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Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points

Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019

**Agenda Item 8.1: Evaluation of the implementation of the SAP BIO during 2004-2018 and orientations for the elaboration of a new post 2020 SAP BIO document**

**Draft evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and orientations for the elaboration of a post-2020 SAP BIO**

For environmental and economy reasons, this document is printed in a limited number and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

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Sixth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

Portorož, Slovenia, 18 June 2019

**Agenda item 3:** Presentation of the Second Draft of the report on the evaluation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)

**Draft evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and orientations for the elaboration of a post-2020 SAP BIO**

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## List of abbreviations

ACCOBAMS	: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black and Mediterranean Seas and contiguous Atlantic area
AFD	: Agence Française de Développement French Development Agency
ASI	: ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative
BIMR	: Biodiversity Information Management and Reporting
CAMP	: Coastal Area Management Plan (Barcelona Convention)
CCH	: Cetacean Critical Habitats (ACCOBAMS)
CBCMed	: Cross Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean
CBD	: Convention on Biological Diversity (UN)
CITES	: Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
COP	: Conference of Parties
EBSA	: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EcAp	: Ecosystem Approach
ECST	: European Charter for Sustainable Tourism
EIA	: Environmental Impact Assessment
ELIS	: Environmental Law Information System (IUCN)
ENPI	: European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument
ERDF	: European Regional Development Fund (EU)
EU	: European Union
EUSAIR	: European Strategy for Adriatic and Southern Ionian Region
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)
FAOLEX	: Legislative and policy database of FAO
FRA	: Fishery Restricted Area (GFCM)
GEF	: Global Environment Facility
GES	: Good Environmental Status (EU)
GFCM	: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO)
GIS	: Geographic Information System
GIZ	: Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – German International Cooperation Agency
ICZM	: Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMAP	: Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (Barcelona Convention)
IMMA	: Important Marine Mammals Areas (IUCN)
IMO	: International Maritime Organization (UN)
InforMEA	: United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements
INTERREG	: Specific programme of the European Regional Development Fund (EU)
IUCN	: International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	: Illegal, Unreported, U fishing
MAB	: Man And Biosphere Programme (UNESCO)
MAMIAS	: Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species (SPA/RAC database)
MAP	: Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP)
MAVA	: MAVA Foundation
MCSD	: Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (UNEP-MAP)
MEDASSET	: Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MedMIS	: Mediterranean Marine Invasive Species
MedPAN	: Mediterranean Protected Areas Network
MedWET	: Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
MEET	: Mediterranean Experience of Eco-Tourism (IUCN)
METT	: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
ML-Repair	: Marine Litter –Repair (EU funded Project)
MOP	: Meeting of Parties
MSFD	: Marine Strategy framework Directive (EU)
NAP	: National Action Plan

- NBSAP : National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (promoted by CBD)
- NDC : National Determined Contribution
- NETCET : Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic
- NGO : Non-Governmental Organization
- NRDC : Natural Resources Defence Council (German Federal Environmental Foundation)
- PAP/RAC : Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Centre (Barcelona Convention)
- PPP : Public Private Partnership
- REMPEC : Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response for the Mediterranean (
- SAP BIO : Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity (SPA/RAC)
- SEA : Strategic Environmental Assessment
- SEE : South Eastern Europe Countries
- SMAP : Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (EU)
- SPA : Specially Protected Areas (Barcelona Convention)
- SPA/BD : Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (1995)
- SPAMI : Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
- SPA/RAC : Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
- UfM : Union for the Mediterranean
- UNDP : United Nations Development Programme
- UNEP : United Nation Environment Programme (now UN Environment)
- UNESCO : United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization
- UNFCCC : United Nations Framework Convention for Climate
- VME : Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (CBD)
- WWF : World Wide Fund for Nature

## FOREWORD

During their Ordinary Meeting held in 2003 (Catania, Italy), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO). The SAP BIO was elaborated following a participative approach that included an evaluation at national and regional levels of the marine and coastal biodiversity as well as the identification of needs and priority actions by the riparian countries. It is made of principles, approaches, measures, targets, timetables and priorities for action to conserve biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. The core of the SAP BIO adopted in 2003 is made of a set of actions to be implemented at national and regional level, including 63 National Action Plans (NAPs) and 30 Regional Priority Actions (RPAs).

Since early 2004 to 2018, the Contracting Parties have been taking measures to implement the NAPs and contributed to achieve the RPAs in the framework of regional and bilateral cooperation. The SPA/RAC and other regional organisations contributed in the implementation of the SAP BIO at regional level and provided assistance to countries to carry out activities in relation to the objectives of SAP BIO.

Fifteen years after the elaboration of the SAP BIO, it has been necessary to make an in-depth evaluation of its implementation, with a view to provide recommendations to develop a new one, tailored to addressing current and future global, regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean. Therefore, during their 20th Ordinary Meeting (Tirana, Albania, December 2017) the Contracting Parties approved the evaluation of SAP BIO implementation as a key output for the 2018-2019 biennium activities of UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC.

This document is the second draft report on the evaluation of SAP BIO implementation. It presents the evaluation elements elaborated by the Secretariat with the help of a team of experts.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report were elaborated first following the analysis of the information provided in different types of documents and web sites, in particular:

- The national reports submitted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention regarding their implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol
- The Fourth and Fifth national reports submitted by the Mediterranean countries to the CBD (at the time of elaboration of this report only one Mediterranean country has submitted its Sixth National Report to the CBD)
- The national reports submitted by the Mediterranean countries to ACCOBAMS
- The following regional assessment reports:
  - The 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report issued by UNEP/MAP
  - The 2016 Mediterranean MPA status compiled by SPA/RAC and MedPAN
  - The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries, the 2018 edition by GFCM
- The ECOLEX portal ([www.ecolex.org](http://www.ecolex.org)) that provides information on environmental law collected through FAOLEX (FAO), ELIS (IUCN) and InforMEA (UNEP).
- The proceedings of the symposia organised within the framework of the Action Plan for the conservation of species (marine turtles, marine vegetation, dark habitats and coralligenous)

In a second step, the SAP BIO National correspondents reviewed the first draft during their Fifth Meeting held in Marseilles, France (13-14 February 2019) and provided their comments, remarks and recommendations to further finalise the evaluation. Their inputs were then used by SPA/RAC to prepare this second version of the draft evaluation that will be submitted to a second round of

consultation with the SAP BIO National Correspondents planned to take place at the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Thematic SPA/BD Focal Points meeting to be held on June 2019 in Portoroz, Slovenia.

## Section 1: Evaluation of the implementation of Priority Action

### **INVENTORYING, MAPPING AND MONITORING MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY**

#### **Priority Action 1: Undertake a complete and integrated inventory (by sub-region) of sensitive Mediterranean coastal, wetland, and marine habitats**

##### Status of implementation:

The **mapping of habitats** benefited from the use of GIS technologies that has made great progresses in many Mediterranean countries. Indeed, GIS and associated database are becoming a standard for recording and mapping the spatial distribution of sensitive habitats, analyse changes and develop indicators to propose management measures. The development of this tool is variable from country to country and varies for the different sensitive habitats. The most covered habitats are Posidonia meadows, wetlands, marine turtle nesting sites and recently rhodolith beds and coralligenous assemblages. Furthermore, regional or sub regional databases are being developed and include where possible specific habitats such as seagrass meadows.

Sporadic mapping of sensitive habitat has been done in many Mediterranean countries. The most covered habitats are Posidonia meadows for which map coverage was elaborated at national level in some countries (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain) and is underway in specific areas for other countries (Algeria, Montenegro, Tunisia, Turkey). Also, during the last ten years, initiatives were undertaken to collect data about deep-sea habitats and their associated species.

Portals available online were built thanks to the coordination of Regional Organisations. One example is the initiative launched for the Alboran sea where Spain, Morocco and Algeria are joining efforts to develop a portal (the Alboran Sea portal) covering multiple aspects of the marine environment and in particular providing elements for specific habitats, such as seagrass meadows and coralligenous formation. Another example is the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory (MWO) established in 2008 at the request of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) as a multi-partner project coordinated by Tour du Valat (TdV), the Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands, based in Arles, France. It assisted several Mediterranean countries to establish, complete or update their national inventories of wetlands, using the guiding principles of the Framework for Wetland Inventory developed under the Ramsar Convention.

Initiatives for capacity building were undertaken in relation to marine habitat mapping of countries. The MedkeyHabitat projects provided assistance to some South and East Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Montenegro, and Turkey) to build their capacity for marine habitat mapping. These projects benefited from the financial support of the MAVA Foundation and were implemented under the coordination of SPA/RAC in collaboration with a number of partner organisations (IUCN, OCEANA, WWF).

**Checklists of species** associated with each sensitive habitat were, to some extent, prepared in the EU Member States through development of interpretation manuals for marine habitats pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive. A similar interpretation tool was prepared by SPA/RAC for the habitats listed in the Reference List of Habitats for inventorying sites of conservation interest. However, although some general checklists for marine and coastal species exist in some countries (e.g: the checklist of marine species in all Italian seas, published in 2010 or the permanently updated of the French waters species check list by the MNHN in collaboration with the French agency for Biodiversity), such lists are still lacking for many other countries.

**Habitats monitoring programmes** have been developed in few countries, particularly for Posidonia meadows and coralligenous formations, but their implementation is limited.

In the western Mediterranean, the mapping of seagrass meadows and the installation of a monitoring system for its deeper extension have been completed for *Posidonia oceanica*.

Standard monitoring protocols were developed for Posidonia meadows, coralligenous assemblages and other sensitive habitats, but their use is still limited, for coralligenous formations or dark habitats, in particular due to the reduced number of specialists.

In the Southern and Eastern part of the Mediterranean, efforts are variable with good knowledge of seagrass coverage in Tunisia, limited in Libya and Egypt.

The long-term monitoring of habitat and species is expected to improve in the coming years in the Mediterranean thanks to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme being developed within the framework of the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention as well as the monitoring requirements set under the MSFD and Habitat Directive of the European Union. By the end of 2018, the national monitoring programmes in relation to the biodiversity Ecological Objectives of EcAp and the Descriptors of the MSFD are expected to be finalised and ready to be operational, pending availability of resources.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

The EU Member States benefit from EU funding or co-funding for inventorying and monitoring activities. EU has funded different programmes: the red list of habitats project for all European Seas, covering all the European Mediterranean countries; the allocation of ESI or EU IPA CBC funds with national co-funding for the Cross-border programme Croatia – Montenegro.

RAC/SPA assisted in development and partial implementation of habitat mapping with GEF's support for the MedMPA and MedKeyHabitats projects in particular.

Activities in some countries have been implemented through bilateral cooperation (e.g. 2011 project on start-up of the Katič MPA in Montenegro, supported by Italian government).

GIZ supported implementation of the BIMR sub-project in the scope of the project Open Regional Fund for SEE / biodiversity.

MAVA foundation is concluding soon a programme in numerous countries in three priority areas (Alboran Sea, Sicily-Tunisia region and South-Eastern Aegean Sea) and has supported a deep-sea campaign in Lebanon in 2016.

Croatia started a marine habitat mapping project in 2018, with the support from the EU structural and investment funds (ESI) for the 2014-2020 financial period, which should result with detailed map of all marine habitats.

In 2018, with the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds, Slovenia carried out the mapping of Natura 2000 marine habitat types and made an overview and description of all the benthic habitat types along with a general map of their distribution as well as with the list of possible threats affecting them.

#### Main difficulties for implementation

Some countries usually report lack of financial and technical capacities for inventorying and monitoring, including lack of monitoring equipment. As a result, there is significant lack of data collection or processing and/or lack of organisation of existing data, particularly in the non-EU countries, due to a lack of expertise. The lack of comprehensive baseline data is also reported among the difficulties faced by some countries, in particular in the south and east Mediterranean

### **Priority Action 2- Establish of a monitoring system of endangered and threatened species**

#### Status of implementation:

During the last decade, several monitoring initiatives were launched in particular to monitor the populations and habitats of endangered species (monk seal, turtles, some marine bird species, Posidonia

meadows, coralligenous assemblages, cetaceans, cartilaginous fishes, etc.) in the Mediterranean. Most of these initiatives are supported by international/regional organisations such as SPA/RAC that provide assistance (training programmes, funding, action plans, preparation of management plans for protected areas and species, etc.) and facilitation (an updated standardisation of monitoring methods of Marine Magnoliophyta, coralligenous and rhodoliths assemblages, organisation of conferences and workshops).

Monitoring activities of endangered species are mostly sporadic and implemented at national level.

At regional level, significant efforts have been made for inventorying and monitoring of cetaceans and sea turtles in the scope of the EU IPA Adriatic NETCET project, the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) and LIFE EUROTURTLES project.

IUCN Red Lists have been developed at national levels. Conservation status pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive has been assessed in the EU MS 27 countries after the 2007 – 2013 reporting period.

Updating of regional Red List of cetaceans is pursued in the scope of ACCOBAMS.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

As already mentioned, the EU funds are being used for transboundary projects on inventorying and monitoring of seagrass beds, cetaceans and sea turtles in the region and more specifically in the Adriatic, such as IPA Adriatic transboundary programme or LIFE programme, or around Maltese Islands (<https://lifebahar.org.mt/life-bahar-for-n2k/>) or along the Spanish coast (Projects Indemares and Intemares); or in the Alboran sea, the Siculo-Tunisian channel and the South-Eastern Aegean Sea for seabirds, turtles and cetaceans under MAVA funding.

In the scope of ACCOBAMS a first comprehensive survey of cetaceans (plus other marine species) in most of the Mediterranean was carried out in 2018 – ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative project (ASI).

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

As with Activity 1 – lack of financial and technical capacities, in particular lack of specialists in certain fields. Lack of field data to be used as baseline information is also reported.

### **Priority Action 3- Promote the adequate monitoring and survey of the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas**

#### Status of implementation:

Concerning the **Scientifically-based monitoring on effectiveness of MCPA**, monitoring of certain indicators to measure effectiveness is being implemented to some extent in the MPAs. Since 2012 Croatia also performs periodical qualitative evaluations of management effectiveness based on the METT methodology (Management effectiveness tracking tool).

At the regional level, MEDPAN and SPA/RAC are preparing a review of the status of marine protected areas including evaluation of the effectiveness, but less than 10% of the existing MPAs have a proper management plan and a proper implementation.

Adequate **management plans** for MPAs are developed in some countries (Croatia, Italy, France, Slovenia, Spain), based on specific guidelines for their preparation, within participatory mechanism similar to those using for EIA.

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

The main reported difficulties for implementation of monitoring programmes for the effectiveness of MPAs relate to the lack of financial resources and technical capacity.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Support from international and/or regional organisations: The UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) has been active in the region, as a collective effort of leading organizations (regional, international, non-governmental) and Mediterranean countries working towards protecting the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean Sea. Under this partnership, a WWF's project MedPAN South was implemented (2009 –

2012), including development of management plans for MPA's and capacity building to advance MPA management planning in numerous countries, using other countries lessons learned.

**Priority Action 4- Identify, develop, and validate adequate biological and socioeconomic indicators to assess the ecological health of sensitive habitats and species, and to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures**

All the activities included under SAP BIO for this Priority Action relate to indicators to be set for SAP BIO, in particular a regional strategy on SAP BIO indicators and a list of useful SAP BIO indicators. These activities could be now covered by the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme elaborated within the framework of the EcAp process. However, the developed indicators can only be used for the next phase of SAP BIO, provided it is adequately harmonised with the Ecological Objectives of the EcAp.

**CONSERVATION OF SENSITIVE HABITATS, SPECIES AND SITES**

**Priority Action 5- Update, coordinate and enforce legislation to conserve biodiversity**

Status of implementation:

All Mediterranean countries have adopted new or updated their legislation for protection or conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including species, habitats or sites, based on national, regional and/or international instruments. A list of the legal texts promulgated by the Mediterranean countries appears in the Annex 1 to this report.

Between 2010 and 2016, eleven countries have adopted a new legislation on protected areas, such as Morocco in 2010 and Algeria in 2011. During the same period, thirteen have established new administrations such as MPA, Biodiversity, or Environment Agency or Authority (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

Others have adopted a national strategy or guidelines for Marine and coastal protected areas, such as Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Egypt, Lebanon and Libya, reinforcing their activities to support their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) as recommended by the CBD.

In the Adriatic, all countries have adopted legislation regulating protection of species, habitats or sites and legislation is being harmonised with the EU standards even in the non-EU countries.

Achievement for enforcement

The implementation is sometimes partial and incomplete, as the legal instruments was not always supported by decrees or regulations allowing the enforcement and clearly defining the mandate of administrations in charge of strict enforcement, concerning both land and sea conservation and management.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of coordination and cooperation between different administration governing the different relevant sectors of activities for the marine and coastal environment, lack of clear mandate for MPAs, reluctance to develop co-management practices and public private partnerships for conservation when necessary, sector-based lobbying, lack of technical and financial capacities.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Transposition of the EU environmental acquis Communautaire is carried out in the scope of the EU supported projects for the Adriatic countries.

IUCN issued a synthetic document on international and regional instruments applicable to the Mediterranean region for marine and coastal conservation.

WWF provided support for developing management system in numerous countries.

### **Priority Action 6- Develop actions to conserve threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) Mediterranean species**

#### Status of implementation:

The coordination of Action Plans is the responsibility of SPA/RAC, as they are the responsible authority for the follow up of the adopted conservation plan for the Mediterranean region. To-date, 8 conservation plans exist for marine species and habitats: monk seals, marine turtles, cetaceans, marine vegetation, marine birds, cartilaginous fishes, coralligenous and bio-concretion formation and dark habitats (another cover exotic species). For some of them, the coordination and cooperation is developed with a specialised organisation such as ACCOBAMS for cetaceans, Fishes with GFCM, marine birds with Birdlife or IUCN with endangered species and red list assessments.

Monitoring of species is sporadic and mostly done at national level, with some regionally implemented activities like monitoring of cetaceans, marine turtles or marine birds.

Cetaceans, marine turtles and birds have been covered for most part of the Mediterranean by an aerial and boat survey during the summer 2018 within the framework of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, funded by numerous organisations (in particular MAVA foundation) and countries.

All over the years, the EU has been funding numerous projects such as those for the conservation of cetaceans and marine turtles (IPA Adriatic NETCET project and LIFE EUROTURTLES project).

The cartilaginous fish appear to be the least known species among vertebrates.

In addition, knowledge on numerous marine species is incomplete or inadequate for evaluating their status, habitat or rarity, such as the invertebrates or the deep corals.

In some EU member states species national monitoring programs are being established for certain species linked to implementation of the relevant EU Directives and in the scope of the EU MSFD implementation. In this context, species and habitats are being protected through establishment of Natura 2000 or other marine protected areas, as countries are enforcing the Habitats and Bird Directives.

Other countries have defined sites of ecological or biological importance, such as Morocco, being considered for future conservation and other countries are using their national strategy and relevant list of sites to be considered in the future.

National stranding networks for monitoring incidental mortality of marine species such as cetaceans, sea turtles and cartilaginous fish are organised in different countries, such as Croatia, Italy or Lebanon and Tunisia, with the support of SPA/RAC, GFCM and ACCOBAMS for some countries.

For the legislation improvement and enforcement, please consult the section 5 just above.

Main difficulties for implementation: Lack of finances and capacities/expertise, particularly in some of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

The EU has provided important funding for research on species, habitat and management activities for protection and conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas.

Other organisations have invested time, efforts and funding such as IUCN, WWF, OCEANA for the deep sea, MAVA for specific areas.

**Priority Action 7- Develop Protect marine and coastal sites of particular interest**Status of implementation:

At the regional level, an important effort has been done for developing the network of marine protected areas, first in number, moving from 700 before 2010 to 1249 by end 2016, and some more since. Also, in terms of surface area, moving from 4.5% in 2012 to more than 7% of the Mediterranean end of 2016. Considering only the territorial waters, the result is even more impressive, as altogether, the Mediterranean countries Marine Protected Areas cover more than 14%.

At the national level, end of 2016 only Croatia, France and Monaco are over the 10% recommended by the Aichi target 11 and four other countries (Cyprus, Italy, Spain and Turkey) are between 9 and 10%. Other countries have also made significant progress. Concerning the other aspects covered by the Aichi target 11 (effectiveness and equitability of management, representativeness and connectivity), the assessment undertaken by MedPAN and SPA/RAC within the framework of the elaboration of the report on the Status of the Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea (2012 and 2016) showed that gaps in management of MPAs still exist in Mediterranean (lack of management plans and low level of implementation of management measures, mainly because of constraints in financial resources and technical capacity). Furthermore, the Mediterranean network of MPAs is not yet coherent since long stretches of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean coasts are devoid of MPAs and in the other zones most of the MPAs are located in the coastal zones.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of finance and capacities/expertise, particularly in some of the southern and eastern countries.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

In the last decade, several regional projects were implemented in the Mediterranean with support from GEF, from the EU, from bilateral donors (FFEM, French, German Italian and Spanish Cooperation, and from foundations such as MAVA, supporting the development of the networks in countries. UNEP/MAP, IUCN, MedPAN, WWF, SPA/RAC, OCEANA, BirdLife, and multiple other international and regional organisations have participated to the efforts for improving conservation, with specific focus on the weaknesses identified, management plans, capacity building, knowledge, monitoring and financing.

A benchmark regarding the support to protect marine and coastal sites of particular interest has been the creation of the Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). It was established under Monaco law in 2015 as a cooperation platform bringing together governments, regional organizations and civil society. Membership in the M2PA is open to States that have confirmed their commitment to implementing an ambitious policy to support MPAs and that have explicitly demonstrated their support to the initiative.

To date, Albania, Croatia, France, Monaco, Morocco, and Tunisia are members of the Association. The M2PA is also open to regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems, such as the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), the network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF Mediterranean, the International Union for Conservation of Nature - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), Initiative PIM (Petites Iles Méditerranéennes), and the French Conservatoire du littoral. Private donors have joined the initiative, such as the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation. The Basel Zoo and the Monaco oceanographic Museum provide part of their admission fees proceeds to support M2PA

### **Priority Action 8 - Declare and develop new coastal and marine protected areas including in the high seas**

#### Status of implementation:

In general, there is an increasing trend of identifying and setting up new marine and coastal protected areas according to specific criteria based on the biological importance, the representativeness and the connectivity between site, but the opportunistic approach remains the choice in some countries where negotiations are difficult to develop and opposition from sectorial groups is important.

Areas important for biodiversity conservation, including offshore and near shore areas, are identified at the national and at the regional level. At the regional level, a meeting organised under the auspices of the CBD took place in Malaga for the identification of Mediterranean Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA), and 17 sites were identified, 15 of them being confirmed in a follow up meeting.

With another approach, GFCM is encouraging the countries in developing Marine protected areas based on the management of fisheries, near shore, in the form of fisheries reserves taking into account the ecosystem approach and including the conservation of species or habitats in their objectives, and offshore, promoting the declaration of Fisheries Restricted Areas. In addition, following the CBD recommendations, GFCM promote the identification of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) in particular in relation with trawling activities.

ACCOBAMS, focusing on cetacean conservation, has also identified Critical Cetacean Ecosystem in all the Mediterranean and is encouraging the countries in declaring these sites or promoting a precautionary approach in relation with threatening activities (fisheries, noise, pollution, etc.).

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

Lengthy designation procedures. For marine areas outside the national jurisdiction, demanding bilateral or multilateral negotiation processes, particularly in context of existing disputes over boundaries in marine area.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Support from CBD, IUCN, GFCM and ACCOBAMS for recognition of some areas, particularly offshore, such as EBSA, CCH-IMMA and FRA. Support from the EU for projects at regional or sub-regional level.

### **Priority Action 9: Develop existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas**

#### Status of implementation:

Although the evaluation of management effectiveness is still not a common practice in the region. many reports indicate that a limited number of marine and coastal protected areas were properly managed, having all the necessary facilities to develop, implement, review, monitor and evaluate their management plan, often due to a lack of proper legislation, funding, trained staff and enforcement of the regulations.

After completion of Natura 2000 network, Italy is focussing more on adequate management. Standardized measures for effective management of marine protected areas were developed in 2011 (in the scope of ISEA project) and are being implemented. In 2018 Croatia started a project on management of Natura 2000, with the support from ESI funds. The project will include preparation of management plans for certain marine Natura 2000 sites.

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of legal and institutional framework

Lack of integrated decision between all the components/activities in and around a marine protected area (ICZM, Marine spatial planning and management)

Lack of participation of all relevant stakeholders

Lack of financial and human resources.

Lack of education and awareness

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

EU funding, UNEP/MAP, GEF, FFEM, European Commission, MAVVA Foundation, bilateral cooperation, NGOs and others.

All institutional international, regional and Mediterranean partners are involved.

## **ASSESSING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF THREATS ON BIODIVERSITY**

### **Priority Action 10- Monitor of global trade and economic policies and trends from a Mediterranean perspective, to analyse their scope and probable effects on biodiversity**

#### Status of implementation

In the scope of the EU (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) funded and WWF coordinated MedTrends project, an assessment was performed in 2016 on transnational economic growth in the Mediterranean to assess the capacity to face future environmental pressures and conflicts between economic sectors.

Plan Bleu, one of the regional activity centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan is looking at sectorial activities and their impacts on the environment. In addition, meetings have been organised to evaluate the Mediterranean ecosystems and species and others have concerned the blue economy and its importance in the Mediterranean.

Nevertheless, there is no comprehensive analysis for the Mediterranean as a whole but more at the sub regional level, such as the Adriatic, or for a set of countries, such as the European ones.

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

Limited information available

No real programme for the evaluation of the potential impacts of economic policies and trends on biodiversity.

### **Priority Action 11- Establish a regional monitoring programme following up the socio-economic impact of changes in biodiversity**

The Plan Bleu has done some progress in this matter, but there are little results and visibility.

### **Priority Action 12- Assess the potential impact of climate change and rise in sea level on Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity**

#### Status of implementation

In general, not much has been done on this issue, even if meetings have been held in Paris and Marrakech. The topic is more a political and economic issue for all countries. Countries are developing their National strategies for climate adaptation such as France, Italy or Croatia. Following the COP21 of the UNFCCC (Paris, France, 2015) most of the Mediterranean countries elaborated their first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that embody the efforts by each country to reduce national

emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Only a very limited number of them included the marine biodiversity among the issues addressed by the adaptation component of their submitted NDC.

Following a request by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, SPA/RAC undertook a series of expert consultations to prepare a report on the situation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and on the impact of climate change observed. In this context it elaborated a bibliographic database and a synthesis of relevant available documents and an initial status of knowledge. It also coordinated groups of experts to prepare a detailed insight on vulnerability and impacts of climate change on Mediterranean biodiversity. The works of the experts was organised to cover several sub-regions in the Mediterranean, and included four sub-regional meetings with countries technical representatives. It led to the elaboration in 2009 of a series of Sub-regional reports and a regional synthesis on vulnerability and impacts of climate change on marine and coastal biological diversity, which is after already ten years the solely such approach by a Regional Sea to prepare a comprehensive bottom-up insight of climate change effects in marine ecosystems, involving all concerned riparian countries.

As climate risks extend well past territorial boundaries, a cross-border collaborative and coordinated regional approach to adaptation is required, promoting synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements. Therefore, adaptation policies and measures anticipating a wide range of potential climate-related risks are essential.

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016), endorsed a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Its main objective is to define a regional strategic approach to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal natural and socioeconomic systems to the impacts of climate change, assisting policy makers and stakeholders at all levels across the Mediterranean in the development and implementation of coherent and effective policies and measures.

The focus of the Framework, coherently with the legal framework set by the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, is on the marine and coastal environments of the Mediterranean. The Framework recognizes that climatic changes will have impacts that do not respect the boundaries of a coastal zone as it is usually defined, and that coastal adaptation actions may be required further inland, in particular in inland watersheds.

Following the endorsement of the Framework, the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan system offers it to policy makers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region as a structured outline to facilitate the identification of strategic objectives, strategic directions and priorities for adapting to climate change.

At the ground level, current projects are so far looking at a better knowledge of the changes in temperature of water, sea level rise (monitoring in Venice and its lagoon, Italy), changes in species location, arrival and installation of exotic or invasive species, range reduction or extension of some ecosystems or species, changes in the timing and areas of reproduction, nursery.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Scarcity of data, limited financial, technical and human resources.

Need for a multi sectorial approach and inter-ministerial coordination

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Most the efforts deployed relate to the terrestrial environment. Indeed, only a limited number of projects supported by international or regional organisations covered the impact of climate change on marine biodiversity (Climadapt EU project on adaptation concerning in particular Morocco Algeria and Tunisia and the MedSeA EU project on acidification).

### **Priority Action 13 - Assess the potential impact of threats on Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity**

#### Status of implementation

Most Mediterranean countries are carrying out, for waters under their jurisdiction, assessments of the state of their marine environment, for all countries as part of their commitments to the Barcelona Convention and for European countries as part also of implementing the European Directive on Marine Strategy (2008/56/EC), monitoring programmes and programmes of measures to achieve the Good Environmental status (GES).

For marine and coastal biodiversity, the national monitoring programmes should be conducted according to a more coherent and comprehensive approach. Indeed, most of the activities in this field are conducted opportunistically according to the availability of funding. However, pollution hot spots areas have been identified through various analyses, such as MedTrends project assessment in 2016. MedTrends report also includes analysis of pressures from different economic sectors.

At wider Mediterranean level, underwater noise hot spots have been identified in the scope of ACCOBAMS implementation. A detailed overview was prepared in 2017 on underwater anthropogenic noise, impacts on marine biodiversity and mitigation measures in the south-eastern European part of the Mediterranean, focussing on seismic surveys, in the scope of OceanCare/DBU (German Federal Environmental Foundation)/NRDC (Natural resources defence council) project. The mapping of underwater noise in the Adriatic should start in 2019 in the scope of the EU Italy- Croatia Interreg SOUNDSCAPE project.

Furthermore, within the framework of the implementation of the Second Cycle of the MSFD in the Mediterranean Sea, the quietMED project was launched to improve the level of coherence and the comparability as regards Descriptor 11 (underwater noise) of the MSFD by enhancing cooperation among Mediterranean Sea Basin countries. The Joint register of impulsive underwater noise in the Mediterranean Sea is among the main expected outputs of the Project. It is intended as a joint tool for providing and sharing information on anthropogenic impulsive sound in water.

The monitoring of bycatch in endangered species was also addressed in some Mediterranean countries to comply with their obligations towards GFCM and EU Directives (for EU Member States).

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

Lack of financial resources to make the inventories is the main identified hindrance to the development of the assessment programmes.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

With the support from EU funding, WWF coordinated implementation of the MedTrends project. Underwater noise related assessments were supported by ACCOBAMS, NGO OceanCare together with German foundation DBU and NGO NRDC. EU funding continues to support activities to address underwater noise issue in the future.

During the two last years, an initiative supported by the MAVA Foundation was launched jointly by regional organisations (GFCM, SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife International, MEDASSET) to assess the extent and impact of bycatch on threatened or endangered species (cetacean, turtles, birds, etc.). The Project covers three Mediterranean Countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey), while expected outcomes, including the ones facilitated by regional output tools, would benefit the whole Mediterranean region on this field.

**Priority Action 14 - Mitigate the direct impact of international trade in endangered species**Status of implementation

Most Mediterranean countries are parties to CITES, which requires checking of important and exports of endangered species. In addition, EU Member States implement provisions from the relevant EU Wildlife trade regulation. Capacity building of CITES related authorities are implemented in some countries on regular basis, like in Croatia and Tunisia.

Several endangered Mediterranean marine species remain under significant pressure by the international trade, in particular through tourists. The most impacted species are turtles (shells), shellfish species, hippocampus and sea cucumbers.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The responsibility of controlling the transboundary trade in endangered species lies mainly with the customs authorities in each country. Their efficiency is varying from one country to another concerning the identification of endangered marine species.

**Priority Action 15 - Control and mitigate the introduction and spread of alien and invasive species**Status of implementation

Knowledge about alien species is being improved in countries that are particularly concerned with potential sources. In some countries, permanent monitoring programme are in place and national knowledge improved (Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Greece, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey). Nevertheless, there is a lack of awareness and activity in numerous countries.

Given the particular significance of the invasion by non-indigenous species in the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean, the scientist of the region's countries deployed a particular effort to monitor the arrival of new species. In this context a big number of notifications and records of alien species were published. Furthermore, national monitoring programmes were developed and allowed the setting up of national and regional databases of alien species.

A Regional Strategy for the Management of Ballast waters was adopted under the Barcelona Convention. It aims at assisting countries and coordinating their efforts to minimise the introduction of non-indigenous species through Ballast Waters and sludge.

For the EU Member States, the EU Regulation requires that they develop and implement measures to address the issue of invasive alien species.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The most reported difficulties relate to the lack of human capacities (expertise), financial resources and the weakness of policy/legislation framework, in particular the absence of specific legislation for Invasive Alien Species.

Public support through divers, snorkelers or fishermen is not considered or slightly developed and the databases such as MAMIAS (SPA/RAC) or the applications such as MedMIS (IUCN-Med) are not known enough and used by all stakeholders. There is a need for promoting public participation on this matter (citizen science approach).

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Within the framework of the implementation of the "Action Plan concerning Alien Species and Species Introductions in the Mediterranean Sea" SPA/RAC assisted countries to collect data through "Rapid assessment of marine alien species in their waters (Albanian and Montenegro). Other organisations

provided support to implement projects on monitoring and control of invasive alien species or for the management of introduction paths (IMO/GEF/REMPEC project GloBallast Partnership)

The efforts to eradicate Invasive marine species are still very low in the Mediterranean, expect for a very limited number of species.

### **Priority Action 16 - Control and mitigate coastal urbanization and construction of coastal infrastructure**

#### Status of implementation

All Mediterranean countries adopted legislation on environmental impact assessment which contributed in mitigating impacts of urban development. Furthermore, strategic environmental assessments (SEA) are being performed, which enables assessment of physical plans, including coastal infrastructure. However, controlling coastal development remains a major challenge in all Mediterranean countries.

The adoption in 2008 of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol contributed in drawing the attention of decision makers to the importance of mitigating the impacts of coastal urbanisation. The protocol entered into force in March 2011, but as per December 2018, only ten countries and the European Union have ratified the protocol.

Maritime Spatial Planning is gaining attention in the region, in particular following the EU DIRECTIVE 2014/89/EU of July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, which should result with maritime spatial plans by 2021 in the EU Member States.

#### Main difficulties for implementation:

Although most of the Mediterranean countries have enacted legislation that allows to control the coastal urbanisation, important gaps are recorded as for the enforcement of the related provisions. The main difficulties faced relate to the strong pressure on the coastal area, particularly linked to tourism and urban sprawl.

#### Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Several Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMPs) were developed in particular with the assistance of the MAP components under the coordination of PAP/RAC.

### **Priority Action 17 - Control and mitigate the effect of changes in land use**

The measures taken in most Mediterranean countries in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Impact Assessment and Integrated Coastal Zone Management contributed in mitigating the adverse consequences of coastal development on natural habitats. However, the changes in land use in the coastal zone are still reported as one of the main threats to biodiversity, in particular through the loss of habitats and habitats fragmentation.

The evaluation of the changes in land use and their impact on biodiversity requires detailed data that is not available in most of the Mediterranean countries. The monitoring programmes being developed within the framework of IMAP are expected to provide the required data to calculate the indicator 8.2.1 (Change of land-use) under the Ecological Objective 8 of EcAp (The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained, and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved).

### **Priority Action 18 - Promote eco-and soft tourism, control and mitigate impact of recreational activities**

#### Status of implementation

The need for sustainable tourism has been widely recognised, at least at the strategic planning level. The MEET project (Mediterranean experience of Eco-Tourism) is developing activities in numerous protected areas of the region, funded by the European Union and implemented through IUCN-Med.

At another scale, DESTIMED, another European project developed by Federparchi-Italy, aims at building the pre-conditions for a Mediterranean destination management organization (DMO) that will harmonize quality standards and tools to monitor compliance, propose attractive ecotourism offers promoted through a lasting brand.

Numerous countries have developed their Tourism strategy with short, medium and long term objectives, each of them including options for soft or eco-tourism.

The EUROPARC's European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, as a type of eco-label, is awarding its eco-label to multiple protected areas in the Mediterranean countries of Europe. For control and mitigation of recreational activities, the EU countries may use the mechanism of appropriate assessment pursuant to the Habitats Directive and associated national legislation.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The strong pressure of mass tourism and its implications in terms of socioeconomic development continues to play against the promotion of eco and soft adoption of related for large development in sensitive areas.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Many organisations provided assistance to countries to promote new approaches for tourism and to better control and mitigate impact of recreational activities: IUCN-Med, Federparchi, EUROPARC Federation, EU in (funding in the framework of ENPI CBCMed open to non-European countries).

**Priority Action 19- Assess and elaborate of strategies to prevent the environmental impact of sources of pollution**

Status of implementation

Desalination and the proliferation of floating plastic objects and debris were the main sources of pollution addressed by SAP BIO in 2003 under this Priority Action. Nowadays, given the increasing demand for water and the scarcity of this natural resource in many Mediterranean countries, for most of them, the desalination is a growing activity to support the development of water demanding sectors such as tourism or urban development in coastal areas. There is an evident increase in the number of countries using sea water desalination or having it among their options to avoid reduction in fresh water availability for local population and agriculture. However, its environmental impact, generated mainly by the brine production and its disposal, is not properly tackled in many countries. Indeed, while environmental impact assessment is required for the desalination plants, there is a lack of policy and guidelines for this activity and a strong need for scientific and technical information to reduce the potential impacts on biodiversity.

Concerning marine debris, the EU Member States developed, within the framework of the implementation of the MSFD implementation, action plans with programs of measures to achieve/maintain good environment status (GES). Measures address, among all, the issues of marine litter and noise.

During COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul, 2013) the Contracting Parties adopted the Marine Litter Regional Plan. Among its measures the plan recommend to remove marine litter in particular from specially protected areas and SPAMIs and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.

The issue of microplastic is gaining attention as a research topic in some Mediterranean countries. Research programmes are being undertaken to assess the extent of the issue and to better understand its environmental and health implications.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

UNEP-MAP developed the Marine litter MED 2016-2019 Project with financial support from the EU. It is aimed at assisting the Mediterranean Countries to prevent and manage Marine Litter through the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan, in synergy with the relevant work under UNEP/GPA Global Partnership for Marine Litter, the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the UfM H2020 initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean, the EU SwitchMed Programme.

Transboundary EU funded projects have been implemented to address marine litter issue, such as ML-REPAIR project, or regarding ghost-nets - DeFishGear project. ML-REPAIR is aimed at awareness raising and concrete cleaning actions in certain Natura 2000 sites. DeFishGear contributed to improve knowledge on presence of marine litter, actions aimed at policy-makers and schemes to manage human activities. The EU Strategy for Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR) provided support from the EU funding to activities in relation to marine litter.

**Priority Action 20- Control and regulation of aquaculture practices**

Status of implementation

In accordance with the "Guidelines on allocated zones for aquaculture" (AZA) adopted in 2012 by GFCM (Resolution GFCM/36/2012/1), many Mediterranean countries launched initiatives to ensure further integration of aquaculture in their national marine spatial planning. This included the identification of specific zones to be reserved for aquaculture activities; the ultimate objective being to prevent conflicts among different users.

Concerning the environmental impacts of aquaculture, in most of the Mediterranean countries the setting up of fish farms is subject of the environment impact assessment. Furthermore, the Mediterranean countries that are EU members require regular monitoring of aquaculture sites in accordance with the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.

**Priority Action 21- Assessment, control and elaboration of strategies to prevent impact of fisheries on biodiversity**

Status of implementation

Some activities concerning by-catch mitigation have been implemented in the Mediterranean and a project concerning interaction between fisheries and endangered species (cetaceans, sharks, turtles, seabirds) is underway in North Africa and Turkey with the participation of various international organisations (intergovernmental and non-governmental).

Although there are no specific Mediterranean strategies to address the issues identified by SAP BIO in 2003 (conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable fish and invertebrates, by-catch, discard, and ghost-fishing, impact of trawling and other towed gear on critical habitats) a series of measures were taken within the framework of GFCM during the past ten years to mitigate the impact of fishing on biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable species.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The main reported difficulties relate to the lack of adequate cooperation between relevant sectors. Lack of human resources and difficulties regarding enforcement of legislation (control of by-catch and IUU) was also reported.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

The EU legislation and strategies support (MSFD, EUSAIR), accompanied with EU funding for projects such as IPA Adriatic NETCET, LIFE EUROTURTLES, INTERREG etc.

GFCM established new fishery restricted areas (FRAs) and developed Fisheries Management Plans for specific stocks of species in specific regions.

The relevance of interactions with fisheries was also recognised by ACCOBAMS with number of adopted resolutions, including the guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices.

The project concerning the interaction between fisheries and endangered species project mentioned under "Status of Implementation" envisages to create a Mediterranean strategy to address the bycatch of vulnerable species is conducted with the coordination of GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BirdLife International, MEDASSET and other local partners. It is financially supported by the MAVA Foundation.

## **DEVELOPING RESEARCH TO COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE AND FILL IN GAPS ON BIODIVERSITY**

### **Priority Action 22- Improve and coordinate research on biodiversity**

#### Status of implementation

Under this Priority Action, only regional actions were recommended by SAP BIO. None of the recommended actions were implemented, however a series of symposia were organised by SPA/RAC within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plans for the conservation of species and habitats. Concerning cetaceans, the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS is organising, on a triennial basis, a conference on the conservation of cetaceans in the South Mediterranean Countries (to date 4 conferences were organised).

These symposia and regional conferences offered opportunities to take stock of the research activities undertaken in the Mediterranean in relation to marine biodiversity. Their conclusions show that much has been done regarding the knowledge and monitoring of plant formations, and new data is now available even though there is still a lack of balance between the countries of the north-western Mediterranean and those of the southern shore and the eastern basin. Concerning dark habitats scientific knowledge has increased during recent years but not as rapid as for other habitat types. Indeed, most studies focused on the habitat identification and mapping of the occurrence of selected large-sized species, while quantitative data on populations and trends are lacking. Regarding coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions, basic information on the geographic and bathymetric (present and past) distribution is still missing in most Mediterranean areas.

A very important achievement during the reporting period was the survey undertaken during the summer of 2018 within the framework of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. It was a synoptic survey covering the whole Mediterranean waters using aerial and boat observation. While its main aim was to collect data about cetaceans, the survey allowed also to collect data about other species (turtles, birds, sharks) and also some threats to the marine environment, in particular marine litter.

The research activities about the distribution of marine habitats and species benefited, during the period covered by this evaluation report from the technological advances that made some surveying tools more efficient in terms of data accuracy and cost effectiveness (Side scan sonar, multi beam sonar, satellite images, satellite tracking systems, etc.). New tools are emerging and their use for research in marine

biodiversity is expected to be more developed in the coming years (ex: aerial, marine and underwater drones).

**Priority Action 23- Improve taxonomic expertise in the region**

Only a limited number of initiatives were undertaken to improve the taxonomic expertise in the Mediterranean countries. The reported activities relate to the organisation of two regional trainings and the publication of three new taxonomic guides.

**CAPACITY BUILDING – COORDINATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

**Priority Action 24- Achieve ‘clearing-house’ mechanism to focus on marine and coastal conservation activities**

Status of implementation

Several countries have made available Clearing House Mechanisms (or platforms/portals of information) concerning biodiversity, species or habitats, marine or terrestrial with centralisation of data and associated GIS. Croatia, Egypt, France, Italy and Spain are some of the countries with an organised data collection, centralisation and availability, allowing to improve the preparation of EIA or SEA. Numerous other countries are developing such system, often starting from and areas or group of species then extended to more developed systems.

European countries data are centralized in the European Environmental Agency and the EUNIS database, based on the data provided by its regional centres.

At Mediterranean scale level, the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform is an online tool to inventory, catalogue and store data on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, and view them on maps. This platform has been developed by the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), within the MedKeyHabitats project, with a financial support of the MAVA Foundation.

In the scope of the GIZ Biodiversity information management project (BIMR) regional and national assessments were made on biodiversity data management in the non-EU SEE countries, guidelines for setting up the national nature protection information systems and GIS training was organised.

Main difficulties for implementation:

The main identified difficulties are linked to lacking financial and human resources, dispersion of information on biodiversity in different institutions at the national level and the lack of standardisation of mapping approaches that make difficult collating maps from different systems.

Support from international and/or regional organisations:

Several organizations (UNESCO, UNDP, EU, AFD, GIZ) provided technical assistance and financial support to some Mediterranean countries to develop their national CHM in accordance with the guidelines of the CBD Secretariat. However, the marine environment is not always considered.

Other organizations developed information systems and databases on specific issues of relevance for the marine environment (ex: the MAPAMED Database for marine and coastal protected areas developed by SPA/RAC and MedPAN and the Mediterranean wetland Observatory developed by MeDWET).

For the fisheries sector, the GFCM of FAO has developed the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF). It is a comprehensive framework for the collection and transmission of fisheries-related data in the GFCM area.

**Priority Action 25- Coordinate and develop common tools to implement National Action Plans (NAPs)**

SPA/RAC and other organisations developed guidelines, standard methodologies, Protocols and other technical tools to assist countries in implementing activities under their NAPs.

**INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION**

**Priority Action 26- Facilitate the access to information for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public**

Status of implementation

Active public participation is ensured in some countries as common practice in development of species and protected areas management plans.

Public consultation is also practised in environmental impact assessment (EIA), Strategic environmental assessment procedures (SEA) and when applicable in the appropriate assessment pursuant to Habitats Directive.

In addition, adoption of legislation is a subject of public consultation, in particular for protected areas or fishery reserves declarations.

Main difficulties for implementation:

Even when possibility of public consultation exists, it is not adequately communicated to general public, particularly when it comes to project of regional relevance/impacts. Furthermore, for some legislation, plans are made available for consultations for a short period of time.

**Priority Action 27- Promote public participation, within an integrated management scheme**

No specific action reported other than those indicated for the Priority Action 26.

**Priority Action 28- Conserving the traditional knowledge of the various actors**

Some countries are trying to conserve traditional practices, in particular concerning the use of water, and to include the traditional exploitation of marine natural resources (traditional fishing or collecting techniques) in management plans as they support the conservation and sustainable exploitation of natural resources. However, only rare examples were reported in this context.

**AWARENESS RAISING**

**Priority Action 29- Develop international collaboration in order to enhance regional public awareness**

These activities are usually implemented as components of large projects. International and national NGOs are generally a good support for such activities through organising events, publishing documents and giving lectures in schools and for general public (Environment day, Ocean day, Dolphins day).

However, only few examples of international collaboration are reported concerning regional public awareness enhancing.

**Priority Action 30- Organise coordinated Mediterranean-level campaigns focusing on specific regional biodiversity issues (addressed both to specific stakeholders and to the general public)**

Most of the regional organisations active in the field of marine biodiversity conservation reported about campaigns targeting specific or general public to raise awareness about the need for conservation of species or habitats. However, there is no coordination mechanism to avoid overlapping or duplication and to ensure a more balanced coverage of the Mediterranean areas.

## Section 2: Identified gaps

The main gap mentioned in the various reports of Mediterranean countries on the implementation of actions related to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is the lack of financial and technical capacities (including human capacities). From this main gap, that concerned all the seven categories of priority actions in the SAP BIO, stem several shortcomings as showed in the following table.

**Gaps, lacks and impeding factors arising from the lack of financial and technical capacities**

<b>Gaps, lacks or impeding factors</b>	<b>Inventorying, mapping and monitoring Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity</b>	<b>Conservation of sensitive habitats, species and sites</b>	<b>Assessing and mitigating the impact of threats on biodiversity</b>	<b>Developing research to complete knowledge and fill in gaps on</b>	<b>Capacity building – coordination and technical support</b>	<b>Information and participation</b>	<b>Awareness raising</b>
Field infrastructure and equipment							
Biodiversity knowledge and expertise							
National biodiversity database							
Monitoring programmes for species							
IUCN Red List process							
Management plan preparation and implementation							
Management evaluation							
Indicators for management evaluation							
Legal/institutional assessment and review for MPAs							
Legislation enforcement							
Declaration of MPAs in territorial waters							
Declaration of MPAs offshore							
Clear mandate for MPAs							
Participation of all stakeholders							
Coordination at national levels (Ministries)							
Baseline and monitoring of socio economic policies impacts on biodiversity (regional)							
Baseline and monitoring of human activities impact on biodiversity							
Co-management options including PPP							
Public consultation and information							
Public awareness and education							
Communication campaigns on emerging issues							

However, during the consultation with the SAP BIO National Correspondents, the following main gaps were stressed as the main impeding factors in achieving good level of conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity:

- (i) lack of basic data and information on species and habitats (distribution, population size, significance of threats, etc.) as well as on socio-economic aspects related to the use of biodiversity and Natural resources;
- (ii) Weaknesses in the effective enforcement of the legislation. It should be noted, however, that the lack of financial and technical resources is not the only reason for the non-implementation of legislation which also depends on the will at national and local level.

**Annex 1: Relevant Legal Texts promulgated by the Mediterranean countries since 2003<sup>1</sup>**

Country	Legal text (since 2003)
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law No. 81/2017 on protected areas.</li> <li>- Regulation No. 95 date 14.2.2018 amending Regulation No. 686 date 29.7.2015 approving the rules, the responsibilities and the terms of procedure for the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and the transfer of the Environment Certificate. Date of text: 14 February 2018</li> <li>- Regulation 547 date 9.8.2006 establishing the National Agency of Natural Resources, as amended.-2006</li> <li>- Decision Nr.16 dated 4.1.2012 on the right for environmental information. 2012</li> <li>- Regulation No. 1189 on the rules and procedures for the elaboration and implementation of the national programme for the environmental monitoring. 2009</li> <li>- Regulation No.8 dated 11.11.2009 on the managing measures for the sustainable exploitation of the fishery resources. 2009</li> <li>- Law No. 9587 on biodiversity protection.2006</li> <li>- Law No. 10006 on wild fauna protection. 2008</li> <li>- Order No. 62 of 4 April 2016 approving the list of especially vulnerable wild bird species.2016</li> <li>- Regulation No. 866 dated 10.12.2014 approving the lists of natural habitat types, plants, animals, and birds that are of interest for European Union.2014</li> <li>- Guideline No.1 of 11 February 2016 approving the methodologies of registration, inventorying, and reporting on wild fauna species and their populations allowed for hunting. 2016</li> <li>- Regulation No. 1 of 2013 on the internal functioning of the Protected Area Management Committee.2013</li> <li>- Regulation No. 84 on the criteria used for establishing the biodiversity inventory network and monitoring.2009</li> </ul>
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Décret exécutif n° 18-264 du 8 Safar 1440 correspondant au 17 octobre 2018 portant création du centre de recherche en environnement (C.R.E).Date of text: 17 October 2018</li> <li>- Décret exécutif n° 18-255 du 29 Moharram 1440 correspondant au 9 octobre 2018 modifiant et complétant le décret exécutif n° 07-145 du 2 Joumada El Oula 1428 correspondant au 19 mai 2007 déterminant le champ d'application, le contenu et les modalités d'approbation des études et des notices d'impact sur l'environnement.Date of text: 09 October 2018</li> <li>- Décret exécutif n° 15-207 du 11 Chaoual 1436 correspondant au 27 juillet 2015 fixant les modalités d'initiation et d'Élaboration du plan national d'action environnementale et du développement durable (P.N.A.E.D.D).</li> <li>- Décret executif n° 07-145 du 2 Joumada El Oula 1428 correspondant au 19 mai 2007 déterminant le champ d'application, le contenu et les modalités d'approbation des études et des notices d'impact sur l'environnement.Date of text: 19 May 2007</li> <li>- Arrêté du 9 Joumada Ethania1439 correspondant au 25 février 2018 fixant la période de fermeture de la pêche de l'espadon dans les eaux sous juridiction nationale.Date of text: 25 February 2018</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The information contained in this table was compiled using information from

- (i) the Ecolex portal ([www.ecolox.org](http://www.ecolox.org)) that provides information on environmental law collected through FAOLEX (FAO), ELIS (IUCN) and InforMEA (UNEP),
- (ii) the national reports to the Barcelona Convention.

It was reviewed and complemented by the participants to the Fifth Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents (Marseilles, February, 2019)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrêté du 3 Rabie El Aouel 1437 correspondant au 13 janvier 2016 fixant les conditions et les modalités d'élaboration du programme d'exploitation du corail.Date of text: 13 January 2016</li> <li>- Décret exécutif n° 14-373 du Aouel Rabie El Aouel 1436 correspondant au 23 décembre 2014 portant création, organisation et fonctionnement de l'agence nationale de développement durable de la pêche et de l'aquaculture (ANDPA).</li> <li>- Arrêté du 14 Safar 1434 correspondant au 27 décembre 2012 modifiant et complétant l'arrêté du 6 Safar 1427 correspondant au 6 mars 2006 portant création d'un comité d'experts chargé d'assister la mise en œuvre du programme de formation et le suivi pédagogique des travailleurs en formation.</li> <li>- Décret exécutif n° 08-128 portant transformation du Centre national d'études et de documentation pour la pêche et l'aquaculture en Centre national de recherche et de développement de la pêche et l'aquaculture.Date of text: 30 April 2008</li> </ul>
Bosnia - Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation on plastic bags compensation fees. Date of text: 09 January 2014</li> <li>- Regulation on conditions and criteria to be met by the authorized carriers of the study on the environmental impact, the amount of fees, commissions and other costs arising in the process of environmental impact assessment. Date of text: 26 March 2012</li> <li>- Regulation on the content and method of keeping the register of protected areas. Date of text: 01 November 2006</li> <li>- Regulation on the content and method of preparation of the management plan for protected areas. Date of text: 13 October 2006</li> <li>- Regulation on annual and half-year program of environmental inspection. Date of text: 22 November 2005</li> <li>- Regulation on the establishment of information system for the protection of nature. Date of text: 2005</li> <li>- Law on nature protection).Date of text: 27 February 2014</li> <li>- Law amending the Law on inspections of the Brcko District.Date of text: 20 June 2008</li> <li>- Regulation determining the amount of compensation for damages caused to fish stocks. Date of text: 01 October 2005</li> <li>- Regulation on the method, equipment and tools used in fishing. Date of text: 01 October 2005</li> </ul>

Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Protection Act. Date of text: 28 June 2013, amended in 2013, 2015 and 2018</li> <li>- Nature Protection Act. Date of text: 28 June 2013, amended in 2018.</li> <li>- Regulation on the adoption of the Programme of measures for the protection and management of the marine environment and coastal area of the Republic of Croatia. Date of text: 28 September 2017</li> <li>- Regulation on the Croatian marine and environmental agency's reference center for nature and nature. Date of text: 20 July 2017</li> <li>- Regulation amending the Regulation on environmental impact assessment. Date of text: 05 January 2017</li> <li>- Regulation on strictly protected species (Official Gazette 124/2013)</li> <li>- Regulation on the voluntary participation of organizations in the system of environmental management and independent evaluation (EMAS).Date of text: 24 June 2014</li> <li>- Regulation on information and participation of the public and public concerned in environmental matters. Date of text: 29 May 2008</li> <li>- Regulation on strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes. Date of text: 04 June 2008</li> <li>- Regulation on the Manner of Establishing Environmental Damage. 2008-11-27</li> <li>- Regulation on measures for remediation of environmental damage and restoration programmes. 2008-12-09</li> </ul>
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to Information which is Relevant to the Environment Law, 2004. Date of text: 30 April 2004</li> <li>- Marine Strategy Law, 2011 (Law No. 18(I)/2011). Date of text: 25 February 2011</li> <li>- Law establishing Lara/Toxeftra Marine Reserve (1989)</li> </ul>
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution No. 254 of 2013 creating a Fund to support the cooperative societies for fishers. Date of text: 2013</li> <li>- Resolution No. 130 of 2007 on the fishing in the Mediterranean Sea. 2007</li> </ul>
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ordonnance n° 2017-80 du 26 janvier 2017 relative à l'autorisation environnementale Date of original text: 26 January 2017 (12 August 2018)</li> <li>- Loi n° 2016-1087 du 8 août 2016 pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages. Date of original text: 08 August 2016 (01 January 2017)</li> <li>- La loi n° 2015-992 du 17 août 2015 relative à la transition énergétique pour la croissance verte. Date of original text: 17 August 2015 (02 November 2018)</li> <li>- Loi n° 2010-788 portant engagement national pour l'environnement. Date of original text: 12 July 2010 (27 January 2017)</li> <li>- Loi n° 2009-967 de programmation relative à la mise en œuvre du Grenelle de l'environnement. Date of text: 03 August 2009</li> <li>- Loi du 20 juin 2016 pour l'économie bleue Date of text: 20 June 2016</li> <li>- Loi n° 2016-368 du 30 mars 2016 autorisant l'approbation de l'accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'Etat du port visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée. Date of text: 30 March 2016</li> <li>- Loi n° 2003-346 relative à la création d'une zone de protection écologique au large des côtes du territoire de la République. Date of text: 15 April 2003</li> <li>- Décret n° 2014-348 du 18 mars 2014 relatif à la responsabilité civile des propriétaires de navires pour les dommages résultant de la pollution par les hydrocarbures. Date of text: 18 March 2014</li> <li>- Décret no 2013-188 du 4 mars 2013 portant publication du protocole sur les registres des rejets et transferts de polluants se rapportant à la convention de 1998 sur l'accès à</li> </ul>

	<p>l'information, la participation du public à la prise de décision et l'accès à la justice dans le domaine de l'environnement Date of text: 04 March 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrêté du 3 juin 2011 portant identification des catégories d'aires marines protégées entrant dans le champ de compétence de l'Agence des aires marines protégées. Date of text: 03 June 2011</li> <li>- Arrêté du 8 juillet 2010 modifiant l'arrêté du 20 avril 2005 pris en application du décret n° 2005-378 relatif au programme national d'action contre la pollution des milieux aquatiques par certaines substances dangereuses.Date of text: 08 July 2010</li> <li>- Décret n° 2008-457 du 15 mai 2008 relatif aux sites Natura 2000 et modifiant le code de l'environnement. Date of text: 15 May 2008</li> <li>- Arrêté du 22 décembre 2006 portant modification de l'arrêté du 18 juillet 2000 réglementant le transport et la manutention des matières dangereuses dans les ports maritimes. Date of text: 22 December 2006</li> <li>- Arrêté du 20 avril 2005 pris en application du décret n° 2005-378 relatif au programme national d'action contre la pollution des milieux aquatiques par certaines substances dangereuses.Date of text: 20 April 2005</li> <li>- Décret n° 2005-378 relatif au programme national d'action contre la pollution des milieux aquatiques par certaines substances dangereuses.Date of text: 20 April 2005</li> <li>- Loi n° 2006-436 relative aux parcs nationaux, aux parcs naturels marins et aux parcs naturels régionaux.Date of text: 14 April 2006</li> <li>- Ordonnance n° 2008-527 du 5 juin 2008 relative à la mise en oeuvre en Polynésie française et dans les îles Wallis et Futuna de la convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction du 3 mars 1973.Date of text: 05 June 2008</li> <li>- Loi n° 2003-347 relative à la protection de l'environnement en Antarctique.Date of text: 15 April 2003</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-1321 du 6 septembre 2017 relatif à la composition de la Commission supérieure des sites, perspectives et paysages.Date of text: 06 September 2017</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-848 du 9 mai 2017 relatif à l'accès aux ressources génétiques et aux connaissances traditionnelles associées et au partage des avantages découlant de leur utilisation.Date of text: 09 May 2017</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-370 du 21 mars 2017 relatif aux comités régionaux de la biodiversité.Date of text: 21 March 2017</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-339 du 15 mars 2017 relatif au Comité national de la biodiversité.Date of text: 15 March 2017</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-300 du 8 mars 2017 relatif aux dispositifs de partage des positions visant à éviter les collisions des navires avec les cétacés dans les aires marines protégées Pelagos (Méditerranée) et Agoa (Antilles).Date of text: 08 March 2017</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-176 du 13 février 2017 relatif aux zones prioritaires pour la biodiversité.Date of text: 13 February 2017</li> <li>- Décret n° 2017-65 du 24 janvier 2017 relatif au rattachement des parcs nationaux à l'Agence française pour la biodiversité.Date of text: 24 January 2017</li> <li>- Arrêté du 15 novembre 2016 instituant une liste d'espèces protégées dans les eaux territoriales de l'île de Clipperton.Date of text: 15 November 2016</li> <li>- Arrêté du 15 novembre 2016 relatif à la protection du biotope des eaux territoriales de l'île de Clipperton dénommée «aire marine protégée dans les eaux territoriales de l'île de Clipperton» Date of text: 15 November 2016</li> <li>- Décret n° 2016-963 du 15 juillet 2016 portant création du parc naturel marin du cap Corse et de l'Agriate.Date of text: 15 July 2016</li> <li>- Décret no 2015-424 du 15 avril 2015 portant création du parc naturel marin de l'estuaire de la Gironde et de la mer des Pertuis.Date of text: 15 April 2015</li> <li>- Décret n° 2012-83 du 24 janvier 2012 relatif aux parcs naturels régionaux et portant diverses dispositions relatives aux parcs naturels marins et aux réserves naturelles.Date of text: 24 January 2012</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrêté du 15 septembre 2012 modifiant l'arrêté du 23 avril 2007 fixant la liste des mammifères terrestres protégés sur l'ensemble du territoire et les modalités de leur protection. Date of text: 15 September 2012</li> <li>- Arrêté du 24 octobre 2008 modifiant la liste des types d'habitats naturels et des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages qui peuvent justifier la désignation de zones spéciales de conservation au titre du réseau écologique européen Natura 2000. Date of text: 24 October 2008</li> <li>- Arrêté du 19 avril 2007 modifiant la liste des espèces d'oiseaux qui peuvent justifier la désignation de zones de protection spéciale au titre du réseau écologique européen Natura 2000 selon l'article L. 414-1-II (1er alinéa) du Code de l'environnement. Date of text: 19 April 2007</li> <li>- Décret n° 2006-1266 relatif à l'Agence des aires marines protégées et aux parcs naturels marins. Date of text: 16 October 2006</li> <li>- Arrêté du 13 juillet 2005 modifiant l'arrêté du 16 novembre 2001 relatif à la liste des types d'habitats naturels et des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages qui peuvent justifier la désignation de zones spéciales de conservation au titre du réseau écologique européen Natura 2000. Date of text: 13 July 2005</li> <li>- Arrêté du 20 décembre 2004 fixant la liste des animaux de la faune marine protégés sur l'ensemble du territoire national. Date of text: 20 December 2004</li> <li>- Arrêté du 7 février 2003 relatif à la composition et aux modalités de fonctionnement de l'Observatoire national de la faune sauvage et de ses habitats. Date of text: 07 February 2003</li> </ul>
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decree No. 107017 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment in compliance with Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Date of text: 28 August 2006</li> <li>- Decision No. 11764/653 on public access to environmental information and repealing MJD No. 77921/1440/1995. 2006</li> <li>- Decision No. 49828 (2008) - Adoption of a special framework for spatial planning and Sustainable Development regarding Renewable Energy and adoption of the framework's environmental impact assessment. (2464/B/3-12-2008)</li> <li>- Decision No. H.II. 37338/1807/E.103 (2010) - Measures and procedures for the conservation of the avifauna and its habitats in compliance with the provisions of Directive 79/409/EEC, as codified by the Directive 2009/147 /EC. (1495/B/6-9-2010)</li> <li>- Law 3937 (2011) – Conservation of Biodiversity (60/A/31-3-2011)</li> <li>- Law No. 4014 on the environmental licensing of works and activities, regulation of illegal constructions in connection with environmental stability and other provisions falling under the competence of the Ministry of Environment. , 2011</li> <li>- Law 3983 (2011) - National strategy for protection and management of the marine environment - Harmonization with the Directive 2008/56 / EC of the European Parliament and the Council (144/A/17-6-2011)</li> <li>- Law 4043 (2012) - Legal protection of the environment - Harmonization with Directive 2008/99 / EC - Framework for production management of waste- Harmonization with Directive 2008/98 / EC (24/A/13-2-2012)</li> <li>- Presidential Decree 229/ 19-6-2012 (2012) - Approval of a list of small island wetlands and Introduction of conditions and restrictions for their protection (229/ΤΑΑΠΘ/19-6-2012)</li> <li>- Decision No. H.II. 8353/276/E103 (2012) – Modification and completion of the Decision No. H.II. 37338/1807/E.103 - Measures and procedures for the conservation of the avifauna and its habitats in compliance with the provisions of Directive 79/409/EEC, as codified by the Directive 2009/147 /EC. (415/B/23-2-2012)</li> <li>- Decree No. 110/1205322 setting forth technical specifications for the development of studies for the delimitation of land areas falling under the “NATURA 2000” network – updating, description and delimitation of land habitat types in Sites of Community Importance. 2012</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decision No. 36060/1155 /E.103 (2013) “Establishment of a framework of rules, measures and procedures for the integrated prevention and control of environmental pollution from industrial activities, in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2010/75 / EU on industrial emissions (integrated prevention and control) pollution ") of the European Parliament and of the European Parliament Council of 24 November 2010.</li> <li>- Decision No. 1649/35 (2014) - Consultation and public information procedures in the environmental licensing of specific projects and activities in accordance with Article 19 (9) of Law 4014/2011 (45/B/15-1-2014)</li> <li>- Decision No. 40332 (2014) - Adoption of a National Biodiversity Strategy and a Five-Year Action Plan for the period 2014-2029 (2383/B/8-9-2014)</li> <li>- Law 4470 (2017) – Ratification of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (65/A/8-5-2017)</li> <li>- Decision No. 50743 (2017) – Expansion of the NATURA 2000 Network of protected areas (4432/B/15-12-2017)</li> <li>- Law 4519 (2018) – Management Bodies for Protected Areas (25/A/20-2-2018)</li> </ul>
Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wildlife Protection Law 1955</li> <li>- Roads (Affixing of Signs) Law, 1966</li> <li>- Animal Welfare Law, 1994</li> <li>- Israel Wildlife Protection Regulation 1976</li> <li>- National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law, 1998</li> <li>- Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone, signed in on 17 December 2010, entry into force: 25 February 2011)</li> <li>- Protection of the Coastal Environment Law (Law 5764-2004)</li> <li>- The Water Law Relevant Amendments, Orders, Regulations Created Under the Law</li> </ul>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative Decree No. 195 implementing Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information. Date of text: 19 August 2005</li> <li>- Legislative Decree of 16 June 2017, n. 104 Implementation of Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, pursuant to articles 1 and 14 of the Law 9 July 2015, n. 114. Date of text: 16 June 2017</li> <li>- Act No. 132 establishing the national system for the protection of the environment, and regulating the functioning of the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).Date of text: 21 June 2016</li> <li>- Law No. 221 of 2015 to promote measures regarding green economy and to reduce the overexploitation of natural resources. Date of text: 28 December 2015</li> <li>- Legislative Decree No. 190 implementing Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy. Date of text: 13 October 2010</li> <li>- Decree laying down the methods for the elaboration of prescriptions related to Environmental Impact Assessment provisions adopted at the State level. Date of text: 24 December 2015</li> <li>- Decree concerning the national inventory of waste resulting from the extraction of mineral resources. Date of text: 16 April 2013</li> <li>- Regional Act No. 5 on Environmental Impact Assessment. Date of text: 02 February 2010</li> <li>- Regional Act No. 27 on the promotion, organization and development of information and education concerning sustainability. Date of text: 29 December 2009</li> </ul>
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Impact Assessment Decree No. 8633 of 2012.Date of text: 07 August 2012</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decree No.3989 of 2016 on the establishment of an Environmental Police, its mandate, staffing, and organization. Date of text: 25 August 2016</li> <li>- Decree No. 14865 of 2005 defining the requirements, conditions and mechanisms for offering contribution and shares for environmental activities carried out by non-profit organizations. Date of text: 01 July 2005</li> <li>- Decision No. 1045/1 of 2014 on General conditions to protect sharks/dogfish. Date of text: 25 November 2014</li> <li>- Resolution No.8/1 of 2011 on regulation and specifications of some types of marine fishing gear. Date of text: 04 January 2012</li> <li>- Decision 15/1 in 2004 "Legal size relating to fishing, transporting, buying and importing fish, shellfish and crustaceans in Lebanon".</li> <li>- Law 690 in 2005 "Law on the Organization of the Ministry of Environment".</li> <li>- Decree 2366 in 2009 "Reorganization of Lebanese Territories"</li> <li>- Decree 2275 in 2009 Organization of MOE's units</li> <li>- Law 132 in 2010 "Petroleum resources in marine waters"</li> <li>- Decision 364/1 in 2010 Decision regulating fishing areas and authorized tools</li> <li>- Law 163 in 2011 "Law defining the maritime zones according to the Montego Bay Convention of 1982 as: interior waters, territorial waters, contiguous zone, Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf"</li> <li>- Law 156 in 2011 Amendments to law 690/2005 "Law on the Organization of the Ministry of Environment"</li> <li>- Decree 8044 in 2012 Decree that regulates the management of Tyr's Coast's Natural Reserve.</li> <li>- Decree 8157 in 2012 "Decree issued by the Government and fixes the duties and composition of the National Council for the Environment".</li> <li>- Decree 8213 in 2012 "Decree that regulates the SEA. This article is based on all relevant international conventions accepted by Lebanon (ratified/joined/acceded/etc...)".</li> <li>- Decision 229/1 in 2012 "The mechanism of reviewing initial environmental examination reports"</li> <li>- Decision 230/1 in 2012 "The mechanism of reviewing the scope and reports of the environmental impact"</li> <li>- Decree 8471 in 2013</li> <li>- "Environmental Compliance Action Plan"</li> <li>- Decision 203/1 2013 "Institution of an environmental audit including environmental management"</li> <li>- Decree 10136 in 2013</li> <li>- Cooperation and financial grant agreement with the EU for raising awareness about the basin of the Mediterranean Sea and sustainable development of local and deprived rural areas.</li> <li>- Decree 9953 in 2013 Ratification of cooperation and financial grant agreement from the International Environment Facility regarding management of coastal and marine ecology in Lebanon.</li> <li>- Decree 1104 in 2014 Cooperation and financial grant agreement with the EU for raising awareness about the basin of the Mediterranean Sea and sustainable development of local and deprived rural areas.</li> <li>- Decision 396/1 2014 Decision prohibiting hunting marine birds</li> <li>- Decree 851 in 2014 Amending decree 9953 related to financial grants from the International Environment Facility regarding management of coastal and marine ecology in Lebanon.</li> <li>- Law 251 in 2014 General Prosecution specialized in Environmental Matters in Lebanon</li> </ul>
Libya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law No. 15 of 2003 on the protection and improvement of the environment. Date of text: 13 June 2003</li> <li>- Declaration of a Libyan Fisheries Protection Zone in the Mediterranean Sea. Date of text: 24 February 2005</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution No. 48 of 2013 to establish the apparatus for management and development of national parks. Date of text: 06 February 2013</li> <li>- Law No14 of 1989 regarding legislation of marine wealth</li> </ul>
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549)</li> <li>- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44)</li> <li>- Water Policy Framework Regulations (S.L. 549.100)</li> <li>- Marine Policy Framework Regulations (S.L. 549.62)</li> <li>- Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42)</li> <li>- Reptiles (Protection) Regulations (S.L. 549.02)</li> <li>- Marine Mammals Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.35)</li> <li>- Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations (S.L. 549.38)</li> <li>- Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their</li> <li>- Utilisation Regulations (S.L. 549.111)</li> <li>- Prevention and Remedying of Environmental Damage Regulations (S.L. 549.97)</li> <li>- Environment Protection (Preventive and Remedial Measures) Regulations (S.L. 549.04)</li> <li>- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46)</li> <li>- Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.61)</li> <li>- Control of Invasive Alien Species of European Union Concern Regulations (S.L. 549.119)</li> <li>- Species Protection (Designation of National Species) Regulations (S.L. 549.120)</li> <li>- Fungus Rock (il-gus R tal--s Rock) Nature Reserve Regulation (SL 549.01)</li> <li>- Selmunett Islands (St.Paul Islands) Nature Reserve Regulations (SL 549.03)</li> <li>- Development Planning Act (Cap. 552)</li> <li>- Maritime Spatial Planning Regulations (S.L. 552.27)</li> <li>- Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425)</li> <li>- Fishery Regulations (S.L. 425.01)</li> <li>- Marine Vegetation Licence Regulations (S.L. 425.06)</li> <li>- Fishing Vessel Regulations (S.L. 425.07)</li> <li>- Enforcement of Sea Fishing Conventions Order (S.L. 425.08)</li> <li>- Implementation and Enforcement of Certain Fisheries Management Plans Order (S.L. 425.09)</li> <li>- Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone Act (Cap. 226)</li> <li>- Ship Source Pollution Regulations (S.L. 226.01)</li> <li>- Territorial Waters Regulations (S.L. 226.02)</li> <li>- Authority for Transport in Malta Act (Cap. 499)</li> <li>- Environment and Planning Review Tribunal Act (Cap. 551)</li> <li>- Sustainable Development Act (Cap. 521)</li> <li>- Crimes Against the Environment Act (Cap. 522)</li> </ul>
Monaco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 67 portant application de la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction, adoptée à Washington le 3 mars 1973.Date of text: 23 May 2005</li> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 6.984 du 20 juin 2018 relative à la création et à la gestion des aires marines protégées :</li> <li>- modification et création des articles du Code de la Mer 0.230-2 à 230-7 sur les modalités de gestion des aires marines.</li> <li>- Modification de l'article 0.244-9 sur l'interdiction de la pêche dans les AMP</li> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 6.154 du 23 novembre 2016 portant application des articles L. 230-1 à L. 230-3 et L. 244-3 du Code de la Mer :</li> <li>- Modification de l'article O.230-1 sur la protection des espèces (ASP/BD) et les dérogations applicables</li> <li>- Modification de l'article O.244-3 sur l'introduction/ la réintroduction des espèces</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrêté ministériel n° 2016-707 du 23 novembre 2016 Article A. 244-1 en application de l'article O. 244-3 du code de la mer (dossier de demande d'introduction/réintroduction)</li> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 3.131 du 14 février 2011 relative à l'exploitation des ressources vivantes.</li> <li>- Modifications des articles O.244-1, O.244-2 et 0.244-4 à 0.244-28 sur la pêche (espèce réglementées, zone interdites, techniques de pêche, aquaculture)</li> <li>- ordonnance n° 5.443 du 6 août 2015 sur la lutte contre les pollutions, modification du Code de la Mer article O 221-1 à O.221-10 -(procès-verbal, modalité de contrôle et d'échantillonnage) et O.223-1 à O.224-8 (lutte contre la pollution résultant de l'immersion de déchets et autres matières et La lutte contre la pollution d'origine tellurique)</li> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 6.380 du 8 mai 2017 relative à la lutte contre la pollution par</li> <li>- les navires, modification du Code de la Mer article O.222-1 à O.221-4 (La lutte contre la pollution par les hydrocarbures) et articles O.225-1 à O.225-5 (lutte contre la pollution par les autres rejets des navires)</li> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 7.004 du 20 juillet 2018 relative à la prévention de la pollution de l'atmosphère par les navires, Article O.225-6 (interdiction du fioul lourd).</li> <li>- Ordonnance Souveraine n° 16.456 du 7 octobre 2004 sur la recherche scientifique dans les zones maritimes monégasques et les dispositions communes aux diverses activités d'exploration, d'exploitation et de recherches Article O.241-1 à O. 241-13 et O. 243-1 à 243-2</li> <li>- n° 1456 - Loi portant Code de l'Environnement Date : 12/12/2017</li> </ul>
Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law on Environment ("OG of MNE", 52/16)</li> <li>- Law on Nature Protection ("OG of MNE" 54/16),</li> <li>- The Act on National Parks (Official Gazette of Montenegro 28/14) regulates matters of protection, improvement and development of national parks as the activity of public interest</li> <li>- Law on Forests ("OG of MNE" 47/2015)</li> <li>- Law on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro", no. 56 /, 40/11),</li> <li>- Law on Maritime Domain ("OG of MNE" 14/92, 59/92, 27/94, 51/08, 21/09, 73/10 and 40/11)- preservation of some specific ecosystems such</li> <li>- as wetlands, marine habitats, forests, dunes and islands, and protection areas are provided.</li> <li>- Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Objects ("OG of MNE" 64/17)</li> <li>- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment ("OG of the RoM" 80/05 and "OG of MNE" 27/13)</li> <li>- Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment ("OG of the RoM" 80/05 and "OG of MNE" 59/11)</li> <li>- The Law on the Sea (OG 17/07) regulates the internal waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the continental shelf.</li> </ul>
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- La loi-cadre n° 99-12 du 6 mars 2014 portant charte nationale de l'environnement et du développement durable.Date of text: 06 March 2014</li> <li>- Arrêté du ministre de l'agriculture, de la pêche maritime, du développement rural et des eaux et forêts n°1520-17 des 20 ramadans 1438 (15 juin 2017) relatif à l'interdiction temporaire de pêche de certaines espèces pélagiques.Date of text: 15 June 2017</li> <li>- Arrêté du ministre de l'agriculture et de la pêche maritime n° 2818-16 du 20 hija 1437 (22 septembre 2016) relatif à l'interdiction temporaire de pêche dans certaines zones maritimes de l'Atlantique et de la Méditerranée.Date of text: 22 September 2016</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dahir n° 1-10-123 du 3 chaabane 1431 portant promulgation de la loi n° 22-07 relative aux aires protégées. (B.O. n° 5866 du 19 août 2010).Dahir n° 1-14-84 du 20 octobre 2014 fixant les attributions de l'inspection de la marine royale dans les domaines de l'hydrographie, de l'océanographie et de la cartographie marine.Date of text: 20 October 2014</li> <li>- Loi n°77-15 portant interdiction de la fabrication, de l'importation, de l'exportation, de la commercialisation et de l'utilisation de sacs en matières plastiques.Date of text: 07 December 2015</li> <li>- Dahir n°1-03-60 du 12 mai 2003 portant promulgation de la Loi 12-03 relative aux études d'impacts sur l'environnement</li> <li>- Dahir n° 1-15-87 du 29 ramadan 1436 (16 juillet 2015) portant promulgation de la loi n° 81-12 relative au littoral</li> <li>- Dahir n° 1-11-84 du 29 rejeb 1432 (2 juillet 2011) portant promulgation de la loi n° 29-05 relative à la protection des espèces de flore et de faune sauvages et au contrôle de leur commerce</li> <li>- Dahir n°1-03-59 du 12 mai 2003 portant promulgation de la Loi n°11-03 relative à la protection et à la mise en valeur de l'environnement</li> <li>- Projet de loi relative à la préservation des écosystèmes halieutiques et à la protection du milieu marin contre la pollution (en cours de promulgation)</li> </ul>
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decree on protected wild animal species. Date of text: 30 April 2004</li> <li>- Decree on protected wild plant species. Date of text: 30 April 2004</li> <li>- Decree on ecologically important areas. Date of text: 30 April 2004</li> <li>- Rules on the designation and protection of natural values. Date of text: 14 October 2004</li> <li>- Decree on special protection areas (Natura 2000 areas). Date of text: 30 April 2004</li> <li>- Decree on the Strunjan Landscape Park. Date of text: 01 October 2004</li> <li>- Decree on the Debeli rtič Landscape Park. Date of text: 13 July 2018</li> <li>- Regulation on the types of measures to remedy environmental damage. Date of text: 09 July 2009</li> <li>- Decree on the marine environment management plan. Date of text: 28 July 2017</li> <li>- Regulation on the report on the impact of the planned activity on the environment. Date of text: 07 May 2009</li> <li>- Marine Fisheries Act (ZMR-2). Date of text: 27 October 2006</li> <li>- Decree on the monitoring of catches and sale of fish products. Date of text: 03 January 2013</li> <li>- Regulation on planning and reporting on fisheries. Date of text: 05 February 2008</li> <li>- Decree on fishing species caught in inland waters. Date of text: 17 May 2007</li> <li>- Decree amending the Decree on ecologically important areas. Date of text: 28 November 2013</li> <li>- Decree amending the Decree on special protection areas (Natura 2000). Date of text: 19 April Date of text: 19 April 2013</li> <li>- Decree on habitat types. Date of text: 06 November 2003</li> </ul>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loi n ° 21/2013 - Loi sur l'évaluation environnementale.Date du texte: 09 décembre 2013</li> <li>- Loi n ° 8/2011 - Loi établissant des mesures pour la protection des infrastructures critiques.Date du texte: 28 avril 2011</li> <li>- Loi n ° 26/2007 - Loi sur la responsabilité environnementale.Date du texte: 23 octobre 2007</li> <li>- Décret-loi royal n ° 17/2012 - Mesures urgentes dans le domaine de l'environnement.Date du texte: 04 mai 2012</li> <li>- Décret royal n ° 6/2018 - Création de la Commission interministérielle pour l'incorporation de critères écologiques dans les marchés publics.Date du texte: 12 janvier 2018</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Décret royal n ° 234/2013 - Règles d'application du règlement (CE) n ° 66/2010 du Parlement européen et du Conseil sur le label écologique de l'Union européenne. Date du texte: 05 avril 2013</li> <li>- Décret royal n ° 776/2012 - Modifie le décret royal n ° 2.355 / 2004 sur la structure et les fonctions du Conseil consultatif de l'environnement. Date du texte: 04 mai 2012</li> <li>- Loi n ° 42/2007 - Loi sur le patrimoine naturel et la biodiversité. Date du texte original: 13 décembre Ordonnance AAA / 1366/2016 - Déclare les zones spéciales de conservation (ZEC) des lieux d'importance communautaire de la région marine méditerranéenne du réseau Natura 2000 et approuve les mesures de conservation correspondantes. Date du texte: 04 août 2016</li> <li>- Ordonnance AAA / 1351/2016 - Modifie le Décret royal n ° 139/2011 relatif à l'élaboration de la liste des espèces sauvages sous régime de protection spéciale et du catalogue espagnol des espèces menacées d'extinction. Date du texte: 29 juillet 2016</li> <li>- Résolution du 20 novembre 2015 - Intègre dans le réseau des aires marines protégées de l'Espagne les zones de protection spéciale pour les oiseaux de mer du réseau Natura 2000. Date du texte: 20 novembre 2015</li> <li>- Décret royal n ° 416/2014 - Plan sectoriel de tourisme lié à la nature et à la biodiversité 2014-2020. Date du texte: 06 juin 2014</li> <li>- Décret royal n ° 1,015 / 2013 - Modifie les annexes de la loi n ° 42/2007, loi sur le patrimoine naturel et la biodiversité. Date du texte: 20 décembre 2013</li> <li>- Loi n ° 10/2017 modifiant la loi n ° 5/1991, loi sur la protection des zones naturelles. Date du texte: 24 novembre 2017</li> <li>- Loi n ° 5/2005 - Loi pour la conservation des espaces d'intérêt environnemental (LECO). Date du texte: 26 mai 2005</li> </ul>
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Décret n° 2014-1848 du 20 mai 2014, fixant la composition et le mode de fonctionnement des commissions d'élaboration des plans de gestion des aires marines et côtières protégées. Date of text: 20 May 2014</li> <li>- Décret n° 2004-2138 modifiant le décret n° 99-2130 fixant la composition et les modalités de fonctionnement de la commission consultative pour l'organisation de l'exercice de la pêche. Date of text: 06 September 2004</li> <li>- Loi n° 2009-49 relative aux aires marines et côtières protégées. Date of text: 20 July 2009</li> </ul>
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation on practice and research center of the Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University for ecological studies. 2018</li> <li>- Regulation on strategic environmental assessment. Date of text: 08 April 2017</li> <li>- Resolution on utilization and conservation of protected areas. 2017</li> <li>- Decree No. 2016/9108 of the Council of Ministers on the designation of some areas in Antalya as specially protected areas. 2016</li> <li>- Regulation regarding the working procedures and principles of Higher Board of Environment and Local Environment Committees. 2013</li> <li>- Regulation on usage for research and entrance in and out of the country of aquatic genetic resources. 2015</li> <li>- Regulation on the protection and improvement of waters being habitat for trout and crab species. 2014</li> <li>- Recreational fishing notification numbered 4/2 (2016/36)</li> <li>- Regulation on plastic bags compensation fees (Amendment in Environment Law 10 January 2019)</li> <li>- Regulation on protection of wetlands (04 April 2014)</li> <li>- Regulation on strategic environmental assessment. (08 April 2017)</li> <li>- Decree No. 2016/9108 of the Council of Ministers on the designation of some areas in Antalya as specially protected areas (15 August 2016)</li> <li>- Regulation regarding the working procedures and principles of higher board of environment and local environment committees (03. August 2013)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation on usage for research and entrance in and out of the country of aquatic genetic resources (09 June 2015)</li> <li>- Regulation on the protection and improvement of waters being habitat for trout and carp species (12 January 2014)</li> <li>- Regulation on practice and research centre of the Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University for ecological studies (22 January 2018)</li> <li>- Regulation on biodiversity practice and research centre of the Atatürk University (11 May 2018)</li> <li>- Regulation on biodiversity practice and research centre of the Düzce University (3 January 2010)</li> <li>- Regulations on procedures and principles regarding the determination, registration and approval of protected areas (19 July 2012)</li> <li>- Resolution on terms of use and protection of natural sites. (05 January 2017)</li> <li>- Regulation on sustainable use and protection of genetic resources of fisheries &amp; aquatic living resources (29 August 2012)</li> </ul>
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## **Annex 2: Concept note on the approach for the elaboration of a post-2020 SAP BIO**

### **Importance of SAP BIO**

The SAP BIO, adopted in December 2003, was meant as a logical base for implementing the SPA/BD Protocol. During the Fifth meeting of the SABIO National Correspondents (Marseilles, France, 13-14 February 2019), the participants stressed the importance and role played by the SAP BIO as a strategic framework for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol at national and regional levels, in terms of harmonization and alignment of all planning for biodiversity conservation. It played a role also to aid the exchange among different departments within countries and also among countries regarding common biodiversity conservation concerns.

The changes in the contexts and the biodiversity policies occurred during the fifteen years period after the adoption of the SAP BIO, imply that there is an obvious need to define new orientations and priorities tailored to addressing current and future global, regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean. This should be done in full alignment with the relevant trends as agreed within the framework of the global contexts such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, the UNFCCC, etc. Indeed, new orientations have been decided in recent years to address the factors inducing climate change going from COP21 (Paris) to COP24 (Katowice) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, by 2020, the achievements towards the Aichi targets will be assessed at COP15 of the CBD, which will also have to adopt the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. During the two years 2019 and 2020, the process for drafting the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework will be conducted according to the guidance decided at COP14 of the CBD. This coincides, for the Mediterranean, with the SAP BIO evaluation and the preparation period of a new SAP BIO (post-2020 SAP BIO).

It is therefore crucial to ensure the maximum level of harmonisation between the new orientations and priorities to be promoted under the post-2020 SAP BIO and those that will be decided at global level

within the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework while taking into account as appropriate the results of the assessment of the implementation of SAP BIO during the period 2003-2018. Furthermore, a high level of harmonisation should be ensured between the post-2020 SAP BIO and other relevant frameworks at global and regional levels. A detailed description of these frameworks and recommendations on how to ensure harmonisation and linkages with them is presented in Appendix 1 to this concept note.

## **Proposed steps for the elaboration of the post-2020 SAP BIO**

### Step 1: Evaluation of the implementation of SAP BIO adopted in 2003

Based on a draft evaluation report prepared by SPA/RAC, the SAP BIO National Correspondents reviewed the conclusions of the evaluation and provided further information to make the evaluation more complete. A second draft of the evaluation report was then prepared to be submitted for a second round of consultations with the SAP BIO National Correspondents meeting scheduled on 18 June 2019 in Portorož, Slovenia, back to back with the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.

### Step 2: Identification of priorities and orientations

Following the adoption, by the Contracting Parties, of these proposed steps for the elaboration of the post-2020 SAP BIO, a series of consultations will be conducted at national level to identify the national priorities for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and the related needed actions. To ensure harmonisation between the consultations conducted at national level, SPA/RAC will prepare common guidelines taking into account the conclusions of the evaluation report and ensuring close link with the orientations to be decided under the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework of the CBD as well as with the relevant initiatives at regional level, in particular the EcAp process.

Based on the results of the consultations to be conducted at national level, SPA/RAC will identify the needed regional supporting activities to include in the regional component of the post-2020 SAP BIO, supported by a first meeting of the Advisory Committee and a first meeting of National Correspondents for the Post-2020 SAP BIO.

Since this Step 2 will take place in parallel with the meetings and workshops to be held by the Secretariat of the CBD for the elaboration of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, SPA/RAC should identify and participate to the most relevant of these meeting and workshops in order to ensure a maximum level of harmonisation between the new SAP BIO and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

### Step 3: Elaboration of the Draft post-2020 SAP BIO

A first draft of the new SAP BIO will be elaborated under the coordination of SPA/RAC using the results of Step 2. It will be submitted for a consultation process involving the relevant organisations and Secretariats of relevant regional bodies (GFCM, ACCOBAMS, European Commission, IUCN, etc.). To this end, a second meeting of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee will be convened by SPA/RAC

Should external funding support be available, the process will be further aided by technical expertise and subregional expert coordination meetings engaged to support the elaboration of key thematic regional documentation and draft marine and coastal NBSAPs at every country level.

It is recommended to present the first draft to the potential donors for consultation, so informing them about the main orientations and priorities, and the funding needs that the implementation of the new SAP BIO will involve.

The last activity in this step will be the Second meeting of National Correspondents for the Post-2020 SAP BIO, convened to review the first draft and amend it where necessary, with the view of submitting it to the adoption process by the Contracting Parties. This meeting should take place after COP15 of the CBD planned for October 2020 and expected to adopt the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

#### Step 4: Adoption of the post-2020 SAP BIO

The Draft post-2020 SAP BIO finalised during the Second meeting of National Correspondents for the Post-2020 SAP BIO, held under Step 3 will be reviewed by the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points, the MAP Focal Points and submitted for adoption by the Contracting Parties.

#### Tentative calendar

Step 1: Evaluation of the implementation of SAP BIO	November 2018 – June 2019
Step 2: Identification of priorities and orientations	January 2020 – February 2021
Step 3: Elaboration of the Draft post-2020 SAP BIO	January 2021 - May 2021
Step 4: Adoption of the post-2020 SAP BIO	According to the calendar of meetings of Thematic Focal Points, MAP Focal Points and Contracting Parties

#### **Consultation and coordination meetings' options (pending budgets availability)**

The number of meetings to be organised for the identification of priorities and orientations, and the elaboration of the post 2020 SAP BIO shall be adapted to the availability of funding.

#### Option 1: Only funding under MTF available

This option is based upon the expected 2020-21 funding from MTF sources for this specific activity

Step 2	First meeting of the Advisory Committee First meeting of the National Correspondents for post 2020 SAP BIO
Step 3	Second meeting of the Advisory Committee Second meeting of the National Correspondents for post 2020 SAP BIO

Option 2: MTF and external additional funding available

This option allows for a participative bottom-up approach enabling further country ownership and country level tailored coastal and marine NBSAP for each Party

Step 2	<p>Country workshops to identify priorities at national level</p> <p>4 subregional expert meetings</p> <p>First meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p>First meeting of the National Correspondents for post 2020 SAP BIO</p>
Step 3	<p>Second meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p>Second meeting of the National Correspondents for post 2020 SAP BIO</p>

**Orientations for the structure of the post-2020 SAP BIO**

One of the difficulties reported regarding the implementation of SAP BIO during the period 2004-2018 related to the complexity of the priorities and the cumbersomeness of the activities and NAPs. To ease its implementation, the post-2020 SAP BIO, while bringing a high level of ambitions, should be succinct, action-oriented and made of activities tailored towards realistic objectives that countries could reasonably achieve with the coordination of relevant International Organisations and the support of donors and funding agencies. Although it is too early to decide now about the structure of the post-2020 SAP BIO, these remarks should be considered.

## **Appendix 1: Linking the new SAP BIO elaboration process with the on-going processes under MAP and other relevant international frameworks.**

The post-2020 SAP BIO should be elaborated for at least the period 2021-2030 taking into account the orientations and priorities set within relevant frameworks at international and regional levels. The main identified frameworks to consider are described hereinafter with recommendations on how to ensure harmonisation of the new SAP BIO and where possible establish linkages between them and SAP BIO.

### The post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework

COP 15 of the Parties to CBD is expected to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework whose preparatory process was agreed during COP14 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018). Actually, the preparation process started in 2018, in particular when the Executive Secretary of CBD invited Parties and observers to submit initial views on the aspects of the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 Vision and a possible structure.

A synthesis of the inputs received by the Secretariat of the CBD before its COP14<sup>2</sup> showed that the majority of submissions requested that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should not be less ambitious than the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or any other biodiversity-related plan or framework adopted under a multilateral environmental agreement.

To ensure that the elaboration of a new SAP BIO would gain from the process launched under the CBD for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework, SPA/RAC should follow the most important steps of the process to allow a maximum of harmonisation of the SAP BIO with the strategic orientations to be set at global level under the CBD. The participation of SPA/RAC to the following meetings is recommended: First Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (August 2019), SBSTTA-23 (November 2019), SBSTTA-24 (May-June 2020), Second Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (July 2020), other relevant Regional Consultation workshops and online discussion forums that will be organised by the Secretariat of CBD in relation to the Post-2020 process.

### The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations Organisation by the Head of States and Governments, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive and people-centred programme built to achieve a set of universal and Goals and targets addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Most of international environment related conventions and organisations use the Sustainable Development Goals set under this Agenda to guide their strategies and priorities.

As far as biodiversity is concerned, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that "social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources". It confirms the commitments to "conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife".

Given the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as policy driver, it is highly recommended to take its provisions and Goals (SDGs) into consideration when elaborating the new SAP

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<sup>2</sup> CBD/COP/14/INF/16 – Preliminary synthesis and analysis of views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

BIO. Many of them are of particular relevance for biodiversity conservation (e.g: SDG4 for environmental education under SDG4, biodiversity planning under SDG17 or the adverse impacts of inappropriate subsidies under SDG8).

#### The EcAp process under the Barcelona convention

During their 17th Ordinary Meeting (February, 2012), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Decided to "initiate a process, involving scientists and policy makers, and when appropriate, other competent bodies/organizations/authorities, aiming at the gradual application of the ecosystem approach". The process (EcAp Process) included seven steps starting by defining the following ecological Vision for the Mediterranean: "A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations". To achieve the vision the contracting Parties agreed on the following goals:

- To protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status and allow for their sustainable use.
- To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to minimize impacts on and risks to human and/or ecosystem health and/or uses of the sea and the coasts.
- To prevent, reduce and manage the vulnerability of the sea and the coasts to risks induced by human activities and natural events.

A substantial progress has been made in the development of the EcAp process mainly through the definition of desired Good Environmental Status (GES), Ecological Objectives and indicators as well as the elaboration of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) aimed at providing information for the regular assessment of the progress towards the GES.

Given that at least three of the eleven Ecological objectives defined under the EcAp process are of direct relevance for biodiversity, and that the other ones have transversal relevance, the SAP BIO should be harmonised in its new orientations with the EcAp process. A clear added value could be gained by the full integration of the IMAP with the monitoring and evaluation component of SAP BIO.

#### The Marine Strategy of EU

The Marine Strategy is one of the thematic strategies adopted for the management of the environment in the EU member States. It was the subject of the Marine Strategy framework Directive (MSFD) adopted in June 2008 with the aim of protecting more effectively the marine environment across Europe, in particular through achieving "Good Environmental Status (GES)" in the marine environment by 2021, at the latest. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the Regional Seas covered by the MSFD. Given that many Mediterranean countries are EU Member States, an important effort was made to harmonise the EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention with the implementation of MSFD.

The elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO should take into consideration the future development under MSFD, in particular for the Mediterranean EU member States. In this context, SPA/RAC should keep a watch on the main decisions that will be made as a follow-up of MSFD beyond 2021 and to take them into consideration in developing the new phase of SAP BIO. To this end it may keep regular contacts with the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points from the EU countries and the European Union.

