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Agenda Item 10 : Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2018-2019

Draft Programme of work of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2018-2019

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Introduction

- 1- The Programme of Work (PoW) for the Biennium 2018-2019 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/ Barcelona Convention and its Protocols mandates, and existing MAP strategies and action plans. A review of conclusions and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Six-Year Strategic Programme of Work 2010-2015 had also been undertaken.
- 3- The UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 includes the following Strategic Themes:
 - Overarching theme: Governance
 - Core theme 1: Land and Sea-based Pollution
 - Core theme 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems
 - Core theme 3: Land and Sea Interactions and Processes
 - Cross-cutting theme 1: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
 - Cross-cutting theme 2: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)
 - Cross-cutting theme 3: Climate Change Adaptation
- 4- The SPA/RAC Biennial Programme of Work (2018-2019) is developed mainly under the Biodiversity and Ecosystems core theme with its Strategic Objective, Strategic Outcomes and their corresponding key outputs. For each key output, proposals of main activities, means of implementation and expected deliverables are defined. Some of the proposed activities are under the Governance Overarching theme and Climate Change Adaptation Cross-cutting theme.

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 2018-2019 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 or endangered species and key habitats, 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; and an Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea;
- 7- The PoW (2018-2019) for “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, as well as evaluating its implementation after achieving its originally planned 15 years (Jan 2004 - Dec 2018) implementation period).
 - Facilitating the implementation of the ‘**Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea**’, and more specifically the ‘**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.
 - 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 with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other regional, national and local stakeholders, as well as the MAP Components, as relevant and necessary will continue to be enhanced. 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.
- 9- A particular attention will be given to follow the global UN process on the preparation of a legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable management of BBNJ.

- 10- Several relevant main activities will be also undertaken regarding other UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 Strategic Themes, notably two ones where transversal character is a key point needing assistance on direct biodiversity actions: Overarching theme Governance and Cross-cutting theme Climate Change Adaptation As reflected in the relevant chapters of the PoW 2018-2019 table herein below included.
- 11- The PoW (2018-2019) takes into account the lessons learnt from the first biennium (2016-2017) in terms of:
- Better integration and aggregation of activities where appropriate
 - Result based activities with special focus on deliverables
 - Collaboration with other MAP Components and interaction with cross-cutting themes
- 12- The total MTF budget available for SPA/RAC PoW (2018-2019) implementation is around 556,503 €. This budget is far away below what is needed to cover the ambitious MTS (2016-2021) and to achieve tangible and visible outcomes. That is why SPA/RAC, with the support and collaboration of MAP Secretariat, work actively on external resources mobilization in order to fill in the financial gap and provide more resources for the PoW (2018-2019) implementation.

Programme of work 2018-2019								
MTS. Number	Key Outputs	Main Activities	Means of implementation	Lead: CU or Component	Other: CU and/or Components	Partners	Expected Deliverables	Remarks and Rationale
GOVERNANCE								
1.1 Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.								
1.1.1	Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported.	1. Follow-up and promote the ratification with a particular focus on those Protocols not yet entered into force or ratified by less than 50% of CP	Communication with Contracting Parties	CU	SPA/RAC	–	SPA/RAC technical support coordinated with CU aimed to activate SPA/BD Protocol ratification by pending Contracting Parties	SPA/BD Protocol is pending ratification by B&H, Greece and Israel
1.1.2	Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings.	1. Organize the 14th SPA/RAC Focal Points meeting	Conference services, translation, interpretation, reports, participation arrangements for one delegate per CP	SPA/RAC	CU	–	Parties mutually informed on their activities as well as the ones undertaken by SPA/RAC, carried out since the last meeting of Focal Points for SPAs. Decisions taken on key topics, including: SAP BIO follow up; Action Plans running and updating; Regional Working Programme Implementation for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, supported by the Roadmap to Achieve Aichi Target 11; SPAMI regular evaluations and List update; implementation of the IMAP on biodiversity and non-indigenous species in the framework of the	Draft decisions and recommendations for 2020 on obtained, regarding the SPA/BD Protocol to further implement actions fulfilling the strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, in line with relevant global and regional processes and references, other MAP and Barcelona Convention mandates, and existing MAP strategies and action plans

							EcAp Roadmap; PoW 2020-21	
1.3 Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions.								
1.3.2	Participation in relevant existing or new international initiatives and dialogue (e.g. ABNJ, MPAs, Offshore, Sustainable Development) to highlight the Mediterranean regional specificities and increase synergies	1. Participate/Promote MAP priorities and achievements, related to biodiversity and specially protected areas, at diverse fora and strengthen bilateral and multilateral collaboration with relevant regional organizations in order to coordinate ongoing and new initiatives and dialogue for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.	Internal expertise, in house coordination	CU and Components	Components	Contracting Parties, Partners	Documentation contribution to relevant meetings to advance in the topics and reports of participation to BBNJ meetings. Joint working programme with ACCOBAMS implemented (2018-2019) concerning the updated Cetacean Action plan.	MTS (Decision IG.22/1) The presence in key global events puts high in the international agenda the Parties advances and action strategies being led by MAP on marine conservation for the Mediterranean Region. (UN/Convention on Biological Diversity-COP, Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)/Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, IUCN World Conservation Congress, etc.) Such presence, as well as synergy with other regional bodies notably attracts interest of relevant institutions and donors.

1.5 MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy- making, increased awareness and understanding.								
1.5.1	Info/MAP platform and platform for the implementation of IMAP fully operative and further developed, connected to MAP components' information systems and other relevant regional knowledge platforms, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public	1. Upgrade the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform to integrate all biodiversity databases	Services, in-house coordination and management, external expertise and services	SPA/RAC	INFO/RAC, REMP EC	CPs, MedPAN, Action Plan partners	-Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform upgraded to integrate other biodiversity databases (data.rac-spa.org) -The MAPAMED database updated and improved, -The MAPAMED system integrated into the MBP, -The 2016 MPA Status Report disseminated, -Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Database (MAMIAS) further developed and integrated in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform (web services for searching the database and extracting data, online mapping tools, early warning system, statistics and indicators, especially to support the IMAP)	The purpose is to set-up a geographic information system that supports and integrates all the biodiversity databases developed and managed by SPA/RAC (MAPAMED, MAMIAS, etc.). (Medkeyhabitats II project under preparation within MAVA Strategy).
1.6 Raised awareness and outreach.								
1.6.1	The UNEP/MAP communication strategy updated and implemented	1. Produce communication materials and organise events to raise awareness, inform and educate on biodiversity in the Mediterranean	In-house coordination and management, external expertise and services	SPA/RAC	CU	SPA/RAC Focal Points, MedPAN, IUCN, WWF, MedWet, national partners	Awareness, information and educational materials on biodiversity produced and disseminated; Communication events organised; SPA/RAC website maintained and updated to inform on SPA/RAC work and provide easy access to resources and platforms developed by the centre	2016-2021 MTS Strategic Outcome 1.6: Raised awareness and outreach SPA/BD Protocol: Article 19, 20 and 22

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS								
3.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments.								
3.1.1	A comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean set up and implemented.	1. Support the operation of the Ad hoc Advisory Group of experts for MPAs under the SPA/BD Protocol	In-house coordination, convening annual meetings	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components	Advisory Group members	The Ad hoc Advisory Group of experts on MPAs' annual meetings successfully held and delivers scientific and technical advice on future orientations in MPA planning and governance, and identifies gaps impeding the proper development of a regional MPA network	Regional Working Programme on MPAs (Decision IG.19/13) Roadmap on MPAs (Decision IG.22/13) MedMPA Network project (EU-UN Environment/MAP) The Ad hoc Advisory Group of experts on MPAs started from the need to have multidisciplinary think-tank that can provide advice and timely orientations on MPAs planning and management. The Ad hoc Advisory Group is particularly useful to SPA/RAC to monitor the progress made in implementing the Regional Working Programme on MPAs supported by the Roadmap on MPAs
		2. Develop and strengthen an effective SPAMI management	In-house coordination, staff hiring, travel, external expertise and services, administrative support	SPA/RAC	REMP EC	SPAMI manager, IMO	Twinning agreements among SPAMIs; Management and monitoring programmes harmonized and improved, including climate change impact on biodiversity ; SPAMI managers trained; Civil society involved in SPAMI management; A collaborative platform for SPAMIs set up; PSSAs identified in relation with SPAMIs	Part II/Section Two and Annex I of the SPA/BD Protocol COP 19 Decision on the SPAMI List (Decision IG.22/14) Italy-UN Environment/MAP agreement (Not yet secured)

<p>3.1.2</p>	<p>3.1.2 Most relevant area-based management measures are identified and implemented in cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations, through global and regional tools (SPAMIs, FRAs, PSSAs, etc.), including for the conservation of ABNJ, taking into consideration the information on Mediterranean EBSAs.</p>	<p>1. Provide coordinated support to Contracting Parties in identifying and planning relevant joint management measures at subregional level to achieve GES in ABNJ or where the limits of jurisdiction have not yet been defined</p>	<p>Consultancies, synergy actions with partners, in house coordination</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>REMP EC</p>	<p>GFCM, IMO, ACCOB AMS, CBD</p>	<p>One to two pilots/sites identified and selected; Relevant area based management measures identified and concerned Parties supported for their elaboration, having regard of existing legal frameworks and regimes including maritime traffic, fisheries regulations, SPAs and SPAMIs</p>	<p>SPA Focal Points expressed their willing to develop future work on spatial management measures by focusing in areas where EBSAs information was already available through work undertaken with their own implication. The EBSA process provided to the Parties a common scientific basis to promote Area-Based Conservation Measures (ABCMs), including MPAs (as stated in Aichi Target 11) and a scientific tool, contributing to the development of a sound network of Mediterranean SPAMIs</p>
<p>3.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>								
<p>3.2.1</p>	<p>Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats, on species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management are updated to achieve GES.</p>	<p>1. Implement the Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species, key habitats, and species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management are updated to achieve GES</p>	<p>consultancies, collaboration with national and regional partners</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>REMP EC</p>	<p>ACCOB AMS, Action Plans Partners and Associates, CPs, MAVA Foundation</p>	<p>- Relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation actions towards the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species elaborated. - Progress on the implementation of Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats supported through pilot actions addressing scientific meetings and workshops at national and regional levels. - Progress on the implementation of Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered</p>	<p>-As provided for in the Action Plan for the conservation of Marine turtles, cetaceans, elasmobranchs and marine birds -External funds under discussion with MAVA foundation in relation with the Marine turtles, cetaceans, elasmobranchs and marine birds conservation in the Mediterranean and on marine key habitats</p>

							and threatened species and key habitats assessed at national and regional levels. - Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats updated notably their timetables, taking into account the IMAP (Monk Seal Strategy, Cartilaginous Fishes AP, Marine Turtles AP, Marine Vegetation AP).	
3.2.2	Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species, key habitats, for non-indigenous species control and prevention as well as the management of marine and coastal protected areas developed/updated and disseminated	1. Elaborate Guidelines for the conservation of Mediterranean marine key habitats and non-indigenous species	Consultancy, in-house coordination	SPA/RAC		Action Plan Partners, CPs	Guidelines for the assessment of environmental impact on coralligenous/maërl assemblages elaborated	Guidelines for the assessment of environmental impact on coralligenous/maërl assemblages elaborated for the review of the Meeting of the SPA RAC FP in 2019

<p>3.2.3</p>	<p>Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) applied in selected areas at a pilot level linking coastal and open sea areas subject to major pressures. To this end the information on EBSA areas could be used.</p>	<p>1. Apply MSP and ICZM within a selected area, including EBSAs, aiming to identify most relevant area-based management options at a pilot level</p>	<p>Ad-hoc projects developed with Parties' and external support</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>PAP/RAC, CU</p>	<p>CBD, GFCM, IMO</p>	<p>A further MSP pilot project elaborated taking into account areas subject to major pressures. MSP pilot project implementation outputs as assigned to RAC/SPA in the Adriatic sub-region.</p>	<p>Project: Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning (GEF), MSP pilot project in cooperation with relevant RACs (PAP/RAC) and Partners, launched in the Adriatic sub-region, including dissemination of knowledge and experience in developing marine spatial plans (benefited with GEF support)</p>
<p>3.3 Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures.</p>								
<p>3.3.1</p>	<p>NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and on species introductions and invasive species developed/updated</p>	<p>1. Support countries to update/develop new SAP BIO NAPs on biodiversity including for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats</p>	<p>Consultancies, in house coordination</p>	<p>SPA/RAC</p>	<p>REMP EC</p>	<p>CPs, Action Plan Partners</p>	<p>At least two CPs formulate National Action Plans streamlining the requirement of the Regional AP for the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats to achieve GES and meet the ecosystem approach based MAP ecological objectives on biodiversity, in line with Aichi Targets and the Nagoya Protocol, incorporating SCP Regional Action Plan priority actions and climate change adaptation priority fields of action</p>	<p>- As provided for in the Action plan or the conservation of Mediterranean threatened and endangered species and key habitats in line with EcAp - Activity will be further developed according to the assessment of the SAPBIO NAPs</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	Consultancies, in house coordination	SPA/RAC		CPs, Action Plan Partners	A desktop study on cave habitats elaborated and the Mediterranean coralligenous report updated.	- As provided for in the Action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean key habitats (Coralligenous and dark habitats) -Medkeyhabitats II project under preparation within MAVA Strategy
			Consultancies, collaboration with national institutions	SPA/RAC		GFCM, ACCOB AMS, IUCN, BirdLife, MAVA	Joint reports on case studies of fisheries affecting through bycatch vertebrate species covered by Regional Action Plans and listed in Annex II, to facilitate appropriate taking of mitigation measures	Bycatch project under preparation within MAVA Strategy
3.3.2	National measures developed and implemented to strengthen the protection and the management of relevant marine and coastal sites, especially those containing threatened habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats)	1. Undertake ecological, socio-economic and stakeholders assessments, and elaborate management plans for newly created/future MPAs in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia; Develop communication and information tools on MPA issues	In-house coordination, external expertise, national workshops	SPA/RAC	CU	MedPAN , WWF	Ecological/socio-economic assessment reports elaborated and results disseminated; One management plan elaborated; Communication activities undertaken	Regional Working Programme on MPAs (Decision IG.19/13) Roadmap on MPAs (Decision IG.22/13) MedMPA Network project (EU-UN Environment/MAP)

		2. Support the management and expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya	In-house coordination, external expertise, national workshops	SPA/RAC	CU	IUCN, WWF	The Libyan Marine Protected Areas National Strategy implemented; Marine key habitats mapped and marine megafauna (mammals, seabirds, turtles and cartilaginous fishes) monitored; Libyan national staff trained on MPA networks planning and management, marine key habitats mapping, and marine megafauna monitoring	Regional Working Programme on MPAs (Decision IG.19/13) Roadmap on MPAs (Decision IG.22/13) Action Plans on Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, and Dark Habitats MedProgramme project (GEF-UN Environment/MAP) Not yet secured
		3. Support countries to increase the knowledge of deep sea areas under their national jurisdiction to facilitate their conservation	Consultancies, collaboration with national and regional institutions	SPA/RAC		National Partners, CPs, IUCN-med, MedPAN, MAVA foundation	Several marine key habitats mapped and their vulnerability to fishing activities assessed to support the planning and management of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean	As provided for in the Action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean key habitats Priorities of SAPBIO Medkeyhabitats II project under preparation within MAVA Strategy
			Consultancies, collaboration with national and regional institutions	SPA/RAC		National Partners, CPs, IUCN-med, GFCM, Birdlife, MAVA foundation	Marine threatened and endangered megafauna (mammals, seabirds, turtles and cartilaginous fishes) monitoring supported in open sea and deep sea areas under national jurisdiction in line with IMAP	Activities on marine turtles could be funded by the MAVA project under preparation

3.4 Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats.								
3.4.1	Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts (...)	1a. Support the development and implementation of National /sub-regional Monitoring Programme(s) in line with biodiversity cluster of IMAP	In house coordination External expertise Regional meeting	SPA/RAC	Contracting Parties, CU and other Components	ACCOB AMS, IUCN, GFCM, Birdlife, MEDAS SET	- Indicator guidance factsheets for common indicators related to biodiversity and NIS (EO 1, 2) further developed, - Monitoring Protocols for Common Indicators developed/updated, - CORMON meeting on Biodiversity successfully held, - IMAP National/sub-regional monitoring activity carried out	EcAp-MEDII project New project on pilot monitoring for southern Mediterranean countries (to be planned)
			Consultancies, collaboration with national institutions	SPA/RAC	Contracting Parties, CU and other Components	National partners	National Monitoring programmes for threatened and endangered species and key habitats carried out within the implementation of regional Action plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and marine key habitats in the Mediterranean.	-Action Plans on Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes, Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, and Dark Habitats -National monitoring programmes on marine turtles and marine key habitats will be funded through the MAVA project, which is under preparation
		1b. Support the development and implementation of National /sub-regional Monitoring Programme(s) in line with biodiversity cluster of IMAP	Consultancies, collaboration with national institutions	SPA/RAC	Contracting Parties, CU and other Components	National partners	Sub-regional monitoring programme on common indicators for biodiversity proposed for the Adriatic Sea in line with IMAP cluster on biodiversity and fisheries	Part II/Section Two and Annex I of the SPA/BD Protocol COP 19 Decision on the SPAMI List (Decision IG.22/14) Italy-UN Environment/MAP agreement (Not yet secured)
		2. Run in 2018 the ordinary periodic review of the 7 SPAMIs included in the list in 2012, and	In-house coordination, external expertise	SPA/RAC	CU	SPA/RAC Focal Points and MPA managers	The ordinary periodic review aimed at making an in depth assessment of SPAMI management effectiveness undertaken for the 19 SPAMIs included in	Ordinary periodic reviews of areas included in the SPAMI List, as adopted by the COP 15 Decision IG 17/12

		in 2019 the ordinary periodic review of the 12 SPAMIs included in the list in 2001					the list in 2001 and 2012. The report, main findings and recommendations submitted to SPA/RAC Focal Point meeting in 2019.	
		3. Assess the progress made in implementing the Roadmap on MPAs by the Contracting Parties	In-house coordination, external expertise	SPA/RAC	Contracting Parties, CU and other Components	MedPAN, WWF, IUCN, ACCOBAMS, GFCM	The progress made (success and possible failure) by the Mediterranean countries towards achieving the Aichi Target 11 evaluated and post-2020 targets set for the region.	Roadmap on MPAs (Decision IG.22/13)
3.4.2	Biodiversity conservation assessment tools (in-depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator fact sheets) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and measure the effectiveness of the SAP BIO NAPs and Regional Action Plans implementation.	1. Evaluate SAP BIO implementation and its impact in Mediterranean conservation, including through the biodiversity action plans.	2 regional workshops of SAPBIO national correspondents (one back to back with SPA FP meeting) plus consultancies and conference services, in house coordination (consultancies; participation of delegates; Preparation /translation of documents)	SPA/RAC	CU and other Components	Parties, SAP BIO National Correspondents, Partners	SAP BIO Implementation 2003-2018 evaluated. Main achievements, gaps and needed future directions based in lessons learnt identified, allowing building a new Strategic Programme to be implemented in the future, fully embracing current SDGs and EcAp emerged needs, in harmonization also with Contracting Parties engagements towards the CBD. The evaluation results transmitted to SPA FPs.	After reaching the initially planned 15 years timeframe of implementation, the SAP BIO needs to be evaluated to assess its impact on Mediterranean biodiversity conservation so opening the possibility to develop a new strategic programme based on achievements and lessons learnt and fully embracing current SDGs and ECAP emerged needs. The demanded implication by Parties in this evaluation requires not only in-home and consultancies work, but also two meetings of National Correspondents of SAP BIO to fully allow their participation in the process.
		2. Draft the SOED chapter on marine and coastal biodiversity and MPA/SPAMI	In house expertise, consultancy	SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu	CU, MAP components	The process for the evaluation of the SAP BIO implementation will be complemented with an in depth analysis of its achievements and gaps to deliver the thematic chapter of the SOED Report	SOED Report needs the important input of the SAP BIO implementation results to weight its contribution to environmental conservation in the Region
3.4.3	Common indicators on biodiversity and non-indigenous species monitored through IMAP in MPAs and SPAMIs, and relevant	1. Cooperate at sub-regional level to test joint monitoring activities in selected area,	In house coordination, External expertise	SPA/RAC	Contracting Parties, CU, info/RAC	ACCOBAMS, GFCM, MEDAS SET, BirdLife	Data sets about common indicators collected in selected MPAs/SPAMIs and integrated in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform.	Implementation of the EcApMed II project in the Eastern Mediterranean focusing on fisheries and NIS common indicators

	data sets established.	thus supporting countries to implement joint monitoring programs in line with the IMAP recommendations in MPAs/SPAMIs.						
3.4.4	Inventory of vulnerable and fragile coastal and marine ecosystems and assessment of sensitivity and adaptive capacities of coastal and marine ecosystems to changes in sea conditions as well as of the role of services they provide developed.	1. Carry out the inventory of coastal and marine ecosystems of Ghar el Melh lagoon (Tunisia) towards its protection and sustainable management.	in house coordination, external consultancy	SPA/RAC	–	WWF-MedPO	Coastal and marine ecosystems of Ghar el Melh lagoon inventoried and its protection and sustainable management plan elaborated.	Project under preparation (MAVA Foundation funds). Support to SAP BIO Priority actions 1.1. & 2. 7 and 8 with regard to wetlands. Support to Strategic objective 1 of the MPAs roadmap (Decision IG.22/13).
3.5 Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity -related national legislation.								
3.5.1	Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented, including pilots to support efforts	1.Organize specific training courses, workshops, symposia related to the conservation and monitoring of threatened and endangered Mediterranean coastal and marine species, key habitats and NIS	In house coordination, external consultancy,	SPA/RAC	–	–	Training on the monitoring of marine key habitats in the Adriatic region organised	Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning (GEF)
				SPA/RAC	–	Marine Key habitats Action Plan Partners	Training on characterisation, mapping and monitoring of marine key habitats	- As provided for in the Action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean key habitats - Medkeyhabitats II project under preparation within MAVA Strategy

aimed at MPA/SPAMI establishment and implementation.		In house coordination, external consultancy,	SPA/RAC	–	Marine Key habitats Action Plan Partners	Symposia on marine key habitats organised. Proceedings of the 6th Mediterranean symposium on Marine vegetation, the 3rd Mediterranean symposium on Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions, and the 2nd Mediterranean symposium on the dark habitats symposium edited and disseminated.	- As provided for in the Action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean key habitats - Medkeyhabitats II project under preparation within MAVA Strategy
		In house coordination, external consultancy,	SPA/RAC	REMP EC	–	Symposium on marine alien species organised and its proceedings edited and disseminated.	- As provided for in the Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species - This Activity would be organised in closer collaboration with REMPEC under the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for ballast water. - MedNIS project (under development and fund not yet secured)
		Organisation of conferences and trainings	SPA/RAC	–	Bern and Bonn Conventions, ACCOB AMS, National partners	Sixth Mediterranean conference on marine Turtles/Biennial cetaceans conference Proceedings; Reports on capacity building programmes.	_As provided for in the Action Plan for the conservation of Monk seal, Marine turtles, cetaceans, cartilaginous fishes and marine birds _Co-funding will be provided for the organisation of trainings and meetings on Marine turtles issues through MAVA project which is under development.

		2. Organise training of practitioners to follow observatories of the Mediterranean related to biodiversity and human activities and related impacts in marine and coastal areas	Supporting base for training provided by Interoperable observatory platform integrating networks of marine environment and maritime activity observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the coastal zone, with trained practitioners at national levels to operate it	SPA/RAC	–	–	Reports of workshops to train future managers and operators of the National Observatories.	ODYSSEA project (EU funding). Interoperable observatory platform integrating networks of marine environment and maritime activity observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the coastal zone, with trained practitioners at national levels to operate it. ODYSSEA (EU) 305 000 € for RAC/SPA participation , including through training, in the pipeline (t.b.c.). Support to SAP BIO Priority action 6.26
		3. Strengthen and enhance capacity building activities on the conservation of Mediterranean marine biodiversity	Internal expertise and coordination	SPA/RAC	–	–	The results of the capacity building evaluation study (made in 2017) consolidated into a strategy on capacity building on the conservation of Mediterranean marine biodiversity	Article 7 and 22 of the SPA/BD Protocol. A follow-up to the long-term evaluation of SPA/RAC training programmes carried out in 2017

3.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub- regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.								
3.6.1	Joint strategies and programmes on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation developed, by taking into account NAPs in cooperation with relevant partner organizations at global and regional levels	1. Develop and implement an agreed strategic framework for the activities related to Mediterranean marine spatial management and conservation measures with key regional bodies	Joint cooperation strategy between SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, GFCM and IUCN with the collaboration of MedPAN including a guiding document on necessary steps towards joint proposal for the establishment and management of area-based measures at multinational level (Exchanges within countries and regional organisations, in house coordination)	SPA/RAC	Coord. Unit, REMP EC	Contracting Parties, ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN, IMO	Documents and technical workshops outputs delivered to assist countries for the development of joint partner proposal for the establishment and management of area-based measures at multinational level under respective relevant governance umbrellas	The Mid Term Strategy (MTS; Decision IG 22/1) urges partner organizations to collaborate, ensuring synergy with key regional organizations, harmonization of efforts, and optimization of resources use. UNEP/MAP Secretariat cooperation through RAC/SPA with the Secretariats of GFCM, IUCN and ACCOBAMS in collaboration with MedPAN, will aid to deliver coordinated outputs to assist Parties on improving the spatial conservation and sustainable use of the marine living resources in the Mediterranean.
		2. Continue the implementation of existing cooperation agreements, update them and/or develop related joint technical action programmes, and develop new agreements as needed	Common agreements/working programmes or activities documents elaborated, discussed with relevant bodies and presented to Party representatives.	SPA/RAC	CU	Relevant partner organizations	Ongoing MoUs with relevant regional organisations renovated and updated as needed with emphasis on: a) enhancing an adequate monitoring of the Mediterranean ecosystems constituents, and including ongoing and envisaged impacts following the EcAp; b) addressing such impacts through enhanced MSP actions.	EcAp implementation and MSP are the current priorities for the Parties which need to be reflected also on the updates of priority topics of cooperation with other regional bodies

3.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate.								
3.7.1	Coordination with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ (namely concerning marine genetic resources, marine protected areas BBNJ, and SIA)	1. Coordinate with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ (namely concerning marine genetic resources, marine protected areas BBNJ, and SIA)	Consultancies, in home contributions and coordination	SPA/RAC	REMP EC, CU	GFCM, IMO	Documentation contribution to relevant meetings to advance in the topics and reports of participation to BBNJ meetings.	MTS (Decision IG.22/1) UNEP/MAP participation the relevant meetings on BBNJ process needs appropriate technical support to enhance its role and Parties visions during those gatherings, while an appropriate information sharing with Parties on the advances taking place is needed
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION								
7.1. Strengthening the regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.								
7.1.1	Climate Change Adaptation main activities identified and mainstreamed into the implementation of existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures.	1. Cost analysis for the implementation of SAP BIO priority activity on a monitoring network for climate change impact on biodiversity	Consultancy	SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu	Contracting Parties, SPAMI managers and related institutes /universities	Estimation document of annual cost for a monitoring framework embracing five main CC indicators in at least three SPAMIS from different countries	MTS (Decision IG.22/1) There are five CC impact indicators defined and being used in certain SPAMIS
7.4.1	Climate change vulnerability issues considered in existing monitoring programmes	2. Increase the use of harmonized vulnerability and impacts indicators for biodiversity	Consultancies, collaborations with SPAMI managers, related institutes and universities, in house coordination	SPA/RAC	Plan Bleu	Contracting Parties, SPAMI managers and related institutes /universities	Report on cost effective harmonised Climate Change impact indicators tested in SPAMIS from different subregions	MTS (Decision IG.22/1) Testing CC indicators in SPAMIS where they are not used yet is needed to evaluate challenges