

**UNITED
NATIONS**



EP

UNEP/MED WG.591/5



**United Nations
Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan**

3 July 2024

Original: English

10th Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents

Videoconference, 5 June 2024

Report of the Meeting

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SPA/RAC
Tunis, 2024

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Report of the 10th Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents

I. Introduction

1. As provided for in the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO; Decision IG.25/11 of the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 22)) and as requested by Decision IG.26/5 of COP 23, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) is invited to conduct a mid-term assessment of the collective progress in the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO by 2025, and the Contracting Parties are invited to review their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) accordingly to ensure the achievement of the Post-2020 SAPBIO objectives by 2030.

2. In this context, SPA/RAC convened the 10th Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents. The meeting was held by videoconference on Wednesday 5 June 2024.

3. The main objectives of the meeting are:

- Review the progress made in the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilization strategy.
- Discuss the proposed approach for the mid-term assessment and agree on the way forward.

II. Attendance

4. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the meeting: Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Spain, Tunisia.

5. The following intergovernmental organization was represented as observer: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

6. The following non-governmental organizations and other entities were represented as observers: the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy (PBOL), the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA2), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

7. The Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) was represented at the meeting.

8. SPA/RAC acted as the secretariat of the meeting.

9. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

III. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

10. The meeting was opened at 8.30 a.m. UTC+1 on Wednesday, 5 June 2024 by Mr. Mahmoud Elyes Hamza, Director of SPA/RAC, who made an opening statement on behalf of UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC.

11. In his remarks, Mr. Hamza welcomed the participants to the 10th SAPBIO National Correspondents Meeting. He highlighted the collective efforts to conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage resources in the Mediterranean under the Post-2020 SAPBIO framework since its adoption in 2021. Noting the progress made on several actions, he looked forward to the upcoming evaluation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation in 2024-2025. Mr. Hamza emphasized the critical role of Parties, UNEP/MAP components and partners in shaping the future of SAPBIO and addressing the challenges of achieving sustainability and resilience goals by 2030. He concluded by thanking the

participants for their commitment and looking forward to fruitful discussions leading to actionable outcomes.

12. The meeting extended its congratulations to Mr. Hamza on his appointment as Director of SPA/RAC.

IV. Organizational matters (agenda item 2)

A. Rules of procedure

13. The national correspondents agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/IG.43/6, annex XI), as amended by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 and UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5), would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations at the meeting.

B. Election of officers

14. In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure and with the principles of geographical and equitable gender representation, the meeting unanimously elected the following officers from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Chairperson: | Mr. Leonardo Tunesi (Italy), |
| Vice-chairpersons: | Ms. Lara Samaha (Lebanon), Ms. Samia Boufares (Tunisia), |
| Rapporteur: | Ms. Lucie Linossi (France). |

C. Adoption of the agenda

15. The meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda circulated in document UNEP/MED WG.591/1.

16. The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

D. Organization of work

17. The meeting agreed to follow the timetable proposed in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/MED WG.591/2).

18. The working languages of the meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available.

V. Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilization strategy (agenda item 3)

19. Introducing the agenda item, a representative of the secretariat presented the process of elaboration of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the resulting structure, vision and goals of the strategic document. He then presented the status of resource mobilization since the adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, referring to document UNEP/MED WG.591/Inf.3.

20. He presented further graphs showing the status of resource mobilization by SPA/RAC since the adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, as well as the contribution of the UNEP/MAP core and external (secured and non-secured) funds to the Post-2020 SAPBIO 42 priority actions during the period 2022-2025. The presentation concluded with a graph illustrating the occurrence of Contracting Parties as beneficiary countries in externally funded sub-regional and regional projects.

21. In response to a query from the representative of an observer organization regarding the suitability of the presented figures as objectives for fundraising to achieve the SAPBIO targets by all the Contracting Parties, the secretariat clarified that the figures represent the funds mobilized by the MAP system in relation to all SAPBIO topics. It was noted that additional funds are required to reach the expected targets. The ambitious goals set forth will only be achievable through the utmost cooperation across the MAP system, partner organizations, and especially require the resolute commitment and alignment of all Contracting Parties.

VI. Assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO: proposed approach and the way forward (agenda item 4)

A. Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed concept note and timeline (agenda sub-item 4.1)

22. A representative of the secretariat, introducing the sub-item, drew attention to the proposed concept note and timeline for the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment set out in document UNEP/MED WG.591/3. The proposed steps and timeline are designed to ensure the mid-term assessment is finalized on time and aligned with the UNEP/MAP governance process milestones, allowing for the timely submission of its outcomes to COP 24.

23. No comments were made by the meeting participants regarding the proposed concept note and timeline.

24. Consequently, there has been a consensus to endorse the proposed concept note and timeline for the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment, which appears in **Annex III** to the present report.

B. Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed approach (agenda sub-item 4.2)

25. Referring to document UNEP/MED WG.591/4, the secretariat presented the proposed approach for the mid-term assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO. The secretariat representative clarified that the quantified targets for each of the 42 actions presented in the Post-2020 SAPBIO Annex III will serve as indicators for the implementation progress towards the strategy goals. He then proceeded to outline the approach to be taken in assessing some Post-2020 SAPBIO activities, based on the set start-up activities, the expected results for 2027, and the expected results for 2030.

26. He concluded his presentation by informing that SPA/RAC will recruit a team of international consultants with expertise relevant to the three Post-2020 SAPBIO goals. The assessment will be based on dedicated technical meetings, interviews, an in-depth review of relevant documentation, and engagement with the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties, UNEP/MAP components and partner organizations, and any other relevant stakeholders. The assessment will be conducted using a bottom-up approach, taking into account sub-regional specificities.

27. In response to a query from one Contracting Party representative regarding the lack of tangible items, such as the assessment method or indicators, for approval at the present meeting, the representative of the secretariat clarified that the first step in the process is to agree on the overall sub-regional approach. Following the meeting, the secretariat will revise the terms of reference as appropriate based on the agreed elements and in close consultation with the SAPBIO National Correspondents and Advisory Committee members, then will launch the call for proposals. Once the team of consultants is in place, they will be responsible for developing the detailed methodology and indicators, which will also be subject to consultation with the SAPBIO National Correspondents and Advisory Committee member organizations.

28. Another Contracting Party representative stated that the current projects and activities implemented with the support of SPA/RAC focus on biodiversity hotspots and marine protected areas. Nevertheless, based on the experience gained, it would be advantageous to implement projects that

benefit local communities and align national action plans and strategies with this goal, to gain their trust and involvement in reaching the set conservation targets.

29. The secretariat representative highlighted that there is a specific, very-high priority action under the Post-2020 SAPBIO goal 3 related to stakeholder participation. It was emphasized that the achievement of the 2030 goals should go through the achievement of all the actions. He further noted that the assessment would enable both the evaluation of progress at the national level and the assessment of the efficiency of international support provided by SPA/RAC and other organizations, as well as their contribution to the achievement of country targets.

30. A representative of a Contracting Party highlighted that the sub-regional approach had been successfully employed by the SPA/RAC for an extended period. As a result, there was a strong interest in maintaining this approach for the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term evaluation exercise. She also inquired as to whether the SPA/RAC intended to engage national experts alongside the sub-regional experts.

31. In response, the Secretariat clarified that there would be no recruitment of experts at the national level. However, coordination at the national level was expected, particularly to seek information from other departments, such as those dealing with maritime traffic, tourism, fisheries, etc. Support for this coordination would be provided through the network of thematic focal points of all the MAP components.

32. Following the discussion, the meeting agreed to endorse the proposed approach for the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment and requested the secretariat to start the process as agreed. The proposed approach is outlined in **Annex IV** to the present report.

VII. Any other matters (agenda item 5)

33. No additional element was presented under this agenda item.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 6)

34. The meeting reviewed, commented on, and approved the draft conclusions and recommendations as amended and attached to the present report as **Annex V**.

IX. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 7)

35. In her closing remarks, Ms. Tatjana Hema, MAP Coordinator, expressed satisfaction with the productive discussions and collaborative progress made on the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation mid-term evaluation. She underlined the significance of a participatory and transparent process to identify shortcomings and challenges, which will inform corrective measures at national and regional levels. Ms. Hema emphasized the relevance of the evaluation for the upcoming revisions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, as well as for the Mediterranean Day to be organized at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC). She expressed her gratitude to the Contracting Parties for their financial support of this process and looked forward to the SAPBIO National Correspondents and SPA/RAC team leading the evaluation effectively and producing a realistic assessment to advance the common biodiversity agenda. In conclusion, Ms. Hema acknowledged the Chair's leadership and expressed her anticipation for the next phase of this crucial evaluation process.

36. After expressing the usual courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.30 p.m. UTC+1 on Wednesday, 5 June 2024.

Annex I**List of participants****SAPBIO NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS - REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CONTRACTING PARTIES / *CORRESPONDENTS NATIONAUX DU SAPBIO -
REPRÉSENTANTS DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES***

| | |
|---|--|
| CROATIA / <i>CROATIE</i> | Ms. Jelena UROS Senior Advisor Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development Zagreb, Croatia |
| CYPRUS / <i>CHYPRE</i> | Ms. Melina MARCOU Fisheries and Marine Research Officer Department of Fisheries and Marine Research Nicosia, Cyprus |
| EUROPEAN UNION / <i>UNION EUROPÉENNE</i> | Ms. Alice BELIN Policy Officer DG ENV Brussels, Belgium |
| FRANCE / <i>FRANCE</i> | Ms. Lucie LINOSSI Chargée de suivi négociations internationales milieu marin Office français de la Biodiversité |
| GREECE / <i>GRÈCE</i> | Ms. Aimilia DROUGAS Biologist, Geologist-Oceanographer, PhD Ministry of Environment and Energy General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water General Directorate of Environmental Policy Directorate of Natural Environment and Biodiversity Management Department of Protected Areas Athens, Greece |
| ISRAEL / <i>ISRAËL</i> | Mr. Simon NEMTZOV Head of International Relations Department of Scientific Information Israel Nature and Parks Authority Jerusalem, Israel |
| ITALY / <i>ITALIE</i> | Mr. Leonardo TUNESI Head of the Unit "Marine biodiversity, habitat and species Protection" Department of Marine biodiversity, habitat and species Protection ISPRA - High Institute for Environmental Protection and Research Rome, Italy |

LEBANON / *LIBAN*

Ms. Lara SAMAHA
Head of Department
Department of Ecosystems
Ministry of Environment
Beirut, Lebanon

LIBYA / *LIBYE*

Mr. Almokhtar SAIED
Researcher at Nature Conservation Department
Ministry of Environment
Tripoli, Libya

MALTA / *MALTE*

Ms. Marie Therese GAMBIN
Unit Manager Thematic | Biodiversity & Water Unit
Environment & Resources Directorate
Environment & Resources Authority
Marsa, Malta

Mr. Luke TABONE
Environment Protection Officer
Environment & Resources Authority

SPAIN / *ESPAGNE*

Mr. Jorge ALONSO RODRÍGUEZ
Head of MPA Unit
General Directorate for Biodiversity, Forest and
Desertification
Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic
Challenge
Madrid, Spain

Ms. Helena MORENO
Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic
Challenge

TUNISIA / *TUNISIE*

Ms. Samia BOUFARES
Directeur Gestion des écosystèmes littoraux
Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du littoral
Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Ahmed BEN HMIDA
Ingénieur en Génie halieutique et environnement
Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du littoral

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS /
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

| | |
|--|---|
| IUCN / UICN International Union for Conservation of Nature / Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature | Ms. Mercedes MUÑOZ CAÑAS Manager Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy line IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation Malaga, Spain |
|--|---|

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS /
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

| | |
|--|---|
| WWF World Wide Fund for Nature / Fonds mondial pour la nature | Ms. Saba GUELLOUZ Conservation Director WWF North Africa |
| | Ms. Simone NIEDERMUELLER Regional Projects Manager WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative |

DONORS ORGANIZATIONS / BAILLEURS DE FONDS

| | |
|--|---|
| PBOL Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy | Ms. Camille LOTH Senior Associate |
| FPA2 Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation / Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco | Ms. Auriane PERTUISOT Marine Projects Officer |

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - SECRÉTARIAT
DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA
MÉDITERRANÉE**

| | |
|--|--|
| UNEP/MAP / PNUE/PAM United Nations Environment Programme / Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat / Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement / Unité de coordination pour le Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée - Secrétariat de la Convention de Barcelone | Ms. Tatjana HEMA MAP Coordinator UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit - Barcelona Convention Secretariat Athens, Greece |
| | Mr. Stavros ANTONIADIS Associate Administrative Officer |

SECRETARIAT OF THE MEETING / *SECRETARIAT DE LA RÉUNION*

SPA/RAC
Specially Protected Areas Regional
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Mr. Atef OUERGHI

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Ms. Lobna BEN NAKHLA

Programme Officer - Species Conservation

Ms. Asma KHERIJI

Programme Officer - Specially Protected Areas

Mr. Atef LIMAM

Projects Officer - Marine Protected Areas

Mr. Yassine Ramzi SGHAIER

Projects Officer - Ecosystem Approach

Ms. Emna DEROUICHE

Technical Project Manager - FishEBM MED project

Ms. Aida ABDENNADHER

Programme Specialist - Fish EBM MED project

Mr. Wassim GAIDI

Projects Associate Officer - Marine Protected Areas

Mr. Dhia GUEZGUEZ

Data Management & Computing Officer

Ms. Dorra MAAOUI

Communications Officer

Ms. Naziha BEN MOUSSA

Administrative & Procurement Officer

Ms. Souad BEN AOUICHA

Executive Assistant

Consultant / *Consultante*

Ms. Souha EL ASMI

Expert in marine environment and policy

Interpreters / *Interprètes*

Ms. Hanem ATTIA

Mr. Mondher KALAI

Ms. Nejet MCHALA

Ms. Nadia ZOUITEN

Annex II

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** **Opening of the meeting**
- Agenda item 2** **Organizational matters**
- 2.1. Rules of procedure
 - 2.2. Election of officers
 - 2.3. Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.4. Organization of work
- Agenda item 3** **Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilization strategy**
- Agenda item 4** **Assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO: proposed approach and the way forward**
- 4.1. Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed concept note and timeline
 - 4.2. Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed approach
- Agenda item 5** **Any other matters**
- Agenda item 6** **Conclusions and recommendations**
- Agenda item 7** **Closure of the meeting**

Annex III

Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed concept note and timeline

The Post-2020 SAPBIO:

1. The Post-2020 SAPBIO¹ 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 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity 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 assessment² 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.
5. 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.

¹ [Decision I2G.25/11: Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region \(Post-2020 SAPBIO\)](#)

² [Decision IG.26/5: Specially Protected Areas \(SPAs\), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance \(SPAMIs\) and Ecosystem Restoration](#)

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 (AC) 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 (NC) 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 | | | | | | | | |
| Review Draft mid-term assessment report by SAPBIO Advisory Committee and the SAPBIO National Correspondents | | | | | | | | |
| Final Draft mid-term assessment report | | | | | | | | |

| | 2024 | | | | | | | | 2025 | | | | | | | |
|--|------|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|------|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| | Q1 | | Q2 | | Q3 | | Q4 | | Q1 | | Q2 | | Q3 | | Q4 | |
| Presentation of the draft mid-term assessment report and recommendations at the 17 th SPA/BD National Focal Points Meeting, as reviewed by the National Correspondents and Advisory Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presentation of the mid-term assessment report and recommendations at the MAP Focal Points Meeting as reviewed by the SPA/BD National Focal Points meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presentation of the mid-term assessment report and recommendations at the Barcelona Convention CoP24 as reviewed by MAP National Focal Points 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

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).

Annex V

Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction

1. The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) organized the 10th Meeting of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) National Correspondents (hereinafter referred to as the “meeting”) on 5 June 2024 by videoconference.

Participation

2. All the National Correspondents of SAPBIO and the relevant intergovernmental, non-governmental or donor organizations, including the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee members, were invited to attend or to designate their representatives.

3. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the meeting: Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Spain and Tunisia.

4. The following organizations were represented as observers: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy (PBOL), the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA2) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

5. The Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) was represented at the meeting.

6. SPA/RAC acted as the secretariat of the meeting.

Objectives of the meeting

7. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the progress achieved in the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilization strategy.
- Discuss the proposed mid-term assessment approach and agree on the path forward.

Organizational matters

8. The meeting agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI), as amended by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 and UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5), would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations.

9. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Mr. Leonardo Tunesi (Italy),
Vice-chairpersons: Ms. Lara Samaha (Lebanon),
Ms. Samia Boufares (Tunisia),
Rapporteur: Ms. Lucie Linossi (France).

10. The meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

General considerations

11. The meeting expressed their gratitude for the clarity and comprehensiveness of the presentations made by the secretariat.

Agenda item 3: Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its Resource mobilization Strategy

12. The meeting took note of the status of resource mobilization since the adoption of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and invited the secretariat to include the evaluation of the resources needed to achieve the 2030 targets at national level.

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

4.1. Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed concept note and timeline

13. The meeting agreed on the proposed Concept note and Timeline to undertake the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment, which is set out in Annex III to the report of the 10th meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents.

4.2. Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment: proposed approach

14. The meeting welcomed the subregional approach to be used for both the mid-term and periodic assessments, emphasizing the importance of having the support of an international team of consultants to assist in developing the methodology and indicators prior to the mid-term assessment.

15. The meeting recommended to involve the SAPBIO National Correspondents and Advisory Committee members in the different steps of the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment, including in the approval of the international consultants' terms of reference and the definition of the methodology and indicators.

16. The meeting highlighted the importance of taking advantage of relevant data collection and reporting systems, such as those under the Barcelona Convention (IMAP InfoSystem, BCRS, MED QSR, Mediterranean MPA status reports, etc.) and under other regional, EU and international initiatives, reporting systems and fora.

17. The meeting recommended to involve local communities in the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation in order to have their full support and engagement in achieving the expected goals.

18. The meeting recalled the importance of having the active involvement and coordination of the SPA/BD Focal Points and SAPBIO National Correspondents in the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment, with the support of the UNEP/MAP System (MAP Secretariat and Components) Focal Points, as appropriate.

19. The meeting endorsed the proposed approach for the Post-2020 SAPBIO mid-term assessment and requested the secretariat to start the process as agreed. The proposed approach is set out in Annex IV to the report of the 10th meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents.