



Mediterranean
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27 May 2024

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SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)
Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee

Fifth meeting

Videoconference, 30 April 2024

Report of the 5th Meeting of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post- 2020 SAPBIO) Advisory Committee

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Report of the 5th Meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO

Videoconference, 30 April 2024

Introduction

1. The meeting aimed to inform about the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation and its resource mobilization, as well as to discuss the proposed approach for its mid-term assessment as requested by the Contracting Parties at their 23rd Meeting (Decision IG.26/5, CoP23, Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023).
2. The meeting took place online, on Tuesday 30 April 2024, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. UTC+1.

Participation

3. The meeting was attended by the following members of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), The European Topic Centre for Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA), International Union for Conservation of Nature Center for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), The Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), Oceana in Europe, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), and
4. The Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Coordination Unit (UNEP/MAP), the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC), the Regional Activity Center for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) were represented at the meeting.
5. The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) acted as the secretariat of the meeting.
6. The list of participants is included in Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting was opened by Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator and Mr Elyes Hamza, SPA/RAC Director
8. The agenda of the meeting is in Annex I of this report.

Agenda item 2 : Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilisation strategy

9. The SPA/RAC secretariat member presented the update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation and the status of its resource mobilization since its adoption by COP 22.
10. The Advisory committee highlighted the necessity and the importance of Mediterranean countries including EU input to the status of the Post-2020 SAPBIO resources mobilisation since its adoption to have a clear overview of the financial resources put in place.

Agenda item 3 : Assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO: proposed approach and the way forward

11. The secretariat presented the concept note for the mid-term assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and its timeline.
12. While presenting the proposed approach for the mid-term assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, the representative of Secretariat informed the meeting about the criteria to be used for the mid-term assessment of the Post 2020SAPBIO. The criteria are as follows:
 - a) Current Status: Evaluate the progress made on each start-up action since the adoption of the SAPBIO framework in 2021 based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action and target.
 - b) Comparison to 2027 Goals: Assess whether the targets set for 2027 have been achieved or if progress has been made towards their attainment based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action and target.
 - c) Path to 2030: Identify areas requiring additional efforts to meet the targets set for 2030 and outline strategies to accelerate progress based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action and target.
13. The meeting agreed on the Proposed Concept note and the Timeline to undertake the POST 2020 SAPBIO Mid-term Assessment as set out in Annex III to this Report.
14. The meeting welcomed the subregional approach to be used for both, the mid-term and periodic assessment emphasizing the importance of involving international consultants from the outset to develop the methodology prior to the mid-term assessment. It stressed the need for baseline at national and regional Level.
15. The Advisory committee highlighted the need to choose the right type of indicator, species, and habitats. The target could be assessed taking into consideration the subregion specificities.
16. In response to the various comments and requests by advisory committee members, the SPA/RAC provided the following clarifications:
 - a) Splitting the experts on a subregional basis has been proposed so that we continue with the same momentum and dynamics of the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration and this would be very helpful and less burdening especially for the country-level assessment. Recruiting experts on a thematic basis will be explored considering feasibility and financial resources.
 - b) Concerning the question regarding the importance of the Action to be assessed, it was clarified that the mid-term evaluation and periodic assessment will be based on the annex III of the Post 2020 SAPBIO, namely the Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions Table where there are only two priorities levels, high and very high.
17. There is a need to take advantage of data collection and reporting system under the Barcelona convention (IMAP, BCRS, MedQSR 2023 etc...), the status of MPA and under other fora like GFCM DCRF to feed the evaluation of progress.
18. The meeting endorsed the Proposed approach for the Mid-Term assessment as set out in Annex IV to this Report.

Agenda item 4 : Any other matters

19. No other question related to the topics of the meeting was raised by participants or by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 5 – Conclusion and closure of the meeting

20. The SPA/RAC director invited all the SAPBIO Advisory Committee members to attend the forthcoming SAPBIO National Correspondents meeting (5 June 2024, online) as observers.

21. The Advisory Committee members were invited to provide inputs to the SAPBIO resources mobilization status table, by email, no later than 17 May 2024.

22. Before closing the meeting, Mr. Elyes Hamza, Director of SPA/RAC, extended his appreciation to the members of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee for their attendance, and valuable contributions to the mid-assessment and evaluation process of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

Annex I

Agenda

Time is indicated in CET.

Participants are kindly requested to convert to their respective time zones, if different from CET.

Time	Agenda item	Responsible
14.00 –14.15 CET (15')	Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome and opening▪ Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	▪ UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC (Co-chairs)
14.15 –15.00 CET (45')	Agenda item 2 - Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilisation strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation▪ Feedback and discussion	▪ SPA/RAC ▪ AC members
15.00 – 16.30 CET (1h30')	Agenda item 3 – Assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO: proposed approach and the way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation▪ Feedback and discussion	▪ SPA/RAC ▪ AC members
16.30 - 16.45 CET (15')	Agenda item 4 - Any other matters	▪ SPA/RAC ▪ AC members
16.45 - 17.00 CET (15')	Agenda item 5 – Conclusion and closure of the meeting	▪ SPA/RAC

Annex II

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<p>ACCOBAMS - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area</p>	<p>Ms. Susana SALVADOR Executive Secretary</p> <p>Mr. Marwane ABDERRAHIM Programme & Project Officer</p>
<p>ETC-UMA - The European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis</p>	<p>Ms. Dania ABDEULMALAK Director of ETC – UMA</p> <p>Ms. Maria Del Mar OTERO Senior Expert on Marine Conservation and Nature-based solutions</p>
<p>General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p>	<p>Ms. Anna CARLSON Fishery officer for socio-economic issues</p>
<p>IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med)</p>	<p>Ms. Mercedes MUÑOZ CAÑAS Manager Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy line IUCN- Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation</p>
<p>MEDWET Initiative pour les zones humides méditerranéennes (MedWet)</p>	<p>Ms Mrienne COUROUBLE Policy Expert MedWet</p>
<p>MedPAN Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Ms. Carole MARTINEZ Policy Office MedPan</p>
<p>OCEANA Europe</p>	<p>Mr. Michael SEALEY Senior Policy Advisor OCEANA Europe</p>
<p>UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN</p>	<p>Ms. Alessandra SENSI Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy Union for Mediterranean</p>

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

<p>UNEP/MAP - PNUE/PAM United Nations Environment Programme /Mediterranean Action Plan</p> <p>PAP/RAC Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)</p>	<p>Ms. Tatjana HEMA MAP Coordinator</p> <p>Stavros Antoniadis Associate Administrative Officer</p> <p>Mr. Marco PREM Deputy Director PAP/RAC</p>
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<p>REMPEC Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea</p> <p>INFO/RAC – Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre</p>	<p>Mr. Franck LAUWERS Programme Officer (Prevention) REMPEC</p> <p>Ms. Lorenza BABBINI Director INFO/RAC</p> <p>Mr. Arthur PASQUALE Deputy Director INFO/RAC</p>
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SECRETARIAT

<p>SPA/RAC Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre</p>	<p>Mr. Mahmoud Elyes HAMZA Director</p> <p>Ms. Aida ABDENNADHER Project Assistant - (Post-2020 SAPBIO Fundraising Strategy)</p> <p>Mr. Issam ACHOUR Programme Assistant (Data Management) & Associate project officer (ILIAD)</p> <p>Ms. Emna DEROUICHE Projects Officer - (ENSERES & SPAMI Twinning)</p> <p>Ms. Lobna BEN NAKHLA Programme Officer - Species Conservation</p> <p>Mr. Wassim GAIDI Projects Officer assistant - (Marine Protected Areas)</p> <p>Mr. Dhia GUEZGUEZ Programme Officer - Computing & Data Management</p> <p>Ms. Asma KHERIJI Programme Officer – Specially Protected Areas</p> <p>Ms. Samar KILANI Project Assistant - (EcAp-Med III)</p> <p>Mr. Atef LIMAM Projects Officer - (Marine Protected Areas)</p> <p>Ms. Dorra MAAOUI Communication Assistant</p> <p>Mr. Atef OUERGHI Programme Officer - Ecosystem Conservation</p> <p>Mr. Yassine Ramzi SGHAEIR Project Officer - IMAP-MPA (IMAP Component)</p> <p>Mr. Anis ZARROUK Programme Coordinator - (Biodiversity)</p>
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Annex III

Annex III



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26 April 2024

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SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)
Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee
Fifth meeting
Videoconference, 30 April 2024

Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) Mid-Term Assessment: Proposed Concept note and Timeline

Ref:

- [Decision I2G.25/11: Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region \(Post-2020 SAPBIO\)](#)
- [Decision IG.26/5: Specially Protected Areas \(SPAs\), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance \(SPAMIs\) and Ecosystem Restoration](#)

The Post-2020 SAPBIO:

1. The Post-2020 SAPBIO sets a visionary goal for 2050, to ensure a Mediterranean where marine and coastal biodiversity are valued, conserved, restored, and wisely used to sustain a healthy environment. The mission for 2030 is to initiate the reversal of biodiversity loss, putting Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of both nature and people.

Goals and Targets:

2. Structured hierarchically following the CBD Framework, the Post-2020 SAPBIO outlines three overarching goals for 2030:
 - Goal 1: Reduce the threats to biodiversity.
 - Goal 2: Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced to meet people's needs
 - Goal 3: Enable transformative change through the implementation of tools and solutions.

Mid-Term Evaluation Framework:

3. By 2025, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) will conduct a mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Contracting Parties shall review their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) accordingly to ensure the achievement of the Post-2020 SAPBIO objectives by 2030;
4. The mid-term assessment will be based on the Post-2020 SAPBIO Actions table ([see annex III of the Post-2020 SAPBIO](#)) and will be carried out by external consultants. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for these consultants will be drafted based on the SAPBIO Advisory Committee and the SAPBIO National Correspondents meetings recommendations and input.

- The SPA/RAC will consult the SAPBIO National Correspondents and the SAPBIO Advisory Committee, which will be actively involved throughout the assessment process, for input and guidance, in coordination with the UNEP/MAP. This collaborative effort will ensure a comprehensive and robust assessment.

Evaluation Focus:

- The mid-term assessment will focus on determining the progress of Contracting Parties towards the targets set for 2025. It will assess the status of the startup activities which deadline of its implementation is 2025 and the feasibility of achieving targets by 2027, 2030, and beyond. Any identified gaps will be thoroughly examined, and priority actions will be updated to ensure the timely achievement of the three overarching goals.

Timeline:

- The draft evaluation is scheduled to be completed in time for presentation at the 17th SPA/BD National Focal Points Meeting in the first semester of 2025. The timeline includes the following key milestones:

	2024				2025			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Draft the concept note								
Share the concept note with the CU (52 nd ECP meeting)								
Develop the detailed concept note including a proposed assessment approach and drafting the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for external consultants								
Share the detailed concept note with the CU								
Organize the Advisory Committee Meeting, 30-April 2024, Online; Discuss the approach								
Review of the concept Note based on the AC meeting conclusions and share it with the SAPBIO National Correspondents								
Organize the SAPBIO National Correspondent meeting, 5 June 2024, Online								
Review of the concept Note based on the NC meeting conclusions and recommendations								
Launching the call for external consultants and contract establishment								
Running of the assessment activities by the retained consultant (s)								
First Draft mid-term assessment report								
Review of the Draft mid-term assessment by SPA/RAC and CU								

	2024								2025							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
Review Draft mid-term assessment report by SAPBIO Advisory Committee and the SAPBIO National Correspondents																
Final Draft mid-term assessment report																
Presentation of the draft mid-term assessment report and recommendations at the 17 th SPA/BD National Focal Points Meeting, as reviewed by the NC and AC																
Presentation of the mid-term assessment report and recommendations at the MAP Focal Points Meeting as reviewed by the SPA/BD NFPs meeting																
Presentation of the mid-term assessment report and recommendations at the Barcelona Convention COP 24 as reviewed by MAP NFPs meeting and edition of the final version of the mid-term assessment report																

Conclusion:

8. The mid-term assessment of the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 SAPBIO is a critical step to evaluate the progress made at national and regional levels; identify gaps and difficulties; update priorities; define recommendations to achieve the agreed targets for 2030.
9. The SAPBIO Advisory Committee and the SAPBIO national correspondents will be of great support to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive evaluation process within the proposed timeline.

Annex IV



26 April 2024

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SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)
Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee
Fifth meeting
Videoconference, 30 April 2024

Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) Mid-Term Assessment: Proposed approach

Introduction:

1. As provided for in the [Post-2020 SAPBIO \(Decision IG.25/11 of CoP22\)](#) and as requested by CoP23 ([Decision IG.26/5](#)), SPA/RAC will conduct a mid-term evaluation to assess the collective progress in implementing the Post-2020 and the Contracting Parties shall review their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) accordingly to ensure the achievement of the Post-2020 SAPBIO objectives by 2030.
2. Targets and Actions (see annex III of the Post-2020 SAPBIO) which are quantified will serve as indicators of implementation progress allowing the timely analysis of progress based on objective/numerical elements of targets towards the Strategy Goals
3. The Post-2020 SAPBIO should be monitored as an alive/dynamic document, so the monitoring framework should need flexibility to allow adaptation. The Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation status should be periodically reviewed at the at the Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention, through systematic national reporting of progress, facilitated by the relevant Regional Activity Centres including progress with regards to the implementation of the national contributions to the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and data on the Common Indicators of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) to monitor the effectiveness of the actions put in place.
4. To do so, international consultants will be recruited to assist the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) to define the necessary means for running the regional Post-2020 SAPBIO assessment mechanisms that should be put in place within the MAP system, and to conduct the mid-term assessment of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity (SAPBIO) in the Mediterranean region and propose amendments for consideration by CoP24.
5. The evaluation process will encompass dedicated technical meetings, interviews, and an in-depth review of relevant documents and reports. Crucially, the assessment will engage Barcelona Convention contracting parties through their designated Focal Points, UNEP/MAP components, and partners affiliated with the Advisory Committee of SAPBIO, alongside any other pertinent stakeholders.

6. In particular, the Targets and Action that will serve as indicators of the implementation progress are:

Goal 1: Reduce the threats to biodiversity

Objective: Strengthen conservation and protection efforts to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

Key areas of focus within Goal 1 (1-15):

1. SPECIES AND HABITATS PLANS
2. SPECIES RECOVERY
3. MARITIME TRAFFIC
4. NIS/IAS COMMITMENT
5. NIS/IAS CAPACITY
6. NIS/IAS CONTROL
7. LITTER
8. EIA/SEA
9. WIND ENERGY
10. MINERALS
11. SPATIAL PLANNING
12. RESTORATION
13. CLIMATE CHANGE
14. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS
15. MCPAs AND OECMs

Assessment Criteria:

- **Current Status:** Evaluate the progress made on each start-up action since the adoption of the SAPBIO framework in 2021 based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 1 to 15.
- **Comparison to 2027 Goals:** Assess whether the targets set for 2027 have been achieved or if progress has been made towards their attainment based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 1 to 15.
- **Path to 2030:** Identify areas requiring additional efforts to meet the targets set for 2030 and outline strategies to accelerate progress based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 1 to 15.

Goal 2: Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced to meet people's needs

Objective: Enhance monitoring and assessment capabilities to evaluate the status and trends of biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

Key areas of focus within Goal 2 (16-31):

16. BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM
17. INVERTEBRATES
18. VERTEBRATES
19. HABITATS
20. NIS/IAS DATABASE
21. OVERFISHING and IUU
22. BY-CATCH
23. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES
24. AQUACULTURE
25. TOURISM
26. INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY
27. STREAMLINE Post-2020 SAPBIO
28. POLITICAL WILL AND COORDINATION
29. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION
30. TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP SCALING OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS
31. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Assessment Criteria:

- **Current Status:** Evaluate the progress made on each start-up action since the adoption of the SAPBIO framework in 2021 based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 16 to 31.
- **Comparison to 2027 Goals:** Assess whether the targets set for 2027 have been achieved or if progress has been made towards their attainment based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 16 to 31.
- **Path to 2030:** Identify areas requiring additional efforts to meet the targets set for 2030 and outline strategies to accelerate progress based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 16 to 31.

Goal 3: Enable transformative change through the implementation of tools and solutions

Objective: Strengthen collaboration and capacity building initiatives to support biodiversity conservation efforts across the Mediterranean region.

Key areas of focus within Goal 3 (32-42):

32. IMAP Refinement
33. IMAP Implementation
34. Post-2020 SAPBIO Monitoring
35. Support to Run the SAPBIO
36. Capacity Building for the Post-2020 SAPBIO at National Level
37. Networking
38. Awareness
39. Outreach and Education UNEP/MED WG.591/4 Page 4
40. Employment
41. Sustainable Funding
42. Cooperation

Assessment Criteria:

- **Current Status:** Evaluate the progress made on each start-up action since the adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO framework in 2021 based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 32 to 42.
- **Comparison to 2027 Goals:** Assess whether the targets set for 2027 have been achieved or if progress has been made towards their attainment based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 32 to 42.
- **Path to 2030:** Identify areas requiring additional efforts to meet the targets set for 2030 and outline strategies to accelerate progress based on quantitative and qualitative indicators for each priority action 32 to 42.

International experts' selection:

7. Among the options under consideration, SPA/RAC proposes recruiting a team of 5 experts to conduct the assessment, prioritizing profiles with expertise relevant to the three goals outlined in the Post-2020 SAPBIO. It is proposed to proceed with the same approach used to develop the POST 2020 SAPBIO, a bottom-up approach based on the Mediterranean sub-region. To do this, it is proposed, to hire a team of experts as follows:
 - **Lead Team Expert:** To coordinate the assessment and compilation of information, providing inputs when relevant for governance and policy topics;
 - Expert to cover the assessment in the Western Mediterranean sub-region
 - Expert to cover the assessment Adriatic Sea sub-region
 - Expert to cover the assessment Aegean Sea and Levantine Basin sub-region
 - Expert to cover the assessment Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean

8. Ideally, the selected experts should possess a combination of knowledge of the Mediterranean region's biodiversity and conservation challenges and policy/strategy analysis skills and evaluation. Here's a proposed profile for the experts:
- Comprehensive understanding of the biodiversity, ecosystems, and conservation challenges specific to the Mediterranean region.
 - Expertise in evaluating progress and identifying gaps in biodiversity conservation initiatives within the Mediterranean context.
 - Proficiency in conducting policy/strategy analysis and strategic planning tailored to address the conservation needs of the Mediterranean region effectively.
 - Strong analytical and communication skills, enabling the effective communication of findings and recommendations to stakeholders and decision-makers within the Mediterranean context.
 - Proven track record of collaboration with regional organizations, government agencies, and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region to ensure alignment with regional priorities and commitments.
 - Familiarity with the Post-2020 SAPBIO framework and its objectives set for 2030 within the Mediterranean context would be an asset.
 - Good knowledge and working experience of the (i)implementation of the Barcelona Convention (ii) Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process /Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)