

Process for the elaboration of the  
"Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of  
Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural  
Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-2020 SAP BIO)

**Online Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**MEETING REPORT**

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# REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE POST-2020 ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Post-2020 SAP BIO) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

## Introduction

1. The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21) requested to prepare in 2020-2021 the “Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region” (Post-2020 SAP BIO), aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), harmonised with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the optic of the Mediterranean context.
2. The request by COP 21 was mainly based on the recommendations of the evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) during the period 2004-2018. The evaluation, that was conducted by the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) in close consultation with the Contracting Parties, concluded that the SAP BIO adopted in November 2003 played an important role as a strategic framework for the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) at national and regional levels, in terms of harmonization and alignment of planning for biodiversity conservation. It also played a role in facilitating exchanges among departments within and among countries on common concerns in biodiversity conservation. It was also concluded that changes in the context of and policies on biodiversity during the 16 years since the adoption of the SAP BIO indicate that the Post-2020 SAP BIO should have new orientations and should focus on priorities tailored to address current and future regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean.
3. To promote coordination and avoid duplication, the Barcelona Convention COP 21 Decision IG.24/7 confirmed that in the process of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, due account has to be taken of what already has been developed at national and regional levels. Therefore, the Advisory Committee is established to (I) ensure co-ordination with the relevant organisations and (II) provide SPA/RAC and UNEP/MAP with technical and scientific advice during the process of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration.

As a follow-up of these recommendations, SPA/RAC decided to organize the First Meeting of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee on 2 April 2020. This Meeting was held online.

4. The main objective of the Meeting was the reactivation of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee and the presentation of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Elaboration Process and Guidance elements.

## **Participation**

5. The following organisations nominated representatives to act as Committee members:

- United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit / Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP): Co-Chair
- Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC): Co-Chair
- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat)
- Conservatoire du Littoral
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med)
- Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC)
- Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)
- OCEANA
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- World Wide Fund for Nature - Mediterranean Programme (WWF Mediterranean)
- Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC)
- Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL)
- Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)
- Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu/RAC)
- Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
- Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC)

6. The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Bern Convention/Council of Europe, Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), European Environment Agency (EEA), Mediterranean Wetland Initiative (MedWet), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat (UNEP Secretariat) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC) had also been invited to join the Post-2020 SAB BIO Advisory Committee, but were not represented in the present Meeting.

7. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

## **Organisation of work**

The Detailed Agenda of the Meeting and Terms of Reference for the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee are presented as Annex II and III to the present report, respectively.

8. The working language of the Meeting was English.

9. SPA/RAC acted as the Secretariat and ACCOBAMS as Rapporteur for the Meeting.

### **Agenda item 1 - Opening of the Meeting**

10. The Meeting was opened at 10 a.m. UTC+1, on Thursday, 2nd of April 2020, by Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat and Mr. Khalil Attia, Director of SPA/RAC, who welcomed the participants and presented the context and objectives of the Meeting. They affirmed their commitment to this ambitious programme which belongs to the Mediterranean region and represents an excellent opportunity to work in synergy with all Regional and International bodies involved in Biodiversity and natural resources Policies at Mediterranean level.
11. They emphasised the importance of the 1995 SPA/BD Protocol as the Mediterranean's main tool for implementing the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as regards the sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity.
12. They asserted that SAP BIO is not a MAP-only instrument, as it is of relevance for the entire region and its actors. The Advisory Committee will ensure coordination at the regional level and provide the technical and scientific advice that is needed in the process of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration. Therefore, crucial is the role of other inter-governmental processes; non-governmental actors; scientific and research institutions; and all the members of the committee.
13. A brief idea was given on the SAP BIO first cycle adopted at the Barcelona Convention COP 13 held in Catania, in November 2003. The evaluation of the SAP BIO implementation during the period of 2004-2018 concluded that, besides several gaps, the 2003 SAP BIO constituted a major contribution to the preservation of the natural heritage in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.
14. They pointed out that based on the first SAP BIO evaluation conclusions, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in their COP 21, last December in Naples, requested the Secretariat to prepare the Post-2020 SAP BIO during the biennium 2020-2021.
15. Post-2020 SAP BIO will be conducted through a participatory approach starting at national level and involving the relevant authorities and stakeholders, followed by sub-regional consultations. The final stage of the elaboration process will use the outcomes of the national processes and sub-regional consultations and compile them to craft the Post-2020 SAP BIO first draft.
16. The participation of relevant international and regional organizations through the SAP BIO Advisory Committee, will provide a platform of consultation during all the stages of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO and its better harmonisation with other Mediterranean and global strategic frameworks.

## **Agenda item 2 - Update on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework elaboration process**

17. The representative of SPA/RAC, Mr. Daniel Cebrian, SAP BIO Coordinator, presented the pertinency and harmonization of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process with the global biodiversity framework. He started by introducing the CBD Secretariat representative, Mr. Joseph Appiott, and explaining that a common presentation would be done by both of them, starting by Mr. Appiott speech.
18. Mr. Joseph Appiott, Associate Programme Management Officer of the Marine, Coastal and Island Biodiversity Programme at the CBD Secretariat thanked first UNEP/MAP for inviting the CBD Secretariat to be part of this initiative remarking that this is indeed a very important part of the work of the Convention in collaboration with regional organizations.
19. It is of critical value that so many regional organisations acting in the Mediterranean are coordinately contributing to the achievement of the goals of the CBD. The Mediterranean region arises so as one of the leading regions to begin already talking about developing a post-2020 strategic programme to align with the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
20. Updating the Meeting on the progress of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework process, Mr. Appiott said that the current global pandemic situation has thrown the process into a sort of a loop. The CBD Secretariat is in the midst of convening a number of different consultation meetings, essential steps in the process to get to the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Nonetheless the CBD Secretariat is adapting by either switching meetings or considering different modalities to have different types of meetings and consultations with a view to still having the Post-2020 framework adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, originally scheduled for October 2020.
21. The achievement of the Aichi targets, that focus on different aspects of biodiversity loss and continued survival and proliferation of biodiversity and services that biodiversity and ecosystem render, have a 2020 deadline. Hence, it is needed to assess the level of the targets achievement and, at the same time, to develop the successor to the diversity targets.
22. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is now in the process for developing, as set by the CBD COP 14, Decision 14/34. The Decision sets out a process largely conducted under the open-ended intersessional working group on the Post-2020 framework or the OE WG, but it's also supported by global and regional consultations, and then by different types of thematic workshops and consultations as well as different types of discussion documents and papers. They are put out for public comment and review and through that process the Secretariat is welcoming submissions of proposals for different goals and targets.
23. The post-2020 framework should further be addressed now through the open-ended working group, the forum to negotiate the framework, and certainly not a small working group.
24. The process is also being supported by different thematic workshops, many of which coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, and in some cases supplemented by other

thematic expert meetings coordinated by other organizations and CBD collaborators.

25. The first meeting of the open-ended working group, which was held in August 2019 in Nairobi, was largely laying out and discussing the modalities of the process, leading up to the goals and the approach to the framework. Subsequently, the second meeting, held in February 2020 in Rome, focused largely on the zero draft that was produced shortly before. There's one more meeting planned in Colombia, being reconsidered at the moment, in consultation with the host government.
26. In 2019, a series of regional consultations took place from January to May, as well as two thematic workshops, the first being on ecosystem restoration, and the second on marine and coastal biodiversity. Another workshop on natural resources sustainable use was expected to take place during this period of 2020, but for obvious reasons has been postponed.
27. After regional consultations, the process would be moving to the important scientific input from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and then, moving more conservatively into negotiation.
28. The intention of the third meeting of the working group aims to have a significant portion of the post-2020 framework pretty solid, so that the CBD COP 15 can move very quickly to the adoption of the Post-2020 framework.
29. Talking on the zero draft of the post-2020 framework, Mr. Appiott warned that it will be superseded by the next iteration of framework drafts, but nonetheless the overarching structure is still relevant even if some things might change.
30. It is important to note that the post-2020 framework is still working in the context of the 2050 vision as a part of the current strategic plan, so that the vision is the same, where “by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved and restored in ways to maintain ecosystem services standing a healthy planet in delivering benefits essential for all people”.
31. The intention is for the framework to have long-term and outcome-oriented goals for 2050, aligned with the 2050 vision, and also 2030 action targets, with a 2030 mission focusing on taking urgent action across society to put biodiversity on the path to recovery for the benefit of planet and people. In the theory of change used for the framework, the 2030 mission and 2050 goals feed into the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.
32. The action targets are organized in the zero draft, according to three 3 areas: (i) tools and solutions reducing threats on biodiversity and meeting people's needs, so there is a very clear and concerted effort to capture not just conservation but also sustainable use; (ii) the enabling factors, enabling conditions, means of implementation, responsibility and transparency in the context of the 2030 mission in action targets; and (iii) action targets contributing to 2030 and 2050 goals.
33. The exact formulation of goals and what will be the action targets will change, based on the discussions with the second meeting of the working group. Nonetheless, the theory of change is relatively consistent, so those goals are outcome-oriented on what it is needed to be achieved by 2030, so as to head to the 2050 vision.

34. One of the differences between how the CBD Secretariat has approached the marine Aichi targets versus how it is approaching the post-2020 framework lies in focusing more significant efforts in terms of facilitating coordination, communication and collaboration among biodiversity organizations and regional fishery bodies, in the context of the global dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies. This process brings regional organizations to share experiences across regions as well as to identify opportunities within regions for enhanced collaboration between their different regional mechanisms, and most importantly, to understand and identify how regional organizations and regional collaboration can facilitate implementation as well as reporting progress towards global targets.
35. Mr. Appiott finished his intervention looking forward to contributing to further discussions within the Post-2020 SAP BIO process.
36. Mr. Cebrian continued the presentation, saying that the current Post-2020 global framework elaboration process, needs to be approached by all the countries in the World through implementation tools; and it is especially useful and has been proved that regional tools are very practical to coordinate countries among them, in support of organizations, regarding the orientations and priorities of their related actions.
37. In the case of the Mediterranean, we have developed the SAP BIO along 16 years already. It has been very useful to coordinate activities of the different countries and to set common priorities in a synergic approach.
38. The challenge is to have a new Post-2020 SAP BIO harmonized with the CBD global biodiversity framework, that was expected to be adopted in October 2020, but given the current situation, delayed.
39. While we will have to try as much as possible to harmonize the development of our activity with the global framework being developed, harmonization should also be ensured between the Post-2020 SAP BIO and other relevant global and regional frameworks, such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
40. All these goals are set in order to have a fair development of humanity at the same time of having a sustainable planet for the future generations through the conservation of nature. The SDGs embrace every issue that touch the conservation of the Earth and the related human activities, although some of them have higher importance for the development of the activities that should be set in the Post-2020 SAP BIO.
41. "Life Below Water" is a key goal in the Mediterranean. In the Barcelona Convention context, this topic is mostly managed by SPA/RAC, although it is very much related to other issues, like the "Quality Education" goal is of great importance because we had to train and develop the skills of personnel and the future generations that will be working for a sustainable sea. Another important issue in the same way is the "Responsible Consumption and Production". Our production and consumption are almost 100%, if not 100%, based on earth resources in a way or another, even to develop industry, so the way that we produce and consume have a considerable impact on nature and on our environment.
42. A topic that is very much related to what we have done for producing in the last century is the climate change, affecting directly the dynamic of ecosystems in the

earth. So, the “Climate Action” goal of the United Nation is a component very strongly related to what we want to consider in the new strategic programme. It is worthy to recall that through an assessment of the state of the environment in relation to climate change vulnerability and impacts, done by SPA/RAC with all the Contracting Parties ten years ago, it was clear that, we could already see, then, very strong negative impacts on marine ecosystems related to climate change.

43. A goal that is crucial for success, and there the partners attending this internet meeting come into the scene, is the “Partnership for the Goals”. We don't work in isolated way at the level of countries and of course of regional and global institutions. A real coordination in order to embrace diverse approaches can support the delivery of works prepared by the different regional bodies.
44. Abounding on one of the key points what was mentioned before, we have to consider when defining every kind of priority activity in the post-2020 will be the component of the climate change influence. It constitutes a threat to human health directly from unpredictable changes, related for example to many bacterial and viral diseases generating organisms that will be arising from currently frozen and other changing areas. They will be in contact with humanity and other species for the first time, and this will be an example of issues that condition other activities and that we have to cope with.
45. That climate change affects biodiversity is clear, but there are also mitigation actions that can address it. Also, adaptation measures in an action programme for the region may bring beneficial changes, in the way for example of nature-based solutions and other priority activities to be addressed.
46. There is also, the need of addressing impacts through reduction of disaster risks, very much linked to climate change, and affecting species and ecosystems and their functionality around the world and in the Mediterranean.
47. Mr. Cebrian remarked that this is an interesting and important moment to debate on how we can reach to develop an appropriate strategic action programme for which SPA/RAC really thanks the participating organizations contribution and involvement that, as was remarked by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, is a programme where everyone's key actions on biodiversity in the region should be reflected. It's not just a SAP for UNEP/MAP implementation.

### **Agenda item 3 - Presentation of the roadmap of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration**

48. Ms. Saba Guellouz, Post-2020 SAP BIO Elaboration Officer, and Mr. Chedly Rais, consultant, presented, on behalf of SPA/RAC, the steps and timeline of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process:
  - Step 1: Identification of priorities and orientations: its main outputs will be National reports related to all Mediterranean countries as outcomes of bottom up processes and four Sub-regional priority and orientations identification documents.
  - Step 2: Elaboration of the draft Post-2020 SAP BIO: its main output will be the pre-final draft of the Post-2020 SAP BIO reviewed by the SAP BIO

Advisory Committee and National Correspondents and SPA/BD Focal Points.

- Step 3: Adoption of the Post-2020 SAP BIO by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their COP 22.

49. The detailed information about this process have been compiled within a Concept Note for Post-2020 SAP BIO Elaboration, that appears in Annex IV to the present report.

50. They also informed the Meeting of the detailed Methodology and Guidance elements for the design and orientations of the process indicating that Step 1 will be conducted first through consultations involving national stakeholders in each country, with the view of compiling an analysis of the situation of marine and coastal biodiversity and covering the following main elements:

- The state of the main ecosystems, habitats and associated species;
- Marine and coastal biodiversity threats and other factors of degradation, including fisheries interaction with marine vulnerable species and habitats;
- Threats and other elements related to climate change;
- Measures and other elements of governance related to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal biodiversity components including fisheries interaction with the marine vulnerable species and habitats;
- The main gaps in knowledge and governance;
- Needs for capacity building, networking, data access/share and exchange of experience.

51. The analysis will be oriented in such a way as to lead to the identification of clear and realistic objectives as well as priority actions needed to achieve these objectives. A first draft of this analysis will be prepared by one (or more) national expert(s) designated by the SPA/BD Focal Point. It will be then reviewed within the framework of a national consultation meeting or workshop involving stakeholders playing active role in the planning and/or implementation of measures in relation with the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal biodiversity components. The final product of the consultation workshop will be a new version of the document prepared by the national expert, which will be submitted to SPA/RAC as the country's national report on the preparation of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.

52. The organizations contributing in the Advisory Committee are invited to encourage their respective focal points in the countries to contribute to the national consultation processes.

53. Given the transboundary nature of most of the issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, it is important that the actions planned at the national level be harmonized at the sub-regional level, as appropriate and where possible. This is likely to ensure more efficiency and complementarity between the efforts undertaken at national level by countries. For a number of analysed issues, the subdivision of the Mediterranean into four sub-regions agreed by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process may be used,

when appropriate, for the identification of priorities within the framework of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process. These sub-regions are: the Western Mediterranean, the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea - Central Mediterranean, and the Aegean Sea - Levantine Sea.

54. Step 2 will be dedicated to the elaboration of the draft Post-2020 SAP BIO that will be developed through the compilation of outputs from national processes and sub-regional consultations. It will indicate the objectives to achieve at regional level and integrate the priority actions identified at national and sub-regional levels. In addition, it will propose the actions needed at regional level to support, accompany and coordinate the implementation of the priority actions to be implemented by the countries at national level.
55. Ms. Guellouz and Mr. Rais presented also, on behalf of SPA/RAC, the following recommended principles for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO:
- Take into consideration the lessons learned from the implementation of SAP BIO during the period 2004-2018.
  - Put more emphasis on marine and coastal biodiversity, and, where possible, scale up the commitments for its preservation.
  - Promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity into all relevant environmental policies as well as relevant policies for the sustainable use of marine living resources, such as fisheries.
  - The Post-2020 SAP BIO should be:
    - o scientifically based;
    - o built on concise realistic objectives; and
    - o designed and perceived not as an additional layer of commitments for countries but rather as a tool to strengthen and streamline the implementation of existing plans and strategies.
56. Regarding objectives and expected output of this Meeting, Mr. Cebrian mentioned that an objective was to elicit Global/Regional bodies views for beyond 2020 on elements related to Mediterranean biological diversity protection of its threatened components, as well as conservation and sustainable use of natural resources for inclusion in the Post-2020 SAP BIO. Also, the Meeting intended to activate the suggestion by Global/Regional bodies of concrete proposals to be considered in the further development of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.
57. The proposals will not aim to achieve consensus, but rather allow developing streamlined options for potential elements of SAP BIO targets reflecting the broadest possible regional bodies views. The expected output would be a meeting report containing initial proposals on elements for developing Mediterranean goals and targets, for consideration in the initial development of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.

**Agenda item 4 - Views by the members of the Advisory Committee on their possible contribution to the Post-2020 SAP BIO; links with their ongoing programmes and planification**

58. Under this agenda item, the Advisory Committee members were invited to provide their views and recommendations in relation with:
- the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy;
  - the areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process;
  - the structure and content of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document.
59. They were also invited to send written comments, as necessary, after the Meeting.
60. Most of the participants thanked the organisers for having invited them to contribute to the process of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO and expressed their willingness to contribute and collaborate with SPA/RAC to ensure a maximum level of harmonization with the relevant strategies and working plans of their respective organisations.
61. The representative of GFCM, Mr. Miguel Bernal, thanked the organizers for having invited the GFCM Secretariat to join the initiative and confirmed, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of GFCM (Mr. Abdellah SROUR), the willingness of his organization to contribute to the process of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO. He emphasized that the conservation of biodiversity is an important topic for GFCM and that GFCM and UNEP/MAP are in a position to go hand in hand to help the Mediterranean countries to ensure a balance between conservation and food production. He added that healthy ecosystems are needed to maintain high production of quality food products, like those provided by the fishery sector.
62. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and GFCM is an example of good collaboration between a regional sea convention and a regional fisheries management organization. It is the institutional framework for the collaboration between the two organizations, and the Post-2020 SAP BIO can identify new topics to further enhance this collaboration.
63. He informed the participants that GFCM is launching the process to discuss its post-2020 strategy that will follow the Mid-term Strategy for the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea whose period of implementation is finishing in 2020. The process for the elaboration of Post-2020 SAP BIO is therefore very timely to find synergies and identify common goals.
64. He added that Target 4 of the Mid-term strategy finishing this year is about minimizing the negative interaction between fisheries and environment on which most of the collaboration with SPA/RAC and UNEP/MAP has been carried out. The collaboration is covering indeed the minimization of discards and incidental catches. GFCM has also collaborated in the strategy to reduce marine litter and marine noise. Furthermore, the new emphasis put by GFCM on the monitoring of Fishery Restricted Areas (FRAs) is an opportunity to

further highlight how special protection measures can serve both fisheries and biodiversity conservation.

65. The representative of FAO Mr. Marcello Vasconcellos recalled that FAO is a global organization whose central mission is combatting hunger and that one of its objectives is to make fisheries as responsible as possible. In the Mediterranean, FAO has two decentralized offices (in Cairo and Tunis) having fisheries among their fields of activity. However, the FAO's work in relation to the Mediterranean fisheries is mainly channelled through GFCM and a series of regional fisheries projects covering the same sub-regions as those mentioned for the Post-2020 SAP BIO. The activities of the regional projects include the development of strategies and policies for improving the use of aquatic resources for better economic and social outcomes.
66. FAO is working hand in hand with GFCM to help countries to improve their capacities to monitor fisheries and their impacts on the environment and also to develop and establish more appropriate governance measures for sustainable fisheries. Such measures include the minimization of the negative impact of fisheries on the environment. These activities, as well as the Blue Growth Initiative launched by FAO few years ago, are of particular relevance for the Post-2020 SAP BIO.
67. Commenting the presented process, he emphasized that the priority areas of the Post-2020 SAP BIO will be probably close to those of the previous SAP BIO since the problems are still the same. However, the activities to be proposed will be different since they will have to be adapted to new situations. In this context, he stressed that the principle of orienting the Post-2020 SAP BIO towards reinforcing existing commitments and instruments rather than creating new layers of commitments is a good orientation. He added that the lessons learned from the implementation of the previous SAP BIO are also important to take into account, and invited SPA/RAC to share with the Advisory Committee members the report on the evaluation it prepared in 2019.
68. In relation to the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process, the representative of FAO stressed the importance of organizing wide consultations at national level, involving the fisheries authorities. FAO will encourage its focal points and regional projects to contribute to the consultation process.
69. The representative of MedECC, Mr. Abed El Rahman Hassoun, informed the participants that the First MedECC assessment report, to which contributed more than 85 scientists from many countries of the area fits very well the SAP BIO objectives. Indeed, the report tackled the drivers of changes in the Mediterranean regarding a wide range of sectorial strategies (water, food, energy, etc.) as well as their past and present trends. The report focused also on risks vulnerability, projections and ways of adaptations. A summary of the report targeting policy makers will be published shortly.
70. He emphasized that there is a room for synergy between what is being done under MedECC and the process for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO and recommended to promote more research work on the responses of different species to climate threats.

71. The representative of WWF Mediterranean, Ms. Camille Loth, emphasized that it is crucial that the Post-2020 SAP BIO moves from defining priorities and orientations for action, to defining a set of goals and objectives that respond to what is necessary to stop and start reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, and to restore its integrity and functionality by 2050. This plan should move us from doing "what is feasible" to doing "what is necessary".
72. She added that WWF agrees and strongly supports the alignment of the Post-2020 SAP BIO with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the SDGs and EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, in order to ensure policy coherence, facilitate reporting of Contracting Parties and ensure synergies for funding national biodiversity strategies. The Post-2020 SAP BIO goals should be no less ambitious than stopping the loss of biodiversity and degradation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030 at the latest and their restoration by 2050. This means that the SAP BIO should have a 2030 horizon rather than a 2035 horizon.
73. The plan should be built on solid scientific knowledge, bringing into its development the widest possible scientific input from the region and beyond, building on the IPBES assessment and other evidence necessary to identify the Post-2020 SAP BIO specific objectives and targets. This will also require more than a bottom up target setting process which risks making the SAP BIO a collection of national priorities, instead of a systematic regional biodiversity plan to stop and reverse biodiversity loss in the next decade. For WWF, the Post-2020 SAP BIO should contain a strong and effective implementation mechanism ensuring that Mediterranean countries define national contributions that add up to the SAP BIO objectives and final goal and monitor and report progress and ratchet up national objectives as necessary.
74. Considering that all the coming CBD meetings in relation to the Global Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework have been postponed, she suggested to consider a possible change in the timeline of the development of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.
75. After the Meeting, she sent to SPA/RAC a written summary of the elements she introduced during the Meeting (Annex VI).
76. The representative of IUCN-Med, Ms. Marie-Aude Sévin, confirmed the availability of her organization to actively contribute to the elaboration process of the Post-2020 SAP BIO. In this context, she informed the participants that IUCN-Med might contribute to:
- Interlink the climate change convention objectives with the biodiversity objectives:
    - o Enhance the ecosystem multifunctionalities by promoting Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into spatial planning.
    - o Assess the effectiveness of NbS to improve coastal resilience (operational management approaches): Blue Carbon and NbS methodology to engage public and private sector in conservation action to mitigate climate change via the protection of critical coastal habitats
    - o Work on the need and priorities of each country (focus on North African countries) to include NbS in their new Nationally Determined

Contributions (NDC): discussion and work already engaged with Morocco and Tunisia.

-Sustainable management of coasts and deep sea areas:

- Work on governance adaptation plan in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): promoting restoration, natural connectivity and green blue infrastructure.
- Securing sensitive habitats and fisheries resilience (support to countries).
- Contributing to protect vulnerable species.
- Prevent plastic marine litter by working on inland and coastal hotspot plastic leakages.

77. She recommended that the Post-2020 SAP BIO should include (i) the assessment of the effectiveness of the nature-based solutions (NbS) to improve the coastal resilience and how this could be declined in operational management approaches; (ii) the setting up of methodologies to engage public and private sectors in mitigation through the conservation of critical coastal habitats; and (iii) more focus on deep sea ecosystems.

78. After the Meeting, she sent to SPA/RAC a written summary of the elements she introduced during the Meeting (Annex XIV).

79. The representative of MedPAN, Ms. Marie Romani, confirmed that her organization is ready to contribute to the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process, in particular regarding MPAs. She informed the participants that this year, a post-2020 roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs will be developed, in the framework of the Mediterranean MPA Forum process, which will help feeding the SAP BIO elaboration process. The roadmap elaboration process will be based on a wide online consultation involving local, national and Mediterranean stakeholders to identify needs, obstacles and priorities in view of effective MPAs.

80. The Post-2020 MPA roadmap will be based on the assessment of the 2020 Roadmap and identification of priorities until 2030, using the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Status Report (produced by SPA/RAC and MedPAN), a wide online consultation process (local/national/Mediterranean levels) to identify needs/obstacles and priorities ; results will be shown as much as possible at sub-regional level and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum (November 2020) that will invite all MPA stakeholders at different levels.

81. She highlighted the strong link between the roadmap and SAP BIO, noting that the timelines of their elaboration processes are compatible since the roadmap will be finalized during the 2020 MPA Forum that will take place by the end of this year.

82. She also recalled that the MedPAN strategy 2019-2023 and beyond provides elements of relevance for the Post-2020 SAP BIO, in particular in relation to knowledge improvement, data access, capacity building of MPA actors, sharing of experience and support to national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers.

83. Concerning the structure of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, she recommended to (i) have it articulated around outcome-oriented goals, with clear indicators for

qualitative assessment and quantitative progress measurement; (ii) identify key actions to be implemented at local, national and Mediterranean levels, (iii) create a mechanism to better link local national and regional actions; and (iv) provide for an *ad hoc* mechanism of collaboration between the regional organizations aimed at monitoring the progress in implementation.

84. After the Meeting, she sent to SPA/RAC a written summary of the elements she introduced during the Meeting (Annex VII).
85. The representative of INFO/RAC, Ms. Lorenza Babbini, informed the participants about the mission, functions and activities of her organisation, emphasizing that INFO/RAC is ready to contribute and provide support to the process of elaboration of the Post 2020 SAP BIO.
86. She stressed the importance of the diagnosis to be carried out at national level within the framework of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process that should take into account the relevant frameworks such as the EcAp processes and the national biodiversity strategies.
87. The Director of Plan Bleu/RAC, Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri, recalled that her organisation collaborated with SPA/RAC and many of the other institutions represented in the Meeting in the preparation of the 2019 State of Environment and Development Report (SoED), which has clear links with the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.
88. She added that Plan Bleu/RAC has an important role in the observation and foresight in the Mediterranean region. It is also developing activities on how innovation can be further mainstreamed and further developed to contribute to transition in the Mediterranean area. Resilience issues are also among the topics addressed by Plan Bleu, in particular, the approaches to support resilience of the whole agro-environmental and human systems including through nature-based solutions. All these topics are relevant to the Post-2020 SAP BIO.
89. She concluded by stressing the need to take into account the lessons learned and to capitalize the existing initiatives.
90. The Head of REMPEC, Mr. Gabino Gonzalez, briefly introduced REMPEC and its activities, emphasising that the activities of REMPEC having direct links with the SAP BIO topics are those related to MPAs, climate change and control of alien invasive species.
91. He informed the participants that this year REMPEC is working on the elaboration of the "Post-2021 Strategy for prevention and response to marine pollution from ships" which will address a number of issues relating to marine pollution, including its impacts on marine biodiversity, namely the implementation of key conventions of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and also measures related to Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).
92. He added that REMPEC will closely liaise with SPA/RAC to cross link the strategy with the Post-2020 SAP BIO and ensure their harmonisation. After the Meeting, he would send to SPA/RAC a written summary of the elements he introduced during the Meeting (Annex VIII).

93. The representative of PAP/RAC, Mr. Marco PREM, introduced his organisation emphasising that its main mission is the implementation of the Barcelona Convention's Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol). The Protocol is a cross sectorial legal instrument that provides mechanisms for integration and cooperation at various levels. Ecosystem approach and biodiversity conservation are among the main principles of the Protocol.
94. He added that the Common regional framework for ICZM in the Mediterranean adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in December 2019, promotes better integration and coherence in the programmes implemented in the Mediterranean, including therefore the Post-2020 SAP BIO. He recalled that the Coherence analysis between the ICZM Protocol and various documents related to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and SAP BIO identified very good elements of consistencies.
95. He confirmed the interest of PAP/RAC to actively contribute to the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process, indicating that various reports of PAP/RAC could be inputs to SAP BIO (e.g. the reports of the PHAROS4MPAs project that made a series of interesting recommendations for several user sectors).
96. Concerning the structure and contents of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, he recommended to give appropriate consideration to wetlands given their importance as ecosystems ensuring the interconnectivity between sea and land.
97. After the Meeting, he sent to SPA/RAC written comments on the elements he introduced during the Meeting (Annex IX).
98. The representative of MED POL, Mr. Mohamed KAYAL, emphasised that the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol) has direct link with biodiversity conservation.
99. He informed the participants that the Barcelona Convention COP 21 tasked MED POL with the preparation of six new regional plans, which all have links with biodiversity, since their ultimate aim is to preserve the marine environment. Three of these Regional Plans will be prepared during the biennium 2020-2021; they cover urban wastewaters treatment, sludge management and marine litter.
100. The urban wastewater regional plan foresees nature-based solutions and has therefore direct link with biodiversity. The regional plan for marine litter will include regulation measures and monitoring in Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). Harmonisation between these regional plans and the Post-2020 SAP BIO is required, so that they complement each other and create synergies at national and regional levels.
101. He concluded by stressing the importance of ensuring clear linkages between the monitoring component to be included in SAP BIO and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its indicators, and that duplication of indicators should be avoided.

102. The Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS, Ms. Florence Descroix-Comanducci, attended the Meeting, but for technical reasons, was not able to make herself heard by the other participants. She provided SPA/RAC with a written input (Annex X).
103. She thanked the Meeting for proposing her to serve as Rapporteur of this 1st Advisory Committee Meeting, and acknowledged that this process is crucial for ACCOBAMS to ensure effective biodiversity conservation.
104. The ACCOBAMS strategies that could contribute to the Post-2020 SAP BIO process are the “Mid-term revision of the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014-2024”, the “ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy” and the Communication Strategy, planned during the 2020-2022 triennium.
105. Current exercise at the ACCOBAMS level for the sustainability of the cetacean monitoring programme, following the success of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) which made it possible to collect a large amount of data on several mobile species, but also on the impacts of human activities.
106. She emphasized the importance of optimizing as much as possible the means of monitoring biodiversity, threat management, protection of species, Marine Protected Areas, in the region, in particular by synchronizing efforts or collaborations / pooling of resources at the sub-regional / cross-border level.
107. To strengthen the roadmap presented in the Concept Note Post-2020 SAP BIO, we should go further. It is suggested that the final draft of the Post 2020 SAP BIO be also presented at the Focal Point meetings of the most important MAP components with regard to the challenges it involves (MED POL and REMPEC in priority).
108. Regarding the implementation of Post-2020 SAP BIO, the question of funding will be crucial and must be integrated into the reflection and the strategy itself.
109. Fundraising efforts must be pooled, especially in the Post-MAVA context by the initiation of a reflection on the establishment of innovative financing mechanisms and reinforcement of collaboration between organizations and implementation of new ways of working to pool resources and avoid ineffective competition / development of joint projects.
110. The representative of the UfM Secretariat, Ms. Alessandra Sensi, attended the Meeting, but for technical reasons was not able to make herself heard by the other participants. She provided SPA/RAC with written inputs (Annex XI).
111. She thanked Mr. Leone for mentioning and connecting to the two planned 2020 UfM Ministerial/s Meeting/Declaration/s. The exchanges of this Advisory Committee are of relevance to the UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2020 in Malta and the UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change for early December 2020 in Egypt. The UfM Secretariat suggested to keep 2030 and not 2035 for the Post-2020 SAP BIO horizon, in order to align with the main international calendar and targets. They suggested also to align, as much as possible, the structure of the Post-2020 SAP BIO to the CBD action targets and outcome goals. This would

ease the assessment of the progress made over time at regional level and the Mediterranean contribution to the wider international targets and goals.

It would be crucial to associate the work on biodiversity to the one on Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and Climate change. This was in focus in the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change and will continue to be - even more - within the 2020 UfM Ministerial Declaration on the same topic. The 2014 Ministerial Declaration sat the basis of the green, circular economy shift identifying as main axes of work a) Depollution; b) Pollution Prevention/SCP; and c) Climate Change.

112. The representative of the OCEANA, Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, attended the Meeting and preferred sending written comments as his organisation contribution to the meeting (Annex XII).

113. The representative of the SCP/RAC, Mr. Pedro Fernandez Bautista, attended the Meeting and preferred sending written comments as contribution to the Meeting (Annex XIII).

#### **Agenda item 5 - Any other matters**

114. No other matters were raised for discussion.

#### **Agenda item 6 - Closure of the meeting**

115. Following the interventions of the Steering Committee members , Mr. Gaetano Leone expressed his satisfaction as for the commitment he noticed from all the participants and their willingness to contribute to the process for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO. He invited the participants to continue the dialogue in the coming steps of the process and invited all of them to send their comments and remarks in writing. He thanked SPA/RAC team for their efforts to push forward this important task.

116. Mr. Khalil Attia warmly thanked the participants for their commitment and informed them that SPA/RAC will get back to them in the coming period by e-mail, to consult them and keep them informed on the progress made. He added that the next meeting of the Advisory Committee is expected to be a face-to face meeting, planned tentatively for end of September or early October 2020.

117. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was closed by both Co-Chairs, on Thursday, 2 April 2020 at 12.50 p.m. UTC+1.

## Annex I: List of participants

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## **Annex II: Detailed Agenda of the Meeting**

Process for the elaboration of the  
"Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and  
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-  
2020 SAP BIO)

### **Online Advisory Committee meeting Detailed Agenda**

- Agenda item 1    Opening of the meeting**  
Importance of Post-2020 SAP BIO for the Barcelona Convention and the implementation of SPA/BD Protocol: *Gaetano Leone / Khalil Attia: 30 min*
- Agenda item 2    Update on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework elaboration Process**  
The global biodiversity framework and pertinency of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process: *Joe Appiott / Daniel Cebrian: 15' min*
- Agenda item 3    Presentation of the roadmap of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration**  
Steps and timeline of the Post-2020 SAB BIO Elaboration: *Saba Guellouz: 10 min*  
Methodology and Guidance elements: *Chedly Rais: 20 min*  
Expected outputs of the 1<sup>st</sup> Post-2020 SAP BIO AC meeting: *Daniel Cebrian: 5 min*
- Agenda item 4    Views by the members of the Advisory Committee on their possible contribution to the Post-2020 SAP BIO; links with their ongoing programs and planification**  
3' intervention for each Advisory Committee member to:  
(i) Inform the meeting about the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy  
(ii) Areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Process of elaboration  
(iii) Advice(s) on the structure and content of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document  
Members will be kindly asked to send written comments, as necessary, after the meeting
- Agenda item 5    Any other matters**
- Agenda item 6    Closure of the meeting**

## **Annex III: Terms of Reference for the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee**

Process for the elaboration of the  
"Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and  
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-  
2020 SAP BIO)

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SAP BIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **I. Role, tasks and institutional framework of the Committee:**

The SAP BIO Advisory Committee is one of the institutional bodies envisaged by the first SAP BIO adopted by COP 13 of the Barcelona Convention in November 2003, to act at the regional level.

To promote coordination and avoid duplication, the Barcelona Convention COP 21 Decision IG.24/7 confirmed that in the process of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, due account has to be taken of what already has been developed at national and regional levels.

Therefore, the Advisory Committee is established to (I) ensure co-ordination with the relevant organisations and (II) provide SPA/RAC with technical and scientific advice in the process of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration.

The re-established Committee includes nominated representatives by international and regional bodies (hereinafter member organizations) with technical and scientific expertise in marine and coastal Mediterranean biodiversity issues and policies.

In particular, the Committee will provide for:

- (a) technical and scientific advice concerning the process of elaboration, the content and further implementation of the Post-2020 SAP BIO;
- (b) inventory of relevant strategies, programmes and activities already realised in the region. For that aim, each member organisation will provide the committee with lists of its strategies, programmes/activities and outputs done or planned to be promptly developed in connection with the SAP BIO;
- (c) flow and exchange of relevant information, within the Committee membership and with SPA/RAC, on strategies, programmes/activities implemented, on-going or planned by the member organizations;
- (d) harmonization, as appropriate, of strategies, programmes/activities and results of member organizations concerning issues of relevance for SAP BIO.

It is understood that member organizations, besides their participation in the activities directly related to the Advisory Committee itself, may be involved in some national and/or regional activities of SAP BIO.

#### **II. Membership**

The membership of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee is as follows:

1. UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan / Coordinating Unit (MAP-CU): Co-Chair
2. SPA/RAC: Co-Chair
3. UNEP Secretariat
4. ACCOBAMS
5. ALECSO
6. Bern Convention/Council of Europe
7. CBD Secretariat
8. CIESM
9. CMS
10. Conservatoire du Littoral
11. EEA
12. FAO
13. GFCM
14. IUCN Med
15. MedECC
16. MedPAN
17. MedWet
18. OCEANA
19. UfM
20. UNESCO/IOC
21. WWF Mediterranean
22. INFO/RAC
23. MED POL
24. PAP/RAC
25. Plan Bleu/RAC
26. REMPEC
27. SCP/RAC

At each meeting of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee, a Rapporteur has to be elected among partner organisations' members.

Membership of the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee can be updated every two years.

Each member organisation is invited to keep the same representative in the Advisory Committee and to ensure continuity, through appropriate transfer of files, in case of a necessary change.

### **III Meetings' periodicity**

Meetings, if not decided otherwise, would be convened once a year. It is estimated that around 3 meetings, including online ones, will be scheduled during the 2020-2021 biennium.

## **Annex IV: Concept Note for Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration**

### **Post-2020 SAP BIO**

#### **Concept Note**

#### **INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT**

Barcelona Convention COP 21 requested to prepare in 2020-2021 the “Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region” (Post-2020 SAP BIO), aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and harmonised with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework through the optic of the Mediterranean context.

The request by COP 21 was mainly based on the recommendations of the evaluation of the implementation of the SAP BIO during the period 2004-2018. The evaluation, that was conducted by SPA/RAC in close consultation with the Contracting Parties, concluded that the SAP BIO adopted in November 2003 played an important role as a strategic framework for implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol at national and regional levels in terms of harmonization and alignment of planning for biodiversity conservation. It also played a role in facilitating exchanges among departments within and among countries on common concerns in biodiversity conservation. It was also concluded that changes in the context of and the policies on biodiversity during the 16 years since adoption of the SAP BIO indicate that the Post-2020 SAP BIO should have new orientations and should focus on priorities tailored to address current and future regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean.

It is also crucial to ensure maximum harmonization between the new orientations and priorities to be promoted in the Post-2020 SAP BIO and those that will be decided at global level in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework expected to be adopted in October 2020 by the CBD COP 15. Harmonization should also be ensured between the Post-2020 SAP BIO and other relevant global and regional frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and SDGs.

#### **OBJECT**

While properly taking into account this context, SPA/RAC shall (i) carry out a bottom up participatory process at national level of Mediterranean countries to identify their needs and priorities, (ii) identify the sub-regional priorities and orientations based on the diagnosis made at national level, (iii) develop the draft document of the Post-2020 SAP BIO and drive the process of its adoption.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The SAP BIO, adopted in November 2003, established an Advisory Committee at that time, to ensure co-ordination with the relevant regional organisations and provide SPA/RAC with technical and scientific advice in the process of the SAP BIO elaboration and implementation.

The members of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee were, at that time:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Mediterranean Action Plan / Coordinating Unit (MAP-CU) | 8. ALECSO   |
| 2. SPA/RAC (and the GEF Strategic Partnership project)    | 9. REMPEC   |
| 3. FAO (and COPEMED and ADRIAMED projects)                | 10. IUCN-Med  |
| 4. GFCM   | 11. MedWet  |
| 5. Bern Convention/Council of Europe                      | 12. European Topic Centre on Nature Protection & Biodiversity EEA |
| 6. ACCOBAMS   | 13. MedPAN  |
| 7. UNESCO/IOC   | 14. Conservatoire du Littoral                                     |
|   | 15. WWF MedPO   |

After consultation with SPA/BD Focal Points, it has been proposed the following additional members to the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee, given their enhanced role in the Mediterranean conservation and sustainable development along the last years:

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 16. CBD Secretariat | 20. UNEP Secretariat |
| 17. CIESM           | 21. OCEANA           |
| 18. CMS             | 22. MedECC           |
| 19. UfM             |                      |

The other MAP Components, i.e. INFO/RAC, MED POL, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC, REMPEC, and SCP/RAC, should also be represented in the SAP BIO Advisory Committee.

It is proposed, for the future, that UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC co-chair the in the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee meetings.

## **ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

While bringing a high level of ambitions, the Post-2020 SAP BIO will be action-oriented and made of activities tailored towards realistic objectives that countries could reasonably achieve with the coordination of relevant international organisations and the support of donors and funding agencies.

The activities to be undertaken for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO will be implemented in three steps:

### **STEP 1: Identification of priorities and orientations**

#### Outputs:

- *National reports related to all Mediterranean countries as outcome of bottom up processes*
- *Four sub-regional priority and orientations identification documents*

Timeframe: February 2020 – July 2020

The elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO will be based on needs and priorities identified in a participatory way during a bottom up process with the Mediterranean countries at national level.

The elaboration process will be based on the following actions:

1.a. Recruitment of a senior expert to assist SPA/RAC in the design and steering of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process. This expert will elaborate a draft guidance document for all the process, assist SPA/RAC to prepare ToRs and select the National Process and sub-regional Process experts. He will support national and sub-regional processes, proofread and verify documents and assist SPA/RAC during the Post 2020 SAP BIO adoption process.

1.b. Elaboration of a reflection and a guidance document on the design and orientations of the process.

1.c. Online consultation with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee on the guidance document.

1.d. Carrying out "National Processes" involving national stakeholders in order to identify the needs and priorities of each country in favour of the coastal and marine biodiversity by 2035. Consultations will be conducted at national level by national experts directly engaged by SPA/RAC, where needed and requested by SPA/BD Focal Points and SAP BIO National Correspondents.

1.e. Recruitment of a group of experts whose tasks will be:

23. To review, when appropriate, the strengths and weaknesses of marine and coastal biodiversity conservation identified at sub-regional level, through national diagnosis reports of the countries of each sub-region. In this context, four (preferably back-to-back) sub-regional workshops may be held.

The four Mediterranean sub-regions are those defined by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (cf. Roadmap for the application of the Ecosystem Approach) for practical reasons and given the fact that they present a conglomerate of linked coastal and marine ecosystems, with many shared resources, species and common approaches to environmental management.

24. To produce four sub-regional priority and orientations identification documents.

Information and consultation with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee, SAP BIO National Correspondents and SPA/BD Focal Points all along this step of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration.

Since this step will take place in parallel with the meetings and workshops to be held by the Secretariat of the CBD for the elaboration of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, SPA/RAC and the group of experts will ensure a maximum level of harmonisation between the new SAP BIO and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **STEP 2: Elaboration of the draft post-2020 SAP BIO**

*Output: Post 2020 Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean prefinal draft*

*Timeframe: August 2020 – March 2021*

The same group of experts will be in charge of the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO draft document its duties will include:

2.a. The preparation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean initial draft from the results of national reports and sub-regional documents.

2.b. The document will be submitted for consultation to the Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee and reviewed by the (Seventh) meeting of the SAP BIO National Correspondents.

2.c. The development of a prefinal draft document before initiating the Post-2020 SAP BIO endorsement/adoption process.

This document should be produced after CBD COP 15 in October 2020, which is expected to adopt the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **STEP 3: Adoption of the Post-2020 SAP BIO**

*Output: Post 2020 Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity*

*Timeframe: March 2021 – December 2021*

3.a. The Post-2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee and (Eighth) National Correspondents Meetings will be convened shortly before the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points to review the prefinal draft and amend it as necessary.

3.b. Obtaining the final draft of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document endorsed by the SPA/BD Focal Points with a view to submit it to the MAP Focal Points meeting.

3.c. Submission of the final draft of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document for adoption by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during their COP 22.

## Post-2020 SAP BIO Elaboration Timeline:

COMPONENTS	2020												2021											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>																								
<b>STEP 1: Identification of priorities and orientations</b>																								
1.a. Recruitment of a senior expert																								
1.b. Elaboration of a reflection and a guidance document																								
1.c. Online consultation with the Post 2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee meeting n°1																								
1.d. Carrying out "National Processes"																								
1.e.(i) Four back-to-back sub-regional workshops											X													
1.e.(ii) Produce four sub-regional priority and orientations identification documents											X													
<b>STEP 2: Elaboration of the draft post-2020 SAP BIO</b>																								
2.a. Preparation of the Post 2020 SAP BIO initial Draft																								
2.b. Information and consultation with the Post 2020 SAP BIO Advisory Committee (meeting N°2) and SAP BIO National Correspondents (meeting n°7)																								
2.c. Preparation of the Post 2020 SAP BIO Prefinal Draft																								
<b>STEP 3: Adoption of the post-2020 SAP BIO</b>																								
3.a. Revision of the prefinal draft by the Post 2020 Advisory Committee (meeting N°3) and national correspondants (meeting N°8)																								
3.b. Revision of the prefinal document by the MAP Focal point meeting n°15																								
3.c. Adoption of the Post 2020 SAP BIO Document by COP22																								

## Annex V: Post-2020 SAP BIO Elaboration Guidance Document

Process for the elaboration of the  
"Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of  
Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-2020 SAP BIO)

### **GUIDANCE ELEMENTS FOR THE DESIGN AND ORIENTATIONS OF THE PROCESS<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Background**

In 2003, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted, at their COP 13 (Catania, Italy, 11-14 November 2003), the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) with the view of coping with the various threats to which marine and coastal biodiversity was subject in the Mediterranean.

The SAP BIO adopted in 2003 was elaborated through a coordinated consultation process developed at national level. The outcomes of the national consultations were then compiled to elaborate a regional Strategic Action Programme made of priority actions to be implemented at national and regional level. The elaboration process, that took three years, was financially supported by GEF and involved national experts designated by the countries to diagnose the state of marine and coastal biodiversity, to identify national priorities and to craft a National Action Plan (NAP) for each identified priority issue. The elaboration process included also a regional component that compiled the outcomes of the national processes and defined the activities needed at regional level to complement the efforts by the countries and to ensure a maximum level of harmonization and complementarity.

Most of the relevant International and/or Regional Organizations contributed to the process, mainly through their participation in the Advisory Committee established in 2001 as part of the elaboration process.

Fifteen years after the adoption of SAP BIO and following a request formulated by the Contracting Parties in 2017, SPA/RAC undertook the evaluation of the implementation of SAP BIO with the help of international consultants and in close consultation with the SAP BIO National Correspondents and SPA/BD Focal Points. The evaluation covered the period 2004-2018 and concluded that, besides a series of gaps in its implementation, the SAP BIO constituted a major contribution to the preservation of the natural heritage in the Mediterranean marine and coastal zones. It played, indeed, an important role as a strategic framework for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol at national and regional levels, in terms of harmonization and alignment of planning for biodiversity conservation. It also played a role in facilitating exchanges among departments within and among countries on

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<sup>1</sup> These guidance elements were developed by SPA/RAC taking into account (i) the lessons learned from the elaboration of the SAPBIO adopted in 2003, (ii) the conclusions and recommendations of the consultation process to evaluate the implementation of the SAP BIO for the period 2004-2018 carried out by SPA/RAC in close consultation with the Focal Points for SPA and (iii) the relevant instructions from the Contracting Parties set in their Decision IG 27/4 by which they requested the Secretariat to prepare in 2020-2021 the "Post-2020 SAP BIO.

common concerns in biodiversity conservation. The evaluation concluded also that given the changes occurred in the context of and the policies on biodiversity during the 15 years since adoption of the SAP BIO the conservation of biodiversity needs orientations that put emphasis on priorities tailored to address current and future regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean in relation to marine and coastal biodiversity.

Taking into accounts the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation and considering the developments in the Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention work since the adoption of the SAP BIO in 2003, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare the “Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region” (Post-2020 SAP BIO). The elaboration process should be conducted during the biennium 2020-2021 with the view of submitting the Post-2020 SAP BIO for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (COP 22).

### **Proposed approach for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO**

SPA/RAC will coordinate the process for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO which will be conducted through a participatory approach starting at national level (national processes) and involving the relevant authorities and stakeholders. The national processes will be followed by sub-regional consultations. The final stage of the elaboration process will use the outcomes of the national processes and the sub-regional consultations and compile them to craft the draft Post-2020 SAP BIO to be submitted for consideration by COP 22 by the end of 2021.

#### The national processes for the development of the Post-2020 SAP BIO

At the level of each country, an analysis of the situation of marine and coastal biodiversity will be carried out on the basis of the data and information available and using where possible any recent analysis carried out in relevant frameworks, such as those related to the national biodiversity strategies or the EcAp process. For the European Union member countries, the analyses and evaluations made within the framework of the implementation of the MSFD can be also very useful in this regard.

The analysis should relate, in particular, to the following elements:

- The state of the main ecosystems, habitats and associated species;
- Marine and coastal biodiversity’ threats and other factors of degradation, including fisheries interaction with marine vulnerable species and habitats;
- Threats and other elements related to climate change;
- Measures and other elements of governance related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity components including fisheries interaction with the marine vulnerable species and habitats;
- The main gaps in knowledge and governance;
- Needs for capacity building, networking, data access/share and exchange of experience.

It will be oriented in such a way as to lead to the identification of clear and realistic objectives as well as priority actions needed to achieve the objectives.

A first draft of this analysis will be prepared by one (or more) national expert(s) designated by the country SPA/BD Focal Point. It will be then reviewed within the framework of a national consultation meeting or workshop involving stakeholders playing active role in the planning and/or implementation of measures in relation with the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal biodiversity components. The final product of the consultation workshop will be a new version of the document prepared by the national expert, which will be submitted to SPA/RAC as the country's national report on the preparation of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.

To assist countries in carrying out this analysis and with a view to ensuring a high level of harmonization between the national processes, the SPA/RAC will elaborate and make available to countries guidelines detailing the expected content of the national reports as well as Terms of Reference for the national experts.

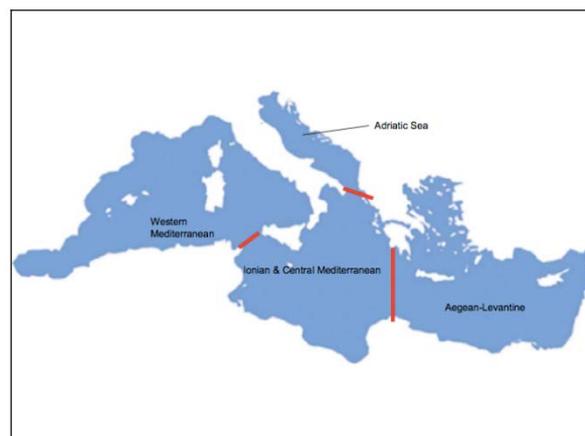
The SPA/RAC may also provide, at the request of the SPA/BD national Focal Point and within the limits of the means available, financial support to cover the costs relating to the national expert and the organization of the consultation meeting or workshop.

### Sub-regional consultations

Given the transboundary nature of most of the issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, it is important that the actions planned at the national level be harmonized also at the sub-regional level, as appropriate and where possible. This is likely to ensure more efficiency and complementarity between the efforts undertaken at national level by countries. For a number of analysed issues, the subdivision of the Mediterranean into four sub-regions agreed by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the EcAp process may be used, when appropriate, for the identification of priorities within the framework of the Post-2020 SAP BIO elaboration process.

These sub-regions are:

- Western Mediterranean
- Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean
- Adriatic Sea
- Aegean Sea - Levantine Sea



For each of the four sub-regions, where appropriate, the definition of priorities will be based on the outcomes from the national processes. To this end, a sub-regional workshop should be convened, to which SPA/RAC will invite from each country of the sub-region the SPA/BD Focal Point and/or the SAP BIO National Correspondent as well as one or two experts having contributed to the national report. The number of participants will be decided later, depending mainly on the availability of financial resources.

The outputs expected from each sub-regional workshop are therefore and where relevant (i) a summary of the situation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the concerned sub-region as well as existing or potential threats including interaction with fisheries, (ii) the identification

of priorities for the sub-region for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

If the progress of the national processes in the four sub-regions will allow to have them timely finalized, the SPA/RAC could organize the four workshops back-to-back. Also, if the logistics allow it, the option of organizing, instead of four workshops, only one "joint workshop" bringing together participants from the four sub-regions could be envisaged. The "joint workshop" would include 2 plenary sessions and 4 working groups (1 for each sub-region): A first plenary session will be for the opening and the presentation of the proposed work methodology and organization. It will be followed by working group sessions, which results will be presented and discussed in a concluding plenary session.

After the sub-regional consultations, the draft Post-2020 SAP BIO will be developed through the compilation of outputs from national processes and sub-regional consultations. It will indicate the objectives to achieve at the regional level and will integrate the priority actions identified at the national and sub-regional levels. In addition, it will propose the actions needed at the regional level to support, accompany and coordinate the implementation of the priority actions to be implemented by the countries at the national level.

#### [Recommended principles for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO](#)

The Post-2020 SAP BIO will be elaborated considering, as appropriate, the lessons learned from the implementation of SAP BIO during the period 2004-2018. Its content should be scientifically based and built on concise realistic objectives. It should be designed and perceived not as an additional layer of commitment for countries but rather as a tool to strengthen and streamline the implementation of the plans and strategies they have already adopted at national and international level. It should provide for more emphasis on topics related to marine and coastal biodiversity and, where possible, scale up the commitments for its preservation, especially when these topics are not sufficiently taken into account by the relevant existing strategies. It should also promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity into all relevant environmental policies as well as relevant policies for the sustainable use of marine living resources, such as fisheries.

#### [Link and harmonization with relevant frameworks](#)

The Contracting Parties required that the Post-2020 SAP BIO, while being adapted to the natural specificities and to the socio-economic and political contexts of the region, should be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and harmonized in its orientations with the relevant overarching frameworks and processes at the global level and in particular, the process engaged under the CBD for the elaboration of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This process started in 2018 and a zero draft has been issued early 2020. It is an outcome-oriented framework that promotes synergies and coordination with relevant processes to achieve goals and targets and to facilitate regular monitoring and review of progress. As proposed in the zero draft, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be oriented towards achieving the following five Goals:

- a) No net loss by 2030 in the area and integrity of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and increases of at least [20%] by 2050, ensuring ecosystem resilience;
- b) The percentage of species threatened with extinction is reduced by [X%] and the abundance of species has increased on average by [X%] by 2030 and by [X%] by 2050;

- c) Genetic diversity is maintained or enhanced on average by 2030, and for [90%] of species by 2050;
- d) Nature provides benefits to people contributing to:
  - i. Improvements in nutrition for at least [X million] people by 2030 and [Y million] by 2050;
  - ii. Improvements in sustainable access to safe and drinkable water for at least [X million] people, by 2030 and [Y million] by 2050;
  - iii. Improvements in resilience to natural disasters for at least [X million] people by 2030 and [Y million] by 2050;
  - iv. At least [30%] of efforts to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement in 2030 and 2050.
- e) The benefits shared fairly and equitably, from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge have increased by [X] by 2030 and reached [X] by 2050.

In total, twenty action-oriented targets are proposed in the zero draft for the next decade as a milestone to the proposed 2050 vision (A world of living in harmony with nature where: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”).

It is expected that the final version of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will include a monitoring framework for the goals and a monitoring framework for the targets. Both will be based on monitoring elements and indicators.

The process for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO should consider the goals, targets and the frameworks for monitoring being developed by the Open-ended working group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework established by the COP 15 of the CBD. To this end, SPA/RAC will closely follow the meetings of the Open-ended working group and ensure that their outcomes are timely considered in the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, without however significantly deviating from the Ecological objectives, Indicators and targets adopted within the framework of the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention. This implies that the national experts in charge of the identification of priorities at national level and their related objectives and actions, should duly take into account the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives as well as the national IMAPs, in particular in relation to Ecological Objectives 1 (Biodiversity) and 2 (Non-Indigenous Species). Other Ecological Objectives should be also taken into account as appropriate.

#### [Participation of relevant international and regional organization](#)

The SAP BIO Advisory Committee, made of representatives of most relevant International and Regional Organisations, provided a platform for consultation during all the stages of the elaboration of the SAP BIO adopted in 2003. The participation of these organisations allowed a better harmonisation of SAP BIO with their work plans. It is therefore highly recommended to maintain, and where possible, strengthen the role of the Advisory Committee in the elaboration process of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, preferably from the early stages. This will ensure an inclusive Post-2020 SAP BIO covering all Mediterranean stakeholders concerns and priorities.

#### [The time horizon for the Post-2020 SAP BIO](#)

The orientation at the global level as planned for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD is to work on the time horizon of 2050 with an intermediate

deadline in 2030. For the Post-2020 SAP BIO, it would be advisable to opt for the horizon 2035. Indeed lessons learned from the implementation of the 2003 SAPBIO showed that the evolution of species in their populations and habitats, as well as rapid changes in socio-economic contexts in the countries of the region, require, that medium-term reviews of the measures, be conducted to take into account the said changes and evolutions. Furthermore, the definition of the Post-2020 SAP BIO time horizon should take into account the assessments agreed by the Contracting Parties in the framework of IMAP and the elaboration of the Med QSRs and SoEDs.

## **Annex VI: Written Comments sent by WWF Mediterranean**

As requested during the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, please find below the remarks made by WWF on the structure of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

First, it is crucial that the Post 2020 SAPBIO moves from defining priorities and orientations for action, to defining a set of goals and objectives that respond to what is necessary to stop and start reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, and to restore its integrity and functionality by 2050. This plan should move us from doing "what is feasible" to "doing what is necessary".

We agree and strongly support the alignment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the SDGs and EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, in order to ensure policy coherence, facilitate reporting of contracting parties and ensure synergies for funding national biodiversity strategies. The Post-2020 SAPBIO goals should be no less ambitious than stopping the loss of biodiversity and degradation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030 at the latest and their restoration by 2050. This means that the SAPBIO should have a 2030 horizon rather than a 2035 horizon.

The plan should be built on solid scientific knowledge, bringing into its development the widest possible scientific input from the region and beyond, building on the IPBES assessment and other evidence necessary to identify the SAPBIO specific objectives and targets. This will also require more than a bottom up target setting process which risks making the SAPBIO a collection of national priorities, instead of a systematic regional biodiversity plan to stop and reverse biodiversity loss in the next decade.

Finally, the Post-2020 SAPBIO should contain a strong and effective implementation mechanism ensuring that Mediterranean countries define national contributions that add up to the SAPBIO objectives and final goal, and monitor and report progress and ratchet up national objectives as necessary.

In addition to this contribution, I would like to take this opportunity to ask about a possible change in the timeline of the development of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, considering that the CBD meetings have all been postponed. Do you have any information in this regard?

## **Annex VII: Written Comments sent by MedPAN**

Please find below the written elements from MedPAN:

(i)inform the meeting about the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy

- Following the elaboration of the 2020 Roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs thanks to the Mediterranean MPA Forum process started in 2012 and continued in 2016 that was coordinated by SPARAC and MedPAN : in 2020, the Post 2020 Roadmap for Mediterranean MPAs will be developed (coordinated by MedPAN, SPARAC and WWF in partnership with several key Med partners):

-> it will be based on the assessment of the 2020 Roadmap and identification of priorities until 2030 ;

- using the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Status Report (produced by SPARAC and MedPAN)

- using a large online consultation process (local/national/Med levels) to identify needs/obstacles and priorities ; results will be shown as much as possible at sub-regional level

- using the 3rd edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum (November 2020) that will invite all MPA stakeholders at different levels

-> The Roadmap will be developed in relation with the global biodiversity framework post 2020 related to MPAs and will highlight Mediterranean specificities;

-> Roadmap will mainly focus on qualitative aspect of the Aichi target 11 (MPA management effectiveness; sufficient part of fully protected areas ; sufficient level of financial support for effective MPAs, well-connected MPAs to face challenges beyond MPA borders: mobile species, climate change, sustainable fisheries...)

- Another existing strategy to be taken into consideration: MedPAN, Mediterranean MPA network, strategy 2019-2023 and beyond (that includes capacity-building strategy for MPA actors, sharing of experience, support and link with national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers, knowledge improvement and data access on MPAs....)

(ii)Areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Process of elaboration

Synergies to be explored with:

- State of environment/ gaps analysis for the SAP-BIO can benefit from: 2020 Mediterranean MPA Status Report that will be developed in 2020 coordinated by MedPAN & SPARAC
- Post 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap development process in 2020 (including online consultations at local/national/Mediterranean levels and the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum) that can feed the SAPBIO process on MPA component
  - (iii) Advice(s) on the structure and content of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document
- Importance to have outcome-oriented goals with clear indicators for qualitative assessment and quantitative progress measurements
- Importance to identify key actions to be implemented at Mediterranean and national levels but also at local level
- To support the implementation and monitoring of the SAPBIO: Importance to create an ad-hoc mechanism of collaboration between regional organizations (governmental and non-governmental) + and also a mechanism to better link local to national and Med actions

## **Annex VIII: Written Comments sent by REMPEC**

Summary of the elements introduced during the teleconference:

(i) inform the meeting about the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy:

The elaboration or review of the below strategies will be coordinated with SPA/RAC, as required, to ensure relevant cross-reference/synergies between these strategies and the Post-2020 SAP BIO:

1. the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships is being developed, which will cover a range of issues relating to maritime pollution which will have impact on marine diversity, notably
  - a) Key IMO conventions:
    - i. MARPOL: oil, chemical, sewage, garbage, air
    - ii. OPRC: response to the oil pollution to reduce damage to the marine life
    - iii. BWM: transfer of alien invasive species
    - iv. Antifouling: regulating the use of antifouling system that can harm the marine life
  - b) Other related measures:
    - i. PSSA: reduce influence of shipping on marine life, by restricting anchorage or requiring ships to avoid sailing into certain areas, for instance
    - ii. Plastic: IMO action plan and REMPEC's activities relating to marine litter
    - iii. Med SOx ECA: relating to water acidification
    - iv. Biofouling guideline: transfer of AIS
    - v. Noise: IMO 2014 under water guideline
    - vi. Air emission: IMO GHG Strategy and REMPEC's activities relating to air emission
2. The revision of the Ballast Water Management Strategy is underway: It might be integrated into the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships

(ii) Areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Process of elaboration Focus on:

Activities relating to the following Conventions/Guidelines/other instruments (Workshop, training, sharing of information):

- a) BWM and biofouling: AIS transfer
- b) AFS: harmful influence of AFS on marine life
- c) Med SOx ECA: reduced water acidification and other benefits
- d) Plastic/marine litter: reduced impact of plastic/microplastic on marine life

## **Annex IX: Written Comments sent by PAP/RAC**

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) is the UNEP/MAP component that provides technical assistance to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention for the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol. This is a unique legal instrument that is of cross-cutting nature including development and protection activities. It provides various mechanisms and instruments of integration and coordination among sectors and responsible authorities. Its main principles are ecosystem approach and adaptive management for sustainable development of coastal zones of the Mediterranean. It enables reducing threats to biodiversity on one side and on the other side provides enabling environment to meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing, which are in the core of CBD Post-2020 biodiversity framework, too.

The written contribution aims to:

- (i) inform about the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy**

The main Decision of COP 21 (2-5 December 2019) related to ICZM is the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM (IG.24/5). This policy document calls for integration, coherence and complementarity of UNEP/MAP policies and the MAP system as a whole so it is very relevant for the Post 2020 SAP BIO. It is built on the following principles:

- a) Use the ecosystem-based management to ensure sustainable development and integrity of the coastal zone, its ecosystems and related services and landscapes.
- b) Address natural hazards and the effects of natural disasters, in particular coastal erosion and climate change.
- c) Achieve good governance among actors involved in and/or related to coastal zones.

It contains the Methodological guidance for reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) through ICZM towards the achievement of EcAp Ecological Objectives, in a coordinated and integrated manner with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention System (thus considering the other Protocols and related key documents), and in light with the relevant international instruments.

- (ii) Indicate areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Process of elaboration**

PAP/RAC has, in close coordination, prepared a coherence analysis between the SPA/BD Protocol regional documents and the ICZM policy framework. The results were presented at the thematic SPA/RAC/biodiversity National Focal Points meeting in June 2019. The purpose of the analysis was to contribute to integrated implementation of the BC sectoral policies and to streamlining ICZM; to identify areas where consistency and complementarity could be improved; and to draw recommendations for the new SAP BIO. The scope of the analysis was to analyse the current SAP BIO, MPAs Roadmap, SAP BIO climate change updates/ Synthesis report, Species/ habitats action plans, and the ICZM policy framework (the Protocol, CRF for ICZM and Conceptual Framework for MSP).

The report contains a series of recommendations that would significantly contribute to the development of the Post 2020 SAP BIO.

In addition, PAP/RAC participated to several projects where biodiversity was an important component and the results are more than relevant to inform the new SAP BIO. Among those we underline the Pharos4MPAs project (EU Interreg Mediterranean) that deals with blue economy and marine conservation in order to safeguard Mediterranean MPAs to achieve Good Environmental Status. The results of the project provide a set of practical recommendations for regional stakeholders on how the environmental impacts of key sectors can be prevented or minimized. PHAROS4MPAs aims to enhance MPA management effectiveness and improve the conservation of marine ecosystems across the whole of the Mediterranean. It focuses on the following sectors: maritime transport and industrial ports, cruise, tour boats, leisure boating, offshore wind farms, aquaculture, recreational fisheries, scuba diving and small-scale fisheries. The results can easily be extrapolated and utilised for other marine areas that are not protected.

### **(iii) Advice(s) on the structure and content of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document**

It is obvious that the Post 2020 SAB BIO should be linked with global frameworks (e.g. SDGs, CBD), other UNEP/MAP programmes and COP Decisions, and that synergies and complementarities with other MAP components should be taken into account.

The lessons learned and experiences from the current SAP BIO and SPA Protocol documents should be taken into account and the document should be concise, as concrete as possible with clear responsibilities defined for the implementation.

A particular attention should be paid to specific ecosystems such as coastal wetlands as they play crucial role at the interface between land and sea. The Land Sea Interactions should be well considered from ecological points of view (linkages between terrestrial and marine ecosystems in coastal zones) as well as from management/policy point of view (coordination and integration between policies/programmes for terrestrial and marine biodiversity should be taken into account). This is of particular importance in the cases where Contracting Parties in their national strategies for biodiversity protection focus mainly on terrestrial biodiversity and neglect or pay less attention to marine biodiversity.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is another important instrument that allows for planning and managing of different maritime uses in order to reduce threats and to protect marine biodiversity thus contributing to the balance between environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The use of this instrument should be promoted in the Post-2020 SAP BIO, as well.

## Annex X: Written Comments sent by ACCOBAMS

### This process is crucial for ACCOBAMS to ensure effective biodiversity conservation

- (i) inform the meeting about the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy

⇒ Mentionner la Résolution 7.4 “Mid term revision of the ACCOBAMS Strategy 2014 2024» et la Résolution 7.5 « ACCOBAMS Funding Strategy » (cf ci-dessous) + projet de « stratégie de communication » prévu durant ce triennium

- (ii) Areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Process of elaboration

- Exercice en cours au niveau de l'ACCOBAMS pour la **pérennisation du programme de surveillance des cétacés, suite au succès de l'ASI** qui a permis de récolter une grande quantité de données sur plusieurs espèces mobiles, mais aussi sur les impacts des activités humaines.

Dans ce cadre, il est important de continuer de maintenir un lien serré avec le programme EcAp , en particulier avec l'EcaP MED III qui est en cours de développement

- De manière générale, il est crucial **d'optimiser les moyens de suivi de la biodiversité à travers la région** autant que possible, à travers notamment la **synchronisation des efforts ou des collaborations/ mises en commun des moyens au niveau sous régional/transfrontalier**

- **favoriser les approches multi espèces et multi objets** (espèces, débris marins, bruit,...avec des **protocoles harmonisés et communs** bien sûr), pour capitaliser au maximum sur toute mission de terrain de collecte de données

- Sur les questions de gestion des menaces/protection des espèces :

Il faut renforcer la prise en compte de la protection de la biodiversité dans les politiques sectorielles, renforcer le dialogue intersectoriel et impulser des changements sur les manières de travailler avec les secteurs productifs concernés (pêches, industries, + constructions offshore, O&G exploration, transport maritime, tourisme,...) –

⇒ Le rôle des organisations régionales dans ce contexte doit être renforcé, en particulier à travers les collaborations et des approches conjointes et éviter les duplications d'efforts. Il faut aussi essayer de plus prendre en compte les études / Lignes Directrices / Protocoles/ les produits (par exemple le registre, mais aussi les base de données en ligne) ... produits par les autres organisations (available on ACCOBAMS website).

⇒ Il faut aussi faire évoluer la manière de travailler des organisations pour favoriser les échanges, l'implication et la concertation (Joint spatial Strategy among Secretariats)

- Sur les questions de gestion spatiale des menaces / AMP :

⇒ Efforts en cours d'identification des Critical Cetacean Habitats qui doivent guider les états dans l'identification et l'adoption de mesures de conservation / d'atténuation des impacts des activités humaines sur les habitats importants (notamment avec l'identification d'AMP)

⇒ Continuer les efforts de coordination mis en place avec l'AGEM (Ad hoc Group of Experts on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean)

(iii) Advice(s) on the structure and content of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document

- Pour renforcer la roadmap (doc Concept Note post 2020) il **faudrait aller plus loin. Je suggèrerais qu'au Step 3, le final draft of the post 2020 SAP BIO soit aussi présenté aux réunions des Points Focaux des Composantes les plus importantes du PAM** au regard des enjeux du SAP BIO (à mon avis MEDPOL et REMPEC en priorité)
- Concernant la mise en œuvre du PASBIO post 2020, la question des financements sera cruciale et doit être intégrée dans la réflexion et dans la stratégie elle-même – ce point ne semble pas du tout abordé

Il faut que les efforts de levée de fonds soient mutualisés, surtout dans le contexte post-MAVA

- ⇒ Engager pour de vrai une réflexion sur la mise en place de mécanismes de financement innovants (cf Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted in 2017 at COP20)
- ⇒ Renforcement de la collaboration entre les organisations et mise en place de nouvelles manière de travailler pour mutualiser les moyens et éviter une concurrence inefficace / élaboration de projets conjoints (notamment avec des financements européens ?)

## **Annex XI: Written Comments sent by UfM**

Here, few points which I would like to express as UfM:

- First of all, sincere thanks to Mr. Leone for mentioning and connecting to the two planned 2020 UfM Ministerial/s Meeting/Declaration/s; as you know, the UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy is scheduled for the 2nd of July in Malta and the UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change for early December in Egypt. For both, the exchanges of yesterday are of relevance
- We would like to join the comment made about the timeline; we suggest as well to keep 2030 and not 2035, i.e. to align with the main international calendar and targets;
- In line with the previous comment and following on the presentation by Mr. Appiott of CBD, we suggest to align the structure of the post 2020 SAP BIO to CBD action targets and outcome goals as much as possible; this would ease tremendously the assessment on the progress done over time at regional level and the Med contribution to the wider international targets/goals;
- Sustainable Consumption and Production and CC - as mentioned in your introductory remarks and in Daniel's presentation, it is crucial to associate the work on biodiversity to the one on SCP and CC. As UfM, this was in focus in the 2014 Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC and will continue to be - even more - within the 2020 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC, mentioned above. The 2014 Ministerial Declaration sat the basis of the green, circular economy shift identifying as main axes of work a) Depollution; b) Pollution Prevention/SCP and c) Climate Change.

Looking forward to next steps, meetings and exchanges.

## **Annex XII: Written Comments sent by OCEANA**

Oceana's plan for Post-2020 SAP BIO

Oceana will continue working in the next years in 4 main key areas:

Sustainable fisheries and recovering stocks

1. Biodiversity protection
2. Fight against IUU and illegal fisheries
3. Plastic pollution

Fisheries:

- To continue working on promoting fish catches following scientific advice and in line with MSY objectives.
- Contributing to declare new Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) to protect vulnerable habitats and essential fish habitats
- Developing plans for recovering stocks and biomass abundance at sea
- Helping to identify, map and develop plans for protecting vulnerable marine ecosystem from fishing impacts
- To analyze fishing activities from an ecosystem-based approach
- Creation of "white lists" for boats targeting key species. These "white lists" must include only the vessels authorized for fishing in the Mediterranean Sea with information on their allowed activities.

Biodiversity

- Increasing the number of species that must be protected under the Barcelona Convention and National legislations
- Mapping and identifying habitats and species distribution within the Mediterranean Sea
- Helping to develop measures to implement Barcelona Convention Plans and Protocols to protect habitats and species (sharks, turtles, cetaceans, seagrass meadows, seaweed forest, coralligenous bed, dark habitats, etc.)
- Contribute in expert groups to evaluate the status of marine species and habitats
- To collaborate with other institutions in developing at sea activities to fill knowledge gaps in marine biology and impacts

IUU and illegal fisheries

- To promote the implementation of onboard "green boxes" or VMS systems for artisanal and small-scale boats.
- To denounce illegal fishing activities, including catches of not authorized vessels, boats fishing in protected areas, etc.
- To work for reducing companies involvement/support of illegal or unsustainable catches and to promote responsible behavior.
- To increase traceability of fishing products from the boat to the consumer.

## Plastic Pollution

- To identify vulnerable habitats and areas affected by plastic pollution at sea
- To identify “plastics traps” where plastic pollution accumulates
- To document plastic pollution impacts, on habitat and species.
- To promote plans to reduce plastic pollution and single use plastic production and use.
- To promote “plastic free zones” within cities, companies, governments, etc. around the Mediterranean Sea.

Oceana is willing to collaborate and participate with SPA/RAC projects and plans for the next decades to improve the good status of the Mediterranean environment and to promote solutions for threats.

## **Annex XIII: Written Comments sent by SCP/RAC**

### **(i)inform the meeting about the existing or planned/in development strategies related to biodiversity policy**

The Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) is a centre for international cooperation on development and innovation based on the sustainable consumption and production approach (SCP). Thus, in relation to biodiversity, we intervene at the level of drivers and pressures, so not strictly related to biodiversity policies but having a very important impact on them.

As background information on this, within the Ecosystem Approach adopted by MAP for the integrated management of human activities in the Mediterranean context, a [study](#) was produced to formulate the role the SCP approach can play in this framework, through linking the current pattern of consumption and production in the Mediterranean to usually noted impact on the Ecosystem, and demonstrating how switching to sustainable consumption and production practices can relieve the pressures on the Ecosystem and the subsequent impacts. To support this argumentation, the study gives an example of application in the case of Fisheries. The study was developed some years ago but, the approach is still fully relevant.

Likewise, in February 2016, during the COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, the Contracting Parties adopted a Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP Action Plan). During the COP 21, held in December 2019, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention to undertake the mid-term evaluation of the SCP Action Plan.

SCP/RAC as MAP Component will lead this evaluation, in coordination with the MAP Coordinating Unit. The evaluation of the SCP Action Plan will feed 2 other processes: the mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the preparation of the next MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027. These are two common frameworks that the SCP Action Plan will have with the Post-2020 SAP BIO.

### **(ii)Areas of interest and synergies with the Post-2020 SAP BIO Process of elaboration**

Within our SCP work, there are important aspects on biodiversity protection. This includes:

- Promotion of green businesses in a variety of sectors: agriculture, fisheries, tourism, energy, waste, etc. (check our [Switchers Community](#))
- Prevention of marine litter from land-based sources – particularly single-use plastics (preparation of regional guidelines, support to countries and specific actions in MPAs).
- Prevention of toxic chemicals, particularly on new POPs and chemicals in plastics.

### **(iii)Advice(s) on the structure and content of the Post-2020 SAP BIO document**

It is recommended to stress the importance of addressing drivers and pressures, as well as responses, within a DPSIR approach. For this the Report on the State of the Environment

and Development Report 2019 shall be a good basis. For reference, the key messages from the SoED 2019 were adopted by COP21 and can be found here. [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31702/19ig24\\_22\\_2404\\_eng.pdf](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31702/19ig24_22_2404_eng.pdf)

## **Annex XIV: Written Comments sent by UICN Med**

Please find below a recap of the items I mentioned during the call and also additional one where IUCN might contribute to the new SAP BIO framework

- 1- Interlink the climate change convention objectives with the biodiversity objectives.
  - enhance the ecosystem multifunctionalities by promoting NbS into spatial planning
  - assess the effectiveness of NbS to improve coastal resilience (operational management approaches) : Blue Carbon and NbS methodology to engage public and private sector in conservation action to mitigate climate change via the protection of critical coastal habitats
  - work on the need and priorities of each countries (focus on NA countries) to include NbS in their new NDC (discussion and work already engage with Morocco and Tunisia)
  
- 2- Sustainable management of coasts and deep sea areas
  - Work on governance adaptation plan in MPA: promoting restoration, natural connectivity and green blue infrastructure
  - Securing sensitive habitats and fisheries resilience (support to countries)
  - Contributing to protect vulnerable species
  - Prevent marine plastic marine litter by working on inland and coastal hotspot plastic leakages