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Athens, 13 June 2024

Agenda item 3: CP 3.1 Review of project implementation progress

Progress Report 2024-2025

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

CP	Child Project
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCPA	Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
MedProgramme	Mediterranean Sea Programme
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
SPA/RAC	Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas
The Post-2020 SAPBIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WWF-NA	World Wildlife Fund - North Africa

I. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period of June 2023 and June 2024 by Child Project CP3.1 “Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya” (GEF ID 10158) implemented in the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): “Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607). Project information are included in Annex A.

The narrative part of the progress report highlights the results and progress achieved under three outcomes of Child Project 3.1, namely:

- a) Protection of marine biodiversity in Libya’s Marine Protected Areas is enhanced through the development of an MPA governance structure at the national level and supported through new on-site management units, sustainable management plans and monitoring programmes and networks.
- b) The governance and sustainable management of MPAs is reinforced through the increased participation of Libyan stakeholders and strengthening of institutional capacities on MPA management and related monitoring activities.
- c) Awareness of the value and importance of MPAs is raised at the national level, as a further means of strengthening MPA governance and management.

II. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Considering the potentially difficult institutional and operational context in Libya, CP 3.1 has registered good progress in developing national and local capacities to reduce threats to Libyan coastal and marine biodiversity and related ecosystem services. Specifically, the project prepared the ground for establishing an effective MPA governance and policy framework that builds on a sound science basis and involves all potential national and local stakeholders in marine ecosystems conservation management. The main deliverables for this period June 2023 to June 2024 show an overall achievement of 30% of planned targets for the period 2023-2024. Key highlights include:

- a) The draft law on protected areas was finalized and submitted to Parliament for discussion.
- b) The expert team for the development of the legal and institutional framework regarding MCPAs in Libya was set-up and has started the assessment of the relevant legal and institutional frameworks.
- c) The document "Rapid assessment of sites of conservation interest along the Libyan coastline" was finalized and presented with the inclusion of 26 sites.
- d) Nine (9) were consultancies launched during fall 2023 to update and investigate the socio-economic, ecological, and stock assessment for the three MPAs. Results were presented to the stakeholders.
- e) Eight (8) Libyan CSOs were selected to participate in the setting up and implementation of management plans and governance schemes for the three MPAs.
- f) Visibility, communication and awareness raising materials have been prepared.

Details of the deliverables for each of the project outputs are presented hereunder.

II. DELIVERY OF OUTPUTS & PROGRESS TO IMPLEMENTATION

1. Child Project CP3.1 is the biodiversity protection project of the MedProgramme. The objective of the project is expanding seascapes under protection and improving protected area management. The principal biodiversity focal area outcome is improved management effectiveness of protected areas. It is implemented by SPA/RAC, IUCN and WWF-NA in Libya. GEF project financing is USD 1.38 million. It is implemented in three components as described below.

Component 1: Improving Governance and Management Support

Output 1.1: A governance structure for MPAs in Libya developed and submitted for approval

2. The draft law on Protected Areas in Libya, after being adapted by the legislative department of the ministry of environment and tailored to the appropriate format, has been channeled through the official procedures of the government and submitted to the parliament for adoption.

3. On the other hand and following the exchanges with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment regarding the development of the national strategy on MPAs in Libya, the terms of reference elaborated by SPA/RAC and discussed with the Ministry of Environment have been approved. A call for consultancy to hire potential consultants that will assess and update the institutional aspects with regards to the MPAs establishment and development in the country has been launched in January 2024.

4. The national consultants in charge of the development of the legal and institutional framework regarding MCPAs in Libya are onboard and started already their assignment since Mid-February 2024. The main objective of their mission consists on developing an assessment that compiles, updates and analyses the legal and institutional framework in view of updating the national strategy for MCPAs in Libya to be in line with (i) the framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (ii) the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 SAPBIO and Post-2020 MCPAs/OECMs strategy and (iii) the needs for countries to strengthen their legal and institutional capacities to meet the targets by 2030.

Output 1.2: Inventory of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya and monitoring programmes

5. A field survey to identify sites of conservation interest has been undertaken and led to the identification of a list of sites along the whole Libyan coast. Several intermediary meetings were held with the consultants to discuss the results. Then, a workshop where the results of the survey were presented and discussed took place on January 26th in Tripoli. It led to the elaboration of the final version of the report on "Rapid assessment of sites of conservation interest along the Libyan coastline." The rapid assessment will be edited and designed and will be shared with targeted stakeholders.

Output 1.3: On-site MPA management unit and management plan in at least one MPA

6. SPA/RAC and WWF have jointly lunched 9 consultancies during fall 2023 to update and investigate the socio-economic, ecological, and stock assessment for the three MPAs of Ain Al-Ghazala, Farwa Lagoon and the new MPA of Gara Island. Results from these consultancies were received and presented to the 8 NGOs, the Ministry of Environment and number of national experts and decision makers, during a dedicated meeting in Tripoli during 07 May 2024. Notes and comments on the studies were collected and forwarded for the consultants to prepare and submit the final reports. These reports will then be combined into one manuscript which will be edited and translated to Arabic and then communicated to the relevant stakeholders.

Progress to implementation of Outcome 1

7. Tabulated below are the list of indicators for Outcome 1, end of project targets, and implementation status of the current period.

Indicator number	End of project target	Implementation status of the current period
1.1 Existence of a national level governance structure for MPAs, including provisions for on-site management units	The National Strategy on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Libya is considered by the government for approval. The law on protected areas is considered by the government for approval	60%
1.2 Number of additional marine protected areas in Libya having management plans	At least one (1) MPA endowed with a management plan in Libya	50%
1.3 Number of MPAs that developed strategies to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPAs.	At least one (1) MPA under sustainable management scheme	40%
1.4 Number of sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes	At least two (2) sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes	0
1.5 Number of monitoring networks of marine key habitats	At least two (2) monitoring networks for marine key habitats established	0

Component 2: Participation and institutional strengthening

Output 2.1: Civil society organizations (CSO) participatory platform, with a focus on gender stakeholders

8. A call for expression of interest for Libyan Civil Society Organisation to participate in the setting up and implementation of management plans and governance scheme was published in March/April 2023. Eight (8) CSOs were selected and each was linked to one of the MPAs based on their background, interest and previous activities.

Output 2.2: Capacity building programme towards MPA governance, knowledge and management

9. A questionnaire was distributed among the targeted CSOs during January 2024 to identify their capacity building needs and to identify any challenges that the CSOs are encountering. The results of the questionnaires led to a meeting on 08 May in which the CSOs were invited to further discuss and elaborate on their requirements and several capacity building themes were identified. These themes will be grouped in 3 workshops that will take place in each MPA site during summer of 2024. Also, training for specific themes such as Elasmobranchs identification and conservation was provided to members of the CSOs in events such as the Shark Camp which was held in Tunisia during February 2024. Finally, A Gender Capacity-Building action linked with the development of the Gender Action Plan was done with the with Libyan counterparts on December 7th, 2022.

Progress to implementation of Outcome 2

10. Tabulated below are the list of indicators for Outcome 2, end of project targets, and implementation status of the current period.

Indicator	End of project target	Implementation status of the current period
2.1 Number of training sessions for Libyan nationals (reflecting gender balance) on MPA networks planning and management, marine key habitats mapping and marine megafauna monitoring	At least five (5) training sessions for Libyan nationals (reflecting gender balance) on MPA governance, knowledge, sustainable management, stakeholder engagement and gender dimensions of MPA management	15%

Component 3: Awareness raising and communication

Output 3.1: Awareness-raising and communication campaigns and materials, on the value and importance of MPAs, targeting the general public and decision makers

11. Communication and awareness raising plans which were drafted and dedicated webpages on the WWF-NA, IUCN Med and SPA/RAC websites are now active. Materials, news and announcements related to the project are included in these pages.

Progress to implementation of Outcome 3

12. Tabulated below are the list of indicators for outcome 3, end of project target, and implementation status of the current period.

Indicator	End of project target	Implementation status of the current period
3.1 Number of awareness raising and communication campaigns implemented	At least four (4) awareness raising and communication campaigns targeting the general public, fisheries, tourism, coastal management and urbanization sectors.	15%

Annex A
Project Information



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya.			
Country(ies):	Libya	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UN Environment	GEF Agency Project ID:	01423
Other Executing Partner(s):	UN Environment/MAP, WWF Mediterranean, IUCN, SPA/RAC.	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	60 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐	Corporate Program: SGP ☐	
Name of Parent Program	Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security – ID9607	Agency Fee (\$)	123,853

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD 1	1.2 Improved management effectiveness of protected areas	GEFTF	1,376,147	5,972,611
Total project costs			1,376,147	5,972,611

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Expanding seascapes under protection and improving protected area management.						
Project Components/Programs	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes ⁴	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Improving Governance and Management Support	TA	Outcome 1: Protection of marine biodiversity in Libya's Marine Protected Areas is enhanced through the development of an MPA governance structure at the national level and supported through new on-site	Output 1.1: A governance structure for MPAs in Libya. Output 1.2: Inventory of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya and monitoring programmes. Output 1.3: On-site MPA management unit and management plan in	GEFTF	512,745	1,759,366

		management units, sustainable management plans and monitoring programmes and networks.	at least one MPA.			
Component 2: Participation and Institutional Strengthening	TA	Outcome 2: The governance and sustainable management of MPAs is reinforced through the increased participation of Libyan stakeholders and strengthening of institutional capacities on MPA management and related monitoring activities.	Output 2.1: Civil Society Organizations (CSO) participatory platform, with a focus on gender stakeholders. Output 2.2: Capacity building programme towards MPA governance, knowledge and management.	GEFTF	450,482	1,759,366
Component 3: Awareness-raising and Communication	TA	Outcome 3: Awareness of the value and importance of MPAs is raised at the national level, as a further means of strengthening MPA governance and management.	Output 3.1: Awareness-raising and communication campaigns and materials, on the value and importance of MPAs, targeting the general public and decision makers.	GEFTF	347,420	1,759,366
Subtotal					1,310,647	5,278,098
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁵				GEFTF	65,500	694,513
Total project costs					1,376,147	5,972,611

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF [CO-FINANCING](#) FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for [co-financing](#) for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Executing Agencies	UN Environment/MAP	In Kind	108,058
Executing Agencies	IUCN	In Kind	829,000
Executing Agencies	WWF Mediterranean	In Kind	1,284,000
Executing Agencies	SPA/RAC	In Kind	1,251,553
Recipient Government	State of Libya	In Kind	2,500,000
Total Co-financing			5,972,611