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First Steering Committee and Kick Off Meeting of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project

Tunis, Tunisia, 10 March 2020

Report of the Meeting

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Table of contents

Report of the Meeting

Annex I: List of Participants

Annex II: Agenda of the Meeting

Annex III: Conclusions and Recommendations

Annex IV: Revised Project Annual Workplan

Introduction

1. The First Steering Committee and Kick-off Meeting of the Project "Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas" (hereafter referred to as "IMAP-MPA Project"), took place at the Novotel Hotel, in Tunis, Tunisia, on 10 March 2020, at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment of Tunisia and the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The IMAP-MPA project is funded by the European Union's (EU) Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

2. The overall objective of the IMAP-MPA Project is to contribute towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and along its coast. In so doing, the Project proposes to consolidate, integrate and strengthen the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) management and their sustainable development. This will be achieved through the monitoring and assessment of environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, including MPAs, in a comparative and integrated manner.

3. The Project Steering Committee reviewed the progress achieved, annual 2020 workplan and budget, communication and visibility plan, potential synergies with other projects and initiatives, as well as lessons learnt from the previous project (i.e. MED MPA Network Project).

Participation

4. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee Meeting was attended by representatives of Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia (in their capacity as Project beneficiary countries), the European Commission DG NEAR, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC. The representative of Israel did not attend the meeting but provided comments in writing on meeting project documents.

5. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

6. The First Steering Committee and Kick off Meeting of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project was opened on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 09:40, by the UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator, SPA/RAC Director and European Commission DG NEAR Program Manager in charge of the project.

7. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the IMAP-MPA Project and thanked the European Commission for the continuous support and contribution provided on issues related to Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) implementation and strengthening MPA sustainability in the Mediterranean. She stressed the expectations for an instrumental role of the IMAP-MPA Project in introducing the integrated implementation, at country/pilot level, of IMAP coupled with enhanced MPA management, as well as creating the first experience on integrated implementation of IMAP and delivering to the extent possible an integrated assessment. Ms. Hema also emphasized the importance of having all beneficiary countries as members of the Project Steering Committee, a modality that is followed for the first time in this kind of projects with the purpose to enhance country leadership and ownership on project's activities. She mentioned that the 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) is currently on its final cycle and that the IMAP-MPA Project outcome will feed the new cycle of the MTS for 2022-2027 for Marine Protected Areas and biodiversity as well as IMAP.

8. Mr. Khalil Attia, SPA/RAC Director, expressed his pleasure for the Steering Committee being organized in Tunis and hosted by SPA/RAC which will execute an important role in project implementation. While highlighting the relevance of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) implementation in the framework of MAP/Barcelona Convention system, he summarized the main steps achieved during the first phase of the IMAP implementation and emphasized the importance of the project in

contributing to enhance country capacities in producing reliable field data within IMAP and towards a robust Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023 in the Mediterranean. He also recalled the Secretariat's commitment to guide and harmonize the efforts towards the development of a comprehensive and coherent network of well-managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11[1] in the Mediterranean.

9. Ms. Sylvie Fontaine, Programme Manager at the EC DG NEAR, thanked UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC for organizing and hosting the meeting. She expressed the interest of the European Commission to support to the MAP/Barcelona Convention's mission in several respects i.e. the importance of the marine environment and biodiversity and the services they provide for human wellbeing and survival. She mentioned that Biodiversity is a priority for the new Commission but as well for the UfM Partners and for all signatory parties of the Barcelona Convention. Special reference was made to the important contribution of the IMAP-MPA Project to reach the Good Environmental Status (GES) and related targets as well as the effective and equitable ecologically representative marine protected areas in the Mediterranean. She insisted on the fact even if the project is financed by DG NEAR instruments, it has been elaborated together by UNEP-MAP, DG ENV and DG NEAR. She insisted as well on the important role of the national focal points and the national teams for the success of the project. behind them.

10. The Project Steering Committee reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda. The meeting Agenda appears as **Annex II** to the present report.

11. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available during the Meeting.

Agenda item 2: Introduction of Members of the Steering Committee (SC) and SC Terms of References

12. The MAP Deputy Coordinator invited all participants for a tour de table which allowed all participants to briefly introduce themselves.

13. The MAP Deputy Coordinator presented the Terms of References (ToRs) of the Steering Committee Meeting included in the project document. The representatives of Egypt and Tunisia recommended more frequent meetings for the Project Steering Committee, at least during its first year of implementation. Another point made was on the need to establish national teams coordinated by the Ministries of Environment which will enable the close follow-up for the timely and effective commencement of the project activities at country level.

14. Reference was also made to the COVID-19 virus outbreak and the implementation risks and delays that could be attributed to the project.

15. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda item 3: IMAP-MPA Project: Progress; Annual Workplan and Budget

<u>Progress:</u>

16. The IMAP MPA Project Manager, Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis, presented the documents UNEP/MED WG.478/2 "Progress Report", UNEP/MED WG.478/3 "Annual Work Plan and Budget" and UNEP/MED WG.478/4 "Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting", and informed the Steering

[1] By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Committee of the progress achieved during the first months of its execution since August 2019, mainly focusing on the following activities:

a. Communication with the beneficiary countries for the national activities (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) established since December 2019, including the nomination of the National Focal Points of the Project;
b. Establishing in line with UNEP procedures the Post of the Project Manager and advancing on the process of recruitment. Since January 2020, a UN Volunteer has been recruited to complete the functions of the Project Manager *ad interim* until the entire recruitment process of the Project Manager is concluded, hopefully by September 2020.
c. Countersigning a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) for the implementation of a big set of activities in the framework of the project;
d. Communication with the beneficiary countries for the regional/capacity building activities (i.e. Jordan and Palestine) established since January 2020, including for the nomination of the national focal points of the project;
e. Organization of the Coordination Meeting for the Preparation and Implementation of the EU-funded projects addressing the Ecosystem Approach process and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean (Athens, Greece, 12-13 February 2020), during which the Coordinating Unit, MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and Info/RAC:
    i. Reviewed the national monitoring programmes for IMAP EO1, EO2, EO5, EO9 and EO10, and came up with proposals for the selection of the potential MPAs and high-pressure monitoring sites for the needs of the project, which are included in the document UNEP/MED WG.478/2 “Progress Report” ; and
    ii. Consulted and came up with a proposal for the integrated monitoring of IMAP EO1, EO2, EO5, EO9 and EO10, which are included in the document UNEP/MED WG.478/2 “Progress Report”.
f. Preparation and organization of the Kick-off and First Steering Committee Meeting of the project in Tunis, Tunisia, on 10 March 2020.

17. Mr. Mehdi Aissi, SPA/RAC IMAP Officer, presented the IMAP-related component of the Project which aims at contributing towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean through the implementation of the IMAP and the delivery of reliable data for IMAP indicators on three clusters: (i) pollution & marine litter; (ii) biodiversity and Non Indigenous Species (NIS), and (iii) coast & hydrography by the seven eligible Contracting Parties.

18. The SPA/RAC IMAP Officer recalled the main project activities on the IMAP component including a detailed elaboration at national and sub-regional levels as follows: (i) In depth identification at country level of the capacities required to enable IMAP implementation and facilitate the provision of reliable and quality assured data for the MED 2023 QSR, (ii) Capacity building and exchange of best practices at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings, and (iii) Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for agreed common indicators.

19. Mr. Atef Limam, SPA/RAC MPA Officer, presented the MPA component of the Project which aims at strengthening and further developing the Mediterranean network of ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored MPAs. This will be achieved through improving national biodiversity-related governance and policies, preparing and implementing management plans for MPAs and improving MPA management with targeted actions. To this purpose, the Project will implement the following activities, at both national and regional levels: (i) Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast, (ii) Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to pave the way for the post 2020 MPA agenda process in the Mediterranean, (iii) The development of a strategic document on MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework, (iv) Elaboration of MPA management plans and provision of

support for their effective implementation in Algeria, Lebanon and Libya, and (v) Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation in Morocco and Tunisia.

20. Following the request from the participants, the Secretariat provided additional clarification regarding the integration aspect of IMAP implementation. The Secretariat provided specific information on the two-fold approach that was followed; i.e. (a) thorough review of the proposed monitoring sites of national IMAPs for all Ecological Objectives (EOs) and selection of those monitoring sites which were already included to more than one IMAP Common Indicator; and (b) review of existing monitoring tools and methodologies to assess the feasibility of integrated monitoring from this prospective in the selected monitoring sites for the relevant selected IMAP Common Indicators.

21. The Secretariat provided a comprehensive proposal for the selection of monitoring sites in MPAs and high-pressure areas for the needs of the project (i.e. Tables 3 and 4, document UNEP/MED WG.478/2) as well as a proposal for integrated monitoring approaches for IMAP Ecological Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 (i.e. Table 5, document UNEP/MED WG.478/2). The proposals were reviewed in depth by the Steering Committee. It was agreed that the Project Steering Committee members would provide written feedback on these proposals by 25 March 2020, at the latest with particular focus on the points related to issues and challenges.

22. All country representatives of the Project Steering committee proposed to schedule a dedicated technical workshop addressing the integration aspects for IMAP at national level.

23. The country representatives also asked for the Secretariat's support pertinent to the operationalization and capacity building aspects of the national monitoring and assessment programmes for the different IMAP Ecological Objectives and stressed the importance of clarifying the roles for its implementation at national level.

24. Detailed discussion took place regarding engaging research vessels for the needs of implementation of integrated national monitoring programmes:

a) More time was requested from country representatives in order to consult internally at national level on this issue.
b) Relevant experience gained in the framework of the ACCOBAMS Aerial Surveys could be considered;
c) The importance of using standardized monitoring protocols for harmonized Quality Controlled (QC) and Quality Assured (QA) data collection leading to comparable results was also stressed out.
d) Integration aspects of IMAP should be prioritized and should be better communicated at higher level within countries.
e) Research vessels of national institutions could be used for the purpose of project's activities.

25. The Secretariat also brought to the attention of the meeting a number of issues, challenges and questions related to the Project planning and implementation presented in Paragraph 15, WG.478/2). The Meeting agreed to provide written inputs to the Secretariat by 25 March 2020.

<u>Monitoring and Evaluation:</u>

26. The Secretariat presented the document UNEP/MED WG.478/4 focusing on monitoring and evaluation of the project and the reporting requirements of UNEP/MAP to the EC, as well as from implementing partners to UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC. Special reference was also made to the project's targets and indicators based on which the successful implementation of the project will be assessed. The Secretariat invited the Meeting to take note of this document and provide comments, if any.

27. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Annual Workplan and Budget:

28. The Secretariat presented the detailed annual 2020 workplan as reflected in the document UNEP/MED WG.478/3. A number of points were proposed to adjust the workplan for including gender parity related and communication /visibility related activities.

29. Mr. Mostafa Fouda, the representative of Egypt, emphasized the need for accelerating some of the Project activities, in particular those relevant to the enhancement of MPA management and policies in Egypt (i.e. Output 3.1 of the project), as an opportunity to show implementation in the Mediterranean by Egypt as a first national instrument in the context of post 2020 Biodiversity Global Agenda.

30. The revised annual workplan is presented in **Annex IV** to this report.

31. The MAP deputy Coordinator drew the attention on the importance of a regular and coordinated effort at country level for IMAP implementation among different institutions responsible for different aspects of national IMAP implementation. To this aim national meetings should be held as early as possible to review the Secretariat proposals per country on the monitoring sites and related common indicators, and define specific monitoring plans including an analysis of exiting protocols and methodologies as well as existing data. It was proposed that national meetings could be organized by end of May and June 2020 as appropriate to serve as a national consultation platform. These meetings could also review the Terms of reference for technical support to be provided to the countries a national level for ensuring effective delivery of project activities.

32. In this respect it was agreed that the Secretariat sends a letter to the Ministers of Environment of the beneficiary countries, informing them of the initiation of the activities of the project and the outcome of its first Steering Committee Meeting, and highlighting in particular the necessity of establishing a strong coordination mechanism among all relevant institutions in charge of the implementation of IMAP at country level.

Agenda Item 4: Potential synergies with other projects

33. The Secretariat provided a comprehensive overview of the interlinkages and synergies of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project with the upcoming EU-funded EcAp-MED III project, including an analysis on which aspects of IMAP will be covered by each project.

34. Following the discussions held it was clearly pointed out that national steering committees should be established at national level to ensure proper coordination and collaboration mainly between the EU-funded IMAP-MPA and EcAp MED III projects, and also ensuring synergies with the EU-funded Marine Litter MED for the work pertinent to IMAP Candidate Indicator 24.

Agenda Item 5: Updated Project Communication Plan

35. The Secretariat presented an updated version of the project communication and visibility plan including specific information on its objectives and target groups, the regular communication activities and the required resources. Special reference was made to the target groups on which the communication and visibility activities should focus as well as to the web and social media presence of the project.

36. The Project Steering Committee welcomed the updated communication and visibility plan and requested from the Secretariat to enhance innovation in the communication, to use a language which will better mainstream communication messages to the respective target groups and national channels.

Moreover, the Steering Committee proposed the following follow-up actions: (i) communication messages to be tailored to fit to different target groups; (ii) countries to develop project dedicated sections in respective national websites (e.g. Ministries of Environment and Environmental Agencies websites); (iii) to assess the use of the CBD specific communication tool; and (iv) to prepare for the needs of the Second Steering Committee Meeting a list of specific and innovative communication and visibility actions. The Secretariat also invited the countries to further communicate and mainstream the project's activities through their respective communication tools.

37. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex III** to this report.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation of the outputs and outcome of the MED MPA Network project

38. The SPA/RAC MED MPA Network Project Officer presented the outputs and outcomes of the MED MPA Network project. The MED MPA Network project "Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas" has been executed under the overall coordination of UNEP/MAP. Its regional and national activities have been executed by SPA/RAC, WWF's Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF-Med) and the Network of Marine Protected Area managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN). The Project's activities were executed at both regional and national levels in 5 countries, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

39. To support its global goal, the MED MPA Network project sets three specific objectives with several activities:

- Specific objective 1: strengthening MPA regional coordination and networking to ensure long-term networking and capacity building of MPAs in the Mediterranean, and to set up an Ad hoc Group of Experts focused on Mediterranean MPA issues, under the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol;
- Specific objective 2: new MPAs created through their identification, characterization and establishment to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness. Within this specific objective, activities on: (i) potential new MPAs ecological characterization in Lebanon; (ii) management planning of new MPAs in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; and (iii) creation of cross-boundary Park between Algeria and Tunisia, were developed;
- Specific objective 3: MPA management improved through better stakeholder engagement, better communication, monitoring and sustainable financing. This specific objective includes 3 specific activities on: (i) improved MPA and fisheries management through stakeholder engagement in Algeria and Tunisia; (ii) improved MPA management through better monitoring and communication in Algeria; and (iii) MPAs financing sustainability in Egypt and Lebanon.

40. Subsequently, the MED MPA Network Project Independent Evaluator, Ms. Imen Meliane, presented the main elements and lessons learnt as reflected in the draft project evaluation report. The evaluator informed the Meeting that the evaluation report reflects a number of challenges and success stories pertinent to the project implementation. She also highlighted the importance of addressing climate change and gender-related aspects in future projects in a systematic way and she stressed the importance for climate change aspects being potentially a challenge but also an opportunity for the Mediterranean.

41. The representative of the European Commission thanked the MED MPA Network project team for the good work carried out in the framework of the project despite the incurred administrative problems and highlighted the importance on finding solutions for retaining the sustainability of the project at national and regional levels.

42. Several participants highlighted the importance of considering the recommendations and lessons learned of the Terminal Evaluation report as well as on defining solutions for ensuring the sustainability of the project at national and regional levels. The importance of gender and climate change-related issues, many of them being quite new for the region was also pointed out.

43. The Secretariat suggested to share the final evaluation report of the MED MPA Network Project with all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to be considered for other activities and also within countries policy frameworks.

Agenda Item 7: IMAP Overview: content, progress of implementation and challenges

44. Various aspects of this agenda item were addressed under Agenda Items 2 and 4 and in this respect no specific comments were reported under this section of the report.

Agenda Item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

45. The Meeting reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations and adopted them as revised and presented in **Annex III** to the present report.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

46. No other business was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

47. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was declared closed at 18:15 on 10 March 2020 by MAP Deputy Coordinator

Annex I

List of Participants

List of participants

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
REPRESENTANTS DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

EGYPT / *EGYPTE*	**Mr. Mostafa Fouda** Minister Advisor on Biodiversity Ministry of Environment, Egypt Tel: +201 2 2228 3890 E-mail: drfoudamos@gmail.com
MOROCCO / *MAROC*	**Mr. Reda Benhima** Chief of Service of biodiversity Department of Environment of Morocco Tel.: +212(0)662-306617 E-mail: benhima@environnement.gov.ma rb.redabenhima@gmail.com
TUNISIA / *TUNISIE*	**Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Temessek,** Deputy Director at the General Direction of Environment and Local Affairs National Focal Point of SPA/RAC E-mail: mohamed.temessek@mineat.gov.tn mtemessek@gmail.com **Ms. Samia BOUFARES** Directrice de la Gestion des Ecosystèmes Littoraux Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral Tel: +216 98696771 E-mail: boufaressamia@gmail.com **Ms. Ines HOURABI** Expert contrôleur président Observatoire Tunisien de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable Tel: +216 71845006 / 97575137 E-mail: ineshbs74@hotmail.com

DONOR

EUROPEAN UNION / *UNION EUROPEENNE*	**Ms. Sylvie FONTAINE** Senior Policy Officer DG NEAR, European Commission Tel: +32 2 29 944 66 E-mail: Sylvie.FONTAINE@ec.europa.eu

SECRETARIAT/*SECRÉTARIAT*

UNEP/MAP – United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan ***PNUE/PAM – Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement / Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée***	**Ms. Tatjana HEMA** Deputy Coordinator Tel: +210 7273115 E-mail: Tatjana.hema@un.org **Mr. Christos IOAKEIMIDIS** *(Participated via teleconference)* IMAP-MPA Project Manager Tel: +210 7273126 Email: Christos.ioakeimidis@un.org **Ms. Imen MELIANE** UNEP/MAP Consultant MED-MPA Network Independent Evaluator Email: imeliane@me.com
SPA/RAC – Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre ***CAR/ASP – Centre d'Activités Régionales pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées***	**Mr. Khalil ATTIA** Director E-mail: director@spa-rac.org **Mr. Mehdi AISSI** Project Officer E-mail: mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org **Ms. Naziha BEN MOUSSA** Administrative Assistant E-mail: naziha.benmoussa@spa-rac.org **Ms. Souha EL ASMI** Programme Officer - Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) E-mail: souha.asmi@spa-rac.org **Mr. Dhia GUEZGUEZ** Programme Officer - Computing & Data Management E-mail: dhia.guezguez@spa-rac.org **Ms. Asma KHERIJI** Associate Project Officer E-mail: asma.kheriji@spa-rac.org **Mr. Atef LIMAM** Project Officer E-mail: atef.limam@spa-rac.org **Ms. Dorra MAAOUI** Communication Assistant E-mail: dorra.maaoui@spa-rac.org **Mr. Atef OUERGHI** Programme Officer - Ecosystem Conservation E-mail: atef.ouerghi@spa-rac.org **Ms. Asma YAHYAOUI** Associate Project Officer E-mail: asma.yahyaoui@spa-rac.org

Annex II

Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

Tuesday, 10 March 2020

Agenda Item 1	:	Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
Agenda Item 2	:	Introduction of Members of the Steering Committee (SC) and SC ToRs
Agenda Item 3	:	IMAP-MPA Project: Progress; Annual Workplan and Budget
Agenda Item 4	:	Potential synergies with other projects
Agenda Item 5	:	Updated Project Communication Plan
Agenda Item 6	:	Presentation of the outputs and outcome of the MED MPA Network project
Agenda Item 7	:	IMAP Overview: content, progress of implementation and challenges
Agenda Item 8	:	Conclusions and recommendations
Agenda Item 9	:	Any Other Business
Agenda Item 10	:	Closure of the Meeting

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendation

Context

1. The Kick-off and First Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA Project took place at the Novotel Hotel, in Tunis, Tunisia on 10 March 2020 at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment of Tunisia and UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

2. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee was attended by representatives of Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, the European Commission DG NEAR, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC.

3. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee thanked the European Commission for the continuous support and contribution provided on issues related to IMAP implementation and strengthening MPA sustainability in the Mediterranean.

4. Following the presentation by the Secretariat of the working documents prepared for the IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee, their review and discussion (UNEP/MED WG.478/1 to UNEP/MED WG.478/5), the IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

a. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee acknowledged the instrumental role of the IMAP-MPA Project in introducing the integrated implementation, at country/pilot level, of IMAP coupled with enhanced MPA management, as well as creating the first experience on integrated implementation of IMAP and delivering to the extent possible an integrated assessment.

b. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee approved the Terms of References (ToRs) of IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee emphasizing also the need to better articulate the coordination of work at country level for those members representing the beneficiary project countries.

c. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee requested to consider the possibility of having more frequent meetings of the Steering Committee, in particular during the first year of the project to keep the momentum and ensure the smooth commencement and implementation of IMAP-MPA Project activities. To this aim, the Second Project Steering Committee could be held at the end of 2020 or very early 2021 (the selection of the venue of the IMAP -MPA Project Steering Committee could be done on a rotation basis in eligible countries as appropriate, and use this as opportunity to raise awareness on project activities and ownership at country level).

d. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee appreciated the effort made by the Secretariat (Coordinating Unit including MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and Info/RAC) for reviewing in detail the national IMAPs' of the beneficiary IMAP-MPA Project countries and making a first proposal of potential areas/sites, including on criteria for their selection and related common IMAP indicators. Those proposals were submitted for consideration by the first Steering Committee as well as the national teams of the IMAP-MPA Project beneficiary countries, with a view to developing concrete and specific national monitoring plans in line with the IMAP-MPA Project document.

e. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee Members agreed to provide written feedback by 25 March 2020 at the latest, on the proposal made by the Secretariat on Document UNEP/MED WG.478/2 (i.e. IMAP-MPA Project Progress Report)with particular focus on the points related to issues and challenges as presented in its paragraph 15 (i.e. Issues, Challenges and Questions to be Addressed by the Steering Committee).

f. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee requested the Secretariat to send a letter to the Ministers of Environment of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, informing about the initiation of the activities of the project and the outcome of its first Steering Committee, highlighting in particular the necessity of establishing a strong coordination mechanism among all relevant institutions in charge of the implementation of IMAP at country level.

g. The proposal of the Secretariat on potential areas, sites and indicators shall be reviewed in depth by the national teams in their meetings to be organized in May/June 2020 by each IMAP-MPA Project beneficiary country (see point d)

h. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee acknowledged the need within approved resources of the IMAP-MPA Project to consider the possibility of developing common standards for data reporting for the common indicators of IMAP included in the IMAP-MPA project, which are not yet part of the IMAP information system already established within the MAP/Barcelona convention system.

i. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee approved the annual workplan as presented by the Secretariat in document UNEP/MED WG.478/3 emphasizing the need of accelerating some of the activities, in particular those relevant to the enhancement of MPA management and policies in Egypt (i.e. Output 3.1 of the project), as an opportunity to show implementation in the Mediterranean by Egypt as a first national instrument in the context of post 2020 Biodiversity Global Agenda. The Steering Committee also requested the Secretariat to complete the work-plan with activities addressing gender parity mainstreaming and communication activities based on the outcomes of its discussion. The updated approved workplan is attached to these conclusions and recommendations.

j. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee reviewed and approved the communication plan as attached to these Conclusions and Recommendations, in particular it focused on the need to use to the extent possible global meetings of major importance to provide the messages on the Ecosystem Services provided by the seas, the work undertaken by MAP Barcelona Convention and the IMAP-MPA project activities. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee also highlighted the need for using the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) established under the CBD at global level to IMAP MPA project activities as well as the national website of the ministries of environment to give more visibility to its activities at country level. The Steering Committee also stressed the importance of tailoring the communication language while designing key messages for each target group using innovative approaches, enhanced communication skills and language at different levels.

k. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee took note of reporting monitoring and evaluation plans as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.478/4 and drew the attention of the obligation to comply with this requirement as an important means to ensure efficient implementation of the project activities.

l. The IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee welcomed the information provided by the Secretariat pertinent to the upcoming EU-funded EcAp MED III project and pointed out the importance of ensuring full complementarity among these two projects and other related projects (i.e. IMAP-MPA, EcAp MED III and related activities of Marine Litter MED II) with a view to ensuring and providing enhanced and well-coordinated support to project's beneficiary countries.

m. Finally, it was agreed to disseminate the full report of the first IMAP-MPA Project Steering Committee report to its members in 2 weeks at the latest.

Annex IV

Revised Project Annual Workplan

Project work plan including a specification for the activities that will be undertaken in 2020 and a projection for 2021 and 2022.

ID	Project Objectives & Activities	Responsible Division	2020				2021	2022
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
I	**Outcome 1: Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for IMAP Common Indicators**							
1	Output 1.1: In depth identification at country level of the capacities required to enable IMAP implementation and facilitate the provision of reliable and quality assured data for the MED 2023 QSR	MAP/ MED POL						
	1.1.a: National coordination meetings							
	1.1.b: National consultants on biodiversity							
	1.1.c: Agreement on the monitoring sites							
	1.1.d: Agreement on the integrated approach for IMAP Common Indicators							
	1.1.e: Identification of required methodologies and protocols for monitoring IMAP Common Indicators							
	1.1.f: Roadmap for the implementation of the IMAP with clear tasks required from different national institutions/contributors;							
	1.1.g: Definition of concrete needs for effective monitoring							
2	Output 1.2: Capacity building and exchange of best practices at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings	MAP/ MED POL; SPA/RAC						
	1.2.a: Preparation of specific national trainings							
	1.2.b: Specific trainings delivered							
	1.2.c: Sub-regional trainings							
	1.2.d: Regional training/s							
	1.2.e: Best practices exchange country visits							
	1.2.f: Regional Consultants (Eutrophication, Contaminants, Marine Litter, Coast & Hydrography, NIS, Species, Habitats)							
II	**Outcome 2: Harmonized monitoring and assessment including at sub-regional level, of IMAP common indicators for biodiversity and non-indigenous species (NIS); pollution and marine litter; hydrography both within and outside MPAs.**							
3	Output 2.1: Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for agreed common indicators	MAP/ MED POL; SPA/RAC						
	2.1.a: Consultation with the countries for the selection of the pilot sites							
	2.1.b: Implementation of IMAP Pilots in 7 countries							
	2.1.c: Regional Consultants (Eutrophication, Contaminants, Marine Litter, Coast & Hydrography, NIS, Species, Habitats) to support harmonized monitoring							
III	**Outcome 3: Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Mediterranean**							
4	Output 3.1: Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast	SPA/RAC						
	3.1.a: Coordination and Planning Meeting							
	3.1.b: Hiring of consultants to elaborate the national strategy							

ID	Project Objectives & Activities	Responsible Division	2020				2021	2022
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	3.1.c: National consultations with the stakeholders about the national strategy							
	3.1.d: Elaboration of the first draft strategy						Q1	
	3.1.e: National workshop to present the first draft strategy						Q2	
	3.1.f: Review of the first draft strategy						Q3	
	3.1.g: Submission of the second draft strategy						Q3	
	3.1.h: Workshop for the presentation of the second draft strategy						Q4	
	3.1.i: Validation and adoption of the strategy at national level							Q1
5	Output 3.2: Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean to pave the way for post 2020 MPA agenda progress in the Mediterranean	SPA/RAC						
	3.2.a: Organization of the First Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Marseille, 6-7 February 2020): launching of the forum process							
	3.2.b: Launching of a save-the-date for the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean							
	3.2.c: Hiring of a consultant(s) for the evaluation of the 2012-2020 MPA Forum Roadmap and elaboration of post-2020 recommendations and post-2020 MPA Forum Roadmap							
	3.2.d: Launching of a call for communications and case studies							
	3.2.e: Opening of the registration process to the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean							
	3.2.f: Organization of the Second Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Rome, 30 June – 1 July 2020): selection of case studies							
	3.2.g: Organization of webinars and online consultations for the elaboration of the post-2020 recommendations and post-2020 MPA Forum Roadmap							
	3.2.h: Organization of the Third Steering Committee of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Tunis, September 2020): agreement of the forum final programme and running							
	3.2.i: Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Monaco, 30 November – 2 December 2020)							
	3.2.j: Elaboration of the Proceedings of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean and their publication on the MPA Forum website						Q1	
	3.2.k: Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean at relevant national, regional and international events						Q1 Q2	
6	Output 3.3: The development of a strategic document of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean, in line with the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework through a participatory process	SPA/RAC						
	3.3.a: Hiring a consultant(s) for the elaboration of the draft strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean and elaboration of the inception report of the assignment							
	3.3.b: Elaboration of the first draft of the strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean through desktop reviews, interviews and consultations							
	3.3.c: Review of the first draft of the strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean by SPA/RAC with the support and guidance of the Ad hoc Group of							

ID	Project Objectives & Activities	Responsible Division	2020				2021	2022
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	Experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM) and benefiting of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2020 Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean							
	3.3.d: Submission of the second draft of the strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean to the "Technical Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 roadmap on marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean" (February 2021) for review and finalization						Q1	
	3.3.e: Submission of the draft strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean to the 15th meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points for review						Q2	
	3.3.f: Submission of the draft strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points for review and submission to COP 22 for final review						Q3	
	3.3.g: Submission of the draft strategic document on MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean to COP 22 for adoption						Q4	
IV	**Outcome 4: Improved on-site MPA management and identified mechanisms that ensure MPA sustainability**							
7	Output 4.1: Elaboration MPA management plans and provisions of support for their effective implementation	SPA/RAC						
	4.1.a: Coordination and planning meetings in Algeria, Lebanon and Libya							
	4.1.b: Complementary ecological and socio-economic studies in MPAs in Algeria, Lebanon and Libya						Q1	
	4.1.c: Hiring of consultants to elaborate the management plans in MPAs in Algeria, Lebanon and Libya						Q1 Q2	
	4.1.d: Consultations with the stakeholders at national and local levels							Q1 Q2
	4.1.e: Elaboration of the first draft management plans						Q3 Q4	
	4.1.f: National workshop to present the first draft management plans						Q4	Q1
	4.1.g: Review of the first draft management plans							Q1 Q2
	4.1.h: Submission of the second draft management plans							Q2
	4.1.i: Workshops for the presentation of the second draft management plans							Q2 Q3
	4.1.j: Validation and adoption of the management plans at national level							Q3
	4.1.k: Elaboration of business plans for MPAs in Algeria, Lebanon and Libya							Q1 Q2 Q3
8	Output 4.2: Improvement of MPA management through capacity building and initiation of management plan implementation	SPA/RAC						
	4.2.a: Coordination and planning meetings in Morocco and Tunisia							
	4.2.b: Hiring of training consultants on effective management of MPAs and sustainable socio-economic role of MPAs							
	4.2.c: Training package on effective management of MPAs						Q1 Q2	
	4.2.d: Regional workshop on effective management of MPAs						Q2	

ID	Project Objectives & Activities	Responsible Division	2020				2021	2022
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	4.2.e: Surveillance and monitoring programmes for Jbel Moussa in Morocco and Kerkennah islands in Tunisia						Q2 Q3 Q4	
	4.2.f: Training package on sustainable socio-economic role of MPAs						Q1 Q2	
	4.2.g: Regional workshop on sustainable socio-economic role of MPAs						Q3	
	4.2.h: Socio-economic integrated programmes for the management of the sustainable fishing in Jbel Moussa in Morocco and Kerkennah islands in Tunisia						Q3 Q4	
	Outcome 5: Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured.	MAP (PMU)						
	5.a: IMAP-MPA Project Manager on-board							
	5.b: PCA with SPA/RAC (Countersigned Jan. 2020)							
	5.c: Steering Committee Meetings						Q1	Q1
	5.d: Online stakeholder survey to identify the role of gender within the IMAP and MPA processes						Q1	
	5.e: Comprehensive desk-review on gender, MPAs, marine pollution, monitoring and coastal livelihoods for the participating studies						Q1	
	5.f: Identification of gender-responsive entry points towards MPAs, pollution, monitoring, coastal livelihoods and access, and effective communication of gender sensitive information						Q1	
	5.g: Assessment of policy environment of the participating countries and potential list of stakeholders						Q1	
	5.h: IMAP-MPA Gender Action Plan							
	5.i: Newsletters/ News items/ Outreach through social media							
	5.j: Establish contacts with CBD CHM							
	5.h: Develop project-related sections on national websites							