

ENGLISH



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“Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem”

Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs

Sub-component 3.1

CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE DIVERSITY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEDITERRANEAN MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs) NETWORK

EAS (MPAs) NETWORK

In the framework of a sustainable development approach, this document will be available only in electronic format during the meeting.

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SUMMARY

Title	Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network
Total duration	60 months
Objectives	The objective of the project consists in 'enhancing the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features, through the creation of an ecologically coherent MPA network in the Mediterranean region', as required by Barcelona Convention's Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) ¹ . This will effectively expand the existing Network of MPA Managers in the Mediterranean - MedPAN to include the rest of the Mediterranean and assist the country partners to implement the prioritized elements of the SAP-BIO ² through the provision of a series of enabling activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels.
Partners	The project is jointly implemented by: • Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) in Tunisia • Mediterranean Programme Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF (legally recognized as WWF European Policy Programme, Rome) – WWF-MedPO
Beneficiary countries	12 Mediterranean riparian countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority is also intended to be involved.
Target group(s)	MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities in the countries non EU Parties to the Barcelona Convention
Main activities	The project is organized into: Activity 1: Establishment of coordination mechanism for regional MPA management Activity 2: Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representiveness Activity 3: Improved management of marine protected areas Activity 4: Ensure the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks
Estimated results	- Implementation of actions prioritised by the SAP BIO project. - Existing and proposed MPAs will coalesce to form part of a coherent and geographically balanced network that exists at both institutional and ecological levels. - Greater representation of the Mediterranean's vulnerable and

¹ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean was adopted on 10 June 1995 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, held in Barcelona. The Protocol entered into force on 12 December 1999 .

² UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA: Strategic Action Programme For The Conservation Of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) In The Mediterranean Region, Tunis, 2003.

	critical coastal and marine habitats brought under statutory protection. - Tools and capacity for the management of recognised Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity sites improved. - Permanent coordination, monitoring, evaluation and support mechanisms for regional coastal and marine biodiversity conservation. - Innovative approaches to the funding of regionally important existing and future coastal and marine biodiversity conservation initiatives in place.
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1. **Background/Context/Rationale**

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) are recognized as a main tool for accomplishing a broad spectrum of objectives related to nature conservation and protection of key habitats and species, support of local communities and nature-based tourism, and the sustainable management of fisheries. This is clearly reflected in the statement from World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD): "MPAs are the key to achieving at least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved", which is the target established at the 6th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). By 2012, governments are committed to curb biodiversity loss through the establishment of "a global network of representative and effectively managed national and regional MPA systems"³. According to the Jakarta Mandate⁴, a carefully selected network of well managed MPAs can reduce the decline of the marine environment and over fishing, and can also highly contribute to sustaining the regional economic development and to improve the well-being of the local populations, offering benefits for fisheries, local economies and the marine environment.

Mediterranean countries already dispose of national and regional instruments (the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean and its related Strategic Action Program for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (**SAP BIO**) adopted in 2003) to meet this objective. Any truly representative Mediterranean network has to include the protection of biodiversity features within areas under the jurisdiction of as many riparian countries as possible; it will only be complete when most representative Mediterranean features within respective national jurisdiction are covered, as well as properly managed and monitored.

In the Mediterranean, at present, less than 1% of the marine ecosystem and only 3% of the coastline are under statutory protection⁵. Moreover, according to the data available in the relevant databases of UNEP MAP RAC/SPA, 41% of the Mediterranean MPAs are small (less than 1,000 ha), only 15% are mainly marine, and most of these MPAs are located along the north-western Mediterranean shores. Most of the Mediterranean countries lack adequate legal framework to ensure effective protection of the marine and coastal areas. In the management of most of these areas, the institutional co-ordination is very weak, being either inadequate, with overlapping roles between land, marine, local, or national authorities. Most of the existing MPAs have problems with their social environments, particularly with the resource users, either traditional or not (e.g. fishing, sand extraction, hunting, agriculture or tourism industries). Around half of these areas claim not to have a management plan, and in only 1 out of every 3 MPAs there is staff present in the field. In only ¼ of the MPAs there are education or awareness activities and just in one out of every five MPAs there is control over visitors and tourists. MPAs' managers also claim lack of training opportunities, and permanent shortage of equipment and funding for the most basic protection needs⁶.

The Sub-component 3.1 "Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network" referred here as "the Project" is part of Component 3 "Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs" of the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem" (MedPartnership).

This Project receives the financial support of the European Commission (EC), the Spanish Agency

3 VII meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Programme of Work on Protected Areas

4 Decision VII/5. Marine and coastal biological diversity

5 Arturo López & Elena Correás. (2003) Assessment and Opportunities of Mediterranean Networks and action plans for the Management of Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

6 See Note 13.

for International Cooperation to Development (AECID), the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the MAVA Foundation. It is being implemented by RAC/SPA (MedMPAnet component) and WWF-MedPO (MedPAN South Component).

The project will assist the countries of the south and east of the Mediterranean through two main interlinked fields of action:

- Identification and preparation for nomination of further Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) according to the SPA/BD Protocol;
- Improvement of the capacities of existing MPAs managers and practitioners on issues related to MPAs management, monitoring and sustainable financing, according to the priority actions identified in the SAP BIO.

2. Objectives of the MPAs network project

The objective of this project consists in enhancing the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features, through the creation of an ecologically coherent MPA network in the Mediterranean region as required by Barcelona Convention's Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).

Through its two fields of action, the project will help to enhance the limited capacity for MPAs development and management that chronically affects the conservation of marine shared resources at regional level in the Mediterranean ecosystem.

For the promotion of new protected areas, it will be prioritized the support to conservation of the species and habitats covered by the regional action plans of RAC/SPA as well as the lists appearing in the Protocol ASP/BD. Regarding European candidate countries surveyed, European experience for the creation of national Natura 2000 networks will be considered and compatibility pursued.

The creation of a network of MPAs in the Mediterranean is a process that will tackle the common problems in the region as regards (a) the identification of the stakeholders to be involved, (b) the joint consideration of issues having scientific and technical nature, and (c) the intertwining of ecological considerations with economic, social, and political concerns.

The project will also promote the networking of MPAs by expanding the existing Network of MPAs Managers in the Mediterranean - MedPAN to include the rest of the Mediterranean, in a process that will provide a tool to enhance biodiversity conservation and maintain those environmental goods and services that are essential objectives of integrated coastal and marine management⁷.

3. Project area

The project will be implemented in the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority is also intended to be involved.

As agreed with the participating countries, the project demonstration actions will be implemented as follows:

⁷ Planning of individual MPAs should be participatory and integrated within broader spatial management and economic and social development frameworks to ensure their sustainability and to promote the creation of functionally-connected networks of MPAs. Belfiore, S., Cicin-Sain, B., & Ehler, C., Editors (2004). Incorporating Marine Protected Areas into Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management: Principles and Guidelines. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. viii + 38 pp.

- The Demonstration actions on MPAs creation will be implemented in the following sites:
 - Katici Island, Platamuni and Old Ulcinj, Kotor bay- Bojana transboundary estuary -Lake Skadar area – Montenegro,
 - Vis Island – Croatia
 - Karaburun – Albania
 - Kuriat islands - Tunisia

These actions will be supported by RAC/SPA.

- In Libya, the Demonstration actions will be implemented in the following sites:
 - Farwa coastal lagoon,
 - Ain el Ghezala,
 - El Bomba bay
 - El Gara Island.

These actions will be supported by RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO.

- The Demonstration actions on management improvement, are agreed and planned in the following sites:
 - Taza National Park, Gouraya National Park and El Kala National Park – Algeria
 - Region of Kroumirie et Mogods – Tunisia
 - Kas-Kekova Specially Protected Area (SPA) – Turkey
 - The National Parks of Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet and the Nature Parks of Telašćica and Lastovo Archipelago – Croatia

These demonstration actions will be supported by WWFMedPO.

Definitive locations for new MPAs will be subject to an adaptive project management methodology. Initial choices may show not being the most important ones, while project assessments may show new priority areas (always under agreement with national authorities). Thus coordination with countries' authorities will be ensured along the activities development for the final choice of the potential sites.

4. Outputs and expected results

The major expected result from the implementation of the project is to strengthen the effectiveness in the conservation of regionally-important coastal and marine biodiversity features through the support to targeted countries for their creation of functional MPAs networks.

Specifically, it is expected that the project will result in:

- Implementation of related actions prioritized by the SAPBIO project
- Existing and proposed MPAs will coalesce to form part of a coherent network at both institutional and ecological levels
- Greater representation of the Mediterranean's vulnerable and critical coastal and marine habitats brought under statutory protection
- Tools and capacity for the management of recognized Mediterranean coastal and marine bio-diversity sites will be improved
- Permanent coordination, monitoring, evaluation and support mechanisms for regional marine biodiversity conservation
- Innovative approaches to the funding of regionally-important existing and future marine biodiversity conservation initiatives

The expected outputs are:

- Regional coastal and marine ecosystems categorised and assessed in terms of representativeness and scarcity to form the basis for network establishment.
- MPA's surface area under national jurisdiction (existing, new and planned) to be increased from 1% to 5% including SPAs and SPAMIs (starting from 982,600 hectares as zero point)
- Appropriate zoning and management tools developed and demonstrated for existing and new MPAs in at least 9 sites.
- At least 7 management plans completed and approved by local authorities
- Institutions and responsibilities identified to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and evaluate the regional MPA network
- About 100-150 MPAs managers, practitioners and officers of relevant authorities in the target trained through workshops, seminars, and exchange/twinning programmes
- About 30-40 MPAs or relevant authorities in the target countries receive technical assistance on MPA management, monitoring, business plan development, and financial
- At least 3 MPA management tools developed and disseminated throughout the MedPAN network to the benefit of all MPAs in the Mediterranean
- A functional network of MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities established in the beneficiary countries and fully contributing to the regional MedPAN network and to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention SPA/BD Protocol, the EC Habitats and Birds Directives and other international provisions of relevance to marine and coastal biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean countries
- Funding mechanisms (environmental trust funds and other forms of recurrent funding) in place to support the conservation and sustainable management tools developed and disseminated throughout the MedPAN network to the benefit of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity
- Diverse outputs developed within several pilot areas, detailed further below in this document.

As building capacity is a key for the improvement of the management effectiveness of existing MPAs in the south and east of the Mediterranean, the project will largely invest on a **region-wide capacity building (CB) programme**, led by WWF-MedPO with the support of RAC/SPA.

The programme entails 3 regional yearly Mediterranean MPA Regional Training Workshops, a Mentor Programme of "training of the trainers" and a follow up programme of targeted technical assistance to the participants to the workshops, which will assist them in the on-the-ground implementation of the tools and know-how acquired during the training. A preliminary region-wide CB needs assessment will be undertaken to identify the top priority themes to be addressed in the framework of the CB programme. A system will be also established to assist MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities exchanging knowledge and skills with their colleagues in the region, even beyond the life span of the project. A pool of experts will be identified and an online MPA experts database developed. Training material will be made available in English and French.

The project plans for a **wide dissemination of the project documents**, such as field surveys, management tools, technical reports, etc. Given the number and diversity of activities to be undertaken, it is expected that the project will make a very big contribution to providing the Mediterranean region with scientific data on marine biological diversity, especially since this is data directed towards conservation and management. The educational and awareness-raising document will be written in the languages suited to the countries in question. Videos on the Mediterranean MPAs will be also produced to showcase their value and role in protecting the marine and coastal biodiversity features, while enhancing local economies.

The Information and Communication (IC) activities of the project will include:

Production of an Intranet/Internet site and on-line magazine to create a shared vision and disseminate the project's progress and lessons learned.

Design, production of *ad hoc* IC material (leaflets, brochures, etc) for selected audiences.

Participation to selected national and international environmental events (such as the Environment Day, the EU Green Week, etc.) to present project information to governments, institutions and the media on national and international scales

Planning of an *ad hoc* audiovisual campaign for wide media dissemination.

The IC activities will be implemented by WWF-MedPO and RAC/SPA in close cooperation with INFO/RAC. As a result ongoing information during the project as well as the final project results will be disseminated to government institutions, universities and all other relevant stakeholders within the Mediterranean. The functional networks of MedPAN Association and IW-LEARN will be used to further circulate the project's outcomes.

5. Description of the activities

To satisfy the overall and specific development objectives, the project is organized around the following main activities:

Activity 1: Establishment of coordination mechanism for regional MPA management

Activity 2: Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representiveness

Activity 3: Improved management of marine protected areas

Activity 4: Ensure the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks

Activity 1: Establishment of coordination mechanism for regional MPA management

A mechanism will be established to coordinate all the activities of the project, including joint inception, mid-term, and Advisory Committee meetings and final coordination and evaluation activities. This will ensure that the overall goal of the project is met through adequate cross-component coordination and linkages.

The expected results are:

Two Project Coordination Units (RAC/SPA – WWF-MedPO) established and operating over the project

Overall goal of the project is met through adequate supervision, coordination and linkages

Regional coordination of MPAs within the Mediterranean LME continues to operate through RAC/SPA and the Secretariat of the MedPAN Association

Awareness raised among key stakeholders and the public in general on the values and role of MPAs in ensuring the sustainable management of marine and coastal biodiversity features

Communication on project events, results, good practices and project opportunities ensured throughout the RAC/SPA and MedPAN networks (in close cooperation with the MedPAN Secretariat, WWF-MedPO and INFO/RAC)

1.1 Establish and set operative two Project Coordination Units (RAC/SPA – WWF-MedPO)

A project management capability will be established at the beginning of the project to ensure that the project activities will be managed in a cost-effective manner and that common management issues are addressed together. Two Coordination Units will be created, one at RAC/SPA premises and one at WWF-MedPO premises, in view to ensure project management and coordination, monitoring and evaluation. The assistance and mechanisms provided by these Coordination Units will be disseminated by a combination of workshops and reports, including inception and final ones.

1.2 Organize Inception, Midterm and Final Workshops (RAC/SPA with the support of WWF-MedPO)

This activity aims at ensuring the coordination, the dissemination of results and the replication mechanism of the network. It will encompass two meetings: an Inception Meeting will be organized at the beginning of the project (it will involve all projects' participants, about 40 people); a Final Regional Conference will be organized at the end of the project, in one of the 12 Mediterranean countries involved in the project, in order to present the results of the activities (80-100 participants including decision makers, MPA managers, scientists, NGOs, stakeholders).

1.3 Advisory Committee and SAP BIO National Correspondents meet to supervise and advise the activities (RAC/SPA)

The development of the MPA network will receive proper advice and inputs by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant international institutions within the region. A meeting of the Advisory Committee will be implemented each year and a meeting of the National Correspondents will be held back to back with the inception, and final workshops. A midterm gathering will take stock of the progress so far made and the eventual need of adaptations to reach expected final outputs.

1.4: Develop the project communication and information tools (WWF-MedPO in close collaboration with the MedPAN Association and RAC/SPA)

A communications strategy will be developed and implemented by WWF-MedPO, in close cooperation with the MedPAN Association, RAC/SPA and all key organizations in the region, to support the networking of MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular in the South and East of the basin, promote the project objectives and progress as well as the MedPAN network in the institutional and political framework of the Mediterranean, and raise awareness of the values of MPAs and MPA networks and their role in ensuring the sustainable management of marine and coastal areas for the benefit of the coastal communities.

1.5: Raise awareness of key stakeholders on MPAs values and importance (WWF-MedPO – RAC/SPA)

A preliminary assessment will be done on the communications context, and the needs of the targeted audiences will be analysed. A communications strategy will be prepared by identifying the best communications tools, contents and approaches to be developed. A mix of communications and information tools will be then developed, and may include the strengthening of the existing websites of the MedPAN Association (www.medpan.org) and RAC/SPA (www.rac-spa.org), the edition of an electronic newsletter on MPA management, the development of an MPA experts and documents database or clearing house mechanism, and the publication of the Directory of Mediterranean MPAs. The role of the websites will be especially emphasized. These communication tools will be designed to meet the needs of the various target groups (MPA managers, politicians, organisations, wide public, scientists and researchers, tourists, fishermen and other users).

Activity 2: Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representiveness

This activity will boost a Mediterranean MPAs network extended throughout the Mediterranean in a process that will prioritize protection to regionally important vulnerable areas in coastal areas. The process will commence with the development of an implementation plan that will be developed in consultation with the beneficiary countries. Stakeholder groups and partnerships will then be identified in candidate areas based on existing data, followed by a series of ecological and socio-economic surveys and investigations to characterize these sites. Demonstration projects will be established to carry out a detailed evaluation of their status and management needs and to identify appropriate stakeholder-driven management mechanisms.

The process will enhance the representation of Mediterranean vulnerable and critical habitats brought under statutory protection and integrated within a broader Mediterranean MPAs network.

Expected results:

- Priority needs to be addressed for MPAs creation in 4 countries defined through on-site international consultants activities in full collaboration with authorities and other stakeholders
- The current situation of potential partnership to launch a MPA creation project evaluated on site in three countries.
- Existing biophysical and ecological information necessary for the proper choice of new MPAs at country level furnished
- A study filling important gaps in ecological knowledge of marine ecosystems in the area, including GIS-based mapping and environmental sectoring and valuation
- Existing information on small scale fisheries in the area addressed to the proper choice of new MPAs at country level furnished
- Fishery study in relation to MPAs (at national or sub-national level) to fill gaps in fisheries knowledge.- establishing a preliminary description of small scale fishery presence in areas deserving protection
- Prioritized list of sites worthy of being protected at the national (or sub-national) level based on the four previous outputs
- On-job trained local personnel in three countries on the many aspects of ecological quantification of MPAs ecosystems and related fisheries
- Ecological study to filling gap aspects performed, and GIS-based maps produced for three demonstration areas
- Fisheries study on fleet locally operating in three potential MPA and surrounding areas performed
- Local stakeholders participation mechanisms and consensus achievement in MPAs considered for the new MPA creation

In order to identify and plan new MPAs the following activities will be carried out:

2.1. Establishment of priority activities needed to create MPAs: the actual needs and demands of countries concerning the creation of MPAs taken into account and a precise set of activities to be implemented in each country agreed and planned (RAC/SPA).

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- The actual needs and demands of countries concerning the creation of MPAs taken into account

The precise set of activities to be implemented in each country agreed and planned

Expected outputs:

- Report on priority needs diagnosis for MPAs creation in each of 5 countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro and Syria)

A rapid preliminary assessment is needed in order to elaborate an Implementation Strategy, in which priority activities and actions to be developed are to be decided, in agreement with national policies. International consultant(s team) will visit each of the 5 considered countries and contact the other ones to:

- Examine, at a preliminary stage, the present national situation to create new MPAs (starting from NAPs and National Reports within SAP BIO), regarding:
 - Institutional and stakeholder / partnership aspects
 - Environmental available knowledge
 - Financial potentiality
- survey (based on interviews to institutions, and local technical workshops) national demands and needs
- Elaborate together with national officers a needs diagnosis for each of the countries

Replicability:

- The methodology put in practice is replicable at the regional level, in the case this (or similar) projects are to be implemented elsewhere.

2.2. Identification of stakeholder groups and potential partnerships (RAC/SPA)

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- To provide the country with the elements needed to plan participation mechanisms as a desirable part of MPA-creation process (including partnership with international institutions and organisations).

Expected outputs:

- A technical report will be produced on the current situation of potential partnership to launch a MPA creation project in three countries (Albania, Libya and Morocco).
- Stakeholder Engagement Plans will be drafted and agreed.

Methodology:

A technical expertise is to be developed to identify Users Groups (organised stakeholders), at the national and sub-national level, likely to participate in integrated management schemes (e.g. Fishermen Brotherhoods, Diver Associations, Tourism Associations, Agricultural Organizations, etc.); to identify possible partnership at the international and national level, in three countries, (Albania, Libya, Morocco) to provide an adequate institutional framework to the participatory mechanisms. The action will take stock of existing MedPAN stakeholder groups to eventually enhance and complement them.

Replicability:

- Methods and results produced in each case will be transposable to other areas in the region

2.3. Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs: valuation of marine areas, in order to select the best areas to become MPA taking into account fisheries communities.

Purpose:

- Countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina , Montenegro and Morocco) where these actions are to be performed will have a GIS-based, ecological and fishery survey of the present situation of their marine areas
- Based on these surveys, countries will have a valuation of marine areas, in order to select the best areas to become MPA, applying for that task internationally agreed ecological criteria,

taking into account fisheries communities presence, and precluding wrong targeting of efforts and resources

Expected outputs:

For each of three countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Morocco):

- A report reviewing and summarizing existing biophysical and ecological information in the defined area
- A study filling important gaps in ecological knowledge of marine ecosystems in the area, including GIS-based mapping and environmental sectoring and valuation
- A report reviewing and summarizing the existing information on small scale fisheries in the area
- Fishery study in relation to MPAs (at national or sub-national level) to fill gaps in fisheries knowledge.- establishing a preliminary description of small scale fishery operating in areas deserving protection
- A report on the (prioritized) list of sites worthy of being protected at the national (or sub-national Mediterranean) level furnished

Methodology:

Technical assistance by international consulting teams, in collaboration with local teams, will be in charge of achieving environmental studies, whose overall objective is to provide criteria to selecting a marine site to become a MPA with regard to other less significant ones, at the same time that achieving on-job training of the local participants (activity linked with activities to increase technical capacity). The following actions (translated into reports) are proposed for three countries:

A. Ecological survey

- Reviewing and summarizing (at national or sub-national level) the existing biophysical and ecological (benthic habitats, fish and invertebrates, ecological processes important for conservation purposes, main threats and impacts to biodiversity) information in the area.
- Ecological study (at national or sub-national level) to fill gaps in environmental knowledge- establishing a preliminary description of marine areas; for all important aspects, this study will provide:
 - Large-scale (low resolution), GIS-based mapping;
 - Ecological sectoring of national (or sub-national) marine areas, in function of agreed, international criteria.

The Standard Data-entry Form for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest (SDF), prepared by RAC/SPA and adopted by the Contracting Parties in June 2000, will be used systematically for data recording, using the reference list of marine habitats, also prepared by RAC/SPA.

B. Small scale fishery survey

- Reviewing and summarizing (at national or sub-national level) the existing information on small-scale fisheries in the area (fleet and boat characteristics, spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort- main characteristics of fishing grounds by gear/ etier, historical fishing statistics, characteristics of marine resources, onboard sampling, marketing structure and mechanisms, etc.)
- Fishery study (at national or sub-national level) to fill gaps in fisheries knowledge – establishing a preliminary description of small scale fishery, by assessing in the field all (or part of) the aspects above.

C. Advice to MPA-site selection

From the above information, a report will be produced on the (prioritised) list of sites worthy of being protected at the national (or sub-national) level, and their main environmental characteristics (in a standardised form), including size, taking into account:

- Previously stated MPA objectives and goals (including economic, social, cultural, and/or practical considerations, as well as political judgements);
- Linkage with existing or planned conservation policies;
- Emphasizing the international or national significance for being designed –or potentially included because of reaching relevant criteria, in a list of important zones (SPAMIs etc.);
- Emphasizing the possible influence of events located outside the proposed MPA (e.g. land-based pollution activities) but which might affect the MPA;
- Their adequacy to belong to a regional MPA network, based on clear and concise inclusion criteria

Replicability:

- Methods and approaches to be implemented in each case will be readily applicable to other areas in the region, and methodology and results of marine ecological valuation will be translatable to other areas where preliminary ecological and fishery information already exist.

2.4. Inception, planning, zoning and development of four new MPAs (RAC/SPA)

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- Inception, planning, zoning and development (management, monitoring and evaluation) of newly created MPAs within four beneficiary countries. Exact locations conditioned to adaptive findings (Island katici, Platamuni and Old Ulcinj, Kotor bay- Bojana transboundary estuary - Lake Skadar area – Montenegro; Vis Island – Croatia; Karaburun – Albania; Kurat islands – Tunisia) to be based on sound scientific knowledge.

Expected outputs:

- On-the-job trained local personnel in four countries (Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia) on the many aspects of ecological quantification of MPAs ecosystems and related fisheries
- Ecological study to fill gaps aspects performed, and GIS-based maps produced for four demonstration areas
- Fisheries study on fleet locally operating in the four countries potential MPA and surrounding areas performed in coordination with FAO GFCM

Methodology:

Technical assistance by international consulting teams, in collaboration with local teams, will be in charge of achieving environmental studies, whose objective is to quantitatively survey the marine site used as demonstration area to become a MPA, as well as surrounding areas, while providing on-job training to the local teams to rise their capacity for their autonomous national future actions (activity linked with activities to increase technical capacity). The following actions (translated into reports) are proposed:

Ecological study (at least three demonstration areas) to fill gaps in environmental knowledge - establishing a quantitative description of the marine area to be protected, as well as surrounding areas, by assessing:

- Shoreline geomorphology and land use (by boat-paths along the coast)

- Bathymetry (echo-sounder survey)
- Main seafloor substrate types (underwater aquaplane, skin-diving and SCUBA visual survey)
- Inventory and spatial distribution of benthic habitats (aquaplane surveys, semi-quantitative sampling by underwater visual transects and digital photographic quadrats); special attention will be driven to particularly valuable habitats
- Quantitative survey of fish assemblages (underwater visual census on transects)
- Potentiality of zones for supporting ecological processes important for conservation purposes (potential value for spawning, recruitment, nursery, habitat for important species, etc.), based on available knowledge
- Inventory of main sources of threats and impacts
- Fine-scale (high resolution), GIS-based mapping of main geomorphologic features, substrates, benthic habitats, potentially important areas, and main threats
- Design of indicators for ecological monitoring actions

Fishery study (at least three demonstration areas) to fill gaps in fisheries knowledge- establishing a preliminary description of small-scale fishery in the area, by assessing in the field all (or part of) the following aspects:

- Fleet and boat characteristics (by field surveys using questionnaires –directly to fishermen, or in brotherhoods, administrations, etc.)
- Spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort – main characteristics of fishing grounds (by field surveys as above)
- Analysis of historical fishing statistics (if available)
- Characteristics of marine resources (by onboard sampling and/or landing data)
- Marketing structure and mechanisms (by field surveys as above)
- Design of indicators for fisheries monitoring actions.

The activity could have possible synergies with COPEMED, ADRIAMED, EASTMED, MEDSUDMED, MEDFISIS.

Replicability:

- GIS-based maps, databases and indicator sets have to be co-ordinated at regional level to serve to networking purposes. In this sense, regional mechanisms of data storage and indicator comparability may to be set through his activity.

2.5. Identification of stakeholder participation mechanism within target countries: target countries provided with the means to plan participation mechanisms as a desirable part of MPA-creation process (RAC/SPA).

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- A critical part of the national MPAs creation strategy defined

Expected outputs:

- A report on local stakeholders participation mechanisms and consensus achievement in MPAs creation produced (Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Libya)
- Replicable stakeholder participation toolkits developed

Methodology:

A technical expertise is to be developed in the 4 MPA-sites to:

- Identify stakeholders (individuals and organised groups) to participate in the MPA-creation process; Survey needs and demands from stakeholders; Propose participatory mechanisms tailored to each new-MPA demonstration area, considering:
 - Balancing power between partners (stakeholder groups and relevant authorities)

- Balancing vertical linkages (top-down vs. Bottom-up) in a nested approach
- Establishing management structures to frame partnership

Replicability:

- Participatory mechanisms and institutional arrangements planned at this stage are going to be transposable to other MPA projects in the region.

2.6. MPA creation guidelines and teaching packages: practical methodologies to create sustainable MPAs available to managers and practitioners (RAC/SPA)

A considerable number of documents have been already produced worldwide to assist MPA managers and practitioners to favouring, assessing, creating, zoning, planning, evaluating and monitoring MPAs. Nevertheless, it is not the case when approaching the Mediterranean specificity, and even more if we consider existing language obstacles. Capacity building to create new MPAs in the Mediterranean region is to be reached by publishing detailed, practical monographs on relevant topics, authored by well-identified persons and/or teams in the Mediterranean context, through the following actions:

- Review on existing bibliography at the international and Mediterranean level, dealing with MPA issues
- Regional publications are to be produced, and translated into English, French and Arabic, in topics not covered by international / Mediterranean literature, such as: handbook for the management of Mediterranean MPAs; formative kits on MPAs as tools for fisheries management; guidelines for regional coordination – transboundary MPA systems; guidelines to installing material: new systems for enforcement (e.g. satellite tracking, webcams, etc.); buoys; panels and warns; informative leaflets; etc.); guidelines to organising volunteers staff.

A bibliographic review will be performed during the first year of the project. During the whole duration of the project, 5-10 methodological monographs will be edited and published – and translated to English, French and Arabic (mainly online), by selected well-recognised authors

2.7 Demonstration Project in Libya: The environmental case for a national network of MPAs in Libya (WWF-MedPO and RAC/SPA)

Context:

Libya is Party to most of the relevant international conventions and agreements related to the conservation of marine resources. Among others, in July 2001, Libya ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Libya has also participated in the drafting of the SAP BIO of the SPA Protocol. During the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Catania, November 2003), Libya stated that the western and eastern regions of Libya are priority for the second stage of implementation of the SAP BIO. Moreover, Libya's National Report, elaborated within the SAP BIO, identified the following major problems in the designation, establishment and management of new marine and coastal protected areas: lack of the basic information required to design, implement and maintain MPAs, lack of capacity on how to design MPAs, no capacity to run monitoring and evaluation systems and perform economic evaluations. The Report underlines the lack of a legal framework, as well as policies and conservation tools, to designate and manage the MPAs as key factors hampering the establishment of new MPAs. Nevertheless, under the SAP BIO, prepared under RAC/SPA responsibility, Libya has committed to develop and implement the following National Action Plans (NAPs):

- National Action Plan on proposed new marine and coastal protected areas and national parks, which aims at proposing a legal framework to enhance MPAs establishment, running pilot tests of policies and actions in pre-selected areas and selecting new sites.
- National Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats, which aims at developing and enforcing ad hoc regulations, establishing a national management, research

and monitoring program, establishing marine turtle protected areas, promoting education and capacity building, conducting public awareness and information programs as well as strengthening regional and international cooperation.

In 1998, WWF-MedPO placed the coast of the western and eastern regions of Libya among the “last 10 paradises” in the Mediterranean⁸. However, these areas may easily join the ranks of the lost paradises without proper protective measures as urban sprawling, unregulated industrial, agricultural and mass tourism development and intensive fishing activities pose mounting threats on these fragile marine and coastal ecosystems. In July 2004, EGA and the Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC) of Tajura (Libya), together with WWF MedPO, carried out the first rapid biodiversity assessment of the coastal area of the eastern region of Libya⁹. The survey revealed not only that long stretches of this coast are granted with outstanding biodiversity and unique environmental values (including nesting ground and feeding habitats of important endangered marine species, such as sea turtles and monk seals), but that they are still almost pristine and undisturbed. This is a unique situation in the context of the Mediterranean basin. However, the complete lack of solid waste management systems and waste water treatment plants, the mounting urban sprawling, the uncontrolled extraction of sand from the beaches for construction purposes, the intensive fishing activities (bottom trawling, use of explosives, etc.) and the development of mass tourism are undermining the quality of the coastal waters and shores. Urgent action is therefore needed to establish a representative system of coastal and marine protected areas.

In September 2005, EGA, MBRC and WWF MedPO co-organized a National Conference on “Marine Protected Areas and Sustainable Human Development in the Eastern Region of Libya” to present the findings of the rapid biodiversity assessment. All relevant local authorities, international organizations, such as UNEP/MAP, RAC/SPA, IUCN, UNDP, and several Governmental Aid Agencies attended the Conference. The Conference convenors recommended the Libyan authorities to give follow up to the international commitments and to the national plans for the conservation of biodiversity by launching an initiative for the creation of a system of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas along the coast of Libya, in a context of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), to function as the basis for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development of fisheries and tourism and rural development. Following the National Conference, in early 2006, EGA, UNEP MAP RAC/SPA, IUCN MED and WWF MedPO signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at supporting Libya in undertaking several actions relative to biodiversity conservation. Within the context of such a MoC, a biannual work plan will be established by the Parties. The agreed work plan for 2006-2007 focused on the following activities: i) launching the process for creating two marine and coastal protected areas; ii) strengthening the legal framework for environment preservation in Libya ; iii) compiling an inventory of marine sites of conservation interest and elaborating a programme for establishing a national network of marine and coastal protected areas - criteria for site identification; iv) the development of a national strategy on waste management ; v) the promotion of sustainable tourism.

Objective:

This demonstration project stems from the above mentioned recommendations and several meetings with the relevant Libyan authorities. The objective is to provide EGA with a strong (economic and ecological) argument in favour of the establishment of a system of coastal and marine protected areas along the Libyan coasts.

Project Activities:

A marine and coastal biodiversity assessment of key sites along the Libyan coast will be undertaken and coupled with desk work to compile all existing data and information.

The field surveys include:

⁸ WWF The Mediterranean Marine Gap Analysis (www.panda.org/mediterranean).

⁹ WWF/EGA/NBRC (2004) The Marine and coastal resources assessment of the Eastern Region of Libya Background study for the preparation of a Conservation Plan. Environmental General Authority of Libya, National Biology Research Centre of Libya and WWF Mediterranean Programme Office, Rome-Italy.

the assessment of: macro-algae, macro-invertebrates, and coastal fishes of sandy and rocky habitats, seagrass beds, sea turtles, monk seals and marine birds
the development of Monitoring Programmes
the on-the-job training on marine and coastal biodiversity assessment, MPAs siting and design, ecological and socio-economic monitoring, of scientists of relevant Libyan institutions.

Activity 3: Improved management of marine protected areas

To improve the management effectiveness of existing and future MPAs in the eligible countries, a region-wide capacity building (CB) programme will be developed and implemented by WWF-MedPO, with the support of RAC/SPA. The programme will enhance the capacity and skills of MPA managers, lead staff, practitioners and officials of relevant authorities/administrations in the project's eligible countries by providing them with the tools and know-how needed to improve the daily management, monitoring & evaluation and financing of the existing MPAs in their country

The CB programme entails:

A Mentor Programme

The Mentor Programme is a "training of the trainers" programme for a selected group of officials and/or experts from the eligible countries. The Mentors will acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to become professional trainers for MPA staff in the Mediterranean. In return, they will become the liaison between the project's staff and the MPA management bodies and relevant authorities in their country. Mentors will constitute a professional network which will ensure the sustainability of the CB programme beyond the duration of the project. Mentors will be invited to attend specific training workshops on effective facilitation and communication skills, prior to the regional training workshops. Mentors will exercise these learned skills during the training workshops.

A Training Programme

The training programme includes:

- A preliminary CB needs assessment
- Mediterranean MPA Regional Training Workshops
- Targeted technical assistance through the Implementation Agreements (IAs)
- A CB Programme effectiveness Evaluation System

A system to evaluate the CB programme effectiveness will be developed and implemented throughout the duration of the project. The evaluation system will allow to measure three interconnected levels of the programme:

- The implementation of the CB programme (CB activities: training, exchanges, etc.)
- The implementation of the IAs (activities implemented to impulse concrete changes at MPA/institution level)
- The actual impacts in the field (concrete changes and improvements in the MPA and/or institution).

- A feasibility study for long-term institutionalization of the CB programme

A feasibility study to assess different options to institutionalize the regional CB programme will be implemented during the last year of the project and discussed with Mentors, participants to the programme and project's partners.

The following detailed activities will be undertaken:

3.1. Organize 3 Mediterranean MPA Regional Training Workshops for MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities of existing MPAs based on the around specific themes, selected among the most recurrent, highest ranked CB needs obtained from a region-wide preliminary capacity building needs assessment (WWF-MedPO and SPA/RAC)

To better tailor the Training Workshops to the real needs of the target groups, a preliminary CB needs assessment (survey) will be carried out in the project countries. The survey aims at identifying both the existing MPA management capacity (expertise) and capacity building (CB) needs (gaps) of the following target groups: i) the managers and key staff of existing MPAs; ii) the officers of relevant authorities and institutions who are responsible for the siting, design, establishment, management, financing and supervision of MPAs and/or marine and coastal management and conservation in general. A questionnaire will be designed to survey target groups' perceptions on existing capacities and needs. Mentors will identify potential candidates for the CB programme in their countries and facilitate the process of filling out the questionnaire through face-to-face meetings, telephone interviews, or small workshops. They will then participate to a "CB Programme Planning workshop" to develop the structure of the Programme through a step-by-step participatory decision-making process that takes into account the different capacities in the Mediterranean countries involved in the project.

The Regional Training Workshops will be organized around the most recurrent, highest ranked CB needs obtained from the preliminary CB needs assessment and the prioritisation done by the Mentors during the Planning Workshop. Specific selection criteria and procedures for the participants to the Workshops will be developed in collaboration with the Mentors. The organization of the thematic workshop will be done also in close cooperation with the managers of MPAs of EU countries.

3.2. Organize specific technical assistance and exchange/twinning programmes to provide on-site assistance to new MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities (RAC/SPA)

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- Capacity of new-MPA staff and practitioners enhanced, including on fisheries aspects (all countries)
- Relationships among local MPA people strengthened

Expected outputs:

- Visits and exchanges celebrated
- Minutes, reports, and joint conclusions elaborated
- Training workshops on MPAs relevance and management held
- Training material prepared, including formative packages on fisheries aspects of MPAs

Methodology:

A way to facilitate the acquisition of these knowledge and skills to new-MPA managers and practitioners is through the organisation of exchanges activities at the regional level, to take advantage of the existing experience in already well-functioning MPAs in the Mediterranean. Also, a regional training course is proposed to introduce MPA practitioners to the use of this important management tool. Further to that, another training course will address the important issue of fisheries management and MPAs. The following actions are proposed:

- Two Training visits in existing MPAs: organising visits of management staff and managers of newly created MPAs (3 people from each ongoing MPA, 20 people, 1

week) to already existing and well-managed MPAs, to knowing in situ challenges, problems and solutions in specific case studies

- Staff exchanges (1-2 people from each ongoing MPA or other new MPAs, 1 week) among newly created MPAs at the sub-regional level to share common experiences and challenges
- One regional training course (20 people, 2 weeks), to be celebrated in one of the eligible countries, to introduce MPA managers and practitioners from selected countries on MPA selection, creation and management issues
- One regional training course (20 people, 2 weeks) to specialise managers on fisheries conservation aspects of MPAs management

The activities will include:

- 2 training visits of management staff and managers of new MPAs (about 3 people from each ongoing MPA = 18-20 people) during 1 week to existing MPAs (to be decided; e.g.: Parc national de Port-Cros; Parque Natural Marítimo-Terrestre de Cabo de Gata-Níjar; Ustica Marine Reserve; etc.)
- Staff exchanges: 1-2 people from each ongoing MPA to other new MPAs (1 week)
- Regional introductory training course: 18-20 people during 2 weeks (it could be combined with one of the visits above)
- Regional training course on fisheries and MPAs: 18-20 people during 2 weeks (it could be combined with one of the visits above)

Replicability:

- Methodology and materials easily applicable elsewhere in the region on the basis of the experience and learning gains. The packages and toolkits will allow a further use in training courses, universities specialisations, etc.

3.3. Organize specific technical assistance and exchange/twinning programmes to provide on-site assistance to MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities (WWF-MedPO with the support of RAC/SPA)

Targeted technical assistance to the participants to the Regional Workshop (Activity 3.1) will be delivered through the Implementation Agreements (IA). The IA provides a plan of strategies and activities that each participant to the Regional Workshops intends to implement for his or her respective MPA or institution during the 6 – 10 months following the Workshop. The IA is a contract where, on one hand, the participants are committing to implement the agreed activities, on the other hand, the project commits to provide the necessary technical assistance to the participants to achieve the agreed objectives. Each agreement will help to increase the management effectiveness of MPAs or relevant institutions by resolving concrete problems.

A wide variety of operational tools will be developed and used - and eventually adapted - according to the specific CB needs of the participants to the CB Programme. Amongst others, an MPA expertise database, with a roster of experts, best practices and expertise on issues related to MPAs management, as well as relevant publications, support tools and online learning opportunities will be made available on the MedPAN Association website (www.medpan.org). Moreover, participants will be able to apply for incentives to implement their IA. Incentives can be through direct technical support (experts, exchange programmes, field visits, etc.) or small grants. Details regarding the application procedures for the Technical Support and Small grants will be provided during the Regional Training Workshops.

3.4. On-job-training for managers, practitioners and relevant authorities in identified demonstration areas, on planning, management and ecological aspects of MPAs (RAC/SPA)

The following actions are proposed:

Organising local workshops (with MPA staff, stakeholders, and external advisors) on planning and zoning the MPA to reach the intended specific objectives and goals, to launch: legal establishment of boundaries; zoning (including defining no-take areas); detailed site planning (by zones); regulation of activities (by sectors of activity—professional fishing, recreational fishing, diving, tourism, education, etc.); day-to-day management (including monitoring and sustainability economic aspects); mechanisms to review and revise management.

Technical assistance: starting from existing experience in well-working MPAs around the Mediterranean, and from the results of the above workshop, giving advice to new MPA staff to:

- Define and develop objectives and goals specific to the selected area to become a MPA
- Properly zoning the MPA, following the steps below: initial information gathering and preparation; public participation and/or consultation - prior to the preparation of a plan (see local workshop, action 2 below); preparation of a draft plan; public participation and/or consultation – review of draft plan; finalisation of the zoning plan

3.5. Demonstration Project – Turkey: Concerted plan for the management of the marine part of the Kas-Kekova SPA (WWF-MedPO)

Context:

The Kas-Kekova SPA lies in southwest Turkey, in the Antalya province, and is located between the coastal cities of Antalya and Fethiye. Starting from Uluburun located east of the town of Kaş and extending to the plains of Demre, it covers a coastal and marine area of 26,000 ha, comprising many islands. The area has an outstanding archaeological value as it was within the borders of the Lycian norkeling n which settled around south-west Turkey in 100 BC before it fell under the control of the Roman Empire around 300 AC. Typical Lycian tombs, some located in the sea and the remnants of a sunken city gives the area an historical value out of the common. Besides its status of SPA established under the jurisdiction of the Authority for Specially Protected Areas (EPASA), established under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the area is protected by First Degree Archaeological SIT and First Degree Natural SIT status established under the newly merged Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Objective:

The development of a management plan for the marine component of the Kas-Kekova SPA, including mechanisms to insure its financial sustainability is a priority of EPASA. A management plan, developed through a participatory process involving all stakeholder groups, will contribute to the development of the local economy and to the conservation of the landscape and biological diversity of this MPA. This demonstration project has a special regional interest as it addresses one of the most common issues of MPAs in the Mediterranean: the use of an MPA by scuba divers and other tourists. The project aims to build a partnership among the diving clubs, tourism providers and other key users of the area and assist them in developing diving guidelines through a participatory process. A zoning map proposing the limited use of some areas to specific recreational activities will be developed to safeguard some areas. The project will be supported by a socio-economic analyze highlighting the comparative value of diving in the overall tourism activities of the village. The result will be used to highlight the value of diving for the overall economy and will be used to sensitize the local people for the conservation of the unique marine habitats and biodiversity of the diving sites.

A financial mechanism supported by local stakeholders, involved in various tourism activities, will be developed to ensure the sustainability of the project and create the resources needed for its monitoring.

Implementation arrangements:

The project will be implemented by WWF-Turkey together with national and local relevant organizations and, particularly, WWF-Turkey will act under the supervision of the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (EPASA), the Turkish authority responsible for the implementations of SPAs.

A Steering Committee will be recently established to contribute to the development and implementation of the management plan. The Steering Committee includes representatives of EPASA in Antalya and the headquarters in Ankara, of WWF-Turkey and of each concerned professional sector in the area. The project aims also to develop a partnership with the coastguard to ensure the patrolling of the area.

Project Activities:

- Complementary studies of the marine area of Kaş-Kekova (socio-economic study, a carrying capacity assessment, and complementary marine surveys)
- Development of a GIS database
- Development of the Management Plan through participatory process
- Placement of a mooring systems on vulnerable locations
- Monitoring Plan for flagship species and critical habitats and species
- Planning a system of buoys
- Creation of underwater snorkeling trails
- Capacity building on Management Planning, Business Planning, Snorkel trails, and Monitoring
- Communications activities and awareness campaigns targeting tour operators, fishermen, and local administrations

3.6. Demonstration Project - Algeria: Concerted plan for the management of the marine part of the Taza National Park in Algeria (WWF-MedPO).

Context:

The marine reserve of the Banc des Kabyles is situated inside the Taza National Park, approximately at 3.4 miles from the nearest coast, and located under national jurisdiction. This MPA include both a land and a marine area. Covering a surface of about 600 ha, the Banc des Kabyles is an underwater mountain hosting all underwater natural habitats, which gives it a primordial scientific interest. Its seascape and biological diversity are outstanding and especially attractive for tourism activities, diving in particular – it has been said that a diving observer feels as though s/he is in a vast aquarium, and essential for fisheries. The Banc des Kabyles is indeed a spawning ground for fish, a nursery for most of them and a refuge area for breeders.

The Banc des Kabyles is included in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI List). This list, established under the 1995 Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, includes sites which 'are of importance for conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean; contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species; are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels'.

The Banc des Kabyles is still in good condition and not placed under major risks of pollution. The area's management problems are linked to fishing, commercial as well as sport fishing and, though this MPA is still spectacular, the seascape and biological richness have lost part of their magical character and interest, as shown by evident signs of local impoverishment.

According to the local authorities (Ministry of Planning and Environment/National Littoral Committee), a conservation approach would consist in the future, in diversifying the role of the Banc des Kabyles, making a wiser use of its outstanding seascape and biological qualities by developing tourism in a sustainable way and avoiding the detrimental effects of mass tourism and unsustainable fisheries exploitation.

This MPA will benefit from the development of a concerted management plan with the local community of users (specifically, the artisanal fishermen) and from the exchange program (twining

programme) with the management team of one (or more than one) of the MPAs of the European Union countries.

Objectives:

The demonstration project in Algeria aims to support the National Park of Taza (NPT), in the province (Wilaya) of Jijel (north-east of Algeria), in the development of a management plan of the marine area adjacent the Park. The project will assist the Park in producing all necessary documents (dossier de classement) for the official designation of the marine protected area. The project will also promote the involvement of local communities in the development of the management plan and its future implementation. While waiting for the official designation, the management of the marine area adjacent to the Park will be based on the application of existing laws and the voluntary commitment of the stakeholders.

Implementation arrangements:

The local Coordination Unit is hosted by the NPT, which is under the Direction Général des Forêts and includes a Chef de Projet, a Project Coordinator and a Technical Assistant. A marine expert was hired to provide technical support to the staff of the park.

A Steering Committee will be established, including all responsible institutions and stakeholders (i.e. Department of Fisheries Resources, and Tourism, Coast Guard, fishery associations, etc.). Other coastal National Parks and MPAs of Algeria will be involved and benefit of the project's activities and trainings. In addition, the project will contribute to enhance the collaboration between the Direction Général des Forêts (Ministry of Agriculture and responsible for National Parks) and the Commissariat du Littoral (Ministry of Environment and responsible for marine and coastal management).

Project Activities:

- Completing required studies for the designation of the marine protected area:
 - Complementary analysis of the marine and coastal biodiversity (target fish species, coralligenous and intertidal rocky shores community, seagrass beds, marine birds, littoral vegetation)
 - A general socioeconomic assessment of the area with a focus on tourism sector and artisanal fishery
- Creating thematic maps and a GIS database
- Revision of the zoning of the marine area
- Participatory management planning through a series of thematic workshops involving the users of the marine area
- Creation of a centre for cetacean monitoring
- Defining and setting up a system for the monitoring of key marine species and habitats
- Drafting the Plan of Management
- Drafting the technical report for the proposal of PNT as new MPA (*dossier de classement*)
- Communications and media work
- Training workshops on:
 - The use GIS for the management of marine resources
 - Underwater biodiversity assessment
 - Carrying capacity for sustainable tourism
 - Management of fishery in MPA

3.7. Demonstration Project - Croatia: Management and M&E plans for the existing MPAs (WWF-MedPO)

Objectives:

The pilot project in Croatia aims to assist the managers of 5 MPAs in developing their management plans. The MPAs involved are:

- National Park Brijuni
- National Park Kornati
- National Park Mljet

- Nature Park Lastovo Archipelago
- Nature Park Telascica

As the Croatian MPAs have similar ecological features, problems, needs and capacity gaps, as well as they share most of the key stakeholders, a common planning approach has been agreed and will be applied. This will ultimately contribute to the creation of a MPA network in Croatia. The project will facilitate the consultation process at site level, provide technical assistance and build the capacity of the MPAs managers on specific issues such as artisanal fishery management, tourism entrance fees, etc.

Implementation arrangements:

The Pilot Project in Croatia is implemented by the Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development (Sunce) under the lead and supervision of the MedPAN South Project Focal Point appointed by the Ministry of Culture (responsible for protected areas).

A Steering Committee was recently established, including all responsible institutions and stakeholders, and is fully engaged in the project.

Project Activities:

- Information gap assessment for the development of the MPA management plans
- Technical assistance to MPAs managers in the step-by-step development of the management plans through thematic workshops or training on:
 - Legal framework of MPAs
 - Site characterization
 - Stakeholders involvement
 - Defining management targets, threats and actions
 - Monitoring and evaluation plan
 - Business plan and financial mechanisms
- Participation to other relevant training workshops
- Drafting of the Plan of Managements
- Development of final restitution document (guidelines) with the results of the project and the best practices and lessons learned from the development of the management plans of the 5 MPAs
- Networking of the Croatian MPAs managers and relevant institutions and their integration in the MedPAN and AdriaPAN networks – the network of MPA Managers of the Adriatic Sea.
- Communications and media work

Small grants will be made available to the 5 MPAs to implement specific conservation measures/action in their site.

Activity 4: Ensure the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks

In order to secure the financial durability of Mediterranean MPAs through the strengthening of MPAs managers' capacity and skills on financial and institutional issues related to MPA management, the following activities will be carried out that will result in:

Expected results:

Funding processes and mechanisms identified to ensure the sustainability of MPAs. MPAs managers, practitioners, relevant authorities have the capacity to develop business plans and are better acquainted with the financial options for their MPAs.

4.1. Financial analysis for the establishment of new MPAs: financial sustainability of new MPAs to be created with a better understanding of fund-raising approaches and opportunities (RAC/SPA).

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- Financial sustainability of new-MPA to be created supported by having a clear understanding of the financial availability, and planning and exploring additional financial sources in all countries

Expected outputs:

- A report on financial issues affecting MPA-creation and development will be produced

Methodology:

A technical expertise is to be developed to: Identify financial needs and opportunities to create a new MPA; Analyse existing financial tools to allow sustaining newly created MPAs; Planning alternative (or complementary) financial mechanisms to support new MPAs. It is one-year activity by national consultants and/or external advisors to perform the proposed action.

Replicability:

- Methods and results produced in each case will be transposable to other areas in the region

4.2. Demonstration Project: Tunisia: Establishment of the management unit of the Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MPA, development of the Business Plan and identification of sustainable financial mechanisms for the MPA (WWF-MedPO).

Objective:

The demonstration project in Tunisia aims to establish an effective management unit of the MPA of Cap Nègre - Cap Serrat in the Kroumirie-Mogods region (north-west of Tunisia), and ensure the financial framework to sustainably manage the future MPA.

Implementation arrangements:

The official partners of the project are the Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL), Direction Général des Forêts (DGF), and Commissariats Régionales de Développement Agricole (CRDA) de Beja. The local Coordination Unit is hosted by WWF-MedPO office in Tunis.

A Steering committee will be established including all relevant institutions and stakeholders.

Project Activities:

- Assist the relevant authorities in establishing a functional management body for the Cap Nègre – Cap Serrat MPA
- Strengthen the capacity of the staff of the management body, local NGOs and relevant stakeholders groups on issues related to MPAs management
- Develop a Business Plan and identify sustainable financial mechanisms (including a small grant programme targeting the local communities) for the new MPA
- Design and install a signage system
- Contribute to awareness raising on MPAs at local and national level

4.3. Demonstration Project: Demonstrating financial sustainability mechanisms for new MPAs in four different areas (RAC/SPA)

Purpose (Expected outcomes):

- Financial sustainability of the specific MPA project is to be strengthened, by planning financial issues based on the actual national (or sub-national) as well as local situation

- MPA-staff is to be conveniently trained to reach financial and management objectives

Expected outputs:

- A report on financial planning of new MPAs in four different areas (in Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia) produced
- A training course celebrated, and training material produced and furnished to local MPA practitioners

Methodology:

The most quoted reason for MPA “in situ” failure or ineffectiveness is the lack of financial sustainability. This activity aims to improve the capacity to ensure the availability and cost-effective use of financial resources through identifying and developing options such as environmental trust funds, public/private partnerships and other financial mechanisms. These activities will be conducted through a formal training course and other activities in four countries, as follows:

- Identifying potential source of financial incomes to create and launch a new MPA: International sources; National, sub-national and local sources; Private sector; NGOs; People groups; Market-based incomes (fees, etc.)
- Establishing a Financial Plan based on the information above, to establish: Foreseen costs (establishment, administration, employment, monitoring, enforcement, indirect, etc.); Sustainability in the long term
- A training course to MPA staff in financial issues, to be held in situ.

Replicability:

- Financial sources of revenues to fund MPA activities are to be explored, and likely to serve (especially the international mechanisms), in other ongoing MPA projects in the region

6. Project work-plan

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network (SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO)							
1 Establishment of coordination mechanisms for regional MPA management							
1.1 Establish and set operative two Project Coordination Units (RAC/SPA – WWF-MedPO)	WWF-MedPO component (MedPAN South project) started in November 2008	PCU of WWF-MedPO fully on board (August 2009)	- PCU of RAC/SPA fully on board - BCC fully operational	- PCU of WWF-MedPO and PCU of RAC/SPA fully operational - BCC fully operational	- PCU of WWF-MedPO and PCU of RAC/SPA fully operational - BCC fully operational	- PCU of WWF-MedPO and PCU of RAC/SPA fully operational - BCC fully operational	
1.2 Organize Inception , Midterm and Final Workshops (RAC/SPA with the support of WWF-MedPO)		Coordination ensured through regular meetings and information sharing among partners	- Inception Workshop allows countries a full comprehension of scopes and activities (first half 2010)		Midterm Workshop (early 2012) to allow project to readapt activities to current reality and state of advancement	Final Workshop (end 2013)	
1.3 Advisory Committee and SAP BIO National Correspondents meet to supervise and advise the activities (RAC/SPA)			- SAP BIO Advisory Committee meeting helps others' initiatives coordination and recommends improvements. - National Correspondents meeting allows for internal country coordination and official involvement in any adaptation	- SAP BIO Advisory Committee meeting - National Correspondents meeting	SAP BIO Advisory Committee meeting	National Correspondents meeting (if there will be a need and the remaining budget will allow)	

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.4: Develop the project communication and information tools (WWF-MedPO throughout the MedPAN network in close collaboration with RAC/SPA)		WWF-MedPO Communications officer hiring process	- WWF-MedPO Communications officer hired - WWF-MedPO Communication Plan drafted - Communication and information activities begin implementation	Communication and information activities implemented	Communication and information activities implemented		
1.5: Raise awareness of key stakeholders on MPAs values and importance (WWF-MedPO – RAC/SPA)			WWF-MedPO awareness raising strategy drafted in close collaboration with RAC/SPA	Awareness raising campaign implemented	Awareness raising campaign implemented		
2 Identification and planning new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness							
2.1 Establish priority activities needed to create MPAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro and Syria (RAC/SPA)			5 on-site surveys undertaken to assess needs and demands of countries for creation of MPAs and to establish priorities - A preliminary implementation plan will be prepared by RAC/SPA in 2010 and finalized in close consultation with countries according to their needs, priorities during the 5 country surveys				
2.2 Identify stakeholder group and potential partnerships in Albania, Libya and Morocco (RAC/SPA)			- A technical report on the current situation of potential partnership to launch MPA creation project in Albania, Libya and Morocco. - Stakeholder Engagement Plans drafted and agreed				

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2.3 Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs - country coast assessment in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Morocco (RAC/SPA)			Valuation of marine areas in countries to select the best MPA candidates and country coast ecological survey, small scale fishery survey and MPA site selection final reports for Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Valuation of marine areas in countries to select the best MPA candidates and country coast ecological survey, small scale fishery survey and MPA site selection final reports for Morocco			
2.4 Inception, planning, zoning and development of four new MPAs in Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia (RAC/SPA)				- Inception phase for planning, zoning and development of new MPAs in Montenegro, Croatia, Albania and Tunisia - Draft quantitative ecological description, mapping and artisanal fishery study of the marine sites to be protected in Montenegro, Croatia, and Albania	Management Plan including quantitative ecological description, mapping and artisanal fishery study of the marine sites to be protected in Albania, Montenegro and Tunisia	Management Plan including quantitative ecological description, mapping and artisanal fishery study of the marine sites to be protected in Croatia and Tunisia	
2.5 Identification of local stakeholder participation mechanism for the pilot MPAs in Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Libya (SPA/RAC)				Draft reports and toolkits on Stakeholder participation mechanisms within MPAs	Reports and toolkits on Stakeholder participation mechanisms within MPAs in Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Libya		

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2.6 MPA creation guidelines and teaching packages: practical methodologies to create sustainable MPAs available to managers and practitioners (SPA/RAC)			- Countries provided with methodological tools on MPAs - Bibliographic review on subject of the MPA creation	- Countries provided with methodological tools on MPAs - 2 methodological monographs edited, published, and translated to English, French and Arabic	- Countries provided with methodological tools on MPAs - 2 methodological monographs edited, published and translated to English, French and Arabic	- Countries provided with methodological tools on MPAs - 2 methodological monographs edited, published and translated to English, French and Arabic	
2.7: Demonstration Project in Libya: The environmental case for a national network of MPAs in Libya (WWF-MedPO and RAC/SPA)			First marine survey finalized	- Second marine survey finalized - On-the-job training provided	- GIS database developed - Monitoring system drafted - Final report elaborated		
3 Improved MPA management							
3.1 Organize 3 Mediterranean MPA Regional Training Workshops for MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities of existing MPAs based on the around specific themes, selected among the most recurrent, highest ranked Capacity Building needs obtained from a region-wide preliminary capacity building needs assessment (WWF-MedPO and RAC/SPA)		- Mentor Programme launched (February 2009) - 30 target MPA managers and practitioners trained on MPA management planning and committed to implementation agreements	30 target MPA managers and practitioners trained on Planning for Sustainable Fisheries and committed to implementation agreements	30 target MPA managers and practitioners trained on Planning for Sustainable Tourism in MPAs and committed to implementation agreements			

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.2 Organize specific technical assistance and exchange/twinning programmes to provide on-site assistance to new-MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities (RAC/SPA)		New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience from well functioning MPAs / A 3 phases training on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Management Plan Preparation & Implementation in Syria (March, April and October 2009)	New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience from well functioning MPAs / Training course on MPAs creation and selection	New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience from well functioning MPAs / New staff training in existing MPAs on Monitoring and Evaluation of MPAs	New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience from well functioning MPAs / Training course on fisheries conservation aspects of MPAs	New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience from well functioning MPAs / Staff exchange with existing MPAs and between new MPAs on Monitoring and Evaluation of MPAs	
3.3 Organize specific technical assistance and exchange/twinning programmes to provide on-site assistance to MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities (WWF-MedPO with the support of RAC/SPA)			Technical assistance provided to the Regional Training Workshop's participants through the Implementation Agreements	Technical assistance provided to the Regional Training Workshop's participants through the Implementation Agreements	Technical assistance provided to the Regional Training Workshop's participants through the Implementation Agreements		
3.4 On-job-training for managers, practitioners and relevant authorities in identified demonstration areas, on planning, management and ecological aspects of MPAs (RAC/SPA)					New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience within their own MPAs through on-the-job training in Montenegro and Tunisia	New MPAs managers and practitioners get experience within their own MPAs through on-the-job-training in Albania and Croatia	

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.5 Demonstration Project in Turkey: Plan and specific zoning for the management of the Kas-Kekova SPA (WWF-MedPO)		– Project staff becomes operative – Preliminary studies finalized	– Convention and contracts signed with local partners – Steering Committee established – Complementary studies finalized – First draft management plan		Management plan of the marine component of Kas-Kekova SPA		
3.6 Demonstration Project in Algeria: Concerted plan for the management of the marine part of the Taza National Park in Algeria (WWF-MedPO)		– Convention and contracts signed with local partners – Project staff set operative – Steering Committee established – Preliminary studies finalized	– Complementary studies finalized – First draft management plan		Management plan of the marine component of Taza NP		
3.7 Demonstration Project in Croatia: Management and M&E plans for the existing MPAs (WWF-MedPO)	– Kick-off meeting (December 2008) – Convention and contracts signed with local partners – Project staff set operative – Steering Committee established	Preliminary studies finalized	First draft management plans for 5 MPAs		Management plans of 5 MPAs		
4 Ensuring financial Sustainability of regional and national MPA networks							
4.1: Financial analysis for the establishment of new MPAs (RAC/SPA)					Draft report on financial issues affecting MPAs creation and development	Report on financial issues affecting MPAs creation and development MPA	

Activities	Outcomes/Results						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
4.2: Demonstration Project in Tunisia: Establishment of the management unit of the Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MPA, development of its Business Plan and identification of sustainable financial mechanism for MPAs (WWF-MedPO)		Convention and contracts signed with local partners	- Management unit established - Steering Committee established - Study on sustainable financial mechanisms finalized	- Business plan for the MPA prepared - Buoys system and other information about the MPA developed	Management activities implemented		
4.3: Demonstration Project: Demonstrating financial sustainability mechanisms for new MPAs in four different areas in Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia (RAC/SPA)					- A training course on financial sustainability for three countries - MPA Sustainability supported by a clear understanding of key financial issues	- Reports on financial planning for the four MPAs - Financial sustainability of specific MPAs strengthened by appropriate business planning	

7. Sustainability

The project falls under the broad policy guidance of the Barcelona Convention through the MAP and contributes to the regional implementation of the SPA-BD Protocol. It coordinates its objectives and activities with the mandated national institutions in place and all the eligible countries have adopted the SAP BIO programme, which the project helps to implement.

In the current context, the level of project risk is seen as low/moderate in most of the countries, due to the fact that the Parties to the Barcelona Convention consider the activities proposed as priorities in the SAP BIO. These activities were also selected after having structured consultation with local stakeholders, National Correspondents to SAP BIO met in May 2006 (Alicante, Spain), which includes representatives of all the riparian countries.

Although the long-term durability of regional scale MPA network depends on the political willingness of participating countries to continue activities and approaches after the life of the project, the framework provided by the MAP would ensure such continuity thanks to the cooperation spirit that governs the implementation of the Barcelona Convention. The overall management of the activities will be assumed by UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA and its partner organisation, WWF-MedPO on behalf of WWF International. These two organizations, very close and having a long history of mutual cooperation, regularly collaborate with the Mediterranean countries and have a solid institutional core which guarantees a high standard of administrative organization. RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO show a high level of expertise in PA management at international level, the former at Mediterranean scale, which is the focus of this component, the latter also elsewhere in the world. Moreover, they have the capacity and the skills to manage project activities in order to reduce risk to the donors. Their internal systems of finance management, budget control and accountability are fully transparent and have shown a high professionalism over the years.

Sustainability after completion of the action

Stakeholder participation has been recognized as an integral part of the project preparatory phase and will continue to be emphasized during the development phase of it. Most of the activities will need the close participation of the managers and other stakeholders committed directly or indirectly in the MPAs management. In addition, the following comments can be made:

- A substantial proportion of the proposed project activities on MPAs are designed to raise national and local capacities for MPA management.
- The involvement of regional and national experts in carrying out the activities is a factor that favours the sustainability of the gains, which will result from the Project.
- It is anticipated that the project activities will strengthen the influence of the involved ministries and hence encourage great opportunities to increase budgets and the concern of the departments in the future. So, it can be reasonably expected from the project, a sustainability of activities and components beyond the life of it.
- Each of the participating countries has developed a legal and institutional framework for nature conservation, and is signatory of international conventions to protect biodiversity, international waters and wetlands, among others. These international commitments are reflected in national policies and legal arrangements. Furthermore, the project will help to improve the legal and institutional framework in the field of MPAs creation and management. All have adopted the SAP BIO programme.
- The Project falls under the broad policy guidance of the Barcelona Convention through the MAP. It coordinates its objectives and activities with the mandated institutions in place (e.g. the Ministries of Environment).
- The project aims to contribute to MedPAN by expanding the network to include the MPAs of the south and east of the Mediterranean. MedPAN has undergone an institutionalization process, aiming at defining the legal and institutional framework of the network.

Secretariat has been recently established and funding for its basic operations secured. The above-mentioned structure will provide continuation to the project activities and, conversely, the MedPAN Secretariat will benefit from the project as it will provide fund raising opportunities.

- The project activities will not try to substitute the national and local capacities, but to identify these opportunities and mobilise these capacities towards the achievement of the project objectives. A substantial proportion of the proposed project activities themselves are designed to raise national and local capacities for MPA management.

The involvement of regional and national experts in carrying out the activities is a factor that favours the sustainability of the gains which will result from the project. It is expected that during its duration, the project will be an opportunity for the concerned national authorities to focus on developing marine protected areas, these having been to a greater or lesser extent forgotten, for the time being, in most of the countries which are taking part in the Project.

The full involvement of local authorities in the development, as well as in the future implementation of the Demonstration projects, ensures the long term institutional sustainability of the action.

Moreover, most of the Demonstration projects entail the development of business plans and the identification of the most appropriate financial mechanisms that can ensure the financial sustainability of the MPAs involved in the action. The special attention given to the financial aspects related to MPAs within the CB programme will further the capacity of MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities to raise funds and ensure a sustainable financing of their activities.

Finally, It is anticipated that the project activities will strengthen the influence of the involved ministries and hence encourage great opportunities to increase budgets and the concern of the departments in the future. So, it can be reasonably expected from the project, a sustainability of activities and components beyond the life of it.

8. Governance structure of the action

The project will be carried out under the direction and overall management of UNEP-MAP Office in Athens, which provides the secretariat of the Barcelona Convention. Three basic management and coordination structures will be created for the duration of the project: a Project Management Unit (PMU), a Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC), and a Coordination Group (SPCG). All three structures, funded by GEF and co-financed by World Bank and UNEP/MAP, have specific responsibilities and tasks within the project with important linkages between them. Through these structures, UNEP MAP will ensure the coordinated implementation of the project, including those aspects to be implemented by RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO.

The PMU will comprise a Project Manager, an Assistant to the Project Manager and a Financial Assistant. Its responsibilities will include the following:

- To closely follow the implementation of project activities, handle day-to-day project issues and requirements, coordinate them and ensure a high degree of transnational and inter-institutional collaboration (international and regional organizations and donors).
- To organize of SPSC, SPCG and interagency meetings, and any other ad-hoc meetings that may be required,
- To finalize project and meeting reports i.e. annual project reports, half-yearly progress reports and expense reports. It will also assist the GEF Independent Office of Evaluation in preparing the mid-term and final evaluations of the project. The PMU will report to the other three management and co-ordination structures set up within the project, namely the SPSC, and the CG;
- To ensure that through the numerous M&E related activities (see Annex E for full details) an adaptive management approach is adopted to the implementation of the project.

- The development of environmental status indicators, in collaboration with all executing and co-executing agencies, reflecting SAP targets and agreements, which will be identified at the beginning of the project along with specific arrangements for their long-term monitoring during and beyond the lifespan of the project (with the support of MAP).

The *Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee* (SPSC) will comprise SP national focal points from all GEF-eligible countries, representatives of the implementing agencies (UNEP and the WB), representatives of the executing agency (UNEP/MAP), the GEF Secretariat, FAO and UNIDO, the co-executing agencies (FAO/GFCM, UNESCO, MEDPOL, METAP, RAC/SPA, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, CP-RAC, WWF, MIO-ECSDE) and the EU, the Project Manager, the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, major donors (France, Italy, Spain) and one NGO representing a network of NGOs in the Mediterranean. The SPSC will be co-chaired by the President of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

The *Coordination Group* will comprise: the MAP Coordinator (chair); Representatives of the GEF Secretariat (IW and POPs); the Project Manager of the regional project of the SP; Representatives from the FAO and UNIDO; a representative of INFO/RAC responsible for the Replication and Communication Strategy; A representative of the UNEP/GEF Coordination Office; World Bank-GEF Regional Coordinators (ECA and MENA); and World Bank Task Managers. The CG will meet at least once a year at the MAP office in Athens, preferably in conjunction with regular MAP meetings of the parties but in advance of annual SPSC meetings. The CG will maintain regular communication via teleconference, and meet on an ad-hoc basis wherever required.

UNEP MAP RAC/SPA will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities related to MPAs creation and related Demonstration projects. RAC/SPA is the responsible Regional Activity Centre of the MAP system for promoting implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

WWF-MedPO, a formal MAP partner, will be responsible for the activities related to the improvement of MPAs management effectiveness and monitoring, the networking of existing MPAs and the implementation of 5 Demonstration projects (in Turkey, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria).

Both organizations will have Task Managers, Project Assistants and Administration Officers, who will be responsible for the daily coordination, implementation and supervision of the project's activities. The Task Managers of RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO will attend the meetings of the SPSC and SPCG, as well as the meetings of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee and of the network of National Correspondents of SAP BIO.

In the framework of the project, the **SAP BIO Advisory Committee** will play an advisory role and will include, within its members, a representative from each of the donors contributing to the project.