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Videoconference, 5 June 2024

**Agenda Item 4: Assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO: proposed approach and the way forward**

**4.2. Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Assessment: Proposed approach**

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SPA/RAC

Tunis, 2024



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### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. As provided for in the Post-2020 SAPBIO (Decision IG.25/11 of CoP22) and as requested by (Decision IG.26/5 of CoP23 ), SPA/RAC will conduct during 2024-2025 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 as well as data on the Common Indicators of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) to monitor the effectiveness of the actions put in place.
2. Targets and Actions presented in 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.
4. The SPA/RAC will undertake the mid-term assessment in collaboration with the Barcelona Convention contracting parties through their designated Focal Points and/or their SAPBIO National Correspondents, UNEP/MAP components, and partners affiliated with the Advisory Committee of SAPBIO, alongside any other pertinent stakeholders.
5. The following document was discussed with the SAPBIO Advisory Committee during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee, 30 April 2024, Videoconference.

## 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 SAPBIO 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 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 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 and/or their SAPBIO National Correspondents, 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 OECS

**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 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 Post-2020 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

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 has proposed 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 for the purpose to proceed with the same approach used in the development of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, a bottom-up approach based on the Mediterranean sub-regions. On another note and considering the breadth of coverage of the Post-2020 SAPBIO across multiple clusters of the coastal and marine area, the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee has suggested the inclusion of a thematic approach wherever possible. Nevertheless, there is a concern that incorporating multiple thematic areas might lead to a proliferation of themes and would require numerous experts and important financial resources.-To do this, it is proposed, to hire a team of experts as follows:
  - A Lead Team Expert: To coordinate the assessment and compilation of information, providing inputs when relevant for governance and policy topics;
  - An Expert to cover the assessment in the Western Mediterranean sub-region;
  - An Expert to cover the assessment Adriatic Sea sub-region;
  - An Expert to cover the assessment Aegean Sea and Levantine Basin sub-region;
  - An 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. Hereinafter the proposed profiles 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).