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Videoconference, 5 June 2024

Agenda Item 3: Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its resource mobilisation strategy

Report of the Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean

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SPA/RAC
Tunis, 2024

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Sixteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points

Malta, 22-24 May 2023

Agenda item 10: Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)

10.1. Measures taken for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO

Report of the Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean

Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean

Paris, France, 16 March 2023

Report

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**Report of the Donor Conference for Biodiversity
and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean
Paris, France, 16 March 2023**

I- Introduction

1. In the framework of the process aiming at the development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO), including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, for the period 2022-2030, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) - Barcelona Convention Secretariat, convened a Donor Conference for Biodiversity and Area-based Conservation in the Mediterranean, held on 16 March 2023, in Paris (France).
2. The main objectives of the conference are:
 - (i) Brief presentation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean;
 - (ii) Presentation of the draft resource mobilization strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030; and
 - (iii) Presentation and discussion of the draft project portfolio for a first phase of implementation.
3. The agenda of the conference is attached as Annex 1 to the present report.

II- Participation

4. Donor organizations, the officers of the last (9th) Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents, and regional partner organizations involved in the project portfolio, have been invited to attend the conference. The MAVA Foundation for Nature was invited as a special guest to the conference.
5. The following donors and funding agencies attended the conference, either in person or online:
 - a. In person: Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy, Sigrid Rausing Trust, and the MAVA Foundation for Nature (as a special guest).
 - b. Online: African Development Bank (ADB) and Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco (FPA2).
6. The Vice-Chair (Tunisia) and Rapporteur (Egypt) of the 9th meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents (Barcelona, Spain, 24 February 2023) attended the conference to report on the main conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.
7. The following regional partner organizations were represented: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (attended online), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Topic Centre of Spatial Analysis and Synthesis - University of Malaga (ETC/UMA), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean

(MedPAN), the environmental trust fund dedicated to Mediterranean MPAs (MedFund), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

8. The UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC), the Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), and Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu) were represented at the meeting.
9. SPA/RAC acted as the secretariat of the meeting.
10. The list of participants is attached as Annex 2 to the present report.

III- Opening of the conference

11. The meeting was opened on Thursday, 16 March 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at Hôtel Provinces Opéra, Paris (France) by Ms Tatjana HEMA, MAP Coordinator, Mr Khalil ATTIA, SPA/RAC Director and Mr Vincent SZLEPER from the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion of France, as representative of the host country.

IV-Presentation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean

12. SPA/RAC presented the two main strategies object of the resource mobilisation strategy that are the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.
13. To cope with the pressure on marine and coastal biological diversity, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention agreed on the need for a concerted strategy to further the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of 1995. As a first step after the entry into force of the Protocol in December 1999, and following a three-year (2001-2003) consultation process, financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), they adopted in November 2003 the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO). Its implementation during the period 2004-2018 played an important regional role in terms of harmonization of planning for biodiversity conservation, and in facilitating exchanges among departments within and among Mediterranean countries.
14. The Post-2020 SAPBIO stems from a bottom-up process started by consultations conducted at national level to identify gaps and challenges, to define the priority issues to address and to identify the related needs in terms of action, capacity building, institutional arrangements, as well strengthening relevant legal frameworks. The outcomes of the national consultations were reflected in 21 ad-hoc national reports. Given the transboundary nature of most of the biodiversity concerns, the national reports were compiled to define prioritised needs through sub-regional assessments and workshops. Subsequently, several regional drafts were produced and reviewed by the SAPBIO Advisory Committee, the SAPBIO National Correspondents, then endorsed by the 15th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points (June 2021) and MAP Focal Points (September 2021). The consultation process was finalised when the 22nd Meeting of Parties (COP 22; Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021) adopted the final version of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

15. The Post-2020 SAPBIO has identified 27 Targets and 42 Actions, addressing the direct drivers of biodiversity loss with the view of achieving 3 Goals: (i) Goal 1: Reduce the threats to biodiversity ; (ii) Goal 2: Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people's needs; and (iii) Goal 3: Enable the necessary transformative change, putting in place tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.
16. In a parallel participatory process, a Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean was developed, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, the regional organisations and with the support of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM). The strategy was also adopted by COP 22 in December 2021.
17. The Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs has the following two main targets: (i) by 2030, at least 30 % of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative, and effective systems of MCPAs and OECMs, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity; and (ii) by 2030, the number and coverage of MCPAs with enhanced protection levels is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems.
18. Both regional strategies are aligned with the other relevant regional strategies as well as the ongoing global frameworks such as SDGs, Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

V- Presentation of the Draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy

19. The Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, for the period 2022-2030 is the first step in the implementation process of both above-mentioned strategies. The objective of this resource mobilisation strategy is 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. 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.
20. 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 relevant (regional and national) marine conservation actors in the Mediterranean.
21. 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.

VI-Presentation of the draft project portfolio

VI-1. Presentation of the Partners

22. A roundtable was made allowing the regional partner organizations and other MAP Regional Activity Centres, to present their organisations, their relationship with SPA/RAC and how they will contribute to the projects' implementation.

VI-2. Presentation of Projects

23. SPA/RAC presented the following four project concepts, and a questions and answers' session was opened after each project presentation:
 - Project 1: Conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable blue economy as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Mediterranean through MCPAs and OECMs;
 - Project 2: Recovering key Mediterranean marine and coastal habitats.
 - Project 3: The Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: preserving ecosystem function & climate resiliency through enhanced marine turtle populations in the Mediterranean; and
 - Project 4: Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity.
24. The representative of Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy showed the interest of his organisation in Activity 1.2 (Establishment of soundly designed MCPAs, including areas with enhanced protection levels and encompassing areas beyond national jurisdiction) of Project 1, asked about the way the project budget has been estimated and whether a donor could contribute to only one activity.
25. MAVA Foundation highlighted the importance of bringing “*half-cooked*” projects to donors to facilitate the decision-making process and maximise the chances for accessing to funds.
26. The representative of Sigrid Rausing Trust noted that, to better understand the cost estimate, it would be helpful to have an idea on the number of sites concerned by the project (Project 1).
27. SPA/RAC explained that the resource mobilisation strategy, as a strategic framework, included consultation process with SAPBIO National Correspondents. A meeting was held on the 24 February 2023 in Barcelona (Spain) where countries have reviewed the project proposals, confirmed their interest in being involved in one or more of the projects, and have contributed to the improvement of the project portfolio.
28. Regarding Project 2: *Recovering key Mediterranean marine and coastal habitats*, Sigrid Rausing Trust said that restoration is forming an important part of their portfolio and that it is a way in which they could see their investment ramping up quite rapidly as opportunities are coming increasingly. They would be interested in funding restoration initiatives that are transformative rather than just demonstrating ones.
29. Sigrid Rausing Trust asked why in Project 3 “*The Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: preserving ecosystem function & climate resiliency through enhanced marine turtle populations in the Mediterranean*” coordination is more expensive than in the two previous ones.
30. SPA/RAC explained that in project 3, coordination budget includes some other activities beside coordination; and that this will be further clarified in the project formulation.
31. France expressed its interest in setting up a working group among the Contracting Parties to further work and cooperate on the activities of Project 4.

VII- Information on the Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea by 2030 (PAMEx) and the PAMEX Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)

32. The representatives of the Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea by 2030 (PAMEx) and the PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) presented these initiatives, their objectives, and perspectives.

VIII- Wrap-up and closure

33. The director of SPA/RAC renewed his acknowledgments to the participants for their valuable contribution in the improvement of the project portfolio and resource mobilisation strategy and for their interest to be active players in the implementation of Post 2020 SAPBIO strategy. Then, he briefly summarized the main follow-up actions after the conference.
34. As next step to undertake to follow-up on the conference, SPA/RAC will undertake the following actions:
- Assure initial improvement of the project concepts according to the comments and proposals of the conference participants.
 - Review the project estimate budgets, especially for Project 1 and Project 4.
 - The organisation of bilateral meetings with each of the donors to better discuss the projects' components that are of interest to their respective organisations and make the necessary refinement to adapt the project portfolio accordingly.
35. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 5.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 16 March 2023 by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and the Secretariat.

Annex I: Agenda of the Conference

8:30 - 9:00	<i>Registration</i>
9:00 - 9:20	Opening of the conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP Coordinator - SPA/RAC Director - Host country representative
9:20 - 9:35	Presentation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean Post-2020 (SPA/RAC)
9:35 - 9:50	Q/A
9:50 - 10:10	Presentation of the Draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy (SPA/RAC)
10:10 - 10:30	Q/A
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 - 11:40	Presentation of the draft project portfolio: Presentation of the Partners (5' each partner) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACCOBAMS - GFCM (online) - PAP/RAC - Plan Bleu - INFO/RAC - ETC-UMA - IUCN-Med - MedPAN - The MedFund - WWF - MAVA Foundation
11:40 - 12:30	Presentation of Projects (15' presentation each project followed by 20' of Q/A & Feedback) (SPA/RAC) <u>Draft Project 1</u> : Conserving biodiversity and promoting a sustainable blue economy as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Mediterranean through MCPAs and OECMs <u>Draft Project 2</u> : Recovering key Mediterranean marine and coastal habitats Q&A (20')
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:10	Presentation of Projects (15' presentation each project followed by 20' of Q/A & Feedback) (SPA/RAC) <u>Draft Project 3</u> : The Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: Preserving ecosystem function & climate resiliency through enhanced marine turtle populations in the Mediterranean <u>Draft Project 4</u> : Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity Q&A (20') Extended Feedback (20')
15:10 - 16:00	Coffee break & informal exchange
16:00 - 16:20	Information on the Plan of Action for a Model Mediterranean Sea by 2030 (PAMEx) and the PAMEX Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)
16:20 - 16:30	Q/A
16:30 - 17:00	Wrap-up and closure
17:00 - 18:00	<i>Cocktail</i>

Annex II: List of Participants**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION**

Egypt	<p>Mr Mostafa FOUDA Advisor of Ministry of Environment Ministry of Environment of Egypt Nature Conservation Sector Maadi - Cairo, Egypt E-mail: drfoudamos@gmail.com</p>
France	<p>Mr Vincent SZLEPER Adjoint à la sous-directrice Ecosystèmes littoraux et marins Ministère de la transition écologique et de la cohésion des territoires Paris La Défense, France E-mail: vincent.szleper@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr Nabil MEDAGHRI ALAOUI Protection internationale des océans – Global Ocean Protection Sous-direction de l'environnement et du climat Direction du développement durable Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères 75015 Paris, France E-mail: nabil.medaghri-alaoui@diplomatie.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr David ELKAÏM Chargé de mission Négociations internationales Biodiversité marine Conventions de Barcelone et de Carthagène Direction de l'Action européenne et internationale Ministère de la transition écologique et de la cohésion des territoires Paris La Défense, France E-mail: david.elkaim@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr Jean VERMOT Coordonnateur milieu marin et contentieux européen Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité Direction Générale de l'Aménagement, du Logement et de la Nature Ministère de la transition écologique et de la cohésion des territoires Paris La Défense, France E-mail: jean.vermot@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p> <p><i>Participants on behalf of PLIFF (PAMEX Local Investment Finance Facility)</i></p> <p>Mr Christophe NUTTALL R20 Founder, Senior Strategic Advisor R20 Regions of Climate Action E-mail: cnuttall@regions20.org</p>
Tunisia	<p>Ms Samia BOUFARES Directeur Gestion des Ecosystèmes Littoraux Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral 1002 Tunis-Belvédère, Tunisie E-mail: boufaressamia@gmail.com</p>

REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR ORGANIZATIONS

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PBOL – Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy	Mr Jérôme PETIT Senior Manager Mediterranean Department E-mail: jpetit@pewtrusts.org
Sigrid Rausing Trust	Mr Robert SHORE Senior Programme Officer Conservation Department E-mail: robshore@srtrust.org

REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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The MedFund – Conservation Trust Fund for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	Mr Romain RENOUX Executive Director E-mail: rrenoux@themedfund.org
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HONOR GUEST

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