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9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)

Barcelona (Spain), 24 February 2023

Agenda item 4: Review of the Draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean

Project Concept 4 :

Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity

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Project Concept 4

**Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss
in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity**

Project 4: Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity

Issues at stake

As stressed during COP15 of the CBD (Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022), stopping and reversing biodiversity loss requires an urgent and transformative action involving governments and all of the society. This also emerged clearly from the assessments undertaken within the framework of the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration process that underlined the necessity to improve coherence and complementarity of all strategies, policies, plans, initiatives, planning processes and funding affecting marine areas. This includes the appropriate coordination between the various authorities competent for both the marine and the land parts of coastal zones in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels, covering the proper participation of all stakeholders, including resource users and civil society, in a transparent decision-making process that would lead to shared and better management decisions.

The needed transformative change should allow to streamline biodiversity conservation into national strategies, action plans and legal frameworks as well as into all environmental and sectorial policies relevant for the protection and sustainable use of marine living resources. This cannot be achieved without a real political will and recognition at the highest Government levels to develop appropriate governance schemes and insure cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination and effective collaboration between different administrations and stakeholders. To this end, it is necessary to increase awareness, understanding and appreciating of the values of and threats to biodiversity, stimulating improved behaviour, and of the responses and good practices, by targeting decision-makers and the general public, through reinforced and renewed mechanisms, including both targeted messages to the key stakeholders and mass communications.

The transformative change should also address the weak enforcement of the legislation promulgated to protect biodiversity from various threats. Particularly underlined by the national assessments, as reported during the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration process, was the need to provide capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain.

Geographical coverage of the project

The project will focus on the Mediterranean countries **with particularly low MCPA coverage**, such as the **Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries**. It will be implemented in the following countries: (to be developed in consultation with the National correspondents)

Project Work packages

Work package 1: Streamlining biodiversity conservation into national strategies and sectorial policies

Activity 1.1 Strengthening the marine and coastal biodiversity component of countries' biodiversity strategies

Rationale

During the initial negotiation process of the CBD framework, meeting the challenge of implementation by means of an integrated, multi-sectoral, participatory instrument for national biodiversity planning crystallized into the concept of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP). In this context, Article 6(a) of the Convention requested contracting Parties to "Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned".

As per November 2022, 18 out of 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union submitted their biodiversity strategy to the CBD Secretariat. However, the conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean marine biodiversity is weakly addressed in the national biodiversity strategy of most countries. In their Decision IG.25/11, the contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited countries to prepare or revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans by fully incorporating the relevant elements of the Post-2020 SAPBIO; and maximise their efforts for their timely implementation. They requested that by 2030 each Party has incorporated Post-2020 SAPBIO in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Description of the activity

Under this activity the project will provide its support to Mediterranean countries to ensure appropriate incorporation of the relevant elements of the Post-2020 SAPBIO into their biodiversity national strategies through the elaboration of guidelines and their translation into the working languages of the Mediterranean countries, as well as direct assistance for the needed expertise and facilitation of consultation processes at local and national levels.

Actions to be implemented:

Action	Expected results	Proposed Partners (Not limited to/tbc)
Action 1.1.1 Detailed technical and legal guidelines for incorporating Post-2020 SAPBIO in national biodiversity strategies and action plans	The national biodiversity strategies of the Mediterranean countries aligned with the targets of the Post-2020 SAPBIO which are themselves aligned with the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework of relevance for the marine and coastal biodiversity.	SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, IUCN-Med, MedFund
Action 1.1.2 Accompaniment with expertise and facilitation of the processes necessary for the inclusion of Post-2020 SAPBIO provisions in national		

biodiversity strategies and related action plans		
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Implementation timetable

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	

Activity 1.2 Advocacy activities targeting decision makers to increase their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the values and threats to marine and coastal biodiversity.

Rationale

The CBD COP15 pointed out a rising mobilisation among high level decision makers around the issue of biodiversity dramatic loss, in land and in marine media, at global, regional and local levels, and the emergency to act before reaching an unreversible situation. In the wake of the momentum created by the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD in December 2022, fostering the decision-maker awareness and appreciation of marine biodiversity will pave the way towards achieving the targets set in the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Description of the activity

Outreaching to decision makers will be the main objectives of this activity. To this end a policy brief will be elaborated in relation to the action needed to timely achieve the Post-2020 SAPBIO targets, considering the specific political and socioeconomic context of the country. The policy brief will highlight the benefits that the country could yield in terms of economic growth, job creation and long-term sustainability of the relevant economic sectors. It will be supported by a realistic action plan and concrete proposals to increase mobilisation of domestic and external resources, leveraging private finance, encouraging private sector investment.

Under this activity the following actions will be implemented:

Action	Expected Results	Proposed Partners (Not limited to/tbc)
Action 1.2.1 Elaboration of policy briefs targeting relevant decision-makers	Greater ownership, mobilisation and reactivity within local decision makers to marine biodiversity protection and marine resources sustainable management	SPA/RAC, UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, IUCN-Med, MedPAN, ETC-UMA
Action 1.2.2 Organisation of advocacy activities using strong arguments based on scientific facts adapted to the relevant targeted stakeholders (dedicated meetings with high level decision makers, use of relevant media, etc.)		

Implementation timetable

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	

Activity 1.3 integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems conservation concerns into school, higher education, professional training, and citizen science.

Rationale

The integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystem conservation concerns into educational programmes and university curricula has a great potential to increase appreciation by youth generations of marine biodiversity. It will complement the awareness rising efforts and legal instruments and has the advantage of having lasting effects.

Description of the activity

Under this activity a series of educational modules covering key topics in relation to marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use will be elaborated using modern teaching approaches. The development of educational modules will be followed by a series of training the trainers sessions organised in the participating countries targeting the school and university teachers.

Under this activity the following actions will be implemented:

Action	Expected Results	Proposed Partners (Not limited to/tbc)
Action 1.3.1 Elaboration of educational modules adapted to all levels (schools universities) and encompassing a wide range of biodiversity related topics (ecology, legislation, strategic planning, etc.)	Youth generation with better understanding of the marine ecosystems and the threats to which they are subject and thus prepared to operate a transformative change towards marine biodiversity in term of behaviour and ability to halt biodiversity loss and ensure sustainable use of marine living resources	SPA/RAC, UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, ACCOBAMS, GFCM
Action 1.3.2 Training the trainers programme		

Implementation timetable

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3

Work package 2: Compliance and Enforcement

Activity 2.1 Capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain for the regulations relating to marine biodiversity

Rationale

The lack of enforcement of legislation is among the biodiversity loss causes reported by the national reports to Post-2020 SAPBIO. Building the capacity of the judiciary and administrative staff involved in the enforcement of legislations for the conservation of marine biodiversity and regulating the uses of marine resources is one of the Very High Priority actions of the Post-2020SAPBIO.

Description of the activity

Under this activity practical guidelines for the enforcement of legislation related to marine biodiversity will be prepared and adapted to the legal, institutional and

linguistic context of each country covered by the activity. Furthermore, training and/or information sessions will be organised targeting judiciary and administrative resources involved in the enforcement chain.

Under this activity the following actions will be implemented:

Action	Expected Results	Proposed Partners (Not limited to/tbc)
Action 2.1.1 Elaboration of practical guidelines for the enforcement of legislation related to marine biodiversity	Enhanced control and enforcement of national legislation in relation to the conservation of marine biodiversity and the use of living marine resources	SPA/RAC, GFCM, IUCN-Med, MedPAN
Action 2.1.2 Training and/or information sessions targeting judiciary and administrative resources involved in the enforcement of marine biodiversity related legislation.		

Implementation timetable

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3

Work package 3: Project coordination and management

The Project implementation will be coordinated by SPA/RAC in collaboration with the Project partners and with the guidance of a Steering Committee composed of representatives of the participating countries and the Project partners.

The rules of procedures for the Steering Committee will be defined in close consultation with the financing partner(s).

A full-time project coordinator will be appointed for the project duration.

In addition to the regular reporting to the financing partner(s), reports about the progress made in the implementation of the project will be submitted by SPA/RAC to the SPA/BD Focal Points. The other partners may also report to their respective relevant governing bodies.

A mid-term evaluation and Final evaluation of the project will be undertaken taking into account the result indicators to be agreed in the logical framework of the project

Project partners

A short presentation will be given here for each of the Project partners (to be provided by the partners)

Project Timetable

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<u>Work package 1: Streamlining biodiversity conservation into national strategies and sectorial policies</u>	<u>Activity 1.1 Strengthening the marine and coastal biodiversity component of countries' biodiversity strategies</u>	■	■	
	<u>Activity 1.2 Advocacy activities targeting decision makers to increase their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the values and threats to marine and coastal biodiversity.</u>	■	■	
	<u>Activity 1.3 integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems conservation concerns into school, higher education, professional training, and citizen science.</u>		■	■
<u>Work package 2: Compliance and Enforcement</u>	<u>Activity 2.1 Capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain for the regulations relating to marine biodiversity</u>		■	■

Project Cost estimates

	Expected funding from donor(s)	Expected Co-funding	Total Estimated cost (US\$)
Activity 1.1 Strengthening the marine and coastal biodiversity component of countries' biodiversity strategies	200 000		
Activity 1.2 Advocacy activities targeting decision makers to increase their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the values and threats to marine and coastal biodiversity.	300 000		
Activity 1.3 integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems conservation concerns into school, higher education, professional training, and citizen science.	150 000		
<u>Activity 2.1 Capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain for the regulations relating to marine biodiversity</u>	300 000		
<u>Project coordination</u>	150 000		
Total	1 100 000		