



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.502/18



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

21 May 2021
Original: English

Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points

Videoconference, 23-25 June 2021

Agenda Item 9: Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2022-2023

Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2022- 2023

Note:

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.

© 2021 United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337 - 1080 Tunis Cedex - Tunisia
E-mail: car-asp@spa-rac.org

Narrative introduction to the draft Programme of Work 2022-2023 of SPA/RAC

1. The preliminary draft Programme of Work (PoW) for the 2022-2023 biennium of SPA/RAC (hereinafter referred to as SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW) has been prepared following the guiding elements included in the Planning and Programming Paper for the preparation of the 2022-2023 PoW prepared by the Secretariat. Since this is the first biennium of the next MTS cycle (2022-2027), which is still under development, the SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW uses all the main elements included in the current draft of the new MTS, including key priorities, objectives and strategic outcomes.
2. In developing the SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW due consideration has been given to the contribution of its expected deliverables to the achievement of the anticipated MTS programmes and outcomes. Special emphasis was placed on outcomes which require a long-term timespan, especially those planned to be expanded over the entire six-year MTS cycle, as well as those being directly linked with or continuing ongoing work of the current biennium.
3. The activities proposed under the SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW aim at assisting Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol, in particular, by protecting, preserving and managing, in a sustainable and environmentally sound way, areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of specially protected areas and by protecting, preserving and managing threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna, and their habitats, in line with the SPA/RAC mandate.
4. The SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW has been developed considering the priorities defined in the Post-2020 SAPBIO, the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, both under development, and the Regional Action Plans and Strategy on threatened and endangered species and key habitats. Its deliverables aim at contributing, based on the available budget (both MTF and externally mobilized funds), to the implementation of the following Instruments and Decisions taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention: the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol); COP 15 Decision IG.17/12: Procedure for the revision of the areas included in the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) List (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008); COP 19 Decision IG.22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016); COP 20 Decision IG.23/6: 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017); and COP 21 Decision IG.24/4: Assessment Studies, and more particularly its Annex V on the Roadmap and Needs Assessment for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, Decision IG.24/6: Identification and Conservation of Sites of Particular Ecological Interest in the Mediterranean, including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance; Decision IG.24/7: Strategies and Action Plans under the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, including the SAPBIO; the Strategy on Monk Seal, and the Action Plans concerning Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes and Marine Vegetation; Classification of Benthic Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean Region, and Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean and COP 21 Decision IG.24/14: Programme of Work and Budget (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).
5. The SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW also considers relevant current and emerging global and regional frameworks and processes, including SDG 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 12.2, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a; UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework, UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), UN Decade of Ocean Science

for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the under development global Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction binding framework (BBNJ), etc.

6. The SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW is developed mainly under five MTS Programmes, namely "Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity", "Towards a Climate Resilient Mediterranean", "Governance", "Together for a shared vision of the Mediterranean Sea and coast" and "Towards a stronger advocacy, awareness, education and communication of the Mediterranean Sea and coast". Particular attention will be paid to the collaboration with other MAP Components.

I. MTS Programme "Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity"

7. The main objective of the SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW under this programme is to support the Contracting Parties in their efforts towards improving ecosystem resilience through restoration of those with best regeneration potential, to assist them in establishing, expanding and efficiently managing a comprehensive, coherent and effective Mediterranean network of MPAs and OECMs, improving the status of conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and minimizing non-indigenous species introductions and controlling their introduction pathways. More specifically, the SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW envisages to assist the Contracting Parties to implement national measures to restore the most resilient marine and coastal habitats, as mean to allow successful restorations during the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and get experience for more challenging ones in the future, including through the elaboration of tools and guidelines, specific training and where and whenever possible, countries' field actions.

- in the elaboration or updating of their national strategies and action plans for the development of MPAs and OECMs networks, based on the orientations and priorities of the post-2020 SAPBIO, post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs, the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and other relevant global goals and targets.
- in extending their MPA/Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) and OECM networks, by extending existing areas, declaring new ones, including in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJ), designating highly protected zones, and enforcing efficient management measures for their long-term conservation. Specific support will be provided in terms of strengthening effective SPAMI management through SPAMI Twinning Programmes. Enforcement activities will be guided and supported by technical tools, standards, criteria, guidelines, tailored at regional or sub-regional level, as needed and as relevant.
- to ensure the continuous knowledge and conservation status assessments of marine and coastal species and habitats covered by Regional Action Plans or by the Annex II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol, in line with the IMAP requirements as well as data sharing, capacity building programmes (symposia, workshop and thematic regional, sub-regional and national training sessions), regional action plans/strategy update and elaboration of sub-regional and national ones, but also improvement of measures to mitigate the impact and interaction with coastal and marine human activities and enhancing their adoption by the Contracting Parties.
- to update and implement the Regional Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) in the Mediterranean Sea, through the elaboration of tools and guidelines and to adapt it to sub-regional and national contexts, to enhance knowledge and capacities, in particular, through the monitoring and assessment of GES related to NIS, in line with the IMAP requirements, as well as to facilitate data sharing and capacity buildings activities.

II. MTS Programme “Governance”

8. The main objective of the SPA/RAC’s draft 2022-2023 PoW under this programme is to contribute to the effective implementation and enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels, to ensure policy coherence and complementarity among relevant work at global, regional and national levels and among MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s policy and regulatory instruments, to enhance partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement including with the private sector, civil society organisations and science-policy interface and the implementation of coordinated approaches to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. More specifically, the SPA/RAC’s draft 2022-2023 PoW envisages to assist the Contracting Parties through:

- The organisation of the SPA/BD Focal Points meeting and the SAPBIO National Correspondent meetings.
- National Biodiversity Strategic Action Programmes (NBSAPs) elaboration in alignment with the Post-2020 SAPBIO.
- Bilateral working exchanges with global institutions of relevance for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO actions linked to their prerogatives.
- Virtual meetings of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee.
- Promoting the title of “Partner” to the Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and marine key habitats: "Regional Action Plans Partners".
- Development of funding proposals to support Parties' institutions on initial implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

III. MTS Programme “Together for a shared vision of the Mediterranean Sea and coast”

9. The main objective of the SPA/RAC’s draft 2022-2023 PoW under this programme is to support and facilitate Environment and Development Observation and IMAP monitoring to provide updated and quality-assured data in support of decision-making by the Contracting Parties and assessment of GES and science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision-making. More specifically, the SPA/RAC’s draft 2022-2023 PoW envisages to assist the Contracting Parties through:

- Supporting the development and implementation of National/Sub-regional Monitoring Programme(s) in line with the Biodiversity cluster of IMAP and reporting results through the IMAP Info System in line with MED QSR 2023 Roadmap Decision.
- Maintaining Biodiversity databases as appropriate, regularly update databases content and elaborating operational strategy for marine biodiversity data management in line with the UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy.
- Developing monitoring and assessment criteria as well as the reporting processes at national, sub-regional and regional levels for IMAP common indicators (CIs) on biodiversity.

IV. MTS Programme “Towards a stronger advocacy, awareness, education and communication of the Mediterranean Sea and coast”

10. The main objective of the SPA/RAC’s draft 2022-2023 PoW under this programme is to contribute to properly informing stakeholders and policy makers about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and to let them aware of the environmental priority issues, to raise citizen and general public awareness and outreach through citizen science and digital campaigns, and to contribute to a digital transformation using digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility. More specifically, the SPA/RAC’s draft 2022-2023 PoW envisages to assist the Contracting Parties through:

- Developing communication material and events to enhance knowledge on SPA/RAC action in collaboration with the Contracting Parties.
- Co-creating and implementing with CSOs education and awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation within SPAMIs.
- Celebrating the SPAMI Day and delivering the SPAMI Certificates.
- Developing a strategy on incorporating the SPA/BD Protocol and its relevant strategies and tools into Mediterranean countries relevant university curricula and initiating its implementation.
- Enhancing networking among SPAMIs and increasing the visibility of the SPAMI List through the SPAMI Collaborative Platform.

11. The SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW is built on and aims at strengthening the result-based management (RBM) approaches that have been already followed in the previous PoW cycles as well as the integration element.

12. Lessons learned from previous biennia have also been taken into consideration, particularly in terms of feasibility of planned deliverables, implementation flexibility to be considered when programming, the number and size of planned actions and how to consolidate activities of a similar nature.

13. To support the implementation of the PoW 2022-2023, SPA/RAC, together with the MAP CU or with its own means, has secured (or expect to secure) around 2,230,000 €, beside MTF funds.

14. The SPA/RAC's draft 2022-2023 PoW consists of the following elements: The MTS 2022-2027 programmes and outcomes under which the PoW is developed. Under each outcome, are presented, respectively, the main activities, means of implementation and expected deliverables that would be produced, as well as the Lead Component (i.e., SPA/RAC), the other Components expected to contribute to the activity and the partners that would be involved to achieve the expected deliverables. Are, also, indicated in the tables for each main activity, the SDG's references to which it is linked. An idea is also given on whether only MTF budget and/or external resources are planned for the suggested activities and expected deliverables.

MTS Programme 2. Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
Outcome 2.1. Ecosystem resilience improved through restoration of those with best regeneration potential						
2.1.1. Promote the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in the Mediterranean: Identify innovative actions, capitalize and promote replication (In-house expertise, consultancy, pilot projects, regional workshop, side-events)	a) Priority actions to contribute to the implementation of the UN decade on Ecosystem Restoration identified including through mitigation of fisheries interaction, underwater noise, and marine litter.	SPA/RAC/C U	ALL MAP Components	FAO-GFCM, ACCOBAMS, CBD, IUCN MedPAN, RAP associated Partners	14.2; 14.a; 13.1; 13.2	MTF, QUIETSEA EU funded project / MAVA Depredation project
	b) Integration and streamlining of ecosystems restoration in MAP regional measures /action plans/strategies.					
	c) Sharing of best practices, measures and lessons learnt for biodiversity restoration, ensuring carbon sink optimisation and buffering resilience to climate extremes.	SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu	MedECC, UNFCCC, IUCN		MTF + external funds to be identified

	d) Proceedings document with compilation on best practises and measures taking place in Mediterranean ecosystems or applicable to them edited and disseminated.					
Outcome 2.2. Comprehensive, coherent Mediterranean network of well-managed MPAs and OECMs in place, expanded, effective and sustainable						
2.2.1. Enhance the designation and connectivity of different area-based conservation measures, including in ABNJ (in-house expertise, consultancy)	a) Existing MPAs/SPAMI and other OECM (PSSA, EBSA, FRA, etc.) in the Mediterranean mapped. b) Objectives and complementarities among different area-based conservation measures assessed. c) Recommendations developed for new designations and measures to enhance connectivity and effectiveness, including in ABNJ. d) Guidelines on OECM identification in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment elaborated.	SPA/RAC, CU	REMPEC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu	FAO-GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IOC-UNESCO, IUCN, AGEM, MedPAN	14.2; 14.5	Both (including IMELS support)
2.2.2. Design and implement national measures to boost marine protected areas (MPAs) in the region(in-house expertise, consultancy, national trainings/workshops,	a) Post-2020 national strategies/priorities for MPAs (at least for two CPs: the (i) Egyptian Mediterranean and (ii) Libyan coasts). b) National and institutional capacities strengthened through (i) training courses on improving Mediterranean MPA management and sustainability including strengthened financial mechanisms as	SPA/RAC, Respective Contracting Parties	CU and other Components as relevant	Relevant national authorities, relevant regional partners, AGEM	14.2; 14.5; 14.a; 14.c	2.2.1.(a) (i) EXT: EU-funded IMAP-MPA project 2.2.1.(a) (ii) EXT: GEF-funded MedProgramme Child project 3.12.2.1.(b) MTF; EXT: GEF-funded MedProgramme Child project 3.1; EXT: Unsecured: EC-ENI CBC MED ENSERES project: under review 2.2.1.(f) (i) EXT: MAVA-funded NTZ/MPA project +

<p>financial support to countries)</p>	<p>well as (ii) national legislation development for MPA (Libya).</p> <p>c) Contracting Parties implement their national strategies and priorities for MPAs.</p> <p>(d) 6 management plans elaborated for the Rachgoun Island future MPA (Algeria), Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon), Gulf of Sirte future MPA (Libya), Al Hoceima NP (Morocco), Kuriat MCPA (Tunisia), Foça SPEA (Turkey), and</p> <p>(e) 3 business plans elaborated for the Rachgoun Island future MPA (Algeria), Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon), and Gulf of Sirte future MPA (Libya).</p>					<p>EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project 2.2.1.(f) (ii) EXT: EU-funded IMAP-MPA project</p>
<p>2.2.3. Ensure effective SPAMI management and evaluation</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, field trips, exchange visits, coordination national/local trainings, MoUs with CSOs)</p>	<p>(a) SPAMI management status kept under review: SPAMI ordinary periodic reviews undertaken (2022: Karaburun Sazan National Marine Park (Albania); 2023: Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve (Algeria), Habibas Islands (Algeria), Calanques National Park (France), and Portofino Marine Protected Area (Italy)).</p> <p>b) SPAMI Twinning Programmes developed and implemented for at least 6 SPAMIs (management issues diagnosed and addressed, habitats conservation, fishing impacts, joint monitoring programmes implemented, medium-term on-the-job training, peer-to-peer support and mentoring, exchange visits, small</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU and other Components as relevant</p>	<p>SPAMI managers, SPA/BD Focal Points, CSOs and private sector, CBD, GFCM, IUCN, WWF, MedPAN,</p>	<p>14.2; 14.5; 14.a</p>	<p>2.2.2.(a) MTF 2.2.2.(b) MTF / EXT (EC, ENI CBC MED, ENSERES project: under review) 2.2.2.(c) EXT (EC, ENI CBC MED, ENSERES project: under review) ; 2.2.2.(d) NTZ/MPA Project</p>

	grants programme benefiting to local CSOs/local small enterprises.					
	c) Local stakeholders and civil society involved in SPAMI/MPA management.					
	d) SPAMI Collaborative Platform maintained, including support the intervention of other MAP Components in SPAMIs (Marine Litter management, SCP action, ICZM, MSP, sustainable tourism, etc.).					
Outcome 2.3. Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats in favourable status of conservation						
2.3.1. Implement regional and national actions to boost the implementation of the Action Plans on marine key habitats (in-house expertise, consultancy, national consultations, pilot actions,	a) Symposia on marine key habitats organised and Proceedings disseminated (7 th Mediterranean Symposium on marine vegetation, 4 th Mediterranean Symposium on the Conservation of the Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions and 3 rd Mediterranean symposium on the dark habitats): Scientific updates shared, Roundtables and Panels held to take stock of newest knowledge and address emergent issues of the marine key habitats.	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	RAP associates and Partners, GFCM	14.2; 14.5; 14.a	MTF + MAVA NTZ/MPA for 2022

national/regional events, and symposia)	b) First Mediterranean distribution maps of Posidonia meadows and coralligenous assemblages elaborated as provided for in the Regional Action Plans concerning threatened species and key habitats, and as input for Med QSR 2023 : inventory and collection of existing distribution data of Posidonia meadows and coralligenous assemblage elaborated; distribution maps inventoried, collected and aggregated, national consultations organised, data layers uploaded and made available in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform (MBP).	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	RAP associates and Partners, CPs, EmodNet		MTF + MAVA NTZ/MPA for 2022
	c) Knowledge about semi-dark populations (e.g. location, specific richness, functioning, typology) improved through national and regional data and scientific work on marine caves habitats inventory and mapping in south Mediterranean (at least for a pilot site in one country).	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	RAP associates and Partners, CPs, relevant national/regional research/scientific actors		MTF + external funds to be identified
	d) Restoration measures taken related to conservation of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> in the Mediterranean to respond to their mass mortality.	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	Oceana, IUCN, GFCM		MTF + external funds to be identified
	e) Knowledge, and monitoring strengthened at national/regional levels					
2.3.2. Effectively implement the updated regional Strategy and Action	a) Status of implementation of the Action plan on seabirds listed in Annex 2 to SPA/BD protocol assessed and Action Plan updated	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	National experts and organizations, NGOs, SPA/BD Focal Points, Action	14.1; 14.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.a	a) MTF

<p>Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, awareness raising)</p>	<p>b) Status of Mid-term evaluation of the Monk seal regional strategy implementation in the Mediterranean assessed.</p> <p>c) Knowledge enhanced and awareness actions on monk seal in the Mediterranean implemented.</p> <p>d) Priority actions supported for the full and effective implementation of the updated regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species (Cartilaginous fishes AP, Turtles AP, Bird AP).</p> <p>e) Most vulnerable species impacted by bycatch and most impacting fishing gears identified based on bycatch data collection programmes allowing identification and proposal of mitigation measures.</p> <p>f) National stranding networks set up and/or reinforced.</p> <p>g) Communication and policy/advocacy material elaborated to support Contracting Parties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - foster bycatch issue and its mitigation solutions - raise awareness on fisheries and other human activities interaction with Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats (bycatch, depredation, marine litter, underwater noise, stranding, habitat loss, etc.) <p>- Promote conservation status and actions</p>			<p>Plans Partners; BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med, MEDASSET, WWF, Medpan, DEKAMER, ARCHELON, Foça SPEA Managers</p>		<p>b) (i) MTF (ii) MONK SEAL ALLIANCE project (under negotiation)</p> <p>c) MTF, External funds to identify</p> <p>d) MAVA MedBycatch project - funds available up to October 2022; external funds to identify</p> <p>e) MAVA MedBycatch project, MAVA Marine turtles project - funds available up to October 2022</p> <p>f) MAVA MedBycatch project, Mava species project - fund available up to May 2022</p>
--	---	--	--	---	--	--

	based on key knowledge collected on vulnerable species (marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles and elasmobranchs).					
	h) Surveillance strategy to mitigate illegal fishing activities over the sensitive marine habitats elaborated and support to local authorities for the establishment of a ranger system in Foça SEPA provided.					g) NTZ/MPA project
2.3.3. Implement conservation measures and share best practices related to threatened and endangered species listed in Annex II to SPA/BD Protocol (in-house expertise, consultancy, regional, sub-regional and national trainings, workshops and regional other events)	a) Best practices shared through: - Vulnerable species bycatch mitigation measures trials- Regional gathering events related to key knowledge sharing on vulnerable species (marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles and elasmobranchs) and their interactions with fisheries including within GFCM FishForum-training and capacity building programmes.	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	National experts and organizations, NGOs, SPA/BD Focal Points, Action Plans Partners; BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med, MEDASSET, WWF, Medpan, DEKAMER, ARCHELON, Foça SPEA Managers	14.1; 14.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14. a	a) MAVA MedBycatch Project - funds available up to October 2022; MTF; external funds to identify; Mava Species project - fund available up to May 2022
	b) Collection, analysis and uploading of Bycatch data into the GFCM online Mediterranean bycatch database portal by one Contracting Party within the MedBycatch project in line with the vulnerable species and habitat Regional Action Plans and IMAP.					b - MAVA MedBycatch Project - funds available up to October 2022; External funds to be identified

	<p>c) National Capacity building trainings organised at subregional and or national levels on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identification of vulnerable species, their interactions with fisheries and bycatch mitigation tools and technics including bycatch data collection - monitoring of vulnerable species in line with the IMAP and Regional Action Plans. 	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components as relevant	National experts and organizations, NGOs, SPA/BD Focal Points, Action Plans Partners; BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med, MEDASSET, WWF, Medpan, DEKAMER, ARCHELON, Foça SPEA Managers	14.1; 14.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14. a	c) MAVA MedBycatch Project - funds available up to October 2022; MTF; funds to identify
<p>d) Sharing of best practices and lesson learnt at regional and/or national levels to disseminate project results on threatened species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MedBycatch project - Species (highly mobile species) project results. 	d) e) and f) MAVA MedBycatch Project - funds available up to October 2022; MTF; external fund needed					
<p>e) Biennial cetacean conference for the south Mediterranean countries co-organised.</p>						
<p>f) The Symposium on Med chondrichtians Fishes co-organised.</p>						
Outcome 2.4. Non-indigenous species introductions minimized and introduction pathways under control						
2.4.1. Update and implement the regional action plan on Non-Indigenous species (NIS) and species introductions, as well as targeted measures of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships'	<p>a) Regional Action Plan on non-indigenous species and species introduction implementation assessed and updated in line with IMAP, Post 2020 SAP BIO and related Global Processes.</p>	SPA/RAC	CU, REMPEC and other Components as relevant	RAP associates and Partners, CPs	14,2	MTF
	<p>b) Guidelines for controlling the vectors of introduction into the Mediterranean of NIS and invasive marine species and Guide for risk analysis assessing the impacts of the introduction of NIS</p>	SPA/RAC	CU, REMPEC	RAP associates and Partners, CPs		MTF

<p>Ballast Water Management and Action Plan</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, regional meetings and events, national capacities building)</p>	<p>updated taking into account the Mediterranean BWM.</p>					
	<p>c) 2nd Mediterranean Symposium on the Non-Indigenous Species organised: Scientific updates shared, Roundtables and Panels held to take stock of newest knowledge and address emergent issues related to NIS.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU, REMPEC and other Components as relevant</p>	<p>RAP associates and Partners, CPs, GFCM</p>		<p>MTF</p>
	<p>d) At least one Sub-regional Action Plan on non-indigenous species and species introduction developed.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU, REMPEC and other Components as relevant</p>	<p>GFCM, CPs</p>		<p>MTF</p>
	<p>e) Implementation of targeted NAPs measures on NIS supported in coordination with IMAP implementation in at least 4 Contracting Parties.</p> <p>f) Data contained in MAMIAS updated as appropriate.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU and other Components as relevant, CPs</p>	<p>RAP associates and Partners, relevant national/regional Mediterranean scientific actors</p>		<p>MTF</p>

	<p>g) Share best practices and lessons learnt among Contracting Parties through regional meeting;</p> <p>h) measures to control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species implemented; assistance provided</p> <p>i) Targeted technical support provided to CPs for the ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention as well as for the implementation of the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species.</p>	<p>REMPEC, SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU</p>	<p>IMO, GEF, UNDP, EBRD</p>		<p>Both</p>
--	---	----------------------------	-----------	---------------------------------	--	-------------

MTS Foundational Programme 5: Governance

Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component (s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
Outcome 5.2. Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensured, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches						
5.2.3. Deliver successfully the main institutional meetings of MAP (Bureau, MAP Focal Point, EcAp Coordination Group and Thematic/Components Focal Points).(in-house expertise, conference services, venue, travel arrangements)	e) 16th SPA/BD Focal Points meeting organised h) Technical products reviewed by the 16 th SPA/BD Focal Points.	CU, MAP Components	All MAP Components	UNEP, MEA, IMO and all REMPEC's Partners,Host country authorities, MAP Partners, SPA/RAC partner organizations (observers)	All SDG 14 targets especially 14.c; 16.3; 17.14; to a lesser extent SDGs 6, 12, 13	MTF
5.2.5. Strengthen the MAP result-based programmatic framework including gender mainstreaming and sustainability of operations(in-house expertise, consultancy, MAP Task Force meetings, regional and international meetings)	c) Regional policy-makers meetings and donor conferences targeting the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean organised.	SPA/RAC	CU, PAP/RAC, REMPEC, Plan Bleu	Global and regional relevant actors (i.e. SCBD, FAO GFCM, UNFCCC, IUCN, IMO, UN-Oceans, UNESCO-IOC, IPBS, etc.) and relevant international and regional multilateral and bilateral donors including private foundations	All SDG 14 targets especially 14.c; 16.3; 17.14; to a lesser extent SDGs 5, 6, 12, 13	MTF

<p>5.2.7. Organise SAP BIO correspondent meetings (in-house expertise, regional meetings)</p>	<p>a) Two meeting reports of the SAP BIO National Correspondents (one presential meeting in 2022; one virtual meeting in 2023).</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>All MAP Components</p>	<p>CPs (SPA/BD FPs, SAPBIO Correspondents)</p>	<p>14.2; 14.5; 17.14</p>	<p>MTF</p>
<p>Outcome 5.3. Policy coherence and complementarity ensured among relevant work at global, regional and national levels and among MAP-Barcelona Convention system's policy and regulatory instruments</p>						
<p>5.3.2. Maximise synergies with Post 2020 Global agenda for the implementation of SAP BIO (in-house expertise, working sessions with partner institutions, regional meetings and donor conferences)</p>	<p>a) Effective working exchanges with Global institutions of relevance for the implementation of Post 2020 SAPBIO actions linked to their prerogatives ensured. b) Reports of working sessions celebrated with each relevant institution; list of agreed bilaterally coordinated actions with draft timelines.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU, PAP/RAC, REMPEC, Plan Bleu</p>	<p>Relevant CPs, SCBD, FAO GFCM, UNFCCC, IUCN, IMO, UN-Oceans, UNESCO-IOC, IPBS</p>	<p>14.2; 14.5; 17.14</p>	<p>MTF or ext. Fund to be identified</p>
<p>Outcome 5.4. Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface</p>						
<p>5.4.4. Promote the title of Partner to Regional Action Plan for the conservation of threatened species and marine key habitats «Regional Action Plans Partners" (in-house expertise, consultancy)</p>	<p>a) Conditions and criteria for the award of the Regional Action Plans Partners titles developed.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU, relevant RACs</p>	<p>RAPs Partners, SPA/RAC Partners</p>	<p>14.2; 14.5; 17.17</p>	<p>MTF</p>

Outcome 5.5. Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

5.5.2. Development of funding proposals to support Parties' institutions on initial implementation of Post-2020 SAPBIO (in-house expertise, consultancy, conference, project proposals)	a) 4+ years Project concepts and full proposals of regional/ subregional level for key priority strategic actions of Post-2020 SAPBIO.	SPA/RAC	CU /Other RACs as per thematic	Public and private donors, SCBD, FAO	14.2; 14.5; 17.14	a- MTF
	b) Mediterranean biodiversity funding conference involving public and private donors with policy makers organised.					b- MTF, External (MAVA foundation) under negotiation
	c) External funds secured to support the implementation of at least 2-3 key regional priorities of Post-2020 SAPBIO.					c- MTF

MTS Enabling Programme 6: Together towards a shared knowledge and foresight of the Mediterranean Sea and coast

Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component (s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
---	----------------------	----------------	---------------------	----------	-------------	-----------------------------

Outcome 6.1. Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national and local levels, with associated capacity-building

Outcome 6.2. Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making

<p>6.2.1. Strengthen the implementation of national IMAP-based monitoring programmes for all clusters and deliver quality assured data</p>	<p>e) Technical and financial support provided for undertaking specific joint biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes in MPAs and in high pressure areas, including provision of related quality of data, as well as respective national reporting using the IMAP Info System. National assessment fact sheets developed for selected indicators.</p>	<p>SPA RAC, CU</p>				
<p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, IMAP TF, national assistance and trainings)</p>	<p>f) Joint Monitoring and Assessment programme on Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) implemented at national and sub-regional level and reporting of results through IMAP Info System; Baseline national, sub regional and regional assessment for NIS supported, National assessment fact sheets developed for selected indicators.</p>	<p>SPA RAC</p>				<p>MTF; EcAp MED 3, IMAP-MPA, MED Marine Litter 2</p>
<p>6.2.2. Upgrade the assessment component of IMAP including possible integrated assessment for all IMAP clusters: Focus Assessment criteria and thresholds (CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23)(in-house expertise, consultancy, IMAP TF, CORMONs)</p>	<p>a) Assessment criteria defined and discussed by CORMONs Biodiversity for a number of Common Indicators.b) Assessment scales defined for a number of Common Indicators.c) Baseline sub-regional assessments undertaken for NIS.</p>	<p>SPA RAC</p>	<p>IMAP Task Force, Plan Bleu, INFO/RAC</p>	<p>National IMAP competent laboratories/authorities; relevant national and international scientific institutions; EU MSFD technical bodies;</p>	<p>14.1; 14.a</p>	
<p>6.2.3. Further develop IMAP Common Indicators</p>	<p>c) Common Indicators for EO 3 and EO 4 developed.</p>	<p>CU, SPA/RAC</p>	<p>IMAP Task Force</p>	<p>GFCM</p>	<p>14.1.; 14.2; 14. a</p>	<p>Both</p>

(in-house expertise, consultancy, IMAP TF, CORMONs)						
<p>6.2.4. Deliver 2023 MED Quality Status Report (QSR)</p> <p>(in house expertise, thematic assessments, consultations with partners, GIS maps, IMAP TF, CORMONs)</p>	<p>a) Thematic assessments for Ecological Objectives 1,2,3,4, 6 contributing to 2023 MED QSR whilst progressing towards integration with other Ecological Objectives as appropriate, CORMON Meeting.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC, CORMON Biodiversity</p>	<p>CU, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, IMAP Task Force</p>	<p>UNEP-GRID, UNIGE, EEA, ACCobams, MED Region, ICES, JRC, etc</p>	<p>14.1; 14.a</p>	<p>MTF; EcAp MED 3, IMAP-MPA, MED Marine Litter 2</p>
<p>Outcome 6.3. [IMAP implementation and] Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES.</p>						
<p>6.3.13. Expand and improve the monitoring and forecasting capacities in the marine environment through integrating networks of observing and forecasting systems (oceanographic observatories) across the Mediterranean Sea</p>	<p>b) Coordination, training and working meetings organised for interfacing oceanographic observatories exchange among Parties of respective countries with EU ILIAD Project Consortium through the UNEP/MAP system, to support an enhanced implementation of the IMAP through access to observatories' regular/real time data on ocean water parameters, NIS, litter including microplastic, spills, etc.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU, INFO/RAC, other components as per parameter monitored</p>	<p>Consortium of Euromediterranean Partners of ODYSSEA Project follow up (56 partners)</p>	<p>14.2; 14.a</p>	<p>MTF/External budget</p>

(in-house expertise, consultancy, trainings and working meetings)						
<p>6.3.14. Maintain Biodiversity databases as appropriate, regularly update databases content and elaborate operational strategy of marine biodiversity data management in line with the UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy platform)</p>	a) SDF web application finalised and operational and linked to the Mediterranean biodiversity Platform.	SPA/RAC	CU, INFO/RAC, MED POL, SCP/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, REMPEC	Action Plans Partners, MedPAN network, MEDACES, ACCOBAMS, GFCM...	14.2; 14.5; 14.a	MTF
	b) MAPAMED and MAMIAS web applications maintained and fully operational within the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform.					MTF
	c) Data available online on the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform and contributing to the 2023 MED QSR.					MTF
	d) Operational Strategy for Data Management within SPA/RAC developed in line with the UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy.					

MTS Enabling Programme 7: For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education and communication						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component (s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
Outcome 7.1. Stakeholders and policy makers properly informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and aware of the environmental priority issues						
7.1.7. Celebrate the MAP Days in the Mediterranean Sea (in-house expertise, Communication TF, regional events)	b) SPAMI Day celebrated and SPAMI Certificates delivered to SPAMIs.	SPA/RAC	CU and other MAP component as relevant	SPAMI managers, CSOs, national & local authorities, private sector, etc.	14.2; 14.5	MTF
Outcome 7.2. Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns						

<p>7.2.2. Enhance public awareness and outreach on UN Days observance and their topics</p>	<p>c) Knowledge on Biodiversity enhanced through digital campaign on UN Biodiversity Day observance and other communication products (1 annual calendar (illustrated with messages), 48 website articles, publications, focus feature in MAP newsletter, Interactive brochure, outreach events); Relevant communication material and events to enhance knowledge on SPA/RAC mandate and action developed (1 agenda per year, at least 24 web articles per year, 2 webinars/events for the general public per year, at least 2 reports published per year)</p>	<p>SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC</p>	<p>CU and other MAP components as relevant</p>	<p>Relevant partners/actors depending on events</p>	<p>Both (MTF + external funds to be identified)</p>
<p>(in-house expertise, external expertise, Communication TF, digital campaigns, web platforms, outreach events, publications)</p>	<p>g) Networking among SPAMIs enhanced and visibility of the SPAMI List increased through the SPAMI Collaborative Platform. h) Information on SPAMIs (management unit, documentation, ecology, photos ...) are updated at least once a year in collaboration with the SPAMI managers. i) The webpage on the SPAMI Day is created and integrated within the SPAMI Collaborative Platform. j) At least 12 web articles on SPAMIs published with the support of SPAMI managers. k) The SPAMI Collaborative Platform is used as a tool for information exchange through the SPAMI forum (1 subject per month).</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU and other MAP component as relevant</p>	<p>Relevant SPAMI managers, CSOs, national & local authorities, private sector</p>	<p>Both MTF + external funds: ENI CBC MED (ENSERES project), IMELS</p>

<p>7.2.5. Co-create and implement education and awareness programmes also in cooperation with academic institutions, focusing on marine and coastal issues, with the aim to promote education on sustainable development.</p> <p>(in-house expertise, external expertise, Communication TF, partnership Agreements)</p>	<p>a) Education and awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation co-created and implemented in collaboration with CSOs within at least 2 SPAMIs.</p>	SPA/RAC	CU and other MAP component as relevant	CSOs, national & local authorities, private sector	4.7; 14.2; 14.5	Both (MTF + external funds: ENI CBC MED (ENSERES project), IMELS)
	<p>b) At least 6 MoU signed with CSOs to develop education and awareness actions within SPAMIs.</p>	SPA/RAC	CU and other MAP component as relevant	Relevant SPAMI managers, CSOs, national & local authorities, private sector		7.2.1. Both MTF + external funds: ENI CBC MED (ENSERES project), IMELS)
Outcome 7.3. Towards a digital transformation: use of digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility						
<p>7.3.1. Enhance networking among SPAMIs and increase the visibility of the SPAMI List through the SPAMI Collaborative Platform</p> <p>(in-house expertise, external expertise, Communication TF, web platform)</p>	<p>a) Information on SPAMIs (management unit, documentation, ecology, photos ...) are updated at least once a year in collaboration with the SPAMI managers.</p>	2	CU and other MAP component as relevant	CSOs, national & local authorities, private sector	14.2; 14.5	Both (MTF + external funds: ENI CBC MED (ENSERES project), IMELS)
	<p>b) The webpage on the SPAMI Day is created and integrated within the SPAMI Collaborative Platform.</p>					
	<p>c) At least 12 web articles on SPAMIs published with the support of SPAMI managers.</p>					
	<p>d) The SPAMI Collaborative Platform is used as a tool for information exchange through the SPAMI forum (1 subject per month).</p>					

<p>7.3.3. Promote MAP educational capacity through E-Learning(in-house expertise, external expertise, Communication TF, web platform, training)</p>	<p>d) Streamline MAP BC system and Protocols in university and postgraduate curricula through online platforms</p>	<p>CU, MAP Components</p>			<p>4,7</p>	<p>MTF</p>