



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.548/16



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

08 May 2023  
Original: English

Sixteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points

Malta, 22-24 May 2023

**Agenda Item 9: Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)**

**9.1. Measures taken for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO**

**Steps undertaken and to come for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO**

## **Steps undertaken and to come for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO**

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## Steps undertaken and to come for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO

### 1. Context

#### *1.1. The Post-2020 SAPBIO*

1. The Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) is resulting from a long bottom-up participative process of national, sub-regional and regional consultations run during the 2020-2021 period, involving the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and their respective national stakeholders, as well as key intergovernmental, non-governmental and other relevant regional and international organizations.
2. The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was the body entrusted with the coordination of the process of elaboration of the Post-2020 SAPBIO on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.
3. The Post-2020 SAPBIO was adopted by the Barcelona Convention's Contracting Parties during their 22<sup>nd</sup> ordinary meeting (COP 22) held in Antalya, Türkiye, on 7-10 December 2021.
4. The Post-2020 SAPBIO provides a logical framework for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, within the context of sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, as a renovated environmental governance tool for the further implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean ([SPA/BD Protocol](#)), adopted in 1995 and entered into force in December 1999. The Post-2020 SAPBIO replaces a previous SAPBIO strategy adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003.
5. It is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and harmonized with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through the optic of the Mediterranean context. It is action-oriented and includes principles, approaches, measures, targets, timetables and priorities for action, as well as a priority list for intervention to be implemented by or in coordination with the Contracting Parties, relevant international and regional partners in the Mediterranean region, and the support of donors and funding agencies.
6. The countries' priorities and inputs to the Post-2020 SAPBIO have been analysed and 42 Actions were identified at national, sub-regional and regional levels for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine ecosystems and species, as well as for the implementation of sustainable marine and coastal activities including fisheries from an ecosystem-based approach point of view.
7. The Post-2020 SAPBIO will be the overall umbrella of all thematic regional strategies and action plans adopted in the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, and the regional action plans for the conservation of endangered species and vulnerable habitats.
8. The implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO will enlarge and strengthen the national and regional partnerships across the Mediterranean including those established while implementing the MAVA-funded projects (completed in October 2022).
9. Furthermore, the Post-2020 SAPBIO, being one of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention implementation instruments, will be implemented in full harmony with the other UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention strategies, programmes and activities which are relevant not only for the

achievement of the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean sea and coast, but also for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related SDGs.

10. In this context, the Post-2020 SAPBIO will be implemented in full alignment with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention [Medium-Term Strategy \(MTS\) 2022-2027](#), and will hence take into full account the biodiversity-related MAP Ecological Objectives (EOs), GES targets and its [Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme \(IMAP\)](#), as well as the [Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development \(MSSD\) 2016-2025](#).

### ***1.2. The Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs***

11. SPA/RAC was also entrusted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to elaborate, during the period 2020-2021, an ambitious and transformational Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other regional and global processes. Such strategy was developed under the coordination of SPA/RAC, the technical assistance of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM), the guidance of the Contracting Parties and in consultation with the relevant regional and international partner organizations active in the Mediterranean.

12. The [Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs](#) is built around 5 strategic pillars: (i) governance, (ii) MCPA network expansion, (iii) OECMs, (iv) management effectiveness, and (v) government and stakeholder action and support. Under each pillar, a clear strategic outcome, with corresponding outputs and proposed key actions (at national and international levels) have been identified.

13. The Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs was also adopted by the Barcelona Convention COP 22, held in Antalya, Türkiye on 7-10 December 2021.

14. In this context, COP 22 called upon the Contracting Parties to take effective measures to implement the Post-2020 MCPA and OECM Regional Strategy, thus enhancing the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol in the Mediterranean region; and requested SPA/RAC, in coordination with other regional and international organizations, to support the Contracting Parties with technical and, where possible, financial assistance to undertake the activities indicated in the Post-2020 Regional Strategy with the aim to effectively achieve its strategic outcomes and targets.

## **2. The Resource Mobilisation Strategy as a first step in the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs**

15. As a follow-up step for the adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for OECMs and MCPAs, SPA/RAC launched the process of elaborating a resource mobilization strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030.

16. The objective of this resource mobilization strategy is, on one hand, ensuring financial support that will have a switch value to enable a sequence of actions for a realistic operational implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO; and, on the other hand, it aims to provide a description of the kind of support, such as capacity-building, technical, scientific, legal, or institutional assistance, needed by the Contracting Parties for their efforts in implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

17. The resource mobilisation strategy is aimed as a strategic framework for the whole Mediterranean. It is built as a space of collective and synergic action of all the relevant (regional and national) marine conservation actors in the Mediterranean. In the same way, like the Post-2020 SAPBIO, it is aimed to be considered as a frame for coherence among regional and national actions seeking, to the extent

possible, complementarity and avoiding overlapping of biodiversity conservation programmes and marine resource sustainable management.

18. To this purpose, an important effort of collecting information among the relevant regional organisations and partners on the ongoing initiatives and projects was done throughout the process in order to avoid any project replication or overlapping.

### **3. Undertaken steps**

19. The undertaken steps in the framework of the elaboration of the resource mobilization strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030, are:

#### ***3.1. Elaboration of the Resource Mobilization Strategy concept note***

20. The process started by the preparation of a resource mobilisation strategy concept note which defines the content, structure and specific objectives of the final document. The draft was prepared by the SPA/RAC and reviewed by external experts, mobilized to support SPA/RAC throughout the resource mobilization strategy elaboration process.

#### ***3.2. Elaboration of brief project concepts and their financial needs estimate***

21. A set of brief project concepts was elaborated based on the priority actions within the 42 Actions included in the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the 126 proposed actions of the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs. These projects are aimed to be implemented at the Mediterranean regional, sub-regional or multinational levels to assist Mediterranean countries to implement the above-mentioned strategies. They are part of the resource mobilisation resource final document.

#### ***3.3. Mapping of the potential donors and funding agencies***

22. This step identified all the potential multilateral and bilateral donors from the public and private sectors, analyzed their profiles and showed the most relevant ones for each project.

#### ***3.4. Elaboration of a project portfolio (full project concepts)***

23. Four full project proposals were developed, one with a regional scope and two others with sub-regional or multinational scopes using the above-mentioned brief concepts. These full project concepts constitute the Portfolio of projects to present to donors.

#### ***3.5. Organisation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee***

24. The SAPBIO Advisory Committee is a regional institutional governance body composed of nominated representatives by international and Mediterranean regional bodies whose role is to provide technical and scientific advice concerning the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation, flow and exchange of relevant information on activities implemented, on-going or planned in order to avoid duplication.

25. In this regard, the SPA/RAC, organised the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee, by videoconference, on 30 January 2023, in order to have their comments and suggestions on:

- The Resource Mobilisation Strategy terms of reference;
- The draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy; and
- The four project concepts which constitute the Portfolio.

26. SPA/RAC also invited the advisory committee members to give their feedback about any ongoing project/initiative they deem it important to consider in the elaboration of the resource mobilisation

strategy, by filling in a consolidated matrix shared by SPA/RAC. Considering that the resource mobilisation strategy is aimed to be a regional strategy in full harmony with the existing initiatives of relevance to the Post-2020 SAPBIO goals, this step would allow avoiding any possible overlap and duplication of the activities and also highlighting possible complementarities between the various initiatives and the Post-2020 SAPBIO Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

27. The report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee is presented as an information document to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points.

### ***3.6. Organisation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents***

28. The SAPBIO National Correspondents is a network composed by representatives appointed by each Contracting Party's authorities, whose role is to ensure liaison with SPA/RAC on the technical and scientific aspects of implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO by her/his country/Party, in particular, but also at the Mediterranean level, suggesting recommendations to be submitted to SPA/BD Focal Points meetings and, where necessary and proposing amendments to the work.

29. In this regard, SPA/RAC organised the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SAPBIO National Correspondents (Barcelona, Spain, 24 February 2023) in order to:

- examine the next steps in the implementation at national and regional levels of the Post-2020 SAPBIO; and
- review the draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

30. The SPA/RAC also invited the SAPBIO National Correspondents to provide feedback about any ongoing/planned project or initiative in order to input their national contribution and avoid any overlapping or replication of projects. This was achieved by filling in a consolidated matrix shared by SPA/RAC.

31. The SAPBIO National Correspondents were also requested to express the interest of their respective countries to participate in the proposed projects and to identify appropriate national institutions/bodies concerned by the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO by filling in "a country participation sheet" shared by SPA/RAC.

32. National Correspondents provided their written comments and proposal on the project concepts as well as on the draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

33. The report of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents is presented as an information document to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points.

### ***3.7. Finalization of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and supporting documents***

34. The Resource Mobilisation Strategy is based on a multitude of approaches adapted to the various socio-economic and political contexts of the region. The final document of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy includes not only the project portfolio, but provides a framework for the provision by the Mediterranean countries of national funding and in-kind resources. It identifies several kinds of needs, such as capacity-building, technical, scientific, legal, or institutional assistance; financial resources mobilization, etc.

35. The Resource Mobilisation Strategy is presented as an information document to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points.

### **3.8. Organisation of the donor conference**

36. As a culminating point of this process, SPA/RAC organised on 16 March 2023, in Paris, France, a Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean.

37. The donor conference gathered key donors and funding agencies in a roundtable and aimed at presenting the elaborated project portfolio and the Resource Mobilisation Strategy. Since the project portfolio aims to implement the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, an overview of the outcomes, priority actions and implementation plan of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs was presented to attending donors.

38. The Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents attended the conference to report on the main conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.

39. Some MAP Components and several regional partner organizations were also represented in the conference as partners involved in project portfolio implementation.

40. The report of the Donor Conference is presented as an information document to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points.

### **4. Steps to come**

41. As a follow-up to the donor conference, bilateral meetings are being organized with the attending donors in order to better discuss the projects' components that are of interest to their respective organisations and to adapt the project portfolio accordingly.

42. The project portfolio and the Resource Mobilisation Strategy are being refined taking into account the relevant comments and feedback from the meeting and exchanges with the countries, partner organisations and donors.