) and other regional and international relevant funding mechanisms.