



UNITED  
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UNEP/MED WG.461/27



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

15 May 2019  
Original: English

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Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points

Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019

**Agenda Item 9: Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2020-2021**

**Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2020- 2021**

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United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan  
(UN Environment/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](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org)

## PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF SPA/RAC FOR THE BIENNIUM 2020-2021

### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

**Executive Summary:** This document presents in its Annex the proposed Programme of Work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2020-2021 and explains the rationale used to prepare it.

#### Background

1. Decision IG.23/14 “*Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019*”, adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP20), mandated the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau, in line with the relevant provisions of the Governance Paper and MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS), a simplified and more strategic result-based Programme of work for 2020-2021, taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of PoW 2018-2019.
2. To this aim, under the leadership of the Secretariat, a Guiding Programming and Planning Paper was agreed by the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) composed of the Directors of the MAP Components and led by MAP Coordinator, to facilitate a coordinated identification of major activities and their deliverables 2020-2021 per each theme of MTS.
3. To provide a clear picture on the process and principles for the development of the 2020-2021 PoW, the Guiding Programming and Planning Paper was disseminated among the MAP Focal Points and the Focal Points of SPA/RAC on 31 January and 6 February 2019, respectively.
4. SPA/RAC initiated in November 2018 the preparation of the Programme of Work for the next biennium (2020-2021) that was reviewed at the ECP meeting held on 9-10 January 2018, Geneva, Switzerland.
5. SPA/RAC’s Focal Points were consulted on 6 February 2018 and invited to review and to provide comments on the initial list of activities proposed for the 2020-2021 biennium.
6. The objective of this consultation was to trigger a first technical discussion on the relevance of the proposed activities and their deliverables to SPA/RAC’s core mandate as well as to gather views on their technical feasibility. Based on the comments received from Mediterranean coastal States, SPA/RAC concluded the PoW proposal and submitted it to the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, for its further elaboration and consultation as per the agreed procedure stipulated in the Guiding Programming and Planning Paper.
7. Further to the consultation with the MAP Focal Points, the PoW is submitted to the Focal Points of each MAP Component for onward transmission to the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) for approval, prior to its submission for adoption by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

## **Introduction to the draft Programme of Work 2020-2021 of SPA/RAC**

8. The SPA/RAC Preliminary Draft Programme of Work (PoW) for the biennium 2020-2021 has been prepared as a continuity of the 2018-2019 PoW and in full alignment with the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1). Substantive move towards Result-based management (RBM) has started since the previous biennium and will be reinforced in the 2020-2021 one through concrete and measurable deliverables, detailed indicators and quantifiable targets.

9. Since it is the last biennium of the current MTS cycle (2016-2021), the emphasis is made on the achievement of all MTS objectives and strategic outcomes. Therefore, SPA/RAC 2020-2021 PoW and Budget is designed towards fully delivering MTS implementation.

10. It is, also, based on the relevant current and emerging global and regional frameworks and processes, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and particularly SDG 14 on life below water, the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the post-2020 vision and global biodiversity framework, the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as MAP-Barcelona Convention and SPA/BD Protocol mandates, existing MAP strategies and action plans.

11. The SPA/RAC 2020-2021 biennial Programme of Work is developed mainly under the Biodiversity and Ecosystems core theme, with several deliverables under the Governance overarching theme. Some deliverables will be implemented in an integrated way with other core themes: Land and Sea-based Pollution, Land and Sea Interaction and Processes, and with cross-cutting themes such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Climate Change Adaptation. To that aim, a attention will be paid to the collaboration with other MAP Components.

12. The deliverables proposed for the biennium 2020-2021 aim at contributing, within the limits of the available budget (MTF and mobilized external funds), to the implementation of the decisions taken by the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention and Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol, the 'Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region' (SAP BIO); the Ecosystem Approach to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean and its process and Roadmap ; the 'Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea' supported by the 'Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean'; the Strategies and Action Plans on threatened and endangered species, key habitats, and non-indigenous species, adopted to support the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

13. External funds (mobilized by UNEP/MAP and/or SPA/RAC) are focused on implementing biodiversity conservation policy development and capacity building in the Mediterranean in line with the 2016-2021 MTS objectives and strategic outcomes.

14. Emphasis will be made on the cooperation and partnership with relevant global and regional organizations and actors to join means, maximize the results, and prevent overlapping.

15. Lessons learned from previous biennia are also taken into consideration, particularly, in terms of feasibility of planned deliverables, implementation flexibility to be considered when programming, number and size of planned actions and how to aggregate actions of similar nature.

16. The column on the right-hand side of the table provides, for each proposed deliverable, the relevant explanation to give an idea about the rationale, what is aimed through the activity, the link with the current Programme of Work (2018-2019) and the relevant decision or governance text to which it refers, as appropriate.

17. SPA/RAC Preliminary Draft Programme of Work for the biennium 2020-2021 targets the main following outcomes:

1. Enhancing knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through mandated assessments for informed policymaking through the support of coordinated implementation of IMAP biodiversity cluster at regional, sub- regional and national level.
2. Enhancing MAP knowledge and MAP information system and making it accessible for policy-making, increasing awareness and understanding through the maintenance of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform (MBP), its data updating and its connection to other relevant SDIs (Emodnet, InfoMAP); through updating MAMIAS content and its harmonization with EASIN and AquaNIS; through updating SDF online application and its linkage to the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform ; and through upgrading MAPMED database and its data updating.
3. Raising awareness and outreach through the preparation and dissemination of news items, outreach media, communication materials and publications on Biodiversity in line with the new MAP communication strategy.
4. Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments through launching the preparation of the concepts and criteria for the SPAMI Day and SPAMI Award (Mediterranean Diploma), launching the first network set of twinned SPAMIs in the Mediterranean and through organizing the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.
5. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems through the preparation of a Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO II) aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and harmonized with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as through the updating of the 'Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean' in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other global processes.
6. Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures through supporting countries to update/develop new national action plans (NAPs) on biodiversity including for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats, producing and publishing relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation actions taken towards the conservation of species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol as well as through supporting the Contracting Parties in the identification, the expansion and management of Marine Protected Areas including in the deep sea areas.
7. Supporting monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with a focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats through the implementation of the second phase of the IMAP (2019-2021) on biodiversity particularly in MPAs and high-

pressure areas, the implementation of Monitoring Programmes on biodiversity and pollution clusters on a comparable basis towards an integrated implementation, the elaboration of a 2020-2030 Mediterranean Strategy/Action Plan for reduced incidental catches of vulnerable species and contributing to the development of a Mediterranean database on bycatch compatible with both EU and GFCM data collection frameworks.

8. Providing technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity-related national legislation through the organization of specific training courses, workshops, symposia related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean marine species, key habitats and non-indigenous species, the implementation of capacity building programmes on MPA planning and management, including socio-economic aspects and fundraising and innovative funding for MPAs.

18. On the other hand, collaboration with other MAP Components will be further reinforced during the 2020-2021 biennium, to further integrate biodiversity conservation in other MTS themes, as appropriate, through several relevant activities, such as:

1. Science-Policy Interface, socio-economic studies and climate change issues related to Biodiversity as well as the preparation and implementation of training package on fundraising and innovative funding for MPAs in collaboration with Plan Bleu/RAC
2. Data management platform (within IMAP/InfoMAP) in collaboration with INFO/RAC, using monitoring data collected within the EcAp/IMAP
3. Continue joint SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC collaboration to support Adriatic countries in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and improvement of the sub-regional management capacity through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
4. Participation in the implementation of CAMP Bosnia & Herzegovina
5. Joint biodiversity and pollution monitoring programme implementation in collaboration with MED POL
6. Non-indigenous species control and monitoring in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for Ballast Water management, in collaboration with REMPEC.
7. Supporting the implementation of SCP solutions in MPAs, with a particular focus on the issue of Marine Litter

#### **Actions requested by the Meeting**

19. The Meeting is invited to:

1. **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
2. **consider, discuss and agree** upon the proposed programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2020-2021, which is presented in the **Annex** to the present document, and to propose it for approval by the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points prior to its submission for adoption by COP 21.

**ANNEX**

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF SPA/RAC FOR THE BIENNIUM 2020-2021**





| THEME 1. GOVERNANCE   |   |                       |                             |  |   |  |
|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Main Activities   | Means of implementation   | Lead: CU or Component | Other: CU and/or Components | Partners   | Expected Deliverables   | Remarks (link with the current PoW, legal basis for activity/deliverable)  |
| <b>1.1. Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</b> |   |                       |                             |  |   |  |
| <b>1.1.2. Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings</b>            |   |                       |                             |  |   |  |
| 3. Organize the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points preceded by the MAP Component/Thematic Focal Points and the EcAp Coordination Group Meetings.     | In house expertise, working documents in 2 languages, Information documents, conference services, venue, travel arrangements for one delegate per CP and for the Secretariat / respective MAP Components. | SPA/RAC               | CU & Other MAP Components   | SPA/BD Focal Points<br>MAP Components<br>Focal Points,<br>MAP Focal Points | a) 15th SPA/BD Thematic FP Meetings successfully convened;<br>b) Technical aspects of the implementation of the Protocols reviewed;<br>c) Progress on the implementation of SPA/RAC led activities of the PoW 2020-2021 reviewed;<br>d) Technical and policy documents reviewed for further review by higher MAP bodies, including draft decisions, policy papers, assessment products, etc.;<br>e) Proposed PoW 2022-2023 activities reviewed for further submission to MAP Focal Points meeting | Articles 24 - 26 of the SPA/BD Protocol;<br>Governance paper (Decision IG.17/5);<br>Mandates of the Components of MAP (Decision IG.19/5);<br>Governance decision (Decision IG.23/3). |

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| <p>7. Formulate in coordination with regional bodies a Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO 2021-2035).</p> | <p>Regional meetings, conference services, in-house expertise and coordination; travel arrangements for members of the Advisory Committee Consultancy, coordination meetings, including SAP BIO Nat. Correspondents ones.</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other MAP Components as relevant</p> | <p>CPs, SAP BIO Advisory Committee member organizations SPA/RAC Focal Points, ACCOBAMS, CBD, FAO, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN, MedWet, WWF</p> | <p>a) SAP BIO Advisory Committee established and held;<br/> b) Overall and Specific Guidance provided to the drafting of SAP BIO 2021-2035, ecosystem approach based, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and harmonized with the Global CBD Post 2020 biodiversity framework;<br/> c) SAP BIO 2021-2035 prepared and submitted to the meetings of SPA/RAC and Biodiversity Thematic Focal Points, ECAP Coordination Group, MAP Focal Points and COP 22;<br/> d) 2021-2035 Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO 2021-2035) aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), harmonized with the Global CBD Post 2020 biodiversity framework and based on the findings and recommendations of the 2004-2018 SAP BIO, elaborated and presented to the SPA/BD FP, EcAp CG, MAP FP meeting and COP 22.</p> | <p>SAP BIO (2004-2019) is being evaluated during the current biennium. Based on the evaluation findings, SAP BIO should be updated taking into account EcAp/IMAP process, SoED 2019 recommendations and other regional and global processes such as Post 2020 Biodiversity, SDGs, etc.<br/> It is important to maximise synergies to ensure that SAP BIO is a pan-Mediterranean marine biodiversity strategy to lead the work of MAP, countries and partner organisations in the domain of biodiversity conservation. Following the PoW mandated by COP 20 and in preparation of COP 21, SPA/RAC has undertaken an evaluation of the implementation of the SAP BIO and its impact in Mediterranean conservation. COP 21 is expected to review the findings and recommendations of SAP BIO evaluation and give a mandate for its revision.<br/> SPA/BD Protocol; SAP BIO; MPA (Decision IG.22/13) Roadmap; EcAp Roadmap; PoW 2018-19 (Decision IG.23/14).<br/> Priority Activities for the QSR 2023.</p> |
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**1.4. Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making.**

**1.4.3. Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp-based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including GES common indicators fact sheets, and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into Info/MAP platform.**

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| <p>1. Support the coordinated implementation of IMAP at regional, sub- regional and national level.</p> | <p>Meeting(s), consultancies, services, organizing online working group meetings, in-house expertise and coordination, travel organization and conference services</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN, EEA</p> | <p>a) Coordinated approach followed to organize CorMon Meetings;<br/>b) Guidance fact sheets of IMAP common indicators ( EO XYZ) updated;<br/>c) Common indicators and guidance fact sheets related to EO4 and EO6 developed;<br/>d) Actions of QSR 2023 roadmap related to all IMAP Components, with regards to scale of monitoring and assessment; data quality assurance and Integrated assessment of GES developed as per the agreed timeline;<br/>e) Related data sharing policy reviewed and implemented.</p> | <p>EcAp Roadmap (Decision IG.17/6); Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (Decision IG.22/7); 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (Decision IG.23/6); QSR 2023 Roadmap.</p> |
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**1.5. MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy- making, increased awareness and understanding.**

**1.5.1. Info/MAP platform and platform for the implementation of IMAP fully operative and further developed, connected to MAP components' information systems and other relevant regional knowledge platforms, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public.**

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| <p>5. Maintain, upgrade and implement MAP Components' databases and data platforms.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, service contract, consultancy</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CAR/INFO</p> | <p>Contracting Parties, MedPAN, IUCN, ACCOBAMS, HCMR, Action Plans Partners</p> | <p>a) Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform maintained, data updated (data.rac-spa.org) and connected to other relevant SDIs (Emodnet, InfoMAP);<br/>                 b) MAMIAS content updated and harmonized with EASIN and AquaNIS and collaboration formalized;<br/>                 c) SDF online application updated (data included) and linked to the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform;<br/>                 d) MAPMED database updated and filled with existing data.</p> | <p>This activity follows up on activities of the PoW 2018-2019 aiming at enhancing interface with similar databases from partners, improving the different database systems, supporting integration of new data in the database. This is a priority action derived from the QSR2023 Roadmap. It also contributes to key regional instruments including the Regional Working Programme on MPA, the MPA Roadmap, the Regional Action Plans for the conservation of endangered or threatened species, and marine key habitats and for the management of non-indigenous species, as well as the IMAP Decision.</p> |
| <p>6. Redesign the online SPAMI Evaluation System.</p>                                  | <p>Consultancies, services, in house coordination and expertise</p>       | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>INFO/RAC</p> | <p>Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, SPAMI managers</p>                           | <p>Online SPAMI Evaluation System redesigned and operational.</p>  | <p>Following the testing of the online SPAMI evaluation system for national coastal SPAMIs (2016-2017) and for transboundary high-sea SPAMIs (2018-2019), a final interface of the system could be developed online, allowing to save the history of successive evaluations (not possible with the current pilot system) and allowing its functional linking with the SPAMI platform.</p>  |

**1.6. Raised awareness and outreach.**

**1.6.1. The UNEP/MAP communication strategy updated and implemented.**

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| <p>1. Implement the operational Communication Strategy.</p> | <p>In-house expertise, consultancy, service contracts, travel</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>INFO/RAC, CU</p> | <p>MAP Communication Task force, MAP Partners, Contracting Parties</p> | <p>a) Marine biodiversity-related communication material and tools prepared and disseminated in line with the new MAP communication strategy (produce 2 short films on marine species and ecosystems of the SPA/RAC action plans);<br/>b) Contribution provided to the development of a communication pack for MAP flagship publications i.e. SoED2019;<br/>c) Goodies and promotional material on SPA/RAC produced.</p> | <p>More efforts will be made to communicate in coherence and in coordination with the other MAP components to enhance the implementation of the MAP communication strategy.<br/><br/>Legal basis for activity: SPA/BD Protocol; MAP communication strategy</p> |
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| THEME 3. BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS   |   |                       |                                     |   |   |   |
|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Main Activities  | Means of implementation   | Lead: CU or Component | Other: CU and/or Components         | Partners  | Expected Deliverables   | Remarks (link with the current PoW, legal basis for activity/deliverable)   |
| <b>3.1. Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments.</b>         |   |                       |                                     |   |   |   |
| <b>3.1.1. A comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean set up and implemented.</b> |   |                       |                                     |   |   |   |
| 1. Develop and strengthen effective SPAMI/MPA management.  | In-house coordination and expertise, consultations, meeting(s)  | SPA/RAC               | CU and other Components as relevant | ACCOBAMS, CBD, EEA, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN, OCEANA, WWF   | a) Ad hoc Group of experts on MPAs (AGEM) operational; (if continued by the 14th Meeting of SPA/BD thematic Focal Points);<br>b) Scientific and technical advice delivered to SPA/RAC by AGEM) on i) future orientations in MPA planning and governance, and ii) development of a regional strategy for MPAs for the Mediterranean in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework (contribution to activity 3.2.1.1);   | Based on the 2018-2019 pilot functioning of the AGEM, and its evaluation by the 14th meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points, this ad hoc group could be continued, adjusted or terminated.<br>Regional Working Programme on MPAs; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).  |
|  | In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, field surveys, coordination meetings, national workshops, exchange visits |                       |                                     | SPAMI managers, concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, national and local stakeholders, national and local civil society organizations | c) Twinning programmes developed and implemented among partner SPAMIs (8 MPAs/SPAMIs involved in the twinning programme); experience shared on best practices and lesson learnt;<br>d) Management, monitoring and enforcement activities harmonized and improved;<br>e) Capacity-building activities, training workshops and exchange visits implemented;<br>f) Local stakeholders and civil society involved in SPAMI management;<br>g) The SPAMI label recognition and visibility improved. | These deliverables are in continuation to the ones of the current biennium (8 MPAs/SPAMIs involved in the twinning programme); It will support the full and effective implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol (SPAMIs). It will improve the compliance of the SPAMI List to be a network of cooperation among the Parties in view of an effective management of highly important areas in the Mediterranean; SPA/BD Protocol; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).<br><br>Pending mobilization of external resources, the programme could be expanded to 8 other MPAs/SPAMIs. |

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| <p>2. Organize the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, regional event, consultancies, services, organizing committee meeting(s)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>MedPAN (co-organizer), host country authorities, ACCOBAMS, CBD, GFCM, IUCN, MedWet/Tour du Valat, Plan Bleu, WWF, Europarc Federation, AFB, Conservatoire du littoral, etc.</p> | <p>a) 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean organized;<br/>b) The 2020 Status Report on Mediterranean MPAs elaborated and disseminated during the forum;<br/>c) Declaration of the 2020 MPA Forum developed;<br/>d) Proceedings of the 2020 MPA Forum put online.</p> <p>The 2020 MPA Forum recommendations will feed into the process for development of post-2020 strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean (3.2.1.1).</p> | <p>The 2020 MPA Status Report and Forum will allow to take stock of the situation of the Mediterranean MPA system by the 2020 horizon and to think on the post-2020 orientations and priorities for the region. It is in the continuity of a 4-year periodic process that started in 2012 in line with the CBD timeline and objectives. It is an inclusive and participatory forum bringing together IGOs, NGOs, managers, private sector and other MPA stakeholders, and providing a holistic view on the MPA issues in the region.</p> <p>MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p> |
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| <p>3. Draft the SPAMI Day and SPAMI Award (Mediterranean Diploma) concepts and criteria.</p>  | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies</p>  | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>SPA/RAC Focal Points, SPAMI managers, regional partners, donors</p> | <p>SPAMI Day and SPAMI Award (Mediterranean Diploma) concepts and criteria prepared, reviewed by SPA/BD Focal Points and submitted to COP 22.</p>  | <p>This deliverable will support the full and effective implementation of the Mediterranean Diploma and further promote SPA/BD Protocol implementation</p>  |
| <p><b>3.1.2. Most relevant area-based management measures are identified and implemented in cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations, through global and regional tools (SPAMIs, FRAs, PSSAs, etc.), including for the conservation of ABNJ, taking into consideration the information on Mediterranean EBSAs.</b></p> |  |                |  |  |  |   |
| <p>1. Support deep sea and deep seabed vulnerable marine ecosystems identification and conservation in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, in collaboration with respective countries and relevant bodies and promote their conservation through appropriate tools and measures, including spatial ones.</p>                   | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, coordination meetings with GFCM and CBD, sub-regional/regional workshop(s), implementation agreement(s)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>CPs, FAO, GFCM, CBD, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, OCEANA, EEA</p>                | <p>a) A number of deep sea and deep seabed vulnerable marine ecosystems identified in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction;<br/>                 b) Supporting documents prepared, in collaboration with concerned CPs, GFCM and other relevant bodies;<br/>                 c) Their conservation through appropriate tools and measures including Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), precautionary ones comprised, notably spatial ones, promoted in official institutional events (FAO, GFCM and CBD meetings and workshops, etc.).</p> | <p>The deliverables will reinforce existing collaborative legal frameworks for the partnership work with other organizations for the achievement of common goals. SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13); MoU UNEP/MAP-GFCM.</p> |



### 3.2. Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

#### 3.2.1. Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats, on species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management are updated to achieve GES.

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| <p>1. Elaborate a post-2020 strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p>  | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancy, coordination meeting(s)</p>   | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other Components as relevant</p>         | <p>SPA/RAC Focal Points, AGEM members, ACCOBAMS, CBD, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN, MedWet/Tour du Valat, Plan Bleu, WWF, Europarc Federation, AFB, Conservatoire du littoral, 2020 MPA Forum participants</p> | <p>A strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the SAP BIO 2021-2035 and other global and regional processes, elaborated and submitted to COP 22 through the SPA/BD Focal Points, EcAp CG and MAP Focal Points meetings.</p>  | <p>After the evaluation of the MPA Roadmap to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, SPA/RAC should update the MPA Roadmap and come up with a new strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, to be presented in 2021 to COP 22 for discussion and adoption. Such mandate (elaborating a new MPA strategic document for the Mediterranean) will be required from the Contracting Parties at their COP 21 (December 2019).<br/>The 2020 MPA Forum recommendations will feed this new strategic document. The AGEM group of experts will provide advice and expertise during the strategic document elaboration process.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p>                          |
| <p>2. Implement/ update the regional action plans/strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species, key Habitats and species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management to mainstream GES.</p> | <p>In house coordination and expertise, external expertise, field work, workshop, expert Meeting(s) (External Expertise &amp; Meeting of Expert designated by countries)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU, REMPEC and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>Action Plan Associates and Partners, ACCOBAMS, CGPM, IUCN-Med, WWF Med Initiative, MAVA Marine turtles and Species projects Partners, NGOs, SPA/BD focal points,</p>                              | <p>a) The action plans concerning cetaceans and dark habitats updated;<br/>b) Relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and to enhance conservation actions towards the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats elaborated such as:<br/>- important nesting areas for marine turtles identified;<br/>- distribution of vulnerable megafauna (marine mammals, birds, elasmobranch and marine turtles) elaborated;<br/>- distribution and characterization of marine key habitats (marine vegetation, coralligenous and marine caves) elaborated;</p> | <p>Based on the results of updating of the Marine turtles, cartilaginous fishes, marine vegetation and Action plans and Monk seal strategy, there is a need to update knowledge to promote conservation actions. The expected deliverables will complement the implementation of the POW 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 and will take into account the new actions planned according to the updating of the Marine turtles, cartilaginous fishes, marine vegetation and Monk seal Action plans and strategy as well as the joint programme between SPA/RAC and regional organizations (e.g. ACCOBAMS).</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO, Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species, marine key habitats in the Mediterranean and NIS, MAVA Projects</p> |

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|  |   |                        |           |                       | <p>c) Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats implementation supported through pilot actions at national and regional levels: implementation of the national/ monitoring programmes for biodiversity and NIS (monitoring of the interaction between fisheries activities and cetaceans as well as bird species);</p> <p>d) Implementation of Regional Action Plans for Dark Habitats and cetaceans assessed;</p> <p>e) Joint programme based on the update of the Action Plan on the Conservation of Cetaceans (2016-2020) (under preparation) between SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS Secretariat implemented;</p> <p>f) List of Reference of Pelagic Habitat Types in the Mediterranean Sea elaborated.</p> | (MedKeyHabitats II, Turtles, Species, Bycatch, QuietMED II, MAVA depredation project).  |
| <p>3. Support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and Action Plan and provide assistance to control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species.</p> | <p>In-House expertise, consultancy, meeting(s), travel, interpretation, translation</p> | <p>REMPEC, SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU</p> | <p>IMO, GEF, UNDP</p> | <p>a) Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management updated to achieve GES;</p> <p>b) Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to ratify and implement the AFS Convention and the Biofouling Guidelines.</p>  | <p>SO 1&amp;2- Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021). Considering the end of the cycle Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan and Timetable (2011-2015) relevant provisions could be integrated in the context of the preparation of the Regional Strategy (post 2021) (activity 1.1.2.8).</p> <p>Follow-up to the 2019 Regional Activity on the ratification and implementation of the AFS Convention and Biofouling Guidelines, in collaboration with the UNDP-GEF-IMO GloFouling Partnerships project. Co-funding from IMO ITCP.</p> |

**3.2.2. Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species, key habitats, for non-indigenous species control and prevention as well as the management of marine and coastal protected areas developed/updated and disseminated**

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| 1. Elaborate guidelines and technical tools for improving MPA management and the conservation of threatened or endangered species and key habitats in the Mediterranean. | In-house coordination and expertise, consultancy, coordination meetings | SPA/RAC | CU and other Components as relevant | Regional Action Plans Associates and Partners, MedPAN, IUCN, WWF | <p>a) MPA management effectiveness tool for the Mediterranean region developed and made available to the MPA managers and planners;</p> <p>b) Guidelines on monk seal, marine turtles, cartilaginous fishes and marine vegetation elaborated (based on the results of the updating of relevant Regional Action Plans and Strategy);</p> <p>c) "Interpretation Manual" of the new reference list of marine benthic habitats types in the Mediterranean elaborated;</p>  | <p>This "MPA management effectiveness tool" is a regional proposed activity under the 2016 MPA Roadmap.</p> <p>New guidelines will be elaborated according to the updating of the marine turtles, cartilaginous fishes, marine vegetation and monk seal Action Plans and Strategy. These guidelines will complement the work started during 2016-2017 and 2018-2019.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO, MPA Roadmap / Proposed Activity 2.5 (Decision IG.22/13); Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened or endangered species and key habitats and management of non-indigenous species.</p> <p>MAVA Projects (MedKeyHabitats II, Turtles, Species, Bycatch)</p> |
|  |   |         |                                     | BirdLife International, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, MEDASSET           | <p>d) Draft 2020-2030 Mediterranean Strategy/ Action Plan for reduced incidental catches of vulnerable species jointly elaborated by the bycatch and the species projects partners;</p> <p>e) GFCM "manual on standardized monitoring data collection on incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea" elaborated with SPA/RAC contribution for alignment with the vulnerable species and habitat regional Action Plans implementation needs;</p> <p>f) The GFCM online Mediterranean database portal on bycatch data collection implemented with</p> | <p>The 2020-2021 deliverables result from the relevant data collected on vulnerable species and habitats as part of the PoW 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 activities and will provide the Contracting Parties with the needed tools and strategies to reduce the incidental catch of vulnerable species during the 2020-2030 period which fit the MTS 2016-2021 objectives.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO. Priority Activities for the QSR 2023 roadmap. Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and marine key habitats in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>(MAVA Bycatch and species projects).</p>   |

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|  |   |         |                               |   | SPA/RAC contribution for alignment with the vulnerable species and habitat Regional Action Plans implementation needs.  |   |
| <b>3.3. Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures.</b>  |   |         |                               |   |   |   |
| <b>3.3.1. NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and on species introductions and invasive species developed/updated.</b>   |   |         |                               |   |   |   |
| 1. Support countries to update/develop new SAP BIO NAPs on biodiversity including for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats.  | In house coordination and expertise, external expertise, consultancies, workshop(s) | SPA/RAC | MAP Components as appropriate | National experts and organizations, NGOs, SPA/BD Focal Points, Action Plans Partners  | New NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats elaborated (or existing ones updated) (e.g. 3 NAPs on coralligenous for Lebanon, Morocco & Algeria, 2 NAPs on Vegetation Tunisia & Montenegro, NAP on NIS for Malta). | The elaboration of the new NAPS will consider and be based on the work started in 2016-2017 and 2018-2019.<br><br>SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO, Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species, marine key habitats in the Mediterranean and NIS, IMAP, MAVVA Projects.  |
| 2. Support the Contracting Parties and partners in producing and publishing relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation actions taken towards the conservation of species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol. | In house coordination and expertise, external expertise, consultancies, workshop(s) | SPA/RAC | MAP Components as appropriate | National experts and organizations, NGOs, SPA Focal Points, Action Plans Partners; BirdLife International, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, MEDASSET | a) Relevant scientific documentations production and publishing relating to species listed in Annex II of the SPA/DB Protocol supported;<br>b) Scientific documents related to incidental catches of vulnerable species elaborated.                                     | SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO, Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species, marine key habitats in the Mediterranean and NIS, IMAP, MAVVA Bycatch Project.<br><br>Relevant data had been collected and published on vulnerable species and habitats within 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 PoW. This effort is to be maintained to increase knowledge on the impacts of the undertaken conservation measures on vulnerable species and habitats as well as share the data collected through standardized monitoring methodologies aligned with the IMAP.<br><br>Priority Activities for the QSR2023. |

**3.3.2. National measures developed and implemented to strengthen the protection and the management of relevant marine and coastal sites, especially those containing threatened habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats).**

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| 1. Provide support at country level through elaboration of focused studies and surveys including management plans for the declaration, establishment, and extension of MPAs. | In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, field surveys, coordination meeting(s), national workshop(s) | SPA/RAC | CU and relevant Component as appropriate | MEER, CNL (Algeria), MoE (Lebanon), EGA (Libya), Tyre Coast managers             | <p>a) 3 complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps for the Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA (Algeria), Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon), and Gulf of Sirte (Libya);</p> <p>b) 3 complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies for the Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA (Algeria), Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon), and Gulf of Sirte (Libya);</p> <p>c) 3 management plans for the Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA (Algeria), Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon), and Gulf of Sirte (Libya);</p> <p>d) 3 business plans for the Cap de Garde-Edough future MPA (Algeria), Tyre Coast Nature Reserve/SPAMI (Lebanon), and Gulf of Sirte (Libya);</p> | <p>These activities supporting the countries to create new MPAs and improve the management of existent ones are designed in the continuity of the work delivered by SPA/RAC since 2010 (MedPartnership), in implementation of 2009 Regional Working Programme on MPAs and 2016 MPA Roadmap.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p> |
|  |  |         |  | Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points and MPA managers, national and local stakeholders | <p>e) Ecological/socio-economic diagnosis studies, to support 1 or 2 Mediterranean countries (e.g. Syria) in declaring new MPAs, implemented/elaborated;</p>  | <p>These activities supporting the countries to create new MPAs and improve the management of existent ones are designed in the continuity of the work delivered by SPA/RAC since 2010 (MedPartnership), in implementation of 2009 Regional Working Programme on MPAs and 2016 MPA Roadmap.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p> |

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|  |  |  |  | <p>HCEFLCD (Morocco), APAL (Tunisia)</p> <p>f) Capacity building workshops organized, local management units strengthened, and best practices developed and applied for an effective management of the Jbel Moussa (Morocco) and North-Eastern Islets of Kerkennah Archipelago future MPAs (Tunisia);</p>   | <p>These activities supporting the countries to create new MPAs and improve the management of existent ones are designed in the continuity of the work delivered by SPA/RAC since 2010 (MedPartnership), in implementation of 2009 Regional Working Programme on MPAs and 2016 MPA Roadmap.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p> |
|  |  |  |  | <p>EGA (Libya), IUCN-Med, WWF</p> <p>g) A national inventory of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya elaborated;<br/> h) MPA management plans elaborated;<br/> i) A Civil Society Organization (CSO) participatory platform prepared and initiated;<br/> j) Marine key habitats mapped and marine mega fauna (mammals, seabirds, turtles and cartilaginous fishes) monitored;<br/> k) Libyan national staff trained on MPA network planning and management;<br/> l) Awareness and communication campaigns and material, on the value and importance of MPAs, elaborated and their implementation initiated.</p> | <p>These activities supporting the countries to create new MPAs and improve the management of existent ones are designed in the continuity of the work delivered by SPA/RAC since 2010 (MedPartnership), in implementation of 2009 Regional Working Programme on MPAs and 2016 MPA Roadmap.</p> <p>SPA/BD Protocol; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p> |

**3.3.3. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection actions integrated in CAMPs, other ICZM Protocol implementation projects and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.**

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| <p>1. Undertake the implementation of the marine and coastal biodiversity component within CAMP programmes.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, field surveys, coordination meeting(s), national workshop(s)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>PAP/RAC, CU and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>SPA/RAC Focal Point, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina environmental authorities</p> | <p>Gap analysis and rapid assessment survey needed for the identification, characterization, conservation and management of marine biodiversity in Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina territorial waters, undertaken.</p> | <p>Support to CAMP BiH is provided as biodiversity component to the CAMP programme.</p> |
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**3.4. Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, nonindigenous species and key habitats.**

**3.4.1. Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts.**

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| <p>1. Support the development and implementation of National/Sub-regional Monitoring Programme(s) in line with biodiversity cluster of IMAP.</p> | <p>In house expertise and coordination, external expertise, workshop organization, field work, conference facilities, CorMon meeting on Biodiversity and NIS</p>          | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU, IMAP Task Force</p> | <p>Action Plan Associates and Partners, ACCOBAMS, CGPM, IUCN-Med, WWF Med Initiative, MAVA Marine turtles project Partners, NGOs</p> | <p>National Monitoring Programmes for threatened and endangered species and key habitats carried out within the implementation of the Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and marine key habitats in the Mediterranean (i.e. NAP Vegetation in Egypt &amp; Algeria) considering the IMAP, the indicator fact sheets and the monitoring protocols.</p> <p>The above deliverables will be submitted to the CorMon meeting on Biodiversity and NIS.</p>  | <p>The regional and national Action Plans are updated considering the MAP/EcAp ecological objectives and the IMAP Implementation. The implementation of national IMAPs will contribute to the achievement of the priorities of the regional Action plans and strategies.</p> <p>Follow up of the PoW 2018-2019.</p> <p>EcAp Roadmap; IMAP; Regional Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and/or threatened species and marine key habitats and management of non-indigenous species.</p> |
|  | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, field surveys, coordination meeting(s), national workshop(s), CorMon meeting on Biodiversity and NIS</p> |                |                            | <p>SPA/RAC Focal Points, concerned Contracting Parties' environmental authorities</p>  | <p>a) IMAP implementation at national level supported; best practices shared;<br/>                 b) IMAP implemented in MPAs and high pressure areas by Contracting Parties;<br/>                 c) Set of data on biodiversity common indicators reported and uploaded to the UNEP/MAP InfoMAP platform and quality assurance performed;<br/>                 d) Guidance fact sheets on IMAP common indicators on biodiversity updated;<br/>                 e) Guidance fact sheets on fisheries-related IMAP common indicators updated.</p> <p>The above deliverables will be submitted to the CorMon meeting on Biodiversity and NIS and its outcomes will be further submitted to the ECAP Coordination Group meeting.</p> | <p>During the previous biennium, CPs updated their national monitoring programmes following the initial phase of the IMAP (2016-2019) recommendations. The 2020-2021 biennium will be dedicated to the implementation of the second phase of the IMAP (2019-2021) as adopted in the IMAP Decision (IG.22/7).</p> <p>EcAp Roadmap; IMAP.</p>   |



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| <p>2. Run the ordinary periodic review of SPAMIs.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies (2 independent experts per SPAMI), field visits, technical advisory commission meeting(s)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU as relevant</p> | <p>Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, SPAMI managers</p> | <p>a) The ordinary periodic review aimed at making an in-depth assessment of SPAMI management effectiveness undertaken for the 11 concerned SPAMIs: 5 SPAMIs in 2020 (Lara-Toxeftra (CY), Torre Guaceto (IT), Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo (IT), Miramare (IT), Plemmirio (IT)) and 6 SPAMIs in 2021 (Archipelago of Cabrera (ES), Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (ES), Bouches de Bonifacio (FR), Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (IT), Punta Campanella (IT), Al Hoceima (MA);<br/>b) The report, main findings and recommendations submitted to SPA/BD Focal Point meeting in 2021.</p> | <p>This is a regular and periodic governance issue requested by the SPA/BD Protocol in the framework of the management of the SPAMI List<br/>SPA/BD Protocol; SPAMI Review Procedure.</p> |
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| <b>3.4.2. Biodiversity conservation assessment tools (in-depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator fact sheets) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and measure the effectiveness of the SAP BIO NAPs and Regional Action Plans implementation.</b> |   |                |           |  |   |  |
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| <p>1. Elaborate the 2020 Status Report on Mediterranean MPAs.</p>   | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU</p> | <p>MedPAN, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, WWF</p> | <p>a) The 2020 Status Report on Mediterranean MPAs elaborated, disseminated and submitted to the meeting of the SPA/RAC Focal Points;</p> | <p>SPA/BD Protocol; SAP BIO; MPA Roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).</p> <p>The 2020 MPA Status Report and Forum will allow to take stock of the situation of the Mediterranean MPA system by the 2020 horizon and to think on the post-2020 orientations and priorities for the region. It is in the continuity of a 4-year periodic process that started in 2012 in line with the CBD timeline and objectives. It is an inclusive and participatory forum bringing together IGOs, NGOs, managers, private sector and other MPA stakeholders, and providing a holistic view on the MPA issues in the region. Further to the SPAMI List, an SPA Directory could be established (by decision of COP 21) according to Articles 19 and 23 of the SPA/BD Protocol. The Contracting Parties have the obligation to report on such SPAs in the framework of their reporting to the Barcelona Convention. The Revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Decision IG.23/1 of COP 20) includes a part (Part II) dedicated for Specially Protected Areas, including a table (Table III) containing the List of SPAs within the SPA/BD Protocol's geographical coverage. These reports will be the primary source of information for the elaboration of the assessment. Due consideration will be also given to other information sources.</p> |

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|  |  |  |  |  | b) State of play of MPA and other area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean developed. | Based on the outcomes of the deliverable (a) of the present activity, the intention is to expand the scope of the analysis to the extent possible, in order to have an overview of all the marine areas where area-based conservation measures are applied in the Mediterranean. |
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**3.4.3. Common indicators on biodiversity and non-indigenous species monitored through IMAP in MPAs and SPAMIs, and relevant data sets established.**

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| 1. Cooperate at sub-regional level to test joint monitoring activities in (a) selected area(s), thus supporting countries to implement joint monitoring programmes in line with the IMAP recommendations in MPAs/SPAMIs. | In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, coordination meeting(s), national and regional workshop(s), CorMon meetings | SPA/RAC | CU, MED POL and other Components as relevant, IMAP Task Force | SPA/RAC Focal Points, MED POL Focal Points, concerned Contracting Parties' environmental authorities | a) IMAP implemented on a comparable basis;<br>b) Set of data on IMAP common indicators reported to the UNEP/MAP Info/MAP platform.<br><br>All deliverables above will be submitted to CorMon meetings on all IMAP Clusters. | First phase of the IMAP (2016-2019) was focused on the update of the national monitoring programmes for each component (Biodiversity and NIS, Pollution and marine litter, coast and hydrography). With the ultimate goal/vision of the EcAp process to reach the GES, the integration of monitoring the above indicated clusters is a key output to fully deliver the MTS. EcAp Roadmap; IMAP. |
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**3.4.4. Inventory of vulnerable and fragile coastal and marine ecosystems and assessment of sensitivity and adaptive capacities of coastal and marine ecosystems to changes in sea conditions as well as of the role of services they provide developed.**

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| 1. Support CPs to develop distribution and sensitivity maps of the main marine habitats. | In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, field surveys, coordination meeting(s), national workshop(s) | SPA/RAC | CU | Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, National experts and organizations, NGOs, Action Plans Partners | Distribution and sensitivity maps of the main marine habitats, in Malta and Turkey, and dedicated data bases developed and available on the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform and other relevant platforms. | The proposed deliverables are the follow up of the distribution maps of marine and coastal habitats of conservation interest in the Mediterranean with their sensitivity to fishing produced in the framework of the projects MedKeyHabitats I (2013-2017) and MedKeyHabitats II (2017-2019).<br><br>Regional Action Plans for the conservation of endangered or threatened species and marine key habitats and management of non-indigenous species; IMAP MAVA Project (MedKeyHabitats II).<br><br>Priority Activities for the QSR2023. |
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**3.5. Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity - related national legislation.**

**3.5.1. Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented, including pilots to support efforts aimed at MPA/SPAMI establishment and implementation.**

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| <p>1. Organize specific training courses, workshops, symposia related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean marine species, key habitats and non-indigenous species.</p> | <p>In house expertise and coordination, contractual services, consultants, partners</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU, INFO/RAC and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>ACCOBAMS, MAVA Marine turtles project partners, MAVA species Project partners, Berne convention, IUCN Marine turtles' specialists Group for the Mediterranean, NGOs, Universities, SPA focal Points, Mediterranean Action plans partners and Associates</p> | <p>a) 7th Mediterranean Conference on marine turtles (Morocco) organized;<br/>                 b) Cetaceans biannual Conference for south Mediterranean countries organized;<br/>                 c ) Regional training session on the identification of marine key habitats (Common Indicator CI-1, EO1 &amp; CI-2,EO1 of IMAP) and the use of SDF web application organized;<br/>                 d) Workshop on important areas for marine turtles, (MAVA Marine turtle project) organized;<br/>                 e) Technical workshops to identify important areas for vulnerable species based on the collected data within the Species MAVA project organized;<br/>                 f) Sub-regional trainings on the threatened and endangered species organized;<br/>                 g) Regional training session on the use of the Mediterranean Platform for biodiversity organized.</p> | <p>Follow-up of the PoW 2018-2019.</p> <p>The Regional Training session on the identification of marine habitats and the use of SDF web application will provide the CPs with the necessary expertise to use the tools developed during the last biennium.</p> <p>(Priority Activities for the QSR2023).</p> <p>Regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species, marine key habitats in the Mediterranean and NIS, IMAP, Marine turtles Project, Species Project, QuietMed II, Depredation projects.</p> |
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| <p>2. Organize training of practitioners to follow IMAP implementation and observatories of the Mediterranean related to biodiversity and human activities and related impacts in marine and coastal areas.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, coordination meeting(s), regional training workshop, implementation agreement(s)</p>                 | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU, and other Components as relevant</p>         | <p>Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, concerned Contracting Parties' environmental authorities</p>                                 | <p>National capacities reinforcement events elaborated (i.e. monitoring, assessment and reporting quality assured data related to IMAP common indicators) through “Train the trainers” workshops for biodiversity and non-indigenous species.</p>   | <p>Capacity of national stakeholders were reinforced during the first phase of the IMAP implementation through capacity building events and exchange of best practices. Strengthening capacities during the second phase of the IMAP will be dedicated to national stakeholders engaged in the IMAP implementation. EcAp Roadmap.</p> |
| <p>3. Strengthen and enhance capacity building activities on the conservation of Mediterranean marine biodiversity.</p>   | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, coordination meeting(s), training workshop(s)</p>  | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU, MED POL and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, concerned MED POL Focal Points, concerned Contracting Parties' environmental authorities</p> | <p>a) National team of experts set up;<br/>b) Training workshops on GES and vulnerability assessment organized;<br/>c) Complementary studies to the IMAP implementation elaborated (in MPAs and high-pressure areas) in order to ensure submitting quality assured data to regional data platforms.</p> | <p>Supporting the specification and integration of national monitoring needs related to IMAP clusters adopted in the IMAP process to ensure a useful quality assured data for the MED QSR dedicated.<br/><br/>EcAp Roadmap.</p>   |
| <p>4. Develop and implement training and capacity building programmes on MPA planning and management, including socio-economic aspects, as well as on fundraising and innovative funding for MPAs.</p>          | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, services, coordination meetings, training workshops, field and exchange visits, implementation agreements,</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC</p>                           | <p>Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points, MPA managers; AGEM members</p>   | <p>a) Capacity building programme on MPA planning and management including socio-economic aspects for the Jbel Moussa (Morocco) and North-Eastern Islets of Kerkennah Archipelago future MPAs (Tunisia) developed and implemented;</p>  | <p>These activities supporting the countries to create new MPAs and improve the management of existent ones are designed in the continuity of the work delivered by SPA/RAC since 2010 in the framework of the SAP BIO implementation (MedPartnership), 2009 Regional Working Programme on MPAs and 2016 MPA Roadmap.</p>             |
|   |   |                | <p>CU, Plan Bleu</p>                                | <p>Concerned SPA/RAC Focal Points; AGEM members; M2PA</p>   | <p>b) Training package on fundraising and innovative funding for MPAs available;<br/>c) “Train the trainers” regional workshop on fundraising and innovative funding for MPAs organized.</p>  | <p>This is a regional capacity-building need highlighted by the 2016 MPA Roadmap.<br/><br/>MPA Roadmap / Proposed Activity 4.6 (Decision IG.22/13).</p>   |

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| <p>5. Develop capacity building programmes and training material in the frame of the implementation of 9 Mediterranean marine observatories' strategy and joint technical action among 28 European and Mediterranean partners.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, services, workshop(s)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other Components as relevant</p> | <p>WCMC, relevant ODYSSEA project partners</p> | <p>Trainings focusing on technical (sensors implementation and maintenance, data acquisition and transmission, database management, modelling tools), managerial and marketing aspects of Oceanographic Observatories provided as a contribution to the implementation of a network of 9 operational marine observatories across the Mediterranean basin integrating data and numerical forecasts, with the partnership of 28 European and Mediterranean partners.</p> | <p>Capacity building activities are mandatory to enhance the skills of south Mediterranean partners in the field of Operational Oceanography and fill the data gap in poorly covered regions.</p> <p>ODYSSEA Project (H2020-EU, started in June 2017).</p> <p>Priority Activities for the QSR 2023.</p> |
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**3.5.2. Training and awareness-raising programmes on SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.**

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| <p>1. Support the implementation of SCP solutions in MPAs, with a particular focus on the issue of Marine Litter.</p> | <p>In-house expertise, consultancies, local workshops, meeting(s)</p> | <p>SCP/RAC</p> | <p>SPA/RAC, MED POL</p> | <p>UNISI, ISPRA, MPAs, SPAMIs, MedPAN, MIO-ECSDE, Interreg Med Project</p> | <p>8 MPAs/SPAMIs supported to develop and implement measures for the management and prevention of marine litter.</p> | <p>5 MPAs: Activity of the Plastics Busters MPAs project aiming at implementing the findings of the Interreg Med ACT4LITTER Project (Studying project that identified more than 100 showcases of ML measures for MPAs, developed a Decision-Making Tool, and specific ML Action Plans with 9 MPAs). Funded by Interreg Med programme (Plastic Busters MPAs project).</p> <p>Another 3 MPA/SPAMIs: Activity aiming at expending the findings of ACT4LITTER project the southern Mediterranean.</p> |
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**3.6. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.**

**3.6.1. Joint strategies and programmes on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation developed, by taking into account NAPs in cooperation with relevant partner organizations at global and regional levels.**

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| <p>1. Promote Joint Cooperation on spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity.</p> | <p>In-house coordination and expertise, consultancies, coordination exchanges and meetings, implementation agreement(s)</p> | <p>SPA/RAC</p> | <p>CU and other components as relevant</p> | <p>SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points, ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN, WWF</p> | <p>a) A further advanced draft text agreed by Parties on a Joint Cooperation on spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity;<br/>b) Coordination supported, notably with GFCM and other relevant bodies and Parties' advise on feasible synergies regarding tools and measures for spatial conservation of the Mediterranean biodiversity and natural resources management.</p> | <p>The deliverable will reinforce existing collaborative legal frameworks for the partnership work with other organizations for the achievement of common goals.<br/><br/>SPA/BD Protocol, SAP BIO, MoUs of UNEP/MAP and components with relevant bodies.</p> |
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| THEME 7. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION  |  |                       |                                       |                                     |  |  |
|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Main Activities   | Means of implementation  | Lead: CU or Component | Other: CU and/or Components           | Partners                            | Expected Deliverables  | Remarks  |
| <b>7.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.</b>   |  |                       |                                       |                                     |  |  |
| <b>7.2.3. Promote integration of ecosystem-based responses in National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.</b>  |  |                       |                                       |                                     |  |  |
| 1. Support Contracting Parties to enhance the marine biodiversity component on their updated National Determined Contributions (NDCs), in line with the UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement. | In house coordination and expertise, consultancies, coordination with CBD and UNFCCC | SPA/RAC               | CU, Plan Bleu and relevant Components | UNFCCC Secretariat, CBD Secretariat | Guidelines to enhance the marine biodiversity component of countries updated NDCs to increase alignment and integration of marine biodiversity concerns and SDG 14 pursuit, harmonized and coordinated with related tools and initiatives by the UNFCCC and the CBD to maximize synergies. | <p>The guidelines will complement the set of indicators made available to SPAMI managers by SPA/RAC during the current biennium to follow up the impact of CC on biodiversity in MPAs.</p> <p>Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas. (Decision IG.22/6 COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016), notably its strategic objectives 1, 2 and 4.</p> <p>Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) priority field of action relating to the adaptation to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Marrakesh Declaration (Marrakesh, Morocco, November 2009). EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2013).</p> |