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Agenda item 3: CP 2.2 Workplan

Workplan 2024-2025

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

ACCISI-GEM	Adapting to Climate Change Impacts through Smart Irrigation in Ghar El Melh wetland
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
CP	Child Project
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU	European Union
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean
ICOS	Information Communication and Outreach Strategy
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMG	Inter-Ministerial Group
IW	International Waters
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MedPCU	MedProgramme Coordinating Unit
MedProgramme	Mediterranean Sea Programme
MFET	Maltese Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trad
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
RFQ	Request for Offers
SCPD	Steering Committees of the Nexus (Policy) Dialogues
SEE Nexus Project	The Project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in South-eastern Europe, through the use of Nexus approach
SEG	Stakeholders Engagement Strategy
SEGMS	Stakeholders Engagement and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
TGWR	Thematic Group on Water Resources
TTA	Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima
UfM	Union of the Mediterranean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WEFE	Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem

I. INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the workplan elaborated by GWP-Med; the executing partner of Child Project CP2.2 “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus” (GEF ID 9685) implemented in the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): “Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607). The report provides information on planned activities and their related tasks, as well as a description of delays facing timely implementation and the revised time plan for completion. The tabulated quarterly workplan including the timetable for implementation from 2021 to 2026 is included in Annex A of this report. It is presented in order to visualize a way forward for project implementation from its inception to completion in March 2026.

II. WORKPLAN & STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Component 1: Institutional strengthening

Output 1.1: Regional dialogue and capacity building on Nexus assessment and approach

1. Four key activities are planned for achievement of Output 1.1. These include:
 - a. Preparation of a Mediterranean Nexus Study. The Study – titled “A Rapid Assessment of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus in the Mediterranean” – including an introduction and overview of key findings, was finalised in May 2024 and will be shared with MAP Focal Points for their feedback. Comments will be addressed and the Study will be prepared as a standalone report in the 3rd quarter of 2024. It covers the nine MedProgramme beneficiary countries as well as Jordan, Mauritania, Palestine and Turkey.
 - b. Dissemination, usage, and enrichment of knowledge Nexus material in the form of the JRC/GWP-Med/UfM Nexus Atlas. The Nexus Atlas (titled "Nexus Gateway") was finalised by JRC in the 2nd quarter of 2023 and was presented and discussed during the 1st Regional Nexus Roundtable that was held in Rabat in June 2023. Dissemination of knowledge materials is an ongoing process.
 - c. Organization of Regional Roundtables. The 1st Regional Roundtable on WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean ("Promoting innovations, investments and upscaling of solutions") was held on 6-7 June 2023 in Rabat, Morocco, and online. The 2nd Regional Roundtable (“Towards a Strategy for the WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum”) was held on 5 February 2024 during the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum in Tunis, Tunisia. Both Roundtables were under the auspices of UNEP/MAP, the UfM and the European Commission, and organised with the support of the WES-EU Project and the PRIMA Foundation. Discussions are under way with partners for the organisation of the 3rd Roundtable to be provisionally held in the 4th quarter of 2024. A Catalytic result is set to be achieved under this process including the preparation and eventual endorsement at Ministerial level of the Strategy for the WEF Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum. A draft Strategy document will be discussed in the 3rd Roundtable. The final document will be discussed through official processes under the UfM and the Barcelona Convention with the aim of the Strategy being adopted by a Ministerial meeting under UfM and the Meeting of the Parties of the Barcelona convention in the second half of 2025.
 - d. Organization of Nexus Trainings. The Concept Note and the terms of reference for the training workshops have been prepared and the consultants will be recruited to develop and deliver these trainings in June/July 2024. The workshops, in the form of an integrated online course on the WEF Nexus and 3 to 4 dedicated modules, including webinar sessions, are planned to take place in the 4th quarter of 2024. The aim is to have at least 30 decision-makers following the course online and participating in the webinars. All materials will be available in an online platform for asynchronous training.

Component 2: Addressing Nexus issues affecting priority coastal zones of the Mediterranean LME

Output 2.1: New or existing inter-institutional bodies convening and steering the development of Nexus Assessments and strategic documents

2. Work undertaken/planned under this activity in the participating countries includes:

- a. Albania: The Thematic Group on Water Resources (TGWR), initially envisaged to steer activities, has been inactive the past 2 years due to changes in the country's Integrated Policy Management framework. Following discussions with Albanian counterparts, it was agreed in the 3rd quarter of 2023 that Phase II activities will be steered by an ad-hoc Advisory Group consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment; the Water Resources Management Agency; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Advisory Group will meet on an ad-hoc basis depending on the needs of the project throughout the project implementation period.
- b. Lebanon: A WEFÉ (Nexus) Inter-Ministerial Group was created on the initiative of the Ministry of Water and Energy comprising representatives of WEFÉ ministries and institutions to facilitate coordination among these for the implementation of the sectoral strategies and action plans, and guide the MedProgramme Phase II WEFÉ Nexus activities. The WEFÉ IMG is facilitated by GWP-Med. It involves representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Department of Meteorology and the National Center of Scientific Research. The initial meeting of the WEFÉ IMG took place on June 2023 to kick off the development of a WEFÉ Nexus Action Plan. Regular WEFÉ IMG meetings (approximately 6 per year) are scheduled till the end of the project.
- c. Morocco: Nexus activities are steered by the Commission Régionale de Gestion Intégrée du Littoral de la Région Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima. Following discussions with relevant stakeholders during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2023, a smaller WEFÉ Nexus focused Steering Committee is being currently set-up with an official function to follow -beyond the MedProgramme- the Nexus activities in the Region. To assist in this effort, a draft terms of reference for the set-up and functioning of the Committee was prepared by GWP-Med and shared with DRE TTA and with the Regional Council during the 1st quarter of 2024. Discussions are on-going between them on the most suitable set-up and the Committee is expected to be created by the 3rd or 4th quarters of 2024. The Committee will meet on an ad-hoc basis depending on the needs of the project.

Output 2.2: Water-energy-food-ecosystems Nexus Assessments and multi-stakeholder consultation dialogues in priority coastal areas

3. Two key activities are planned for achievement of Output 2.2. These include:

- a. Development of a stakeholders Analysis. Work undertaken/planned in the countries include:
 - i. Albania: The Stakeholders Analysis for Albania was prepared in 2020 in the framework of the ADA-funded SEE Nexus Project.
 - ii. Lebanon: The Stakeholder Analysis for Lebanon was prepared in 2022.
 - iii. Morocco: The Stakeholders Analysis for Morocco TTA was prepared in 2023.
- b. Development of Nexus Assessments including stakeholder consultations. Work undertaken/planned in the countries includes:
 - i. Albania: The Phase I Nexus Assessment for Albania was prepared in 2021-2022 with co-financing from an ADA-funded SEE Nexus Project. Two multi-stakeholder meetings provided input to and validated the Assessment. The Concept for the Phase II Assessment was agreed in the 4th quarter of 2023 with national counterparts

as essentially a pre-feasibility study for interventions with cross-sectoral benefits in an irrigation reservoir. The consultants to develop the Assessment will be hired in June/July 2024. Given the localised scope of activities, a localised consultation process will take place engaging both local and national stakeholders. The first consultation meeting is planned to take place in the 3rd quarter of 2024 launching the development of the Assessment. A draft Assessment will be prepared by the 3rd quarter of 2025. The final Assessment will be ready in the 1st quarter of 2026.

- ii. Lebanon: Phase I WEF E Nexus Assessment for Lebanon was prepared in 2022-2023. Two multi-stakeholders consultations were organized providing input and validation to its outcomes. Its preparation was guided by the WEF E Nexus Steering Group that later (Q2/2023) evolved into the WEF E Inter-Ministerial Group facilitated by GWP-Med. The focus of Phase II WEF E Nexus Assessment has been discussed with relevant stakeholders and indicators related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Lebanon have been integrated into the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Assessment, in collaboration with PAP/RAC and as a contribution of CP 2.2 to CP 2.1 relevant activities in the country (Q4/2023). A Call for Offers has been issued, and the evaluation of received proposals is currently ongoing (Q2/2024). The start of the WEF E Nexus Assessment Phase II is anticipated by the 3rd quarter of 2024. The draft Assessment will be ready by the 3rd quarter of 2025 and the final Assessment by the 4th quarter of 2025. The preparation of Phase II WEF E Nexus Assessment will encompass consultations with various stakeholders and further engagements with the WEF E IMG. The 3rd multi-stakeholder consultation is planned to be organised by the 2nd quarter of 2025.
- iii. Morocco: The consultant has developed a draft Phase I WEF E Nexus Assessment for TTA Region and now works to integrate additional information and data acquired with the assistance of the Moroccan institutions. An advanced draft Assessment is expected in early the 3rd quarter of 2024. The advanced draft will be shared for comments with the Moroccan institutions and discussed in a face-to-face meeting planned for the 3rd quarter of 2024. The final draft will incorporate comments received and will be ready by the 4th quarter of 2024. Based on the WEF E Nexus solutions outlined in the Phase I WEF E Nexus Assessment, GWP-Med is collaborating with DRE TTA to determine the focus of the Phase II WEF E Nexus Assessment, with the goal of directly contributing to the Regional Coastal Plan/Schema regional du Littoral. This focus is expected to be determined by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2024, leading to the development of Terms of Reference (ToRs) and a Call for Offers to engage Consultants to conduct the study. The draft Phase II of the WEF E Nexus Assessment is planned to start by the 3rd quarter of 2024 and to be ready by the 4th quarter of 2025. The provisional findings will be discussed in a multi-stakeholder consultation event planned for 3rd quarter of 2025.

Output 2.3: Nexus strategies/action plans for priority coastal areas, possibly as part of other strategic documents for coastal areas

4. Development of Nexus Strategies or Action Plans. Work undertaken/planned in the countries includes:

- a. Albania: A “Nexus Roadmap for Albania” was prepared under Phase I Nexus Assessment. In the context of the Phase II Nexus Assessment, an Action Plan for the replication and upscaling at the national level of the interventions to be assessed will be prepared by the 4th quarter of 2025.
- b. Lebanon: A WEF E Nexus Action Plan is being developed, under the guidance of the WEF E IMG. The Action Plan is planned to be ready in the 1st quarter of 2025. The development process of the Action Plan will streamline the findings and suggestions from the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) activities conducted as part of CP 2.1.

- c. Morocco: The development of a WEFE Nexus Strategy or Action Plan will start once Phase I Assessment will be finalised. The Action Plan will be ready in the 1st quarter of 2025. The development process of the WEFE Nexus Strategy or Action Plan will be guided by the Commission Regional du Littoral and of the WEFE Nexus Steering Committee and streamline the findings and recommendations from the Schema Regional du Littoral.

Component 3: Testing and upscaling Nexus solutions

Output 3.1: Nexus demonstration activities

5. Three key activities are planned for achievement of Output 3.1. These include:
 - a. Identification of two traditional or novel nexus solutions in two countries. Work undertaken includes:
 - i. Tunisia: After consulting with key stakeholders in Tunisia to identify two promising Nexus solutions, it was determined that the most viable options for replication and scalability, involved precision agriculture utilizing innovative technologies to reduce water and chemicals input usage, along with the integration of renewable energies. The demonstration activity has been developed on the light of these considerations.
 - ii. Lebanon: Four promising Nexus solutions have been identified and assessed (see 3.1.2).
 - b. Assessment of replication and feasibility potential of the four solutions. Work undertaken includes:
 - i. Lebanon: Four (4) Nexus approaches implemented in Lebanon were evaluated during the 4th quarter of 2023 for their effectiveness and potential for scalability as WEFE Nexus solutions, considering the economic and financial challenges currently facing the country. The results of this assessment have guided the selection of a pilot demonstration project, which is centered around the utilization of cutting-edge innovative technologies for precision agriculture and investigating opportunities for upscaling their implementation.
 - ii. Tunisia: After consulting with various government agencies and stakeholders in Tunisia, a decision has been made to upscale an already successful demonstration project on precision irrigation using innovative technologies and localized solutions within the WEFE Nexus framework Assessment of replication and feasibility potential of the four solutions.
 - c. Testing of novel applications and assessment of their replication potential and feasibility. Work undertaken includes:
 - i. Tunisia: The activity "Adapting to Climate Change Impacts through Smart Irrigation in Ghar El Melh wetland area, Tunisia" (ACCISI-GEM) is a practical demonstration of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach in a coastal wetland in Tunisia. It is co-funded by the Maltese Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade (MFET) and CP 2.2, particularly its Component 3.1.3: Testing of novel applications and assessment of their replication potential and feasibility. A key aspect relates to the experimentation of a novel technology for Tunisia, namely an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)-based smart irrigation system for farming communities in the targeted area, that utilises sensors and data analytics to monitor soil and crop conditions, and water requirements in real time, enabling farmers to optimise the use of available water resources, even in water-scarce environments. The project implementation began in the 1st quarter of 2024 with the recruitment of a Technical expert to support GWP-Med through a Request for Offers (RFQ) process. Meetings have been

conducted with key stakeholders at local and regional levels to secure their support for identifying potential farmers and finalizing technical specifications. Currently, Call for Offers are being developed for (i) the supply and installation of smart irrigation equipment in 5 farms, (ii) Photovoltaic systems in two farms to reduce water pumping costs, and (iii) a piezometer to monitor the hydrology of the wetland. The milestones and deliverables of this activity along with the expected dates of completion/delivery are given below:

- Selection of the most suitable farms for the implementation of the project is planned for the 1st quarter of 2024.
 - Installation of the equipment and testing phase will take place till the 1st quarter of 2025.
 - Three (3) Training sessions to support and assist farmers and local stakeholders will be organized in the period 2nd to 4th quarters of 2024.
 - Two (2) multi-stakeholder Workshops to launch and to conclude the activities will take place in 3rd quarter of 2024 and 1st quarter of 2025.
- ii. Lebanon: The activity is focused on implementing precision agriculture practices, which will involve the use of sensors, automated irrigation, drones for pesticide application, and other innovative technologies. The concept note for this project was finalized during the 1st quarter of 2024 in collaboration with partners, including the Litani River Authority, the Lebanon micro-finance association, and Berytech, a business incubator and accelerator. A Memorandum of Understanding outlining each partner's responsibilities has been prepared in the 2nd quarter of 2024 and is expected to be signed by the partners very soon. A technical expert to support GWP-Med in implementing the activity will be hired in the 2nd quarter of 2024. The milestones and deliverables of this activity along with the expected dates of completion/delivery are given below:
- Call for Offers to procure the necessary equipment, with completion anticipated in the 4th quarter of 2024
 - The field equipment will be in place and operational by the 4th quarter of 2024 so as to be used in the period the 4th quarter of 2024 to 2nd quarter of 2025
 - Techno-economic analysis and market research is planned to start in the 4th quarter of 2024
 - Monitoring, evaluation of the effectiveness of the demonstration activity will take place in throughout the testing and implementation period; the final evaluation is planned to be ready by the 4th quarter of 2025.

The goal is to leverage market mechanisms to expand the demonstration activity, potentially by offering a loan product to farmers interested in the technology being tested. Discussions have begun with financial partners, including EBRD, with further conversations planned with other donors to explore opportunities for loan guarantees.

Output 4.1: Identified interventions, including potential sources of funding

6. The key activity under this output consists of preparation of projects documentation/ investments fiches for priority interventions and/or necessary investments. The following countries' fiches were prepared:

- a. Morocco: Following discussions with various stakeholders in Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region during the 4th quarter of 2023 as part of the WEF Nexus Policy Dialogue, GWP-Med engaged in focused dialogue with the Regional Council of TTA (CRTTA) regarding the development of project documents and feasibility studies for

Nexus-related solutions. It was agreed that CRE TTA and GWP-Med will collaborate on an intervention involving the installation of floating solar panels in an existing dam to reduce evaporation and generate energy, testing precision agriculture in the irrigated area served by the dam to decrease water consumption and pollution, and replicating this approach in other areas to upscale its results. The concept was also presented to potential funding partners, including the EU delegation to Morocco, who have initiated discussions with the EIB. In the 1st quarter of 2024, a concept note outlining the intervention was developed in partnership with CRTTA and shared with the EU Delegation. Additionally, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) delineating the roles and responsibilities of each partner was prepared in the 2nd quarter of 2024. The milestones and deliverables of this activity along with the expected dates of completion/delivery are given below:

- Signing of the CRTTA-GWP-Med MoU in the 3rd quarter of 2024.
 - Discussions among CRTTA, EBRD (and possibly EIB) and GWP-Med regarding the implementation of the initiative and decision regarding the International Financing Institution (IFI) that will be engaged and finance the investment. The decision will be taken by the CRTTA and the IFI; the procedures that will be followed for the development of the necessary studies and the financing/project dossier, will be those of the IFI that will be engaged in the activity. The period planned for these activities is the 3rd to the 4th quarters of 2024.
 - Procurement of the pre-feasibility, feasibility and other studies (the type and number is to be decided) is planned for the 1st quarter of 2025, and the feasibility studies along with the Project Fiche will be completed by 4th quarter of 2025.
- b. **Lebanon:** GWP-Med has initiated discussions in the 2nd quarter of 2024 with national institutions regarding two potential interventions. The goal of these interventions is to leverage the opportunities presented by Green Climate Funds for Lebanon, specifically focusing on investment projects related to the WEF Nexus that have been submitted by the Ministry of Energy and Water as part of the Country Programme's project pipeline. Further discussions with key institutions will take place in the 2nd quarter of 2024 to confirm the specific focus. The milestones and deliverables of this activity along with the expected dates of completion/delivery are given below:
- Studies (e.g. pre-feasibility studies, concept notes etc.), in order to develop a funding request for a grant (up to \$1.5 million USD) from the GCF Project Preparation Facility are planned for the 1st quarter of 2025.
 - Funding request to the GCF Project Preparation Facility is planned for the 1st quarter of 2025.
 - Provided that the request will be positively considered, in the period of the 1st to the 4th quarters of 2025 there will be discussions with possible implementation agencies, selection of one by the Lebanese institutions to work along with GWP-Med for/and development of a full proposal to submit to the GCF to consider for financing the full implementation of the interventions.

Component 4: Consultant and outreach

Output 5.1: A Stakeholders Engagement Strategy (SEG) coherent with the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming and Knowledge Management Strategies

7. Stakeholder Engagement activities along with Communications activities are being undertaken and will continue being undertaken until the end of the project on the basis of related communication,

stakeholder engagement strategies as well as the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming and Knowledge Management Strategies.

Justification of the request for an extension of Child Project 2.2

8. Extension of Child Project 2.2 is necessary further to delays facing implementation of a number of activities for reasons beyond the control of the executing partner of the project. These include issues related mainly to the development of Nexus Assessments including stakeholder consultations and development of Nexus Strategies or Action Plans in Albania, Lebanon and Morocco, as well as preparation of projects documentation/investments fiches for priority interventions and/or necessary investments.

9. In view of the above, it is proposed to extend the Child Project CP2.2 by one year; with an end date in March 2026.

Annex A
Workplan 2021-2026

