

MedPartnership



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

www.themedpartnership.org



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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM
(MEDPARTNERSHIP)



Together for the MedPartnership

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FOREWORD



The Mediterranean Sea is a cultural and environmental patrimony for millions of people living along its coasts. The protection of this unique marine and coastal ecosystem has a long history and is a great example of cooperation among countries. The adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) back in

1975 is a shared effort to address common challenges like the protection of the environment while fostering the sustainable development of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

Although the initial focus of the MAP was on marine pollution control, it became evident that this issue has to be tackled in an integrated strategy taking into account the socio-economic growth of the Mediterranean countries, the economic activities directly and indirectly impacting the coastal and marine areas and the sustainable management of water resources and watersheds draining into the Mediterranean Sea.

Key issues such as pollution control, good governance, monitoring and identification of recurrent and emerging pressures, evaluation of the impacts on marine and coastal areas and definition of measures to detain and revert the degradation of the Mediterranean Sea are becoming a top priority on the agenda of international organization, stakeholders, civil society and countries working together to protect the Mediterranean region and contribute to an improved Mediterranean quality of life.

The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) is a collective effort of leading regional, international and non-governmental organizations together with countries towards a better management of the Mediterranean Sea, its ecosystems and resources.

The MedPartnership is being led by UNEP/MAP and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries.

The main focus of the project and its original essence is to create an efficient partnership among all the actors working in the Mediterranean.

The definition of common agendas, priorities and strategies to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the unique Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, became the common table around which 12 executing partners, 13 countries and donors are working together for the Mediterranean.

The MedPartnership has 3 regional components:

- Integrated management of coasts, freshwater and groundwater resources;
- Reduction of pollution generated by land-based activities adopting environmentally sound technologies;
- Creation and efficient management of a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and integration of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

The activities of the MedPartnership began in 2010. Significant numbers of national experts in coordination with national, regional and local authorities are running over 100 activities with 79 demonstrations in participating countries. Several activities have already been completed. The planned actions for 2014 will see the finalization of more than half of the activities and demonstrations for the 3 regional components.

Moreover during 2014 activities of the sister project to the MedPartnership on the integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM, will be boosted. Focus will be on the development of an information and data platform, on two demonstration projects in Croatia and Tunisia to assess the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate variability, and drafting of guidelines on National ICZM Strategies and Plans integrating climate variability. We are looking forward to the next phases of the

MedPartnership and we are sure that in collaboration with all the partners of the project and participating countries we will have a very productive year of work TOGETHER FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Lorenzo Paolo Galbiati,
MedPartnership Project Manager

“TOGETHER FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN”

WHAT IS THE MEDPARTNERSHIP?

Photo credit: © Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE

Background

The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) is a collective effort of leading (regional, international, non governmental, etc.) organizations and countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean.

The MedPartnership consists of two complementary parts:

- The Regional Project led by UNEP/MAP, and
- The Investment Fund (and “Sustainable Med”) led by the World Bank.

Their aim is to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyze policy, legal and institutional reforms, and necessary investments.

The MedPartnership is being implemented in the following GEF eligible countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The MedPartnership is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries, and is implemented in close association with other relevant regional initiatives, such as the Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean, the Integrated European Maritime Policy, etc.

- The MedPartnership is a continuation of and builds upon the previous GEF Project run by UNEP/MAP (2002-2006). Within that project the existing Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean (TDA-MED) was reviewed and updated and two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) prepared:
- Strategic Action Program to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED) and
- Strategic Action Program for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP- BIO).

The two SAPs were formally adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention along with National Action Plans (NAPs) for SAP-MED. The cost of actions identified amount to several billion USD, and the MedPartnership aims to provide additional support to countries in their implementation.

Goals and objectives

The MedPartnership’s overarching goal is to reverse the degradation trends affecting the unique Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.

The specific objectives of the MedPartnership are:

- To assist countries in the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs to reduce pollution from land-based sources, and preserve the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Mediterranean from degradation;
- To assist countries in the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol;
- To leverage long-term financing, and
- To ensure through the Barcelona Convention and MAP systems the sustainability of activities initiated within the project beyond its specific lifetime.

Funding

The total funds allocated to the MedPartnership are:

- Regional Project – with USD 11,891,000 from GEF plus USD 35,597,700 in co-financing, with a total cost amounting to USD 47,488,700.

The Regional Project is funded by the GEF, and with cash and in kind co-financing from the participating countries, the Government of Italy (Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and donors, which include the European Commission (EC), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)/Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the MAVA Foundation for Nature.

Executing Partners

Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifers



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO/IHP)



UNEP/MAP's Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)



Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

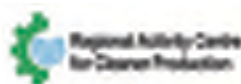
Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED



UNEP/MAP's Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MEDPOL)



United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



UNEP/MAP's Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC)

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



UNEP/MAP's Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)



World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF-MedPO)



Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Component 4: Project Co-ordination, NGO Involvement, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E



UNEP/MAP



Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

Donors and Countries

Global Environment Facility (GEF)



European Commission (EC)

Spanish Agency for International
Cooperation (AECID)

Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of the
Barcelona Convention and its protocols.

Fonds Français pour l'Environnement
Mondial (FFEM)

MAVA Foundation for Nature

Italy - Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Albania - Ministry Environment, Forestry
and Water Administration

Algeria - Ministry for Territory and Environment

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Ministry of
Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

Croatia – Ministry of Environmental and
Nature Protection

Egypt – Ministry of State of Environmental Affairs

Lebanon – Ministry of Environment

Libya – Environment General Authority

Montenegro – Ministry of Tourism and
Environmental Protection

Maroc - Ministère de l'Energie, des
Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement

Palestinian National Authority -
Environment Quality Authority

Syria - Ministry of Local Administration
and Environment

Tunisia – Ministry for the Environment
and Sustainable Development

Turkey – Ministry of Environment and Urbanization



MEDPARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS FOR

2013

Regional Project implementation so far

The Regional Project of the MedPartnership began full implementation in the second half of 2009 and is scheduled to be completed in late 2015.

The main highlights of 2013 are presented here:

Collaboration between fishermen and MPA managers showcased in a 5-minute video

WWF has produced a video that promotes collaboration between fishermen and MPA managers, demonstrating the benefits of resource co-management and participatory decision making. <http://youtu.be/OXq05bNWlh8>

Successful activity opens the door for new initiatives and more integration

January - Following the completion of the PAP/RAC's MedPartnership legal analysis, Croatia has ratified the ICZM Protocol and expressed interest to continue working within the same framework in developing National ICZM Strategy. Since Croatia has been preparing its Marine Strategy, as required by the EU MSFD, the Croatian Ministry of Environment decided to join it with the Coastal Strategy required by the ICZM Protocol, and prepare an integrated Marine and Coastal Strategy. In order to secure the institutional framework, an existing Inter ministerial committee with the representatives of the key marine institutions has been extended with the coastal ones. An Economic and Social Assessment was launched for coastal and marine parts of Croatia.

More local involvement in Kaş-Kekova SPA

8 January - The Kaş-Kekova MPA Management Plan Project technically supported by WWF was officially closed on 8 January in Ankara, Turkey. More than 50 representatives of ministries and institutions participated in the meeting and evaluated and finalized the five-year action plan. As envisioned by the management plan, local administrators and local people will engage more fully in the management of the Kaş-Kekova SPA in the future.

Fishing industry of the Gulf of Gabès supports work to reduce by-catch in the bottom-trawl fishery

10 January - Representatives of the fishing industry operating in the Gulf of Gabès, Tunisia, have supported the need for reducing the by-catch of

undersized fish and protected or iconic species, in order to ensure the sustainability of the fishery. They also committed to put some industrial vessels at the disposal of INSTM and DGPA, with the support of FAO and the MedPartnership, to run a demonstration and testing of possible technical solutions to reduce bycatch in the bottom trawl fishery in the Gulf of Gabès, earlier identified by Tunisian experts as the fishery with highest by-catch impacts.

Geophysical survey of Boka Kotorska Bay marine area, Montenegro

19 - 24 January - A side scan sonar and single beam survey was undertaken in the whole marine area of Boka Kotorska, using a 150 m lateral range. In addition, in order to further analyze the presence of threatened coastal habitats, such as seagrass meadows. RAC/SPA recommended surveying the whole coastal perimeter of the Bay adopting a 100 m lateral range of the side scan sonar. The survey allowed producing quantitative geophysical data covering a 25.8 km² surface area.

Capacity building for Libyan national officers and MPA stakeholders

10 - 14 February - During a five-day training workshop held in Akyaka (Turkey), facilitated by RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO fifteen Libyan national officers and MPA stakeholders were provided capacity building in terms of participatory process and stakeholders engagement in MPAs. Participants learned the principles of participatory planning and communication, and drafted a plan to engage key stakeholders for the future implementation of the three Libyan MPAs. Case studies from Kaş-Kekova SPA provided an opportunity to learn more about the Turkish experience of the process of engaging stakeholders in the development of management plans.

Stakeholder engagement: Participatory Approaches for the Planning and Development of MPAs

March - Recently published by WWF and NOAA, this guide provides guidance to managers on steps and techniques for engaging stakeholders in MPA design and management. It also includes practical case studies and lessons learned from the MedPAN South Project.

Download at: <http://bit.ly/16BzyPh>

Connecting Mediterranean scientists and resource managers

4-5 March - To enhance dialogue between scientists and MPA managers, a workshop was hosted by WWF and MedPAN in March at Plemmirio MPA in Siracuse, Italy. The workshop guided a network of managers and scientists to answer key questions on ecosystem health and socio-economic conditions, to achieve effective science-based management. Participants included representatives of MPAs and



Project activities taking place in Montenegro
(Photo credit : Vesna Macic)

research institutes from Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Spain, Italy, France, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey, Montenegro, and Greece.

Stakeholders' consultation meetings in view of the elaboration of a management plan for the Kuriat Islands marine and coastal protected area, Tunisia

5 - 7 March - RAC/SPA launched in 2013, in close collaboration with the Tunisian Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL), the process of elaboration of a management plan for the Kuriat Islands marine protected area. On-site stakeholders' consultation meetings have been carried out early March and led to the elaboration of a detailed diagnosis of all aspects related to the area and its surroundings and the proposal of a management scenario and objectives.

Evaluation of socio-economic impacts of sea level rise on coastal zone.

12-13 March - Within the framework of MedPartnership sister project "Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management" an expert meeting on Climagine development was held in

Sophia-Antipolis, France. The meeting focused on possible ways of developing the "Climagine" methodology in view of implementing it in two pilot cases, in Croatia and Tunisia in 2013.

ICZM Strategy for Algeria

27 March -2 April - As part of the participatory approach to the development of the National ICZM Strategies, more than 120 participants attended two workshops held in Algeria for the preparation of a national Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) strategy facilitated by PAP/RAC. The workshops aimed at integrating stakeholders' views and opinions on national priorities and relevant solutions for coastal management in Algeria.

Annual MedPartnership Coordination Group Meeting held in Paris

3-5 April - The MedPartnership Coordination group held its annual meeting at the UNESCO in Paris, and was attended by experts from all executing partners of the MedPartnership, as well as representatives from UNEP DEPI and the European Commission.

The meeting focused on the major successes and challenges of the project. The last day of the meeting was dedicated to the development of the revised work-plan and Inception Report for the new Climate Variability and ICZM project, and further detailing the two demonstrations in Croatia and Tunisia.

Biological survey of Boka Kotorska Bay marine area, Montenegro

5 - 12 April - RAC/SPA has carried out a field survey aiming to characterize the biological features of Boka Kotorska Bay. The field survey was undertaken by international and national experts through underwater techniques including scuba diving investigation, photographic and underwater towed camera surveys and grab sampling of soft bottom benthos. The data collected were integrated into a GIS database. Furthermore, during the survey, on-the-job training to four local experts has been provided on many aspects of ecological quantification of marine ecosystems.

Climagine I - Šibenik-Knin County (Croatia)

8 April - Within the framework of MedPartnership sister project "Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management", the first "Climagine" workshop was organised in Šibenik, Croatia. Jointly organised by the Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and the County, the workshop aimed to present to local stakeholders the hitherto development of the "Climagine" method, developed and implemented by Plan Bleu, and to launch it, as a pilot process, in the county of Šibenik-Knin. The ultimate goal is to establish an integrated coastal zone management plan for the coastal municipalities of the county, with special focus on climate variability and change.

National Action Plan for the reduction of pollution evaluation under way

17 April - The steering committee of the "Update Priority Investment Projects for Protecting the Mediterranean Sea from Pollution" held its third meeting in Athens, with a particular focus on the investment portfolio of the National Action Plans (NAPs). The project's first phase has mainly focused on collecting and analyzing information on environmental investments affecting the Mediterranean basin. Participants to the meeting approved the evaluation methodology proposed for the 2nd phase of the project.

PAP/RAC & ICZM in support of the preparation of Coastal Area Spatial Plan in Montenegro

19 April - The progress in the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy of Montenegro was presented by the PAP/RAC national team during the annual conference in Montenegro, attended by representatives of ministries, national institutions, local authorities, international organizations and NGOs. The main contribution to the process is in providing technical support for the preparation of the Coastal Area Spatial Plan by integrating the ICZM instruments in defining future utilisation of the coastal land.

MedPartnership-MedMPAnet Project in Morocco

28 April - A joint meeting between the 'Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification' (HCEFLCD) and the RAC/SPA-MedMPAnet Project was organized in Rabat, Morocco, to present the progress made by the project and discuss the results of the studies achieved under the Project. Further to this first phase and under the MedPartnership project, it is

anticipated to elaborate a management plan, including the setting-up of a sustainable financing mechanism, for the future MPA of the Cap des Trois Fourches (Northern Morocco) before the end of 2014.

Stakeholders Analysis in Buna/Bojana transboundary basin prepared

May 2013 - A Stakeholder Analysis report analyzing the positions and perceptions of the local stakeholders and population in Albania and Montenegro regarding the management of the Buna/Bojana transboundary basin, aquifers and coastal area was prepared. It is a substantial contribution to guiding the on-going preparatory work for the Buna/Bojana integrated management plan. The report was fed with information acquired through focus groups discussions and other consultation activities.

Development of the Croatian national monitoring protocol for coralligene

2 - 3 May - Within the framework of the MedMPAnet Pilot Project in Croatia, executed by RAC/SPA in close collaboration with Croatian environmental authorities, a meeting of the working group for the development of the Croatian national monitoring protocol for coralligene was held at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection in Zagreb. The State of the coralligene research and monitoring in the Mediterranean and in the Adriatic were discussed and the monitoring programme and scheme has been outlined.

Opportunities but also threats of sustainable tourism and ecotourism development in the Mediterranean

22 May - The MedPartnership building synergies with the ENPI Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme component has organized an event on the opportunities but also the threats of sustainable tourism and ecotourism development in the Mediterranean, within the framework of the European Maritime Day 2013 held in Malta. The event served as a platform for dialogue offering the opportunity to 120 participants to exchange views and experiences on challenges relevant to the concept of 'Blue Growth'.

Programme on Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector catalyzed by the MedPartnership and labelled under the Union for the Mediterranean launched

28-29 May 2013 - The GWP-Med/OECD regional programme on 'Governance and Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector' was officially launched in Barcelona, on 28 and 29 May, at the UfM seat. In addition to Albania, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, Egypt provided an official support letter during the opening ceremony of the Launching Conference, effectively becoming the seventh country of focus for the programme that will continue its direct operational linkages with the MedPartnership.

Developing management plans for MPAs in Libya

4 June - The Marine Biology Research Centre in Libya officially launched the project of developing the management plans of Farwa Lagoon and Ain El Ghazela MPAs with the support of WWF. A kick off meeting took place in Tajoura-Tripoli to begin the process of engaging authorities, stakeholders and civil society in decision-making processes, and gain their support for the MPA and its governance framework.

Development of the "regional information and data sharing platform".

6 June - Within the framework of MedPartnership sister project "Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management", a meeting took place in UNEP/GRID Geneva in Switzerland with Plan Bleu, UNEP MAP and UniGe representatives focusing on ways to collaborate for the development of a web-based regional data platform on climate research with particular focus on the environmental and economic impacts of climate change in the coastal zone.

Boosting the elaboration of a National Strategy and a Draft Law for the establishment of an MPA network in Libya

8 - 14 June - Several technical meetings have been organized by RAC/SPA in Tripoli with the different representatives of administrations, scientists, local stakeholders and NGOs concerned by MPA creation and planning in Libya. This has led to (i) analyzing the priority needs and identifying stakeholders and potential partnerships for MPA creation and planning, (ii) drafting the outlines of the National Strategy for the establishment of an MPA network in Libya and (iii) defining the content of draft

law on protected areas in Libya.

Increasing knowledge on the state of groundwater dependent coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean

10-11 June - UNESCO-IHP convened a group of national and international experts in Paris, France to exchange knowledge and experiences about the services provided by groundwater dependent Mediterranean coastal wetlands – ecological, cultural and economic, among others – and how human activities in the region are affecting these services. The experts agreed on the preparation of a regional report on the state of groundwater dependent coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean. They also committed to undertake ecohydrological characterizations of a number of coastal wetlands in the region in view of preparing a map that will visually communicate information about the geology of these wetlands, along with the degree to which they depend on groundwater and also their water chemistry.

Training workshop on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture

10-14 June - Twenty one fisheries managers and researchers, from Croatia, Montenegro, Tunisia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Lebanon and Egypt participated in a training workshop on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in Rome, at FAO headquarters. During this workshop, the participants discussed the actual application of the EAF principles and concepts to the development of fisheries management plans to two real case studies, reinforcing their knowledge and capacity on the actual application of EAF. They also studied some of the most prominent aspects of the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture, with a special emphasis on the need for spatial planning in the siting process for aquaculture plants.

Fourth Meeting of National Correspondents of the SAP-BIO and Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs

1 - 5 July - RAC/SPA convened the Fourth Meeting of National Correspondents of the SAP-BIO (1st July 2013) and the Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (2-5 July 2013) in Rabat (Morocco). Mediterranean riparian countries and partner organizations have been informed about the progress so far made by the MedMPAnet Project and provided recommendations for further improvement during the remaining project period. Moreover, the results so far achieved by the project received a very enthusiastic welcome and encouragement from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

PCBs Management Course, Istanbul, Turkey

15-19 July - With the support of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey, CPRAC and MEDPOL conducted a PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls) management training program for 60 participants. The training course included a 3-day theoretical training on PCBs management and a 2-day practical training on the use of a PCBs analyzer implemented at Ambarli power plant for 28 participants. Participants included governmental staff, employees and representatives of different departments from the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Energy, electricity distribution company, electricity generating company, laboratories, staff from Ambarli power plant and other stakeholders.

Semaine de la Mer

19-25 August - The 6th edition of the annual training week "Semaine de la Mer" was held in Tabarka and at Cap Negro in Tunisia. Organized by WWF MedPO, with national and international partners, 22 participants from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, France and Italy took part in an intense exploration of sustainable management, marine conservation and research.

Ecological characterization of three important sites to be declared as marine protected areas along the Lebanese coast

26 August - 8 September - RAC/SPA, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, the National Council for Scientific Research and the IUCN-Med office in Lebanon, carried out field surveys in three new important sites in Southern Lebanon: Sidon, Tyre and Naqoura. The field surveys have been executed by a team of international and national experts, which results have been processed and led to drawing up an ecological characterization of the sites along with a zoning and management outline proposals.

ICZM component for the Integrated Management Plan of the Buna/Bojana area

September - Based on series of national sectoral reports and built upon additional research on spatial and socio-economic development in Buna/Bojana area, PAP/RAC national team drafted an initial ICZM input for the Integrated Management Plan. Harmonization work on integrating it with IWRM component will follow in 2014 for finalizing the Plan.

Ecological field assessment in the Cap des Trois Fourches marine site in Morocco

8 - 20 September - Based on the results of the valuation of marine areas along the Moroccan Mediterranean coast, RAC/SPA undertook a complementary field assessment in the Cap des Trois Fourches marine site. A team of ten national and international experts worked together on the collection of biological data, in view of its processing and reporting on geo-referenced maps. The field survey results allowed finalizing a natural habitats assessment of the site, along with preliminary management proposal and outlines.

Experts work to design a future for Reghaïa with "Imagine" methodology

15 September - The last of 3 sustainability workshop was organized based on the "Imagine" methodology at the Centre Cynégétique de Reghaïa, facilitated by PAP/RAC. The three workshops gathered more than 40 stakeholders, allowing them to agree on a consensual vision, to define priorities and to recommend a set of actions and measures.

PCBs Management Course, Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina

23-26 September - CPRAC and MEDPOL with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia-Herzegovina (MoFTER) organized a PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyls) management training program for 50 participants. The workshop aimed at introducing the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs to local experts, and training them on the sampling and analysis of PCBs by using the semi-mobile analyzer L2000DX. It also included a visit to the Capljina Hydropower Plant for the practical training, located close to Mostar. Participants were trained on taking samples from oil drums using different types of tools and assessing phased-out transformers for PCB management.

Mediterranean Training Session on Ecological Monitoring in MPAs

23 - 28 September - RAC/SPA organized a third regional training session on ecological monitoring in Marine Protected Areas in Santa Pola (Spain). Twelve participants from nine Mediterranean countries took part to this session which particularly focused on field work.

Kerkennah Islands new demonstration site for Climate Variability and Change sister project.

8 October - Following a day of consultations and discussions with the Ministry of Environment, the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL), civil society, and other institutions, the Kerkennah Islands were selected as the Tunisian demonstration site within the UNEP/MAP GEF Climate Variability project. The demonstration project to be implemented will undertake an in-depth assessment of the impacts of climate variability on the marine and coastal ecosystems (including modeling of the beaches), in full participation with local and regional stakeholders with the support of Plan Bleu, and UNEP-Grid Geneva experts. In parallel, ecological and socio-economic and fisheries assessments will be undertaken, by SPA/RAC for the creation of a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the northern part of Kerkennah.

Protecting the Ocean and its resources for future generations

21-26 October - Over 1000 delegates from around the globe met at the 3rd edition of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3). Held for the first time in the Mediterranean, the core of IMPAC3 took place in Marseilles followed by a high-level political meeting in Corsica. WWF was a major supporter of the Congress and the results of the MedPAN South project were disseminated in two workshops and in plenary sessions. Many of the challenges facing the Mediterranean were high on the agenda– including the extension of MPAs to the southern Mediterranean, to include Libya, Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia.

More at: <http://bit.ly/16zVWYg>

Fisheries monitoring system in Morocco

31 October - The fishers from the landing site of Badès, in the Moroccan Al-Hoceima National Park, have completed six months of fisher-led monitoring of the fishing activity by the artisanal fishing fleet operating from Badès. This system, supported and promoted by the Nador Centre of the “Institut National de Recherche Halieutique” (INRH) of Morocco and FAO, in the framework of the MedPartnership, started operating in May 2013. It not only reports on the activity and the landings of the artisanal fishing fleet based in Badès, but also allows fishers to report on illegal fishing activities inside the marine area of the Park. The system is run by the fisher's association of Badès, that appointed some of its members to be trained by INRH and FAO, and technically and scientifically supported by INRH and FAO, to ensure the scientific quality of the monitoring and the analysis of the data.

Climate Variability and change project raises high interest for the ICZM Plan in Šibenik-Knin County

7-8 November - Within the MedPartnership sister project "Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management", a workshop on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the Šibenik-Knin County was organised.

More than 60 participants, representing a wide range of local and national experts from relevant authorities and institutions, and different sectors facing impacts of climate change attended the workshop. It reflected high interest and readiness of key stakeholders for this plan, securing structured participation, a corner stone of any ICZM strategy or a plan.

Climagine II in Sibenik-Knin County (Croatia)

8 November - The second Climagine workshop within the MedPartnership sister project "Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management" was held in Šibenik, Croatia, to present to the local stakeholders the hitherto development of the Climagine method and to identify the most relevant dimensions/indicators to be taken into consideration in the future.

In a thorough discussion some indicators were proposed for measuring impacts of climate change and sustainability of the project zone and to develop future scenarios. Key stakeholders demonstrated high interest and readiness for this plan, and recognized adaptation measures are necessary to guarantee a future sustainable development of the County.

MedPartnership showcased to more than 60 Members of Parliament, journalists and NGOs from various Mediterranean countries

13-14 November - The MedPartnership was showcased to more than 60 Members of Parliament, journalists and NGOs from various Mediterranean countries who gathered in Athens, within the framework of an MPs Workshop on Climate Variability and Change supported by the GEF UNEP/MAP Project. The 10th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) organized by its joint Secretariat, MIO-ECSDE and GWP/Med was held back-to-back with the MPs Workshop and the SWIM-SM Steering Group Meeting.

Trainings on GIS application on marine biodiversity in Croatia

September - November - As part of the project capacity building programme for the inventory of marine biodiversity in Croatia, three trainings on GIS application with regards to marine environment were delivered respectively in Rijeka (30 September - 4 October 2013), Zagreb (4-8 November 2013) and the Public Institution Priroda, Rijeka (14-15 November 2013) and benefited to 6 Croatian participants.

Climate variability and Change components endorsed during the CoP 18 meeting

3-6 December - The MedPartnership project was showcased during the 18th meeting of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties held in Istanbul Turkey. During the meeting, among the decisions made, the 2014-2015 work plan was adopted, including MedPartnership and Climate Variability activities. Also approved was the work towards the finalization of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation framework which will be submitted for adoption at the next CoP.

COMPONENT 1

INTEGRATED APPROACHES FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAPS AND NAPS:
ICZM, IWRM AND MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL
AQUIFERS

The activities implemented within this component aim at promoting integrated approaches throughout the Mediterranean for the reduction of pollution and the preservation of biodiversity. This is being achieved through appropriate management of the coastal and marine environments, including aquifers. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) are the overarching policy frameworks for all activities within this component. This component focuses on national and regional policy, legislation and institutional reforms taking fully into account the ICZM Protocol, ratified in March 2011. In addition, eleven demonstration projects at selected sites are under implementation, two of which are joint demonstrations (see boxes 1 and 2).

The results of the following three sub-components will be presented:

- Sub-component 1.1: Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater - led by UNESCO-IHP
- Sub-component 1.2: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) – led by PAP/RAC
- Sub-component 1.3: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – led by GWP-Med

Sub-Component 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater

Executed by UNESCO-IHP

In the Mediterranean coastal zone, coastal aquifers represent generally available and secure water supplies that are being increasingly threatened by depletion due to over-extraction and quality degradation caused by contamination. The aim of this sub-component is to reverse the trends of over-extraction and degradation in the quality of coastal aquifers through policy interactions, to provide appropriate capacity and technology for groundwater management. Activities in this sub-component focus on assessing the risks to coastal aquifers and associated uncertainties, the preparation of a regional action plan, demonstrations in collaboration with ICZM, IWRM and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the drafting of legislative, policy and institutional reforms and the preparation of a coastal aquifer supplement to the TDA-Med. Activities are focused along three lines of action: i) Assessments of coastal aquifer risk and uncertainty, ii) Regional actions for coastal aquifer management, and iii) Legal, policy and institutional recommendations for reforms.

Regarding assessments and data, the regional report on coastal aquifer risk and uncertainty is well advanced and will provide a synthesis of the 12 related national reports completed in 2012. It will also present an overview of regional pressure drivers and recommendations for the reversal of negative trends affecting coastal aquifers. This regional report, along with all project data related to coastal aquifers, will be made available online via the geo-referenced information system launched in 2012 for the project collaborators. This system will only be made public upon approval of the documents included therein by the Steering Committee in 2014. In 2013, good progress was achieved on the ground in Croatia and Tunisia, where UNESCO's partners are mapping the natural vulnerability of coastal aquifers, following evaluations of the locations and severity of potential risks to these groundwater resources. In Croatia, the University of Zagreb has successfully tested four different methodologies and completed four vulnerability maps of the Novljanska Zrnovnica karstic spring catchment study area. Based on these results, the University will develop a new methodology for karst terrains that will be tested on the catchment area, bringing the activity to a close by February 2014. Meanwhile, the Croatian Geological Survey, has nearly completed its characterization of the Pula coastal aquifer. A draft vulnerability map has been prepared and the definitive map will be made available in the first quarter of 2014.

In Tunisia, the vulnerability mapping of the Gar El Melah coastal aquifer will conclude by the end of 2013. The task force that will undertake the preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA-Med) supplement focused on coastal aquifers continued in 2013 to compile project results that will inform its analysis, and will begin in earnest its activities in 2014.

UNESCO's regional actions for coastal aquifer management focused on the case studies in Albania, Montenegro and Algeria. For the case study on the Buna/Bojana Transboundary Integrated Management Plan for Albania and Montenegro, UNESCO provided hydrogeological inputs in 2013 for the development of the management plan, including a GIS-based map of the hydrogeological characteristics and groundwater monitoring networks in the study area.

In Algeria, UNESCO has contributed reports from Algerian experts on water resources management, hydrogeology and legal and policy aspects of coastal zone management including coastal aquifers management. Additional inputs from these experts provided in 2013 will feed into the ongoing development of the case studies for the Reghaia Coastal Plan and the National ICZM Strategy for Algeria.

In terms of activities contributing to legal, institutional, and policy recommendations for reforms, a regional report is underway that is building upon the 11 national reports completed in 2012 that described the legal and institutional setting for water, groundwater and, when applicable, coastal aquifer management. The regional report will give an overview of the legal framework in the Mediterranean for coastal aquifers and the current situation in the participating countries. It will also highlight the gaps in the national legal settings vis-à-vis the Barcelona Convention and related protocols and the requirements for the sustainable management of coastal aquifers. Furthermore, this report will serve as a valuable input to the coastal aquifer supplement of the TDA-Med.

The expert group on groundwater dependent coastal wetlands is now operational and is undertaking a hydro-geological pre-assessment of the groundwater dependence of selected Mediterranean coastal wetlands.

This activity aims at identifying current and potential threats, and the scope for hydrological management intervention, and will also establish a methodology and guidelines for the hydro-geological management of coastal wetlands. A regional report that includes a synthesis of the status of coastal Mediterranean wetlands and the services they provide will be available by June 2014. The report will also present the methodology and guidelines for the hydro-geological management of coastal wetlands and for their characterization and mapping, as well as a map of selected coastal wetlands and their characterizations. In 2013, UNESCO also laid the groundwork for the establishment of a formal collaboration with the Ramsar Convention on this activity, which will inform and raise the visibility of the work undertaken. The results of this activity will represent an important contribution to the coastal aquifer supplement of the TDA-Med with the identification of the main risks and threats on coastal wetlands dependent on coastal aquifers.

BOX 1

A joint Coastal, water and aquifer management plan for the Buna/Bojana (Albania and Montenegro)

PAP/RAC, UNESCO/IHP and GWP-Med are working in cooperation to bring together the management of water resources, coastal areas and aquifers through the development of an innovative methodology for the implementation of integrated management plans. This is being tested and validated in the Buna/Bojana coastal zone.

The development of the integrated coastal, water and aquifer management plan is well advanced, with the draft plan anticipated by June 2014. The focus of efforts during 2013 was to ensure a solid baseline of scientific and economic data and information gathered in previous years, as well as on expert consultations during the process. Key outputs include ICZM and IWRM integrated diagnostic components (including updated hydrogeological reports for both Albania and Montenegro and an integrated hydrogeological map of the project area) as the most important stepping stone towards producing the Integrated Management Plan.

BOX 2

Coastal and Aquifer Planning in Reghaia (Algeria)

(PAP/RAC and UNESCO/IHP)

2013 was a “participatory year” for the Reghaia Coastal Plan as well. Three participatory workshops have been organized in Reghaia, in the premises of the Centre Cynégétique de Reghaia. Among the participants of these meetings were representatives of the national, regional and local institutions and organizations, as well as the students of the National Superior School of Marine Sciences and Coastal Development (ESSMAL). During the meeting, priorities for the area have been agreed, as well as a set of actions. Besides incorporating local knowledge, building ownership for the plan and raising awareness on the coastal issues, meetings also served to build capacities in ICZM. UNESCO-IHP provided additional expert guidance on water resources and pollution and on the legal and institutional framework of Algeria in support of the National ICZM Strategy, which feeds into and is informed by the case study in Reghaia. All mentioned contributions will now be integrated into the Reghaia Coastal Plan.

Summary of implementation so far

Since 2010, a total of 33 meetings, workshops and seminars were undertaken for the management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater. An approximate number of 291 experts and decision-makers from the Mediterranean participated in these meetings and events.

The following scientific and technical reports and papers have been undertaken:

- Report on Recommendations for the Management and Protection of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in the Mediterranean, 6 July 2011
- Report on Recommendations for the Management of Coastal Aquifers in the Mediterranean, 29 November 2011
- Report on the case study of the Bou Areg aquifer and Nador Lagoon in Morocco, 28 August 2011
- Vulnerability of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater Quality in the Mediterranean (S. Carrubba, J.L. Martin-Bordes, V. Re), Paper in Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment (MEDCOAST 2011), Rhodes, Vol October 2011, Vol 1. p. 369-379
- Natural tracers and isotope techniques to define groundwater recharge and salinization in the Bou Areg coastal aquifer (North Morocco), (V. Re, E. Allais, N. El Hamouti, Bouchnan R., Sacchi E., Rizzo F., Zuppi G.M), International Symposium on Isotopes in Hydrology, Marine Ecosystems, and Climate Change Studies, Monaco, March-April 2011
- Twelve national hydrogeological reports on assessment of risk and uncertainty of coastal aquifers
- Eleven national reports on the policy, legal and institutional aspects of coastal aquifers management
- Road map for the preparation of the coastal aquifer supplement to the TDA-Med (March 2011).
- One mid-term progress report on the vulnerability mapping activities undertaken by the University of Zagreb in the Novljanska Zrnovnica karstic spring catchment study area (July 2013)
- One mid-term progress report on the vulnerability mapping activities undertaken by the Croatian Geological Survey for the Pula coastal aquifer (July 2013)

- One final report on the vulnerability mapping activities undertaken for the Gar El Melah coastal aquifer (December 2013)

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Sub-Component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

Executed by UNEP/MAP –Priority Action Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Through the implementation of the activities of the sub-component on ICZM, PAP/RAC is advancing well in securing results, experiences and capacities for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean. The focus of the activities this year was to support the preparation of the National ICZM Strategies and ICZM Plans; to demonstrate the ICZM approach, tools and techniques in selected demonstration areas and to support integration of climate variability and change into national strategies and ICZM Plans for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. The ICZM Protocol entered into force in March 2011, and so far has been ratified by eight countries in addition to the European Union. Out of the MedPartnership participating countries, Albania, Montenegro, Syria, Croatia and Morocco ratified the Protocol.

The preparation of the **National ICZM Strategy of Algeria** during 2013 was characterized by wide stakeholder participation. Summary version of the diagnostic analysis has been prepared, in order to have a more friendly output for wide distribution. Following its completion, a series of three participatory workshops have been organized by the Ministry of Land-use Planning, Environment and Town with the support of PAP/RAC in 3 coastal Wilayas – namely Annaba in the East, Oran in the West and Tipasa in the Center. Each workshop gathered up to 70 participants, including representatives of each sector invited, as well as a number of representatives of authorities, local communities, NGOs, and media. Participants were divided in working sessions and shared their views and expertise on institutional functioning, participation and relation between scientific knowledge and ICZM, contributing to good governance in ICZM, as requested by the ICZM Protocol. After the third workshop, a questionnaire was prepared to be widely distributed to stakeholders, allowing, among others, stakeholders from the remote Wilayas which were less represented, to express their views and suggestions. On the basis of all those participatory contributions, the draft National ICZM Strategy is about to be submitted for approval by the stakeholders.

The **National ICZM Strategy of Montenegro**, together with the Coastal Area Management Plan (CAMP) Montenegro project, was in full swing during 2013. An annual conference was organized with the participation of key national institutions, local governments, NGOs and international organizations. In addition, a number of expert and team meetings were organized. During 2013, a number of important assessments were undertaken (vulnerability/attractiveness/suitability assessment; carrying capacity assessment; the assessment of set-back zone and alike), providing practical tools for the integration of the ICZM principles into Coastal Area Spatial Plan. The approach was highly supported by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Tourism. In December 2013 this approach has been presented to the Montenegrin Government for the adoption of the main findings, as well as official support for using such approach in future processes of spatial plans' preparation.

The Steering Committee of the National ICZM Strategy for Montenegro held its second meeting in



*Promajna Vinog-Brela, Croatia
(Photo credit: Marko Prem, PAP/RAC)*

2013; the Committee is considered as a pilot body for the future Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC).

PAP/RAC activities in Croatia within the MedPartnership activity **“Harmonisation of the national legislative and institutional framework with the ICZM Protocol”** resulted with the request by the Croatian government for assistance in preparing a national ICZM Strategy in parallel with the Marine Strategy. The Marine Strategy, requested by the EU MSFD, is currently under development in Croatia and the government expressed their intention to integrate

Marine and Coastal Strategy into one, a solution already foreseen by the Croatian law. Within MedPartnership project an Economic and Social Assessment for the new integrated strategy has been launched. The approach proposed by the MSFD has been extended in order to fully encompass the terrestrial part of the coastal zone. In Croatia, this has been defined by the law on ratification of the ICZM Protocol, as the coastal municipalities. In order to secure institutional support for the development of the new strategy, the Croatian Ministry of Environment proposed to expand the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the development and implementation of Marine Strategy to include key coastal institutions. Two meetings of the new committee for Coastal and Marine Strategy were held, one in April and another one in November. This IMC will be informed of and invited to support the implementation of all of the MedPartnership results in Croatia.

The first draft results of the **assessment of the potential costs of climate variability and change** performed within the **ClimVar** project in Croatia have been presented at the expert meeting held in November in PAP/RAC. The first downscaling of the DIVA model to the national level showed that some important adjustments of the model are needed for the touristic Mediterranean countries. The methodology for adjustments has been defined; data needed identified and further steps agreed. The draft results for downscaling the assessment to the level of the Šibenik-Knin County have also been presented and discussed and the harmonisation of all involved has been enforced during the 5-day meeting in November at PAP/RAC premises. Important data was collected through the data collection process carried out in Croatia throughout the entire 2013. In Tunisia data collection is still in progress. The activity was presented at the MedPartnership meeting in October.

ICZM Plan for Šibenik-Knin County with special emphasis on climate variability and change has been launched in January 2013. In collaboration with Plan Bleu, two Climagine workshops were organized with the aim to capture the local knowledge for the sustainability of the zone and to build ownership for the plan. In September, Regional authorities of the Šibenik-Knin County organized a boat trip for the PAP/RAC expert team to visit the project area. The Steering Committee for the project was established. The Inception and Scoping reports were completed, presented at the Inception workshop and adopted by the Steering Committee meeting in Šibenik, in

November. In order to build the platform for the plan implementation, a Stakeholder Analysis is under preparation. Within this activity a series of 20 interviews were carried out with key actors in the zone.

Summary of implementation so far

Since 2010, a total of 69 meetings and 25 workshops and 2 field trips on Integrated Coastal Zone Management have been completed with the 1480 participants in total; questionnaires have been distributed to 600 persons and interviews held with 40 more persons. MedPartnership and ClimVar were presented at the conferences of the MAREMED and COASTGAP projects, in Gaeta and in Ferrara, Italy.

The following policy documents or plans have been drafted:

- Guidelines for the preparation of the National ICZM Strategies
- Integrative Methodological Framework for coastal, river basin and aquifer management
- Analysis of the technical and legal aspects of the ICZM Protocol (ProtoGIZC project upgraded with



*Some of 280 islands in Šibenik-knik County, Croatia
(Photo credit: Daria Povh, PAP/RAC)*

- the assistance of MedPartnership)
- Case study of the impact of the ICZM Protocol on the national legislative and institutional framework in Croatia (ProtoGIZC project, upgraded with the assistance of MedPartnership)
- Assessment of Impacts of the Ratification of the Mediterranean Protocol on ICZM on Croatian Legislation, with a Focus on Article 8
- Stock take and critical analysis for Algerian ICZM Strategy
- Scoping Report for the Coastal Plan Reghaia

- Analysis Report for the Coastal Plan Reghaia
- Position paper for the ICZM Strategy for Montenegro
- Recommendations for the coastal set-back in Montenegro (in Montenegrin – English summary soon)
- Information for the Government of Montenegro: main achievements in the process of implementation of the CAMP Montenegro project and preparation of the ICZM Strategy (in Montenegrin)

In addition, the following documents have been drafted:

- Synthetic version of diagnostic analysis for the Algerian coast;
- Synthesis of regional workshops for the Algerian National Strategy;
- Final report on sustainability in the framework of Réghaia coastal plan.
- ICZM component for the IMP Buna/Bojana: description and problem analysis

The following scientific, environmental, and/or economic assessments have been undertaken and published:

- Henocques, Y. 2011, Analysis of National Coastal Management Strategies around the World to the benefit of National ICZM Strategies in the Mediterranean, PAP/RAC, Split, Croatia
- Povh Škugor, D., Shipman, B., Prem, M. and Marković M. “PAP/RAC and MedPartnership – together for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol”, paper presented at the 10th MedCoast scientific conference and published in Ozhan, E. (Editor), 2011, Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment, MEDCOAST 11, 25-29 October, 2011, Rhodes, Greece, MEDCOAST, Mediterranean Coastal Foundation, Dalyan, Mugla, Turkey, vol 1-2, 93-105
- General Vulnerability Assessment Report for

Montenegrin ICZM Strategy (in Montenegrin)

- Detailed vulnerability assessment in narrow coastal area (Montenegrin; summary in English – soon)
- Attractiveness and suitability assessment for agriculture (Montenegrin with summary in English – soon)
- Tourism carrying capacity assessment (Montenegrin with executive summary in English)
- Inception Report for the Šibenik-Knin County ICZM Plan
- Scoping Report for the Šibenik-Knin County ICZM Plan (in Croatian)

Further information is available on the PAP/RAC web-site

www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/MedPartnership



Fishing nets in Montenegro

(Photo credit: Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE)

Sub-Component 1.3 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Executed by GWP-Med

During 2013, the activities envisaged under Sub-Component 1.3 advanced despite the lingering

socio-political turmoil affecting the majority of the South Mediterranean countries at both national and transboundary levels. Operational synergies for national and regional activities included MED EUWI, SWIM-SM, and the GWP-Med/OECD/UfM regional programme on 'Governance and Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector'.

At national level, and with IWRM planning work in Egypt and Lebanon completed in 2012, the focus for 2013 was on Tunisia and Palestine. In Tunisia, the national policy dialogue on IWRM issues was revived with emphasis on the water governance and financing nexus. Multi-stakeholder meetings were held in Tunis, bringing together government authorities, utilities, the donor community, civil society, academia and private sector to debate the issue of private sector participation in the provision of water services including for environmental protection objectives. Solid technical work, based on tested OECD methodology, supported the structured dialogue and provided the background to the dialogue. The step-by-step findings are being fed into the preparatory process of the Tunisian National Water Strategy 2050. Activities will be completed in 2014. In Palestine, work progressed at slower pace, concretizing upcoming activities on the water governance and financing nexus. This line of work is considered crucial for the implementation of the government's Water Governance Programme and aligns closely with recent IWRM planning developments in Palestine like the approval of the new Water Law, the 3-year and the long-term National Water Sector Strategy, etc. Activities will be completed in 2015.

The ICZM/IWRM Integrative Methodological Framework advanced, and will be completed in 2014. The preparation of the integrated Buna Bojana transboundary management plan has been more challenging than foreseen, with a need to further strengthen the database that is the foundation of the plan. Field work for data acquisition was done in this regard accompanied with actions undertaken directly by GWP-Med and PAP/RAC -instead of the National Coordinators and experts as initially planned- to acquire the hydrogeological and meteorological data available at national institutions. Local consultations secured that stakeholders' views about the basin management issues guide the preparation of the plan. The plan will be completed by mid 2014. In addition, the case for replicating the ICZM/IWRM IMF methodology was pursued and Damur River in Lebanon has been identified as a potential second pilot case. If approved as a Replication activity by the

MedPartnership Steering Committee, activities in the Damur Basin would evolve in 2014-2015. Furthermore, exploratory activities for advancing collaboration on the Medjerda River Basin, shared by Algeria and Tunisia, continued in the political framework of the African Ministerial Council on Water, but without tangible follow up until the end of 2013.

In 2013, the sustainability of MedPartnership's contributions and results became evident through (a) the launch (May 2013, Barcelona) of the GWP-Med/OECD regional programme on 'Governance and Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector' (2013-2015, 2.5 mil Euro), labeled by the Union for the Mediterranean and (b) the dynamic continuation of collaborative activities in the transboundary Drin River Basin, including through the kick-off (May 2013, Tirana) of a GEF Drin Project (2013-2018, multi-million). MedPartnership has been a key contributor to both processes since 2009.

Summary of implementation so far

Since the beginning of the project, more than 100 meetings, workshops and conferences for the integrated management of water resources have been conducted with the active involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including training and capacity building activities for more than 500 participants in the Mediterranean.

The following main policy and technical documents or plans have been drafted:

- Household Affordability Assessment regarding water tariffs in Egypt (2009)
- Financing Strategy for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in the Greater Cairo area (2009)
- Policy Brief on Financing Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Egypt (2009)
- Review of the 10-year National Strategy Plan for Water in Lebanon (2009)
- Draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean in the UfM framework (2010)
- National Assessment on Private Sector Participation in Water Infrastructure in Egypt (2010)
- National Assessment on Private Sector Participation in Water Infrastructure in Lebanon (2011)
- Shared Strategic Vision for the Management of the Drin Basin (2011)
- Stakeholder Analysis for the Sava River Basin (2011)

- Public Participation Plan for the Sava River Basin (2011)
- Input to the Report to the UNCSD 2012 (Rio 2012) conference on the application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources: Albania, Jordan and Tunisia (2011)
- Summary of the Target Report on Water Governance / IWRM Plans in the Mediterranean in view of the Sixth World Water Forum (2011)
- Target Report on Water Governance / IWRM Plans in the Mediterranean prepared for the Sixth World Water Forum (2012)
- Action Plan for the Implementation of the Shared Strategic Vision for the Management of the Drin Basin (2012)
- Materials of the Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector project (2012)
- Stakeholders Analysis for the Buna/Bojana River Basin (2013)

Further information is available at
www.gwpmed.org



COMPONENT 2

POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES,
INCLUDING PERSISTENT ORGANIC
POLLUTANTS: IMPLEMENTATION OF SAP-MED
AND RELATED NAPS

Photo credit: Thomas Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE

This Component addresses some of the priorities identified in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP-MED) and its National Action Plans (NAP) for the reduction of pollution from land-based sources.

The results of the following three sub-components will be presented:

- Sub-Component 2.1 Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control – led by UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL
- Sub-Component 2.2 Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST) – led by UNIDO
- Sub-Component 2.3 Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies – led by UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL and CP/RAC.

Sub-Component 2.1 Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution reduction

Executed by UNEP/MAP - MEDPOL

MEDPOL is executing several activities to support the implementation of the NAPs, which were adopted between 2003 and 2005 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. As we enter 10 years after NAP adoption, MEDPOL has started the process of a thorough evaluation of NAP/SAP implementation and achievements of their targets. This will provide strong background information with regard to the preparation of a sustainable financing strategy for NAP implementation, and will also lay the ground for the updating of NAPs by all countries in the future.

Four demonstration projects on NAP priorities are ongoing in Turkey, Tunisia, Algeria and Syria.

The main target of the evaluation is to enhance the sustainability of the implementation of the NAPs /SAP MED. It has two major components: a) the policy/technical framework and b) NAP investment portfolio.

The major deliverables of the policy/legal /technical NAP implementation component is a regional status report on the level of implementation of SAP-MED/NAPs regional activities and achievement of SAP MED targets, as well as a set of policy recommendations on ways and means to integrate and streamline in NAP/SAP-MED update process:

- The ecosystem approach implementation (goal, vision, ecological objectives, GES and targets, monitoring and programme of measures)
- The legally binding measures adopted by the Contracting parties in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- As appropriate the use of market based and economic instruments to control pollution
- Emerging issues and global/regional agendas of Mediterranean relevance

The analysis covered all 33 SAP MED targets with the view to demonstrate the progress achieved as well as challenges and issues at stake for the region and the countries with regards to pollution from land based sources.

The report also addresses the existing tools established within MAP and outside MAP system for tracking progress of pollution reduction and/or SAP/NAP implementation in the Mediterranean region at regional and national levels. It will propose a set of NAP update guidelines agreed in 2003 by the contracting parties to be used by the countries to update their NAPs in the future.

The first drafts of the evaluation of SAP and Nap implementation report were reviewed by MEDPOL Focal Points in June 2013 along with summaries of country profiles and fact sheets defining pollution loads trends of SAP/NAP categories of substance.

UNEP/MAP contributed to and provided guidance to UfM team work in their assignment to evaluate the status of implementation of the investment component of the NAPs. A continuous flow of information on available data was exchanged throughout the project's implementation. An excellent collaboration between the Focal Points of UNEP/MAP/MEDPOL and the UfM team of LDK-IME was attained throughout the project. Focal Points provided guidance, information and updates on de-pollution projects and pollution loads per country and supported the coordination of UfM team work at country level with all stakeholders.

The results of both NAP/SAP evaluation components (policy/technical and investment portfolio) will be put at the disposal of the contracting parties in 2014 with the view to provide them with a very sound basis for updating the current NAPs to better and effectively cope with growing development pollution pressures and drivers and achieve good environmental status in the Mediterranean, thus complying with their legally binding obligations under the Barcelona convention, LBS protocol and SAP MED 2025 targets and commitments in the framework of H2020 initiative.

2.1.1 Management of phosphogypsum slurry in Tunisia

The analysis report of **phosphogypsum slurry management** was presented in a stakeholders meeting in 2012, and further actions were discussed and agreed. These included the development of best practices on phosphogypsum sludge disposal, the increase of awareness through workshops and addressing the cost of environmental degradation on biodiversity and fisheries in particular to be finalized in 2014, pending the signing of the agreement with the Government of Tunisia.

2.1.2 Chromium and BOD control of tanneries effluent in Turkey

The demonstration project on Chromium (Cr) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) control in tanneries is ongoing in Turkey. The specific objectives of the pilot project are to improve the legislative and institutional framework for the control of Cr and BOD releases from tanneries in Turkey; - to prepare and implement a pilot project on Cr and BOD control in a group of medium size tanneries; and to prepare and implement Guidelines on Cr and BOD control in tannery's effluents.

The report was discussed in a national workshop meeting organized by the Turkish Ministry of Environment with all tannery sector representatives in 2012 that resulted in the preparation of a regulatory act to promote pollution reduction through recycling. An implementation plan is under finalization. Turkey confirmed that it will implement it outside the scope of MedPartnership project. Work is ongoing to finalize the BoD control guidelines.

2.1.3 Recycling of used lubricating oils in Algeria

The demonstration project on the management of recycling and regeneration of used lubricating oil is under implementation in Algeria. Three reports corresponding to phases I, II and III were completed Under the second agreement between UNEP/MAP

and Algerian authorities was prepared by MEDPOL, it is planned to set up and test a system in a small area of a city for the future collection and transport of used lubricating oil. The project is expected to deliver its results in 2014.



2.1.4 Recycling of lead batteries in Syria

The demonstration project on the management of recycling lead batteries is under implementation in Syria. The conclusions from the first two phases showed that management of used lead batteries is

mostly organized by the private sector, resulting in huge challenges to find out the way this operation is taking place and to locate and control collectors. Moreover, they also showed that major issues of policy reforms are needed for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of lead batteries in Syria. Practical guidelines for the ESM of used lead batteries are being developed by the Basel Convention regional Activity Centre in Bratislava, based on Syria's experience and on the Basel Convention guidelines and disseminated to the other countries of the project through a regional workshop in 2014.



2.1.5. Assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean Sea

Eutrophication is the direct result of the enrichment of marine ecosystem with nutrients, namely nitrogen and phosphorus, from land-based sources and from diffuse sources. Rivers in the Mediterranean are considered as major diffuse sources of nutrients into the sea. . Based on the recommendations of the assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean Sea completed in 2012, a database and GIS based modeling tool for the assessment of nutrient inputs into the Mediterranean Sea from diffuse sources has been developed. Preparation work has started to publish an atlas with the data provided and maps elaborated. Issues regarding data gaps and policy reforms regarding monitoring of riverine nutrients inputs were reviewed by the MEDPOL focal point meeting in June 2013. The publication of the assessment report is expected in 2014.

2.1.6. Setting Emission Limit Values (ELV) for industrial effluents and the establishment of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)

At the regional level, a model for establishing a direct relationship between Emission Limit Values and Environmental Quality Standards of marine coastal water (ELV/EQS) was fully developed for three major pollutants. Work is ongoing to create and put, based on the outcome of both (with riverine inputs reports) studies, a number of powerful tools in the hands of governmental authorities and the large public where appropriate to achieve a better control of marine pollution from land based sources. Some policy related recommendations arisen from studies were presented to MEDPOL Focal Points approval web-based FQO/ELV model is expected to be delivered in autumn 2014 to be followed by 9 regional training workshops And a set of guidelines for 7 pollutants.

Summary of implementation so far

Ten meetings, workshops and seminars were undertaken for the facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution reduction. An approximate number of 100 experts and decision-makers from the Mediterranean participated in these meetings and events.

The first draft of the lead batteries ESM guidelines was prepared

Work is on going for the further implementation and successful delivery of the other pilots by the end of 2014.

Sub-Component 2.2 Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST)

Executed by UNIDO

MED TEST component targeted industrial pollution prevention arising from hot spots areas of the Southern Mediterranean Region. The project has concluded all its activities and aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of introducing best practices, cleaner technologies and integrated management systems, for cost reduction, productivity increase and environmental performance in industry. A pool of 58 manufacturing sites across 7 industrial sectors in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, have actively participated in MED TEST.

Building national capacity has been achieved through an extensive training and on the job technical assistance programme that has targeted 6 national institutions & service providers and 25 local professionals, besides the staff of the 43 demonstration companies. A total of 958 man days of training was delivered to 514 participants. As a result, a network of local resources is now engaged in promoting TEST approach and will serve to extend the experience gained to other industries in the region.

The tangible results achieved and documented within the MED TEST component have raised the attention of the donor community. In July 2012 the EC/DevCo has approved an up-scaling of MED TEST II, within the SWITCH-MED initiative, to extend the experience to all the other countries of the Mediterranean region. The MED TEST II is planned to start during the second half of 2013.

Sub-Component 2.3 Environmentally sound management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated with PCBs in national electricity companies

Executed by UNEP/MAP – MEDPOL and UNEP/MAP - CP/RAC

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) still in use in electrical equipment are at risk of release through fire accidents in electrical equipment; those off-line can release PCBs through leaks and spills. Stocks that are not well protected can be accessed by people wishing to utilize the oils. Repeated exposure to even small quantities of PCBs can cause damage to the liver and neurological and immune systems. Inadequate handling of PCBs can also lead to emissions of other toxic substances, including dioxins and furans that are POPs regulated under the Stockholm Convention. In spite of legislations in force, there are still large amounts of PCBs in use.

The major objective of the project is to introduce environmentally sound management (ESM) to all stages of the 'life-cycle' of electrical equipment, containing or contaminated by PCBs. It also focuses on strengthening legislative frameworks; the removal and disposal of up to 870 tons of PCBs at demonstration sites in five countries originally participating in the project; preparation of phase out plans for PCBs in electrical companies; and increased awareness and technical knowledge on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs.

Participating countries are Albania, Egypt, Turkey and Bosnia Herzegovina. The precise quantity of PCB for final disposal is pending the finalization of the inventory by partner countries.

In 2013, UNEP/MAP-CP/RAC has updated an information and project website on PCBs management for participating countries that can be consulted at www.pcbsmed.org.

CPRAC and MEDPOL conducted in 2013 two PCBs Management trainings in Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina for about 55 participants in each country. These training courses included a PCB theoretical training and a practical training on sampling and the use of a PCB analyzer device. In addition, UNEP/MAP (through CP/RAC and MEDPOL), is preparing

additional workshops and trainings on PCBs awareness, management, sampling and disposal to be delivered along 2014.

A video on PCBs management and a “Toolkit for PCBs owners and decision makers” is being prepared for educational and awareness purposes and will be added to the mentioned website at the beginning of 2014.

Summary of implementation so far

Two hundred national experts were trained on PCB Environmentally Sound Management and PCB inventory in Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina and Egypt. Training continues in Egypt, , Bosnia-Herzegovina and Turkey.

Three countries were equipped with 2-3 portable semi-mobile analyzers each to carry out the inventory of PCBs and the required chemical reagents to enable them to take and measure up to 500 samples.

Five PCB inventory campaigns were organized in 2013 as follows: two in Turkey, one in Egypt, and two in Bosnia Herzegovina to carry out and identify 450 tons of pure PCB for Environmentally Sound Management and disposal in the framework of the project.

COMPONENT 3

CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY:
IMPLEMENTATION OF SAP-BIO AND RELATED
NAPS

Component 3 contributes to the implementation of the for the conservation of biological diversity (SAP-BIO) in the Mediterranean region, specifically through the following two areas of focus:

- **Sub-Component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network – led by UNEP/MAP's RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO; and**
- **Sub-Component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries – led by FAO.**

The SAPs include many more priorities, than those addressed through this project, but RAC/SPA is working closely with all Mediterranean countries for the continued implementation of the SAP-BIO, with recent emphasis on the impact of climate change to the biodiversity of the Mediterranean. Moreover, in 2012 and 2013, RAC/SPA made an evaluation of the implementation of the SAP-BIO and NAPs in view of harmonizing it with the Aichi Strategic Plan and the Mediterranean Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process.

Hence, it also proposed a set of Strategic Goals and Priority Actions for consideration by relevant bodies for the period 2014-2020, in accordance with their competences and mandates for the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity.

Also, FAO runs a suite of projects supporting the management of fisheries for sustainability covering all Mediterranean countries, that work jointly and in a coordinated way to address many more of the sustainability concerns described in the SAPs and including also the main issues of social and economic sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries, in line with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

Sub-Component 3.1 Conservation of coastal and marine diversity through the development of a Mediterranean MPA Network

Executed by UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO

In order to increase the capacity to conserve regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity through the boosting of the creation of an ecologically representative, coherent and effective marine

protected areas network in the Mediterranean region supported by a region-wide network of marine protected areas managers, RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO are executing complementary activities. RAC/SPA's focus is the identification and creation of new marine protected areas and WWF-MedPO's focus is for the improved management of existing (and about-to-be-created) ones, as well as several joint activities for training, coordination and communication. It should be noted that the activities implemented by RAC/SPA have been given the name of "MedMPAnet" and those executed by WWF-MedPO have been named "MedPAN South".



Sidi Mechreg, Tunisia, where the annual "Semaine de la mer" was held

(Photo credit: Michel Gunter, WWF Canon)

National activities (RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO)

A number of activities were undertaken for the establishment of new MPAs (supported by RAC/SPA) and for the improved management of MPAs (supported by WWF-MedPO) which are summarized below.

Albania

After national consultations and the selection of the Porto Palermo Bay as a pilot marine protected area, RAC/SPA signed, in March 2013, an MoU with the Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) for the implementation of the project activities.

Following first contacts with the local authority and few meetings with the interested stakeholders (fishermen) in the Porto Palermo Bay area, socio-economic and ecological studies have been under

taken. Furthermore, a survey on needs and demands concerning local stakeholders participation mechanism have been carried out for the elaboration of the management plan of the Porto Palermo Bay MPA, planned to be accomplished in 2014.

Algeria

RAC/SPA has continued joining efforts with PAP/RAC, UNESCO/IHP and the 'Conservatoire du Littoral' for the elaboration of a Coastal Plan for the Réghaïa area through combining the work underway on the ICZM plan with the potential establishment of an MPA in the area. A socio-economic study, including the identification of potential stakeholders and partnerships that could be involved in the Réghaïa marine protected area creation and management was carried out in 2013. The ecological field survey will be undertaken by RAC/SPA experts' team in 2014 along with the elaboration of management and zoning plan of the Réghaïa marine protected area.

WWF-MedPO provided assistance in the Taza National Park and the Direction Générale des Forêts, which successfully produced the necessary documentation, including a management and a zoning plan, for the official designation of the marine area adjacent to the Park as an MPA. While waiting for the establishment of the new MPAs, in 2013 a number of activities were carried out to strengthen the engagement with the local stakeholders and pave the way to the future MPA implementation. On March 9-10th, a Workshop on sustainable fisheries, organised by Taza National Park, gathered together local fishermen, the Directorates of Fisheries and Tourism, the Chamber of Fishing and national and international experts to identify alternative income generating activities to address the socioeconomic impact of the future fishing regulations. The experience of the participatory process carried out at Taza National Park to create the new MPA was also presented in Malta at the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean on the 27–30 November 2013.

Croatia

Following joint consultations, RAC/SPA and the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection in

Croatia have refined and adjusted the project activities according to the actual priorities of the country focusing on an ecological study, a fishery study and capacity building activities for the inventory of marine biodiversity (Posidonia meadows and Coralligenous habitats), in the County of Primorje & Gorski Kotar.



*MPA managers, scientists and partners who participated to the "Science to Management" workshop
(photo credit: WWF-MedPO)*

Beginning 2013, an MoU was signed between RAC/SPA, the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, the State Institute for Nature Protection and the Public Institution Priroda, enabling thus the starting of the MedMPAnet pilot activities in Croatia, which will last until March 2014.

In this context, two fieldworks for the socio-economic fisheries study were conducted, in April and May 2013, mainly through interviews with local fishermen. They were undertaken around two study areas – one MPA and three proposed marine Natura 2000 sites of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County.

Furthermore, monitoring protocols for Posidonia and coralligene were set up and tested and ecological surveys with regards to marine species and habitats mapping have been undertaken in July and August 2013 at Prvic Island-Grgurov kanal Special Reserve, and Unije, Srakane and Susak Natura 2000 sites.

Finally, as part of the project capacity building programme in Croatia, three trainings on GIS (ArcGIS) for 6 participants were held respectively in Rijeka (30 September - 4 October 2013), Zagreb (4-8 November 2013) and the Public Institution Priroda, Rijeka (14-15 November 2013).

With the support of WWF-MedPO, all five existing Croatian MPAs have successfully worked towards standardising their MPA management planning process, while enhancing collaborations with relevant administrations, stakeholders and NGOs. Croatia is now one of the few countries in the Mediterranean where all existing MPAs are working together to improve the quality of their management in a coordinated fashion. In 2012, the management plans of Lastovo Islands and Telašćica Nature Parks were completed, approved and endorsed by the relevant Park Management Boards and Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection. The management plans of Brijuni and Kornati National Parks were also completed and approved on 2013. The management plan of Mljet National Park is under development and will be finalized with the support of Sunce in 2014.

Lebanon

RAC/SPA provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment, which successfully produced an ecological characterization of three priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs: Enfeh Peninsula, Ras Chekaa cliffs, and Raoucheh cliffs. In May 2013, the assessments of biological features and ecological interest of these marine sites have been approved by the Ministry of Environment, who has also submitted an official proposal to declare the area of Ras Chekaa as MPA.

Furthermore, the meeting served also to plan and approve the upcoming phase of the Project aiming at replicating the survey in three new important sites in Southern Lebanon: Sidon, Tyre and Naqoura. Thus, from 26 August to 8 September 2013, RAC/SPA has run a field survey in these three marine sites. The same team of international and national experts as in 2012, has participated to the survey, which results have been processed and led to drawing up an ecological characterization along with a zoning and management outline proposals.

Libya

The MedMPAnet project activities on the development of a national strategy for the establishment of an MPA network in Libya resumed in 2013. Thus, several technical meetings were held in June 2013 with the different representatives of administrations, scientists, local populations and NGOs concerned by MPA creation and planning in Libya. This has led to (i) analyzing the priority needs and identifying stakeholders and potential partnerships for MPA creation and planning and (ii) organizing, in October 2013, a national workshop in which the outlines of the national strategy for the

establishment of an MPA network and the draft law on protected areas in Libya have been agreed. These official documents are intended to be finalized early 2014 for a national wide consultation.

As for the pilot site of El Kouf National Park, a socio-economic study has been carried out in view of completing, along with the ecological characterization, the final recommendations for the management of the area.

On the other hand, RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO provided their support for fifteen Libyan national officers and MPA stakeholders in terms of capacity-building on participatory process and stakeholders' engagement in MPAs (Akyaka (Turkey), 10-14 February 2013). Participants learned the principles of participatory planning and communication, and drafted a plan to engage key stakeholders for the future implementation of the Libyan MPAs. Case studies from the MPA of Kaş-Kekova (MedPAN South Project) provided an opportunity to learn more about the Turkish experience of the process of engaging stakeholders in the development of management plans.

In the Ain Al-Ghazala MPA, WWF-MedPO supported a team of international and national experts to complete the socio-economic assessment by collecting data on gear, methods classification and fishery areas, and on the profile and perception of local fishermen and hunters. RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO provided their support for the capacity building of fourteen Libyan national officers and MPA stakeholders on (i) Planning socioeconomic assessments in marine protected areas (Bizerte (Tunisia), 26-30 May 2012) and (ii) GIS application to marine environment (Tunis (Tunisia), 1-2 June 2012).

In June 2013 In Libya, the Marine Biology Research Center officially launched the project of developing the management plans of Farwa Lagoon and Ain El Ghazala MPAs with the support of WWF-MedPO. A kick off meeting took place in Tajoura-Tripoli to begin the process of engaging authorities, stakeholders and civil society in decision-making processes, and gain their support for the MPA and its governance framework.

Montenegro

Building on the results of the rapid assessments undertaken in 2011 and 2012, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Environment of Montenegro, Boka Kotorska Bay has been selected as a pilot site. In this concern, RAC/SPA has

contracted an international consultancy firm which carried out a fishery study and an ecological survey of the Kotor Bay marine area, using the side scan sonar technique. The data collected from the MedMPAnet Project particularly from the habitat assessment survey, contributed to the establishment of a GIS database for the purpose of CAMP Montenegro project. Furthermore, RAC/SPA is joining efforts to PAP/RAC and CP/RAC in the "Pilot Project on Testing the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) application in Boka Kotorska Bay", in particular the implementation of supporting activities regarding green entrepreneurship in Kotor Bay specially focused on ecotourism activities and aiming to assess the possibilities of reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment through the implementation of green entrepreneurship and ecotourism activities.

Morocco

In April 2013, a joint meeting that was co-organized in Rabat by the 'Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification' (HCEFLCD) and RAC/SPA, gathered MPA stakeholders in Morocco, including relevant administrations, scientists and NGOs, and allowed presenting the achievements of the MedMPAnet Project in the country. The assessments regarding (i) the characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs in Morocco, (ii) the identification of stakeholder group and potential partnerships to create MPAs and (iii) the preliminary ecological characterization of the Cap des Trois Fourches marine area have been indeed approved.

Further to the achievement of this first project phase and under the MedPartnership project, it has been agreed to carry out a complementary field survey in the Cap des Trois Fourches marine area and to proceed to the elaboration of a management plan of this future MPA along with the setting-up of a consultation mechanism involving all stakeholders. RAC/SPA has undertaken an on-site field assessment in the Cap des Trois Fourches marine site, from 8 to 20 September 2013. A team of ten national and international researchers/experts worked together on the collection of biological data which have been processed and reported on georeferenced maps. This allowed finalizing a rapid natural habitats assessment of the site, along with preliminary management proposal and outlines.

Tunisia

Following the results of the field surveys and the socio-economic study carried out in the Kuriat Islands, RAC/SPA launched in 2013, in collaboration with the Tunisian Coastal Protection and Planning

Agency (APAL), the process of elaboration of a detailed management plan for the Kuriat Islands marine protected area. The first phase of the management plan elaboration process, consisting in (i) elaborating a detailed diagnosis of all aspects related to the area and its surroundings, (ii) proposing management scenarios and (iii) carrying out on-site stakeholders' consultation meetings, has been achieved and will be concluded by a consultation workshop early February 2014.

On the other hand, a technical assistance for the setting-up of an ecological monitoring system of fish populations and marine biocenosis in the Kuriat Islands MPA started in November 2013.

The first objectives of the MedPAN South project at Cap Négro-Cap Serrat MCPA were accomplished: an office to host the future MCPA was established, personnel recruited, trained and equipped, and a business plan developed. The plan set out long-term, sustainable financing solutions for all activities in the MCPA, as well as for all other MPAs in Tunisia. In January, a workshop was organised to present the achievements and to discuss with MCPA stakeholders the priority actions for the future. In July, the annual training week "Semaine de la Mer" is regularly held in Tabarka and at Cap Negro. Organised by WWF MedPO, with national and international partners, 22 participants from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, France and Italy took part in an intense exploration of sustainable management, marine conservation and research.

Turkey

The MedPAN South project was officially closed on January 2013 in Ankara. More than 50 representatives of Ministries and institutions participated in the meeting and evaluated and finalized the marine Management Plan for Kaş-Kekova Specially protected Area (SPA). A fully participatory process was carried out by WWF to develop the plan, contributing to the national strategy towards strengthening the system of MPAs in Turkey led by the DG for Natural Assets Protection of the Ministry of the Environment. The plan is already in force as the no-take zones have been gazetted in the national fishery law and therefore enforced by the Coast Guard in Kaş-Kekova SPA. In addition, diving best practices were agreed by local diving operators, a mooring system was proposed and five buoys installed in key diving spots. A leaflet with the zoning map of the area and a booklet about sustainable fishing were distributed among fishermen and tourists during the summer season.



*Marine biology experts getting to work
(Photo credit: RAC/SPA, University of Sevilla)*

New MPAs – “MedMPAnet” (UNEP/MAP - RAC/SPA)

As detailed above, during 2013, RAC/SPA undertook a number of significant steps for the creation of new marine protected areas in Albania, Algeria, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia while working extensively on the identification of marine sites of conservation interest in Croatia and Lebanon.

RAC/SPA organized, in Rabat (Morocco), the Fourth Meeting of National Correspondents of the SAP-BIO (1st July 2013) and the Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (2-5 July 2013). Mediterranean riparian countries and partner organizations have been informed about the progress made so far and were able to provide recommendations for further delivery during the remaining project period.

National Legal and Institutional framework assessments for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and the establishment of MPAs in Albania, Croatia and Montenegro were drafted in 2013. Furthermore, in order to enhance awareness on MPAs values and the importance of stakeholder involvement, a toolkit on “Stakeholder participation for identification, designation and management of marine protected areas” was produced.

The project undertook several actions that contributed to build the capacity of MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities on planning, management and ecological aspects of MPAs:

- As part of the first development phase of the regional capacity-building strategy elaborated in 2012 by WWF-MedPO, RAC/SPA and MedPAN, RAC/SPA has been supporting WWF-MedPO in developing an ‘MPA Training Web Portal’, a new, interactive learning and networking tool to enhance the capacity of local decision makers, practitioners, civil society organizations (CSOs) across the Mediterranean. This tool, that should include joint-learning opportunities, training material, curricula content, case studies, upcoming meetings and events, would help MPA practitioners to communicate with each other at almost no cost, share best practices, and consult colleagues and experts.
- As a follow-up of the successful 2011 and 2012 regional training workshops organized in Santa Pola (Spain), in collaboration with the University of Alicante, RAC/SPA organized on 23-28 September 2013, a third regional training session on ecological monitoring in Marine Protected Areas. Twelve participants from nine Mediterranean countries ((Algeria (1), Croatia (2), Egypt (2), Lebanon (1), Libya (2), Montenegro (1), Morocco (1), Tunisia (1), Spain (1)) took part to this session which particularly focused on field work, and took place in the Marine Research Centre of Santa Pola (CIMAR) and the Marine Reserve of Nueva Tabarca.
- Taking advantage of the ecological field surveys undertaken in Lebanon, Morocco and Montenegro, on-the-job trainings have been delivered to twelve local experts. These on-the-job trainings have embraced various themes like benthos and fish sampling using underwater visual census and cameras, fauna and flora underwater recognizing, alien species, GIS application for marine habitats mapping,

Furthermore, in 2013, RAC/SPA has launched and produced the following guidelines, based on the actual needs of marine protected areas planners and managers:

- Guidelines on the monitoring of Mediterranean Lesser Crested Terns (*Thalasseus bengalensis emigrates*),
- Guidance for Building Marine Protected Areas Networks: Guidelines to improve the implementation of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas network and connectivity between Specially Protected Areas,
- Stakeholder participation toolkit for identification, designation and management of marine protected areas, and
- Cetacean Manual for MPA Managers (in close collaboration with ACCOBAMS and MedPAN).

The MedMPAnet project was present during the third edition of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) co-organized by the 'Agence des Aires Marines Protégées' (French Marine Protected Areas Agency) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), from 21 to 25 October, in Marseilles (France). This congress, organized every four years, brings together major maritime stakeholders from around the globe, beyond national or sectorial boundaries, to assist in the conservation and sustainable development of the oceans.

The MedMPAnet Project technical staff (3) and nine MPA national authorities, managers and practitioners (Albania (4), Croatia (1), Libya (2), Morocco (1), Tunisia (1)) took part to IMPAC3, allowing the project to be actively present during several events, in particular:

- The Workshop on 'Experiences with national MPA networks: Guidelines and Targets' through two presentations on the Project contribution towards (i) the development of a national network of marine protected areas in Lebanon and (ii) the development of a national network of marine protected areas in Libya: the Marine extension of El Kouf National Park;



Marine habitats and species in Cap des Trois Fourches, Morocco

(Photo credit: RAC/SPA, University of Sevilla)

- The Workshop on 'Governance for developing MPA networks' through the workshop co-chairing and a presentation on the 'Creation of a new marine protected area in the Kuriat Islands (Tunisia)';
- The Workshop entitled 'Towards ecologically representative and well connected regional networks' where a presentation on the 'Identification and creation of new Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean through the MedMPAnet Project' was made.

The Project also displayed two posters, on its MPA creation activities, entitled 'Towards a new Moroccan Marine Protected Area in the Mediterranean: the Cap des Trois Fourches' and 'The MedMPAnet Pilot Project in Croatia'.

For further information see:
<http://medmpanet.rac-spa.org/>

Improved MPA management - “MedPAN South” (WWF-MedPO)

The MedPAN South Project completed all project activities in 2013. Through a combination of approaches at the regional and national level, the Project addressed several of the issues that prevent MPAs from becoming operational. At the regional level, the Project built the capacity of MPA practitioners, strengthening the regional network of MPAs and creating trouble-shooting mechanisms in support of MPAs. In addition, the Project engaged 5 countries (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia, and Turkey) to ensure that their MPAs grew from a “paper park” state into an operational state, with trained and equipped staff, standardized management plans, scientifically sound monitoring, and approved zoning plans. This was done using a fully participatory approach, where stakeholder engagement in MPA operations was key to secure buy-in from local communities and stakeholders (including fishermen), endorsement from national and local governments, and ownership of the MPA.

In addition to the national achievements detailed in the previsions chapter, in 2013, regional actions supported the work done in MPAs of Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Capacity Building Programme.

To address the lack of dialogue between scientists and MPA managers, a workshop was hosted by WWF-MedPO and MedPAN in March at Plemmirio MPA in Siracuse, Italy. The workshop guided a network of managers and scientists to answer key questions on ecosystem health and socio-economic conditions, to achieve effective science-based management. Participants included representatives of MPAs and research institutes from Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Spain, Italy, France, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey, Montenegro, and Greece.

International Marine Protected Areas Congress

Over 1000 delegates from around the globe met at the 3rd edition of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) in October. Held for the first time in the Mediterranean, the core of IMPAC3 took place in Marseilles followed by a high-level political meeting in Corsica.

As official partner of IMPAC 3, WWF was a major supporter of Congress organizers and the results of the MedPAN South project were disseminated during a number of events:

- Plenary session on “Tools for Management and Enforcement” (video at: <http://www.impac3.org/fr/actualites/webtv>)
- Workshop led by WWF-MedPO: Management Plan from A to Z and Learning and developing regional training: lessons learned
- WWF-France 40th celebration
- WWF Communication Booth in the public area of the conference.

WWF was also present at the Ministerial roundtable in Ajaccio and delivered its message including key recommendations to the Ajaccio Declaration, which also welcomed the Mediterranean Trust fund announcement.

Many of the challenges facing the Mediterranean were high on the agenda of the Marseilles Congress – including the extension of MPAs to the southern



Axinella sp in Tyr, South Lebanon

(Photo credit: RAC/SPA, Oscar Luis Ocana Vicente)

Mediterranean, to include Libya, Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia, where MPAs are insufficient or have not yet been created.

More at: <http://www.impac3.org/>

For further information see www.panda.org/msp

MPA Communication Strategy

With the aim of raising awareness of key stakeholders on MPA roles and values and on the Project progress and results, RAC/SPA undertook the main following communication activities:

- Regular updating of the MedMPANet Project website (<http://medmpanet.rac-spa.org>);
- Compiling and disseminating the MedMPANet electronic newsletters through RAC/SPA mailing list;
- Dissemination of the major achievements of the Project through social media (<https://www.facebook.com/MedmpAnet>) and other electronic channels: RAC/SPA website (www.rac-spa.org), the MedPartnership collaborative web portal (www.themedpartnership.org), the MedPAN Association website (<http://www.medpan.org/>);
- Production of videos in partnership with the national authorities in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia (footages made during the meetings, events and field surveys executed in the three countries);
- Visibility activities carried out by RAC/SPA-MedMPANet Project responsible officers and national partners during national and regional events and conferences on the Project scope, activities and expected results.

To mainstream and amplify the project successful outcomes and to promote replication, WWF-MedPO undertook several activities:

- The web-site for MedPAN South project was updated and project reports and publications are available to download (www.panda.org/msp).
- Through Facebook and Twitter, a petition about new and better managed Mediterranean MPAs was launched obtaining more than 25,000 signatures (www.change.org). Through its campaign and media work, WWF estimates to have reached over 100,000 people during the summer of 2012.
- A video on the role of MPAs in supporting artisanal fishermen was produced and disseminated through international and national websites and events (www.panda.org/msp).
- The MedPAN South activities and major achievements are regularly featured on the MedPAN website and newsletter (www.medpan.org), on WWF Echo newsletters (www.panda.org/mediterranean) and the global MPANews (www.mpanews.org).

- Press trips at the Réserve Naturelle des Bouches de Bonifacio (France) and Telascica Nature Park (Croatia) were organised with TV and print journalists from France, Croatia and Sweden to showcase the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of MPAs.
- Visibility activities (including media events, web sites, photo contests and local events) have been carried out by local partners to reach out to their stakeholders and the general public and communicate on the progress of their demonstration projects.

Summary of implementation so far

Since 2010, a total of 81 meetings (+ 5 RAC/SPA meetings in 2013) and 51 workshops (+ 2 workshops in 2013: 1 RAC/SPA and 1 WWF-RAC/SPA, Akyaka, Turkey) were carried out for the improved management and creation of new MPAs including the training of 600 participants from the Mediterranean.

In 2012 and 2013, new management plans, including a zoning plan with no-take zones, were completed in six MPAs: Brijuni National Park, Kornati National Park, Lastovo Islands Nature Park, Telascica Nature Park (Croatia), Taza National Park (Algeria) and Kas-Kekova SPA (Turkey).

The following scientific, environmental, and/or economic assessments have been undertaken and published:

Albania:

- Legal and Institutional framework assessment for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and the establishment of MPAs in Albania (RAC/SPA).

Algeria

- Socio-economic and stakeholders participation mechanisms in Algeria (RAC/SPA).

Croatia

- Assessment and monitoring of coastal fisheries resources and socio-economic research of local fisheries at selected areas of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (RAC/SPA);
- Draft national monitoring programme for *Posidonia oceanica* meadows (RAC/SPA);
- Draft national monitoring programme for coralligene (RAC/SPA);
- Draft legal and institutional framework assessment for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and the establishment of MPAs in Croatia (RAC/SPA).

Libya

- Legal and institutional framework assessment for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and the establishment of MPAs in Libya(RAC/SPA);
- Draft national law on marine and coastal protected area creation in Libya (RAC/SPA);
- Preliminary economic and social study of the coastal and marine environment of El-Kouf National Park in Libya (RAC/SPA).

Montenegro

- Quantitative description of boka kotorska (Kotor) bay marine area (RAC/SPA);
- Fishery activities in the Montenegro - Case study of five selected parts of Montenegrin coast (RAC/SPA).

Morocco

- Rapport synthétique de la liste prioritaire des sites méritant une protection au niveau des côtes méditerranéennes au Maroc (RAC/SPA);
- Identification des parties prenantes et des partenariats potentiels pour la création d'un réseau national d'AMP au Maroc (RAC/SPA);
- Etude biologique des communautés marines du Cap des Trois Fourches au Maroc (RAC/SPA);
- Communautés biologiques marines du Cap des Trois Fourches au Maroc : Caractérisation, cartographie et orientations de gestion (RAC/SPA).

Tunisia

- Bilan et diagnostic pour l'élaboration d'un plan de gestion pour l'aire marine et côtière protégée des îles Kuriat (RAC/SPA);
- L'environnement socioéconomique des îles Kuriat (RAC/SPA);
- Plan d'urbanisme, d'actions paysagères et de sensibilisation pour les îles Kuriat (RAC/SPA);
- Rapport de la campagne de suivi de la nidification de la tortue marine *Caretta caretta* sur les îles Kuriat en 2013 (RAC/SPA).

Turkey

- Final report of ten-year marine biodiversity assessment in Kaş-Kekova SEPA (WWF-MedPO).

Regional

- Stakeholder engagement: Participatory Approaches for the Planning and Development of MPAs. Published by WWF and NOAA, this guide includes practical case studies and lessons learned from the MedPAN South Project. It provides guidance to practitioners on steps and

techniques for engaging stakeholders in MPA design and management. Download at: <http://bit.ly/16BzyPh>

Guidelines on the monitoring of Mediterranean Lesser Crested Terns (*Thalasseus bengalensis* emigrates) (RAC/SPA);

- Guidance for Building Marine Protected Areas Networks: Guidelines to improve the implementation of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas network and connectivity between Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA);
- Stakeholder participation toolkit for identification, designation and management of marine protected areas (RAC/SPA in close collaboration with IUCN-Med);
- Cetacean Manual for MPA Managers (RAC/SPA in close collaboration with ACCOBAMS and MedPAN).

Sub-Component 3.2 Promotion of the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Executed by FAO

The objective of FAO's activities under the MedPartnership is to assist countries to sustainably utilize coastal and high seas fisheries resources through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) including the application of targeted interventions to reduce bycatch and unsustainable fishing.

The three main activity groups under sub-component 3.2 have seen an increase in the level of activity in 2013, despite the instability that kept affecting the region during most of the year. This was achieved thanks to a close interaction and linkages with the other FAO-run fisheries management support projects in the Mediterranean, that tend to work as a team reinforcing each other for serving the countries in the region in the most efficient and cost-effective way, as well as with the FAO structures, but also to a reinforcement of the participation of national experts in the project.

To enhance the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management at regional and subregional levels, the project ran a training workshop on the EAF process and the development of

EAF-compliant Fisheries Management Plans. The workshop was held in Rome in June 2013, and brought together fisheries managers and researchers from Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia, as well as fisheries experts from Turkey, who will in turn facilitate the training of fisheries managers and researchers in Turkey.

To further contribute to the improvement of the fisheries management systems, the project recruited experienced national experts on fisheries law and management systems from each of the directly targeted countries, that are field-testing the guidelines on the assessment of the legal and management systems and frameworks relative to the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

Under activity 3.2.2 (Bycatch issues), after the identification of the possible hot-spots for bycatch and the main issues for sustainable fisheries management posed by bycatch and discards in the Gulf of Gabès was completed by Tunisian experts with the production of reports that concluded that bycatch and discarding of undersized animals of commercially exploited species is also a problematic issue in the Gulf of Gabès fishery. The reports also noted a very high concentration of these bycatch and discards in a few main areas, and the main hot-spots. The project is expected to validate the conclusions in a meeting with representatives of fishers and boat-owners in January 2014. During this meeting, the main stakeholders confirmed the conclusions of the studies, and offered to participate, with their vessels and crews, in the sea trials for testing possible technical solutions to reduce by-catch. Following this offer, the project has been supporting the experts from INSTM in the design and running of the sea trials. Due to the natural cycles in the Gulf of Gabès, it is planned that the main testing will be carried out in the fall 2014, when large numbers of undersized fish are expected to be present.

On the promotion of the participation of fishers in the management of MPAs, a demonstration project carried out in the Al Hoceima National Park in Morocco, the project decided to initiate the pilot fisher-led monitoring system in the landing site of Badès, a site with the features adequate for the first testing of the system. This came following the consultations held with the fisher's organizations in all the main ports and landing sites of the Al-Hoceima National Park, as well as with the national and local authorities and the NGO's operating in the park. The local fishers were invited to visit the Nador laboratory of the "Institut National de Recherche Halieutique"

(INRH), where they got full explanations of the reasons and needs for a fisheries monitoring system, as well as of the approach of the project. A group of three fishers, selected by the association to carry out the monitoring, was trained on the monitoring methods which was run as from May 2013. The results of this monitoring were analyzed, communication and dissemination materials prepared, and will be discussed among the fishers and the researchers in January 2014.

Summary of implementation so far

Since 2010, a total of 36 meetings, 3 workshops and 1 University-Level course were undertaken on the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), engaging an estimated total of 80 participants, including the training of 38 experts from the Mediterranean.

The following scientific, environmental, and/or economic assessments have been undertaken and published:

Bycatch and discards

- Bradai, N. 2012. Assessment of the by-catch issues in the Gulf of Gabès by the bottom trawl fleet. Part 2 : Bycatch of Mediterranean important iconic vertebrate species in the Gulf of Gabes: Risk Assessment and Mitigation
- Jarboui, O. 2012. Assessment of the by-catch issues in the Gulf of Gabès by the bottom trawl fleet. Part 1 : Discards of exploited marine organisms in Gabes gulf resulting from bottom trawling fishing activities: Current knowledge and Risk Assessment
- Sacchi J. et Baro, J. 2010. Protocole de mise en place du dispositif sélectif et de travail à bord Etude expérimentale pour la mise en oeuvre de la Résolution de la CGPM concernant les mailles carrées de 40 mm pour la pêche démersale au chalut en Méditerranée. CopeMed II – ArtFiMed Technical Documents N°10 (GCP/INT/028/SPA – GCP/INT/006/EC). Malaga, 2010. 10pp.

Fisheries Management and EAF

- FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. AdriaMed 1st Meeting on Fisheries Management Plans in the GSA 17. AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 184. GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 184
- FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. AdriaMed Technical Meeting on Small Scale Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 183.

- Colloca F., Lelli S., 2012. Report of the FAO EastMed support to the fishing trials carried out off the South Lebanese Coast. GCP/INT/041/EC – GRE – ITA/TD-14

- FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. AdriaMed Study Group on Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) for the appraisal of small pelagic fisheries resources in the Adriatic Sea (Ljubljana, Slovenia 1-3 October 2012) AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 180.
- GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 180
FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. Report of the Daily egg production method (DEPM) survey in South Adriatic Sea (GSA 18) (July-August 2012)
FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. Report of the echosurvey carried out in the South Adriatic Sea (GSA 18) - Albania and Montenegro continental shelf (July-August 2012)
FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. SoleDiff project – “Genetic differentiation of *Solea solea* and *S. aegyptiaca* in northern Adriatic Sea and population structure of the common sole in the Mediterranean Sea” - Preliminary results
FAO-ArtFiMed CopeMed II 2012. Analyse des bases de données du suivi de l’activité de pêche dans les sites du projet ArtFiMed. CopeMed II – ArtFiMed Technical Documents N°28 (GCP/INT/028/SPA-GCP/INT/006/EC). M laga, 2012. 47pp.
- FAO-MedSudMed. 2012. Report of the MedSudMed-06 Oceanographic Survey, Libyan continental shelf (south-central Mediterranean Sea) 12 - 24 August 2006.
GCP/RER/010/ITA/MSM-TD-27. MedSudMed
- Technical Documents. No 27: 53 pp.
Nader M., Indary S., Boustany L., 2012. FAO EastMed. The Puffer Fish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* (Gmelin, 1789) in the Eastern Mediterranean. GCP/INT/041/EC – GRE –ITA/TD-10

- FAO-AdriaMed. 2012. Report of the Study Group for the application of bottom-trawl survey data to fish stock assessment in South Adriatic Sea (GSA 18) Torre a Mare (BA), Italy 3-7 September 2012. AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 178. GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 178
- FAO-CopeMed II. 2012. Report of the Study Group Meeting on *Parapenaeus longirostris* and *Merluccius merluccius* stocks for

- FAO-CopeMed II. 2012. Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries in the Alboran Sea. CopeMed II Technical Documents N°30 (GCP/INT/028/SPA -GCP/INT/006/EC). Málaga, 2012. 28 pp.
- FAO-MedSudMed. 2012. Stock status and potential yield of deep water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*, Lucas 1846) in the south-central Mediterranean Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/MSM-TD-28. MedSudMed Technical Documents. No 28: 15 pp.

COMPONENT 4

PROJECT CO-ORDINATION, NGO
INVOLVEMENT, REPLICATION AND
COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES,
MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING AND
EVALUATION (M&E)

Photo credit: Hanna Virtanen, MIO-ECSDE

The Regional project of the MedPartnership, is led by UNEP/MAP and ten executing partners, working in twelve participating countries. It covers the whole spectrum of environmental issues from coastal zone, water and aquifer management to the reduction of pollution from land-based sources and the conservation of biodiversity through the enhancement of marine protected areas and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries. In the Mediterranean, many international and regional organizations are working in parallel for the protection of the coastal and marine environment. The MedPartnership is one of the largest GEF funded projects of its kind to address multiple issues, and through this close cooperation; the hope is to build a solid foundation for the future joint planning and implementation of actions.

UNEP/MAP will also make efforts to ensure the longer term sustainability of the project's results. To this effect, for the first time, the replication of good practices within the project is addressed as a separate group of activities and is closely linked to the Communication Strategy of the MedPartnership.

Sub-Component 4.1 Project Co-ordination, NGO Involvement, Management and M&E

Executed by UNEP/MAP, UNEP/MAP - MEDPOL and MIO-ECSDE

The project is now well advanced in its implementation, where all activities are fully underway, several are completed, and their final results disseminated.

The process of the Mid-Term Evaluation continued. The Report was finalized in 2013, and the main highlights were presented at the fourth Coordination Group meeting, with all executing partners, in April 2013. Out of the six recommendations, the 1st, 2nd and 6th can be viewed together as they highlight the need to a project extension, budget revision and more regular (quarterly, rather than bi-annually) reporting in the final year of implementation. All partners agreed on the proposal for the extension, bearing in mind all activities would need to be completed between the end of 2014 and latest by June 2015. The response to the evaluation will be presented along with any related revisions to the work-plan and budget to the Fourth Steering Committee meeting in February 2014.

It is UNEP/MAP's responsibility, as lead executing agency for the Regional Project of the MedPartnership, to report to the GEF implementing agency (UNEP/DEPI). As such, the 2013 PIR was presented, including analysis of ratings against the indicators and the activities. The overall rating for the PIR was Moderately Satisfactory (MS). In the analysis, it was clear that the majority of the project is successfully meeting its objectives, however it is a few of the indicators and activities that were rated below MS, that resulted in the lowering the overall average of the project.

Whilst the majority of the project is successfully meeting its objectives, with many activities completed, in spite of a number of challenges in the region, there remain specific activities that have suffered some delays. These include the pollution demonstrations and PCB activities (sub-components 2.1 and 2.3), which are ambitious activities that have needed some revision and changes to accommodate requests from participating countries. Another issue raised was the slow progress on inter-ministerial coordination to be established in each of the participating countries, which was discussed in the third Steering Committee meeting. Since then, two interministerial committees have been established in Montenegro and Croatia with the support of the project, with the overall mandate for the preparation of the ICZM national plan.

Involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

In 2013, MIO-ECSDE continued its efforts and implemented a number of activities which included facilitating NGO and CBO participation in the project activities through the implementation of the "NGO Involvement Plan" and the revamped on-line database of Mediterranean environmental NGOs (www.mio-ecsde.org/ngos). The role of NGOs and CBOs in the MedPartnership activities were enhanced by: disseminating information on the MedPartnership's developments (through e-mail circulars, newsletters and bulletins) to a wide list of contacts; organizing and/or participating in a series of meetings and depicting the project's activities and encouraging/motivating NGOs to participate in them. Representative examples are the participation in three events related to the Drin Dialogue Process (Tirana, 27 May 2013; Tirana 10-11 December 2013). It is noteworthy mentioning that MIO-ECSDE within the Drin Dialogue scope of work has managed to secure funds for follow-up actions for the next biennium in

in terms of raising public awareness, enhancing knowledge and empowering NGOs to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin.

Synergies have been built with other projects over 2013. MIO-ECSDE, as member of the consortium implementing the ENPI Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme component has been identifying synergies, inter-linkages, joint activities, etc. with the MedPartnership in terms of civil society involvement and environmental mainstreaming. This included the organization of an event on the opportunities but also the threats of sustainable tourism and ecotourism development in the Mediterranean, within the framework of the European Maritime Day 2013. The discussions highlighted and focused on the concern related to the expansion of the tourism season, which seems to be one of the most common recommendations and is favored uncritically. The event served as a platform for dialogue offering the opportunity to 120 participants to exchange views and experiences on challenges relevant to the concept of 'Blue Growth'. The event took place on the 22nd of May 2013 in Valletta and was opened by HE Leo Brincat, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Malta.

One of the main highlights was the co-organization of the 10th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) organized by its joint Secretariat, MIO-ECSDE and GWP/Med. The event took place in Athens on the 13th and 14th of November, back to back with an MPs Workshop on Climate Variability and Change supported by the GEF MAP/UNEP Project and the SWIM-SM Steering Group Meeting. There was a session in the Greek Parliament, as well as a field visit to Ancient Olympia and the surrounding area which suffers from many of the impacts of climate variability and change.

Finally, MIO-ECSDE has intensified its efforts to link the MedPartnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme.

Support to SAP and NAP implementation

The MedPartnership is built upon the SAPs and NAPs. In order to assist countries in their implementation of actions agreed in the NAPs, the project aims to give support for the sustainable financing for the long term implementation of NAPs.

In 2013, MEDPOL has started the process of a thorough evaluation of NAPs/SAP MED implementation and achievements of their targets. The main target of the evaluation is to enhance the sustainability of the implementation of the NAPs/SAP MED. It has two major components: a) the policy/technical framework and b) NAP investment portfolio.

The analysis covered all 33 SAP MED targets with the view to demonstrate the progress achieved as well as challenges and issues at stake for the region and the countries with regards to pollution from land based sources.

The first drafts of the evaluation of SAP MED and NAPs implementation report were reviewed by MED POL Focal Points in June 2013 along with summaries



The MedPartnership Coordination Group meeting in Athens (Photo credit: The MedPartnership Project)

of country profiles and fact sheets defining pollution loads trends of SAP/NAP categories of substance.

An additional study was launched by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), upon request from UNEP/MAP and in order to complement the assessment of the policy component of the NAPs undergone by MED POL.

A continuous flow of information on available data was exchanged throughout the project's implementation. Focal Points provided guidance, information and updates on de-pollution projects and pollution loads per country and supported the coordination of UfM team work at country level with all stakeholders.

The results of both NAP/SAP MED evaluation components (policy/technical and investment portfolio) will be put at the disposal of the Contracting Parties in 2014, with the view to provide them with a very sound basis for updating the current NAPs to achieve good environmental status in the Mediterranean.

In 2013, RAC/SPA made an evaluation of the implementation of the SAP BIO and related NAPs and proposed a set of Strategic Goals and Priority Actions for consideration by relevant bodies for the period 2014-2020, in accordance with their competences and mandates for the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity.

Summary of implementation so far

In summary, three Steering Committees and four Coordination Group meetings have been held since 2010 with over 100 active participants and experts. The MedPartnership has been showcased at over 12 international and regional meetings including the GEF International Waters Conference in Barbados in October 2013 and the MAP CoP meeting in December 2013. Eighteen meetings were organized for the involvement of NGOs with over 100 NGOs, and four training were conducted with 200 trainees. In terms of reports the following documents are available on the MedPartnership website:

- [Reports of the First, Second and Third Steering Committee including all supporting documentation;](#)
- [Reports of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Coordination Group meeting, including all supporting documents;](#)
- [NGO Involvement Plan and NGO Database](#)

(<http://www.mio-ecsde.org/ngos>)

- [Project Implementation Reviews \(PIRs\) for 2010, 2011 and 2012 \(available at the <http://www.thegef.org>\)](#)
- [Annual Report publications for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 Mid-Term Evaluation Report](#)

Sub-Components 4.2 Information and Communication Strategy and 4.3 Replication Strategy

The implementation of the communication strategy for 2012 placed special emphasis on the development of the tools necessary to communicate and promote the project effectively and across a wide range of target audiences.

In December 2013, to promote the project to the



Exhibition at COP18, Istanbul December 2013

(Photo credit: <http://cop18istanbul.org/fr/images.aspx>)

contracted parties to the Barcelona Convention, an exhibition space was set up within the framework of the COP 18 which took place in Istanbul, Turkey on 3-6 December 2013. Throughout the four days of the meeting, more than 150 participants had the chance to familiarize with the project through a short documentary about the project as well as component-focused videos, promotional material distributed and read selected materials. Moreover, many components of the project presented their activities during side events organized within the framework of the CoP 18.

A shorter version of the documentary "Together for the Mediterranean Sea" was produced in 2013 and disseminated. The documentary includes unique

coverage from two demonstration sites, in Buna/Bojana and Tunisia, as well as the views of locals on relevant environmental threats in the region. The film was shown during the launching of the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment on Environment day in May in Athens, CoP 18 in Istanbul and entered the film competition in the International Water Conference in Barbados. These were major opportunities for introducing the project, as the meeting was attended by more than 150 participants.

The website was kept up to date promoting relevant meetings, news, videos and publications. In order to reach a wider audience, a facebook page was created for the project to showcase its different activities and raise awareness. Social media were regularly updated and project documents were effectively disseminated especially through the use of Scribd, Vimeo and facebook. Email circulars, featuring news bulletin and ad hoc publications were broadly disseminated to more than 800 recipients.

An updated version of the MedPartnership brochure was produced in three languages (English, French and Arabic).

As part of the Replication Strategy, initial activities for long with the first activities for the promotion of best or “replicable practices” for the effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs in the Mediterranean) began in 2012 with the two publications for MPA management, and side events by WWF-MedPO and SPA/RAC during the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Forum in November 2012. The web platform that will deliver Information pre- and post- capacity building trainings was developed in 2013 (<http://www.mpatraininginthemed.org/>). It will facilitate networking and tutoring among Mediterranean MPAs, support MPA practitioners through online and interactive material relative to MPA management, promote and secure access to the expert database and the management tool library developed by MedPAN, and mainstream capacity building efforts for MPA practitioners in the Mediterranean.

In February 2013, a call was made amongst executing partners, copied to Steering Committee members for the remaining replication activities. Eight proposals were submitted including two by participating countries focal points. Three of the proposals met all criteria for inclusion in the 2014 work-plan, to be adopted by the 4th Steering Committee in February 2014, Tunisia.



Screenshots of the iPad application developed by MIO-ECSDE

Summary of implementation so far

- Website fully operational (<http://www.themedpartnership.org/>)
- MedPartnership on vimeo (<http://vimeo.com/user8620253>)
- Collaboration portal for executing partners and project Focal Points
- Ipad application for the MedPartnership created and launched at the 6th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (17-20 October 2011, Dubrovnik, Croatia), followed by finalization of iphone and flash applications
- MedPartnership full length Documentary (UNEP/MAP and MIO-ECSDE) plus four video's on Marine Protected Areas (WWF-MedPO and SPA/RAC) available on vimeo and the MedPartnership web-site
- 20 press releases, 6 newsletters and over 250 news items, disseminated to over 300 stakeholders
- Total of 100 media invited to MedPartnership meetings. Press kit also available online
- Replication Assessment, presented and adopted at the Second Steering Committee meeting (15-17 March 2011, Damascus, Syria);
- Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy “MEReS”, presented and adopted at the Third Steering Committee meeting (15-17 May 2012, Istanbul, Turkey)
- Making Marine Protected Areas Work - Lessons learned in the Mediterranean publication (WWF-MedPO) launched at the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas in November 2012
- MedPartnership Brochure updated (2013) broadly disseminated and available online
- News bulletin produced and distributed in 2013

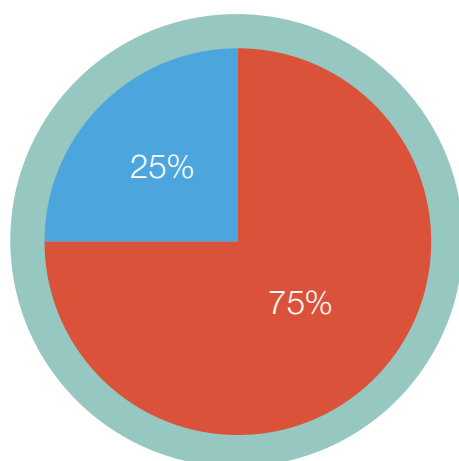
- Face book page for the project created
- Shorter version of the documentary produced and shown in three major events, and competed with documentaries from other GeF projects.

All executing partners have in addition produced numerous communication material and publications, which are mentioned in Components 1-3 in the current report or can be accessed in their websites in addition to the MedPartnership website.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE REGIONAL PROJECT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The total cost of the Regional project amounts to US\$ 47,488,700, of which US\$ 11,891,000 is GEF Funding.

Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership)

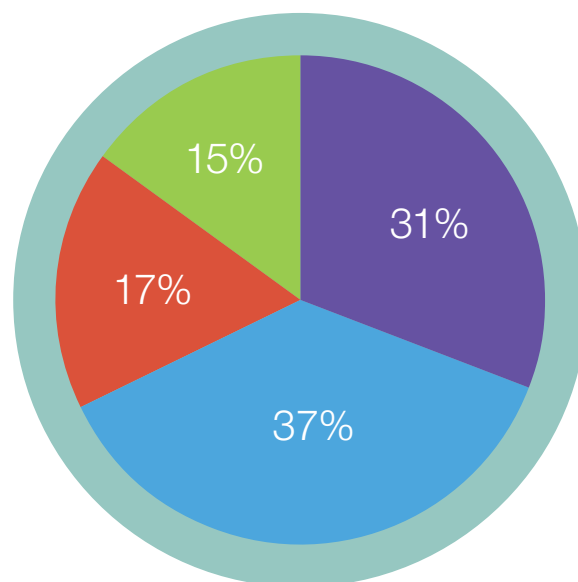


- Cost to GEF US\$ 11,891,000
- Cofinancing US\$ 35,597,700
- Total Project Cost (excl. PDF-B) US\$ 47,488,700

The rest US\$ 35,597,700 comes from co-finance contributions either in cash or in kind from non-GEF resources. This co-finance comes from participating countries, other countries, executing agencies and others.

The following graph demonstrates the co-finance committed to the project, per donor category.

Total Co-financing Breakdown US\$ 35,597,700



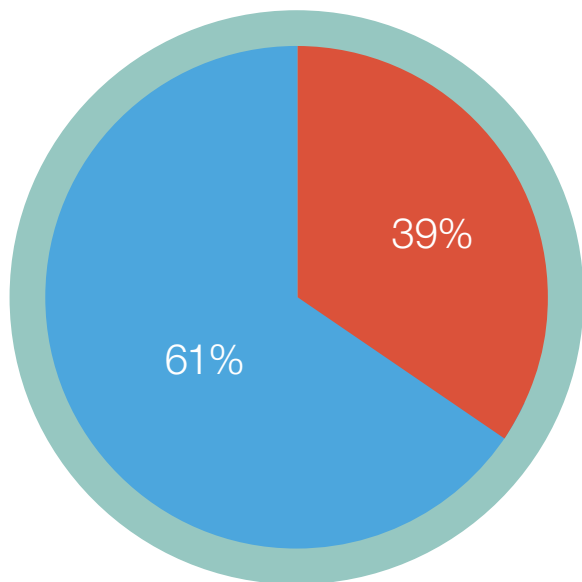
- Participating Countries (in kind): US\$ 13,100,000
- Other Countries (Cash): US\$ 6,273,000
- Executing Agencies : US\$ 13,330,400 (Cash and in kind)
- Others: US\$ 5,394,300 (Cash and in kind)

Co-finance contributions (in cash) administered by UNEP are from EU (Total Euros 2,000,000), AECID (Total Euro 1,750,000), and MTF (Total US\$ 2,750,000). Full details on budget and co-finance can be found in the Inception Report.

The EC confirmed their commitment to provide an additional 1,600,000 Euros for the work of SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO for the management and creation of MPAs, to be signed in early 2013.

GEF Funding Commitments

The GEF resources committed/disbursed as of 31st December 2013 amounts to US\$ 7,198,188 (the figure based on a best estimate and not final since the UNEP 2013 account will close only in March 2014), which represents approximately 61% delivery on total GEF Funding. For the substantial amount of funds which were committed through contracts in 2012, most of activities have been actually delivered in 2013, thus showing a significant increase in commitment/expenditures.



- Remaining GEF commitment: US\$ 4,692,812
- GEF Funding as at 31/12/2013: US\$ 7,198,188

Co-financing

A significant progress has been made in delivering co-finance commitment by executing partners since June 2012 and it will be formally reported to the GEF in June 2014. The official reporting cycle by GEF to monitor the progress and financial status of the project is annual for the period between 1st July and 30th June of each year.

INTEGRATION OF CLIMATIC VARIABILITY AND CHANGE INTO NATIONAL STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT THE ICZM PROTOCOL (CLIMATE VARIABILITY & ICZM PROJECT)

When the MedPartnership was developed between 2006 and 2007, the issue of climate impacts to the marine and coastal zone, whilst already well known and documented, were not fully integrated into the Project's activities. However, the understanding of climate change and its threats has grown since then, and a need has arisen to increase Mediterranean countries' capacity to respond to such threats. This led to an agreement for a new, "sister" project to the MEdPartnership that would focus on the integration of climate variability perspectives into ICZM planning. Following a preparation phase for the development of

a full project document, the GEF CEO endorsed the project in January 2012.

The Implementing Agency is UNEP, whilst the Executing Agencies are UNEP/MAP, its regional activity centers (PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu) and GWP-Med. The planned project duration is for about 30 months, to be completed in parallel to the completion of the MedPartnership, and participating countries are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.

The overall project goal is to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean through the development of region wide coordination mechanisms and tools to address climate variability in the Mediterranean region. The project consists of the following four components presented below.

Component 1: Establishment of an information sharing platform

Executed by UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu

This component will strengthen the coordination for a long term regional climate variability monitoring programme with consensus on objectives, targets, impact indicators and implementation modalities. This will be supported by a web-based regional data platform on climate research with particular focus on the environmental and economic impacts of climate change in the coastal zone. The monitoring programme and database will be integrated into national and regional ICZM monitoring processes and in doing so, will contribute to on-going work within the ICZM protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

During the year 2013, eight national workshops have been moderated by Plan Bleu and supported by national ministries. National relevant institutions and experts in the field of ICZM and Climate Change attended these workshops (from 8 to 25 experts). The workshops provided an opportunity to discuss the availability of data, the data sharing options and the functionalities of the platform.

Countries remain the owners of the data they choose to share through the platform.

Plan Bleu, UNEP-GRID Geneva and UniGe will work together to develop, test and validate the platform, which will be known as the Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP).

Component 2: Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability and change

Executed by UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med

In order to enrich our understanding of climate variability and change in the Mediterranean, this component will build upon the data collected in Component 1 in order to analyze the impacts of climate variability in the Mediterranean. This will assist countries to more precisely calculate the impacts of climate variability to their marine and coastal zone. In partnership with other regional programmes, it will include the latest results on the regional and global processes influencing climate variability with a focus on the coastal watersheds, with emphasis on risks to water availability and quality, and marine ecosystems (including agriculture and fisheries), and other risks to be further defined, such as coastal erosion. Based on the findings of these studies, a regional report on the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate variability and change will be developed and published.

Two demonstration projects will be executed in Croatia (Sibenik-Knin county) and Tunisia (Kerkennah Islands), using several tools (two models, one at national scale and one at local scale and a participatory approach) to assess the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate variability in priority coastal areas, and actions will be identified in close consultation with national experts and stakeholders to be integrated into marine and coastal plans within the frame and guidance of the ICZM protocol. For the Tunisian case, focus will be given to the role of ecosystems and their contribution to climate change adaptation and recommendations for actions will be developed in consultation with national and local experts and stakeholders in order to update the existing ICZM plan developed in 2008. The consultation process will be organized at national and local level including two national and three local workshops. In 2013, two national consultations took place in Sibenik-Knin county (Croatia), in April and November and allowed identifying priority issues and pressures in the area studied and indicators to measure those issues. The last workshop will allow working on assumptions of scenario and finally providing some recommendations for local decision-makers. An ICZM plan with specific focus on climate variability and change is planned to be developed in Sibenik-Knin County. This plan will integrate the findings of the demonstration project in

Component 2 and will represent a new generation of the ICZM plans for the Mediterranean, more focused on climate variability and change impacts on coastal zone.

As far as the Tunisian demonstration case is concerned, a national workshop took place in October and allowed identifying main institutions and stakeholders to be involved and agreeing on the tools and approaches to be used.

Component 3: Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building

Executed by UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med

Increased capacity, strengthened partnerships and joint actions will create an enabling environment for the implementation of the ICZM protocol. At the national level, inter-ministerial committees will contribute to multi-sectoral dialogues on policy and management processes in the Mediterranean, and facilitate the mainstreaming of the ICZM protocol into national plans.

Targeted capacity building and policy dialogue events will enable stakeholders to fulfill these roles. In November 2013, a Regional Workshop was organized in Athens for Members of Parliaments with the participation of civil society representatives and Media, including a special joint Session with the Environment & Water Committee of the Greek Parliament. Recommendations towards enhanced engagement of Parliamentarians in the climate agenda were provided. The Workshop was organized jointly with the EU SWIM-SM Programme.

The draft Mediterranean Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (developed in 2011) will be finalized for adoption at the next Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2015.

Component 4. Project management.

Executed by UNEP/MAP

The project management component shall ensure smoothly and timely implementation of the planned project activities. In addition to strong platforms for exchange within the region, project experiences will be shared within the larger international waters community, through IW:Learn, IWC, IWENS, among others.

MEDPARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR 2014

With regards to the Regional Project of the MedPartnership, 2014 will be, for most executing partners, the fifth year of implementation. The detailed work plan and provisional list of meetings will be presented in the draft MedPartnership work plan for discussion and approval at the Fourth Steering Committee, which will be held in Hammamet (Tunisia) the 17-20 of February 2014.

The Mid-Term Evaluation recommendations provide critical and useful inputs for the next phases of the MedPartnership from 2014 to its completion. As results of the Mid-Term Evaluation a several actions will be implemented during the 2014 and 2015. A second no-cost extension will be recommended to the Fourth Steering Committee, probably until December 2015.

It is envisaged that the MedPartnership will come to a closure in three stages:

- 1) By the end of 2014, over one half of the project activities will be completed in a timely manner;
- 2) Certain activities will continue until June 2015. This includes new activities such as WWF-MedPO and SPA/RAC's work on MPAs with the support of additional funds from the EC. It will also include the replication projects to be discussed and approved at the 4th Steering Committee meeting. Finally some activities will be extended to ensure more consultation time with ministries and stakeholders for the adoption and integration of plans developed (such as ICZM, IWRM, aquifer plans etc, pollution demonstrations). The pollution demonstrations were revised in line with MTE recommendations are expected to be completed by June 2015.
- 3) From June to December 2015 will allow appropriate time for the publication of all results and final communication material, to showcase results regionally and nationally, and prepare all final technical and administrative reports, to provide support to the final evaluation and bring the project to closure.

Some of the main outcomes expected within

Component 1 (ICZM, IWRM and aquifers management) in 2014 include the finalization of the regional assessment report on risk and uncertainty for the coastal aquifers, complemented by regional report on legal and institutional aspects of coastal aquifers management and the launch of a Geographical Information System on Mediterranean aquifers. National ICZM Strategies for Montenegro and Algeria

will be completed, along with the updating the Integrated Methodological Framework (IMF) for joint coastal, water and aquifer management. The joint demonstrations for the Buna/Bojana transboundary management plan (Albania and Montenegro) and the Reghaia coastal plan (Algeria) will also be finalized.

Component 2, focusing on several pollution demonstrations and PCB disposal will complete the policy reform proposals for Phosphogypsum slurry management in Tunisia and lubricating oil recycling and regeneration in Algeria, along with several finalized guidelines for Chromium and BOD control of tanneries, lub-oil management, and lead battery recycling. The assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean Sea will be completed and published, and a web based tool for calculating industrial effluents will be operational. The activities for the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST-Med) were completed in early 2013, and have been scaled up in a large Mediterranean programme on sustainable consumption and production (SWITCH-Med). Regarding support for PCB disposal from electrical companies, the learning platform will be finalized, along with an awareness raising video. Eight training courses on PCB management will be completed, and the disposal of at least 400 tons of PCBs contaminated oils will be in process, based on the detailed inventories available in early 2014.

Highlights planned within Component 3 (MPA's and ecosystem approach to fisheries), new activities to support MPA management creation will be initiated in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as completion of management plans, financial plans and capacity building of MPAs for at least 7 MPAs

A number of important activities will be initiated and completed in 2014 with regards to project management, coordination, communication, NGO involvement and replication (Component 4). The Fourth Steering Committee of the MedPartnership will be the opportunity to discuss and adopt, not just the MTE report and management response, but also the final activities for the promotion of replicable practices. The Ipad application and web-site will undertake a revision to include the results of the project and the new Climate Variability and ICZM project activities. UfM and MEDPOL will complete their joint activity for the assessment of SAP-Med NAP implementation including the finalization of a publication on the status of NAP implementation so far. A sustainable finance officer will be recruited to

also assist countries in sustainable finance options for remaining NAP priorities identified. This will be complemented by a similar publication by SPA/RAC on the status of SAP-BIO implementation.

The project proposal for “Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” will be in full implementation in 2014 including demonstration projects in Croatia and Tunisia.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. SUMMARY OF THE REGIONAL PROJECT'S DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The demonstration projects were developed during the preparation phase of the regional project in 2006. Originally there were thirty two addressing SAP and NAP priorities but during the revision of the project in 2009 and negotiation with countries this increased to seventy nine demonstrations.

List of demonstrations in the Regional Project as of 2010.

Pilot/Demonstration	Pilot/Demonstration Project Sites	No of Demon.
Component 1: Promotion of integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer.		
Assessment of risk and uncertainty related to the Mediterranean coastal aquifers (UNESCO/IHP Activity 1.1.1.1)	Morocco (Nador Lagoon and Bou Areg aquifer)	1
Coastal aquifer vulnerability mapping (UNESCO/IHP Activity 1.1.1.2)	Croatia (Novljanska Zrnovnica karstic spring and Pula coastal aquifer) Tunisia (Gar El Melah)	3
Coastal Zone Plan: Joint ICZM and IWRM Plan, integrating Groundwater/Aquifers (PAP/RAC Activity 1.2.2.1(a); GWP-Med Activity 1.3.3.1; UNESCO/IHP Activity 1.1.2.2)	Albania/Montenegro (Buna/Bojana coastal zone)	1
Coastal Zone Plan: ICZM Plan integrating Groundwater/Aquifers (PAP/RAC Activity 1.2.2.1(b); UNESCO/IHP Activity 1.1.2.2)	Algeria (Reghaia coastal zone)	1
Sustainable Coastal Aquifer and Land Management (UNESCO/IHP Activity 1.1.2.4)	Tunisia (Gabes Oasis)	1
Implementation of eco-hydrogeology applications for management and protection of coastal wetlands (UNESCO/IHP Activity 1.1.2.5)	Morocco (Martil river coastal wetland)	1
Preparation of National ICZM Strategies and NAPs (PAP/RAC Activity 1.2.1.1)	- Albania coastal zone - Algeria coastal zone	2
Regional Workshop on National ICZM Strategies and Action Plans (PAP/RAC Activity 1.2.1.1)	- Istanbul	1
Case study on national implications of ratification of ICZM Protocol on national legislative and institutional framework (PAP/RAC Activity 1.2.1.2)	- Croatia	1
Advancing IWRM planning at the river basin level in the East Mediterranean (GWP-Med Activity 1.3.3.2, tbc)	Lebanon and Syria: Orontes/Assi River and/or Al-Kabir River (tbc) ¹	1

Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs

Sub-Component: 2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms for SAP MED

2.1.1. Pilot project on the management of phosphogypsum wastes from phosphate fertilizer production	Tunisia	1
2.1.2. Pilot project on chromium, nutrients and BOD control in tanneries	Turkey (Buyuk Menderes, Izmir)	1
2.1.3. Pilot project on recycling and regeneration of used lubricating oils	Algeria	1
2.1.4. Pilot project on recycling of lead batteries	Syria (Damascus)	1
Sub-Component 2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology	Tunisia (Tunis, Sfax, Sousse) Morocco (Tangier, Tetouan) Egypt (Alexandria, El Mex Bay, Abou Quir)	43 (7 sectors)

Sub-Component 2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries

Demonstration projects to improve the management programme of PCBs and facilitate the implementation of NIPs and SAP-MED	Albania (Tirana), Egypt (Alexandria), Libya and Syria (Damascus)	4
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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 MPA Network

3.1.2 Identification and planning new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness in Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia	- Karaburun MPA in Albania - Vis Island in Croatia - Island katici, Kotor bay Montenegro Kuriat Islands in Tunisia	4
3.1.2.7: Demonstration Project - Libya: The environmental case for a national network of MPAs in Libya (SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO)	Libya: - WWF- MedPO in Ain Al Ghazalah and Bomba Gulf - SPA/RAC in Farwa, Garra, El kouf, Ain El Ghazella	1

3.1.3. Improved management of marine protected areas:

3.1.3.5 Demonstration Project Turkey (WWF-MedPO)	Turkey (Kas-Kekova SPA)	1
3.1.3.6 Demonstration Project Algeria (WWF-MedPO)	Algeria (Taza National Park)	1
3.1.3.7 Demonstration Project - Croatia: Management and M&E plans for the existing MPAs (WWF-MedPO)	Croatia (Lastovo, Mijet, Telascica, Brijuni, Kornati)	1

3.1.4 Ensuring financial Sustainability of regional and national MPA networks

3.1.4.2: Demonstration Project - Tunisia: Establishment of the management unit of the Cap Nègro-Cap Serrat MPA, development of its Business Plan and identification of sustainable financial mechanism for MPAs (WWF-MedPO)	Tunisia (Cap Nègro – Cap Serrat MPA)	1
3.1.4.3: Demonstration Project on financial sustainability mechanisms for at least three new MPAs in different areas (RAC/SPA)	Montenegro, Croatia, Albania and Tunisia	4

Sub-component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches

3.2.2.2 Develop and demonstrate solutions to bycatch mitigation for protected / endangered species of fish and invertebrates and/or for iconic vertebrate species	Tunisia	1
3.2.3: Supporting fisher's participation in monitoring and management of coastal MPA's	Morocco or Tunisia	1

TOTAL OF PILOT/DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS	79
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ANNEX 2. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area

Adriamed Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries management compatible with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea

AECID Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

BAT Best Available Technology

BOD Biological Oxygen Demand

CAMP Coastal Area Management Programme

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

CBO Community-based Organization

CdL Conservatoire du Littoral

CEO Chief Executive Officer

CIRCE Mediterranean Climate Variability and Predictability Project

COP Conference of the Parties

COPEMED Cooperación Pesca Mediterraneo (Mediterranean Fish Cooperation; FAO)

CP/RAC Cleaner Production / Regional Activity Centre

EAF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

EastMed FAOs Eastern Mediterranean Area

EC European Commission

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

ELV Emission Limit Values

ENPI European Neighbourhood Policy

EQS Environmental Quality Standard

ESM Environmentally Sound Management

EST Environmentally Sound Technology

EU European Union

EUWI EU Water Initiative

FAO Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

FFEM Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial/ French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)

GEF Global Environment Facility

GFCM General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

GIS Geographic Information System

GWP-Med Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

H2020 CB/MEP Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme

IA Implementing Agency

ICZM Integrated Coastal Zone Management

IF WB Investment Fund

INFO/RAC Environmental Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre

IRBM Integrated River Basin Management

ISARM Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management

ISPRA Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale)

IUCN International Union for Nature Conservation

IWG Integrative Working Group

IW International Waters

IW-LEARN International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network

IWRM Integrated Water Resources Management

LME Large Marine Ecosystem

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MAP Mediterranean Action Plan

MCPA Marine and Coastal Protected Area

MCSD Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

MED EUWI Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative

MedMPA Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (SPA/RAC)

MEDPAN Mediterranean Protected Area Network

MEDPOL Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme

MedSudMed Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and Ecosystems for the application of EAF in the South-Central Mediterranean

MED TEST Mediterranean Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology

MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development

MPA Marine Protected Area

MTF Mediterranean Trust Fund

NAP National Action Plan

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NICZMS National ICZM Strategies

NIP National Implementation Plan

NPOs Non Product Output costs

PAP/RAC Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre

PCB Polychlorinated Biphenyls

PIR Project Implementation Review

PMU Project Management Unit

POPs Persistent Organic Pollutants

RAC Regional Activity Center

SAP Strategic Action Programme

SAP-BIO Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity

SAP-MED Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities for the Mediterranean Sea

SMEs Small and medium-sized enterprises

SPA/RAC The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre

SINP State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatia

SUNCE Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development, Croatia

TA Technical Assistance

TDA Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

UfM (or UpM in French) Union for the Mediterranean

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP/MAP United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan

UNESCO IHP United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Hydrological Programme

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

USD United States Dollar

WB The World Bank

WWF-MedPO World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF European Policy Programme, Rome



The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) is a collective effort of leading organizations (regional, international, non governmental, etc.) and countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean.

The MedPartnership consists of two complementary parts:

- **The Regional Project** led by UNEP/MAP, and
- **The Investment Fund (and “Sustainable Med”)** led by the World Bank.

Their aim is to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyze policy, legal and institutional reforms, and necessary investments.

The MedPartnership is being implemented in the following GEF eligible countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority also participates.

The MedPartnership is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries, and is implemented in close association with other relevant regional initiatives, such as the Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean, the Integrated European Maritime Policy, etc.

Together for the Mediterranean Sea

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