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**Draft Programme of Work for the Regional Activity Centre
for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) for 2016-2017**

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Introduction

- 1- The Programme of Work (PoW) for the Biennium 2016-2017 is guided by the strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021.
- 2- The strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 is based on relevant global and regional processes and references, MAP and Barcelona Convention mandates, and existing MAP strategies and action plans. A review of conclusions and recommendations of the external evaluation of the current Six-Year Strategic Programme of Work 2010-2015 has also been undertaken.
- 3- The “Strategic Themes” identified within the Mid-Term Strategy are as follows:
 - Land and Sea Based Pollution;
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Climate Change;
 - Natural Resources;
 - Governance;
 - Mediterranean Environment under Review
- 4- The RAC/SPA Biennial Programme of Work is developed under the Biodiversity and Ecosystems theme, which has Strategic Objective, Strategic Outcomes with their corresponding key outputs. For each key output, proposals of main activities and its means of implementation are defined
The strategic objective **is to maintain and enhance biological diversity, so that the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions of the Mediterranean**
- 5- The overall mission under this theme is to provide assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, and under the ‘Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean’ (SPA/BD Protocol), and implementing the ‘Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region’ (SAP BIO), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) (Decision IG.19/5).
- 6- The PoW takes into account the developed regional strategies, aiming at the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, which are:
 - The ‘Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea’, and the emanating ‘Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020’;
 - Eight Action Plans for the conservation and/or management of endangered or threatened species and key habitats: Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Marine Vegetation, Marine and Coastal Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans), Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions, and Dark Habitats;
 - A Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal;

- An Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea; and,
- 7- The PoW based on the Mid-Term Strategy “Biodiversity and Ecosystems” strategic theme will mainly focus on:
- Supporting the implementation of the ‘**Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region**’ (SAP BIO) regional and national Priority Actions for the period 2014-2020, as well as the SAP BIO related National Action Plans (NAPs). In this concern, SPA/RAC with the support of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and Components, national authorities, partner organizations and other relevant bodies will pursue investigating options for ensuring appropriate financial support for the implementation of SAP BIO at national and regional levels (Decision IG.20/4).
 - Facilitating the implementation of the ‘**Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea**’ of 2009, and more specifically the newly-developed ‘**Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020**’, in close collaboration with competent regional and national organizations, as well as NGOs and all other relevant stakeholders. A particular emphasis will be provided to the processes leading to the establishment of marine protected areas in the open seas by the concerned neighbouring countries, therefore allowing the management of Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJs), mainly through the declaration of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) as provided for by the SPA/BD Protocol, while taking into account the UN global process for the conservation of ABNJs.
 - Setting-up and **implementing monitoring programmes for key species and habitats to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) for the biodiversity** related ecosystem approach based Mediterranean ecological objectives, as provided for in the MAP/EcAp Integrated Monitoring Programme related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species, and in the regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention’s SPA/BD Protocol.
- 8- In order to improve synergy and avoid overlapping and duplication of activities, collaboration will be enhanced with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components, as relevant and necessary. Memoranda of understanding and joint work programmes are developed with key partners, which are also consulted and involved in the preparation of important decisions and policies.

Theme 2: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS						
Objective: To maintain and enhance biological diversity, so that the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions of the Mediterranean.						
Strategic Outcome 2.1: Facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.						
No.	Key Outputs	Main Activities	Means of Implementation	Lead: CU or Component	Other: CU and/or Components	Partners
2.1.1	Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implemented.	1- Set up a permanent Group of experts on MPAs working under the supervision of the Focal Points for SPAs and which secretariat is assured by RAC/SPA	In-house coordination and facilitation, convening annual meetings	SPA/RAC	CU (MedPartnership PMU)	Focal Points for SPAs, relevant partner organizations: MedPAN, IUCN, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, WWF
2.1.1	Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implemented.	2- Maintain, update and improve the Database on MPAs in the Mediterranean (MAPAMED), including relevant regional inventories and systems of sites of conservation interest; and elaborate the 2016 MPA Status Report	External expertise and in-house coordination and management	SPA/RAC	CU (MedPartnership PMU)	MedPAN

2.1.1	Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implemented.	3- Spread the results of the 2016 MPA Status Report, including comparisons with the 2012 status, at national level	External expertise, conferences, side-events, bilateral discussions during national/international events	SPA/RAC	CU (MedPartnership PMU)	MedPAN
2.1.1	Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implemented.	4- Organize the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum (second edition) in collaboration with MedPAN and other relevant partners	Organize the forum, all aspects included	SPA/RAC	CU (MedPartnership PMU)	MedPAN, the host country authorities (to be defined) and other technical partners: ACCOBAMS, CBD, CdL, GFCM, IUCN, WWF
2.1.1	Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implemented.	5- Develop communication and information tools on MPA hot issues	External expertise and in-house coordination and management	SPA/RAC	CU (MedPartnership PMU)	MedPAN, the host country authorities (to be defined) and other technical partners: ACCOBAMS, CBD, CdL, GFCM, IUCN, WWF

<p>2.1.3</p>	<p>Management framework for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJs) in the Mediterranean, including concerned Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), updated taking into account the UN global process for the conservation of ABNJ.</p>	<p>1- Support to Parties for working together in the planning of management measures tailored to different subregions to improve status of environment in ABNJ or where the limits of jurisdiction have not yet been defined</p>	<p>Subregional meetings to progress on MSP in the Mediterranean having regard of available legal frameworks and tools, including maritime traffic, fisheries regulations, SPAs and multilateral management of SPAMIs. Compilation of relevant information regarding related pressures and impacts. Participation to relevant global fora mainstreaming Mediterranean views.</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU, REMPEC, Plan Bleu/RAC</p>	<p>GFCM, ICCAT, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, IMO</p>
<p>2.1.4</p>	<p>A procedure for precluding international trade in species listed in the Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol elaborated.</p>	<p>1- Exchange with Focal Points for SPAs to develop agreed cooperation frameworks with relevant institutions. Exchanges with relevant partners and with CITES to progress on the topic</p>	<p>Promote collaboration frame with CITES to have regard of species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU</p>	<p>CITES, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife</p>

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>1- Implement the Regional Strategy for the conservation of the Monk Seal in the Mediterranean and the updated Cetaceans Action Plan</p>	<p>Funding mobilization to support the implementation of the regional strategy for the conservation of the Monk seal in the Mediterranean, in-house coordination and management, external expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Focal Points for SPAs, relevant NGOs, ACCOBAMS</p>
<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>2- Facilitate the networking between managed and monitored marine turtles nesting sites, aiming at the exchange of information and experience</p>	<p>In-house coordination and management, external expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>National institutions, NGOs</p>

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>3- Standardize methodologies to estimate demographic parameters for marine turtles population dynamics analysis, such as population modeling</p>	<p>External expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>National institutions, NGOs</p>
<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>4- Co-organize the 6th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles</p>		<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>National institutions, NGOs</p>

2.1.5	Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.	5- Produce and publish an updated version of the Birds Action Plan including all 25 target species	In house coordination and management, external expertise to update the action plan	SPA/RAC	SPA/RAC	national and Regional institutions, NGOs, Birdlife international, partner, CdL
2.1.5	Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.	6- Organize the 3rd Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the Bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol in coordination/synergy with relevant IGOs and NGOs	Organize the 3rd Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the Bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol	SPA/RAC	SPA/RAC	in coordination/synergy with relevant IGOs and NGOs

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>7- Update the directory of national, regional and international experts in Cartilaginous Fishes conservation</p>	<p>In house coordination and management, external expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>National and Regional institutions,</p>
<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>8- Promote existing research proposals developed under the RAC/SPA cartilaginous Action Plan to funding agencies; develop similar proposals for the Levantine basin</p>	<p>External expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>GFCM, national institutions, NGOs</p>

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>9- Update the information layer on distribution of meadows/coralligenous accessible (MedSIG)</p>	<p>External expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan Associate</p>
<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>10- Update the information layer on mapping other priority habitats</p>	<p>External Expertise, meetings, workshop,</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan associates</p>

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>11- Establish a programme for setting up monitoring networks for the main marine key habitats at national and regional level</p>	<p>External expertise, training, workshops, field mission</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan associates</p>
<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>12- Complete and regularly revise the directory of specialists and laboratories, institutions and organisations working on marine key habitats</p>	<p>In house expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan Associates</p>

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>13- Revise the Reference List of Marine Habitat types for the Mediterranean region, taking into account dark assemblages</p>	<p>External expertise, meetings, workshops</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>EC, Action Plan Associates, IUCN</p>
<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>14- Revise the List of endangered or threatened species in order to include dark assemblages associated species</p>	<p>External expertise, meetings, workshops</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>EC, Action Plan Associates, IUCN</p>

<p>2.1.5</p>	<p>Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) implemented in line with their timetables, and updated as needed.</p>	<p>15- Elaborate guidelines for the inventoring and monitoring of dark assemblages</p>	<p>External expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>OCEANA, Action Plan associates</p>
<p>2.1.6</p>	<p>Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species implemented in line with its timetable.</p>	<p>1- Establish/update the directory of non-indigenous species specialists and organizations in the Mediterranean region</p>	<p>In house expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan associates</p>
<p>2.1.6</p>	<p>Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species implemented in line with its timetable.</p>	<p>2- Develop and implement risk-assessment techniques through MAMIAS</p>	<p>External expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan Associate</p>
<p>2.1.6</p>	<p>Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species implemented in line with its timetable.</p>	<p>3- Develop online mapping tools of MAMIAS</p>	<p>External expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		<p>Action Plan associates</p>
<p>2.1.8</p>	<p>SAP BIO regional priorities being implemented.</p>	<p>1- Assistance to Parties for the implementation of SAP BIO regional priorities</p>	<p>Development of projects for funding mobilisation to support the implementation of SAP BIO regional priorities</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU and other Components according to project focus thematics</p>	<p>IUCN, MedWet, MedPAN, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, donor agencies</p>

Strategic Outcome 2.2: Implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation at national levels						
2.2.1	The SAP BIO national components, including its related National Action Plans (NAPs) and National Priority Actions (NPAs) being implemented.	1- Assistance to Parties for the implementation of SAP BIO NAPs and NPAs	Assistance to Parties for funding mobilisation to support the implementation of SAP BIO NAPs and NPAs. Expert assistance for the implementation of actions	SPA/RAC	-	IUCN, MedWet, MedPAN, ACCOBAMS, donor agencies
2.2.2	NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) and for Species Introductions and Invasive Species developed.	1- Assist countries for the elaboration/implementation of NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species	In-house coordination, external independent expertise and national expertise	SPA/RAC	SPA/RAC	Contracting Parties and relevant partners (ACCOBAMS, GFCM, Birdlife) Universities and NGOs

<p>2.2.2</p>	<p>NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) and for Species Introductions and Invasive Species developed.</p>	<p>2- Support the Contracting Parties and partners in producing and publishing relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation actions taken towards the conservation of species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol</p>	<p>In-house coordination, external independent expertise and national expertise</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>Contracting Parties and relevant partners (ACCOBAMS, GFCM, Birdlife) Universities and NGOs</p>
<p>2.2.2</p>	<p>NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) and for Species Introductions and Invasive Species developed.</p>	<p>3- Assist countries to Develop programmes for data collection and monitoring of NIS in line with EcAp</p>	<p>In-house coordination, external independent expertise and national expertise, field mission</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>		

2.2.2	NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) species and key habitats (Mediterranean Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine and Coastal Birds, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, Dark Habitats) and for Species Introductions and Invasive Species developed.	4- Assist countries to the identify areas of interest for the conservation of dark assemblages in the Mediterranean and Carry out concerted actions at national and/or cross-border sites	field mission, external expertise	SPA/RAC		Action Plan Associates
2.2.3	Biodiversity and ecosystem protection activities integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs, and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.	1- Contribute to CAMP France and CAMP Italy and other ICZM related activities, implemented under the lead of PAP/RAC	In-house technical expertise and coordination, and communication/outreach activities (CAMP France)	PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC	CU and other Components	
2.2.4	Incentive schemes with adverse effects on marine and coastal biodiversity identified and measures to have them gradually phased out proposed.	1- Collect relevant information on past and present cases of incentive schemes having adverse effects on marine and coastal biodiversity and their related impacts	Studies compiling lessons learnt on incentive schemes with adverse effects on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity. Two initial study cases: Fisheries and Tourism	SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC	FAO, GFCM, IUCN

<p>2.2.5</p>	<p>Measures developed and agreed at national levels to strengthen the protection and the management of marine and coastal sites of particular interest, especially those containing under-represented habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats), in accordance with the Marine Protected Areas 2020 Roadmap.</p>	<p>1- Undertake ecological characterization of two marine sites suitable to be declared as MPAs in Lebanon</p>	<p>Undertaking field surveys using national and international expertise, and convening national meetings</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU (MedPartnership PMU)</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment of Lebanon</p>
<p>2.2.5</p>	<p>Measures developed and agreed at national levels to strengthen the protection and the management of marine and coastal sites of particular interest, especially those containing under-represented habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats), in accordance with the Marine Protected Areas 2020 Roadmap.</p>	<p>2- Undertake as needed ecological and/or socio-economic/stakeholders assessments and elaborate management plans for three new MPAs in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia</p>	<p>Undertaking desktop data collection, field surveys using national and international expertise, and convening national/local meetings and workshops</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>CU (MedPartnership PMU)</p>	<p>Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control of Morocco, Coastal Protection and Planning Agency of Tunisia</p>

<p align="center">Strategic Outcome 2.3: Inventory, monitoring and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats</p>						
2.3.1	Research on biodiversity in the Mediterranean facilitated and coordinated through adequate mechanisms.	1- Pursue a mechanism to coordinate mainstreaming research efforts on Mediterranean biodiversity for supporting policy implementation	Exchange with existing bodies already acting on marine research coordination with Mediterranean countries involvement (e.g. ICES) to pursue a synergy with the BARCON	SPA/RAC & Plan Bleu/RAC	CU	ICES, CIESM
2.3.2	A regional programme established for the monitoring of the socio-economic impact of changes in biodiversity.	2- Evaluate socio-economic impacts of shifts on commercial fisheries target species in different areas of the Mediterranean	Collaborate with fisheries bodies to evaluate current shifts on exploited fish species in the Mediterranean and related socio-economic changes	SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC	GFCM, ICCAT
2.3.3	Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as provided for in the MAP/EcAp Integrated Monitoring Programme developed and implemented with regular quality assurance programmes at national and regional levels.	3- Support the development of information data information centre specific for biodiversity and NIS harmonized at regional level	external expertise	SPA/RAC	CU	

2.3.4	Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as provided for in the MAP/EcAp Integrated Monitoring Programme developed and implemented with regular quality assurance programmes at national and regional levels.	3- Support the development of country specific monitoring plans for biodiversity and NIS harmonized at regional level	Preparation of draft country specific monitoring plans for biodiversity and NIS. Quality assurance and application of SEIS for biodiversity and NIS monitoring	SPA/RAC	CU	GFCM, ICCAT
2.3.5	Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species (MAMIAS) Information System updated and used as a tool for early warning and management.	1- Launch the updated version of the Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Information System (MAMIAS), including an early warning network and online tools and web services for running queries on the database and extracting data	External expertise and in-house coordination and management	SPA/RAC	CU, REMPEC	HCMR, IUCN, IMO, CBD
2.3.6	Monitoring activities of the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, with a particular focus on Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), supported.	1- Running in 2017 the ordinary periodic review of three SPAMIs: Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve (Algeria), Habibas Islands (Algeria), and Marine Protected Area of Portofino (Italy). Make use of the review in order to make an in depth assessment of their management effectiveness.	In-house coordination, external independent expertise and national expertise	SPA/RAC	CU	MedPAN, IUCN, WWF

<p align="center">Strategic Outcome 2.4: Technical assistance and common tools for the conservation of biodiversity with the aim to achieve the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean.</p>						
2.4.1	Fact sheets on biodiversity conservation assessment developed to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures aimed at achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean.	1- Elaboration of draft fact sheets on biodiversity conservation assessment for different agreed indicators	Preparation of draft factsheets by experts on the different fields. Experts meetings on related group of species and /or habitats to develop them	SPA/RAC	CU	IUCN, GFCM
2.4.2	Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats developed and updated in line with EcAp Targets.	1- Elaborate Guidelines for long-term monitoring programmes for marine turtles nesting beaches and standardization of monitoring methods for nesting beaches, feeding and wintering areas	External expertise	SPA/RAC	SPA/RAC	MSTG
2.4.3	Guidelines and other tools for the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas developed and updated.	1- Disseminate technical tools for gap analysis and MPA system planning and facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices	External expertise for making a review of existent technical tools and possibly adapting them to the Mediterranean context, and data packaging and dissemination	SPA/RAC	—	CBD, MedPAN, IUCN, WWF

Strategic Outcome 2.5: Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity related national legislation.						
2.5.1	National capacities on taxonomy maintained and further enhanced in areas including sampling techniques and reference collections maintenance.	1- Organize a taxonomic training on sampling techniques and reference collections maintenance	Organize a taxonomic training on sampling techniques and reference collections maintenance	SPA/RAC	SPA/RAC	GIT, National specialized institutions and Universities, NGOs
2.5.2	Capacity-building programmes related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats developed and implemented.	1- Organize specific training courses, workshops related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species	Convening training workshops, and supporting ad hoc capacity building opportunities	SPA/RAC	SPA/RAC	National and Regional institutions,
2.5.2	Capacity-building programmes related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species and key habitats developed and implemented.	2- Support the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean through training of practitioners	Biodiversity and NIS country-level trainings	SPA/RAC	CU	IUCN, MedPAN
2.5.3	Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas developed and implemented.	1- Strengthen the existing capacity building mechanisms for MPA managers, and promote their coordination into a regional capacity building system, using a wide range of training approaches and targeting other actors and	Coordination meeting among concerned partners, disseminating the results among the concerned target groups	SPA/RAC	CU, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC, REMPEC	MedPAN, ACCOBAMS, CdL-PIM, GFCM, IUCN, WWF and possible other relevant capacity

		decision makers				building providers
2.5.3	Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas developed and implemented.	2- Assist countries to build national capacities for fundraising for MPAs through training activities, promoting exchange of experience and dissemination of information about best practices and innovative funding success in MPAs	Convening training workshops, facilitating exchange visits and supporting ad hoc capacity building opportunities	SPA/RAC	CU, SCP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC	MedPAN, CdL-PIM, IUCN, WWF and possible other relevant capacity building providers
2.5.4	EcAp biodiversity and non-indigenous species data set established and common indicators monitored in selected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at pilot level.	1- Support countries for the monitoring of biodiversity and NIS in SPAMIs and other relevant MPAs	Preparation of draft country specific monitoring plans for biodiversity and NIS (RAC/SPA)	SPA/RAC	CU	IUCN, MedPAN
2.5.4	EcAp biodiversity and non-indigenous species data set established and common indicators monitored in selected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at pilot level.	2- Assist countries in implementing pilot project to monitor NIS in selected MPAs	Field mission	SPA/RAC		IUCN, MedPAN

2.5.5	Pilot projects developed to rehabilitate degraded wetland habitats rendering them useful for natural resources exploitation and compatible with biodiversity conservation.	1- Identify suitable wetland areas around the Mediterranean in order to serve as pilot sites for habitat rehabilitation activities	Collaboration with MedWet for a first identification of areas in three countries. Development of tailored project to pursue the overall goal on a long term	SPA/RAC	CU, PAP/RAC	MedWet, IUCN, MedPAN, Ramsar Secretariat
2.5.6	Awareness raising programmes targeting the general public and decision makers on the economic value of biodiversity, ecosystem services and protected areas.	1- development of an awareness programme on economic value of biodiversity, ecosystem services and protected areas	external expertise	SPA/RAC		MedPAN, IUCN, WWF
Strategic Outcome 2.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity.						
2.6.1	Cooperation with stakeholders at all levels developed and strengthened through agreements, exchange of best practices and synergies, including in areas such as fisheries.	1- Development and implementation of an agreed strategic framework for the activities related to Mediterranean marine spatial management and conservation measures with key regional bodies	Discussion with partner organizations, and in-house coordination and networking	SPA/RAC	CU	GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, MedPAN
2.6.1	Cooperation with stakeholders at all levels developed and strengthened through agreements, exchange of best practices and synergies, including in areas such as fisheries.	2- Pursue the implementation of existent cooperation agreements, update them and/or develop related joint technical action programmes, and develop new agreements as needed	Discussion with partner organizations, and in-house coordination and networking	SPA/RAC	CU	ACCOBAMS, CdL, CITES, GFCM, ICES, ICCAT, IUCN, MedPAN, MedWet, UfM, WWF and other potential partners

