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

Tunis, Tunisia, 10 March 2020

Agenda item 3: IMAP-MPA Project: Progress, Annual Work

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

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Introduction

1. 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 IMA-PMPA project), is funded by European Union (EU) – the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Green MED III: ENI South regional environment and water programme 2018-2022 financial instrument.
2. The project is coordinated and implemented by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and implemented through its Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) and Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). It covers a period of 42 months starting in August 2019, with an overall budget of EUR 3,999,660 (USD 4,459,309).
3. The project includes very specific monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements and the present documents aims at highlighting them to all members of the Steering Committee.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring Plan:

4. The Project will follow UN Environment standard processes and procedures and the General conditions of the agreement annexed to the agreement signed with the European Commission. Reporting is an integral part of the UN Environment Project Manager’s responsibility, including getting the necessary inputs from any sub-contracted partners.
5. A progress and financial report together with a request of payment will be submitted to the contracting authority on a yearly basis. The progress report will have to cover the same period than the financial report. To this extent, progress and financial reports are expected to be prepared and timely submitted for the following periods:
 - a) January – December 2020;
 - b) January – December 2021; and
 - c) January – December 2022.
6. To this extent it is very important to establish well-coordinated monitoring mechanisms between project’s implementing partners (i.e. SPA/RAC and the beneficiary countries). The yearly reports should be finalized by end of January of each subsequent year (e.g. for the Jan. – Dec. 2020 the report should be finalized by 31 January 2021). Implementing partners should be in a position to provide with a draft progress report by end of December of each year, and their workflows should be organized accordingly.
7. Every yearly report, whether progress or final, shall provide a complete account of all relevant aspects of the implementation of the Action for the period covered. The report shall describe the implementation of the action according to the activities envisaged in the description of the action as well the degree of achievement of its results (Outcomes and outputs) as measured by corresponding indicators. The report shall be drafted such a way as to allow monitoring of the objectives and the means envisaged and employed. The report will as well describe the problems encountered and the actions taken to overcome the difficulties.
8. The project will as well send intermediary 6 monthly narrative reports. Those reports should be simple and will serve as basis for coordination discussions with the Task Manager in charge of the project. This report should not be accompanied by a financial report. To this extent, intermediate 6 monthly reports are expected to be prepared and timely submitted for the following periods:
 - a) June 2020; b) June 2021; c) June 2022

9. The project management team will regularly communicate with project partners to follow up with them on project progress and relevant expenditures. Project partners will submit financial reports to the project manager based on the schedule outlined in the project documents agreed.

Evaluation

10. The evaluation of the progress of implementation of the project will be assessed based on the set of ambitious but realistic, Indicators, Baseline Values, and Targets as provided for under Section 9 “*Logical Framework*” of the project document, and Annex I to the present report.

11. The evaluation will use the indicators defined in the log-frame matrix as indicators on to what extent the project contributes to the global consensus and promotion of tools and training approaches, in striving towards global consensus.

12. Special attention will be drawn throughout the project implementation on the gender-balanced related indicators and relevant targets.

13. Most of project’s targets are spread towards the 31 of December 2022, namely:

- a) 7 National IMAPs;
- b) 2 countries reporting data related to IMAP indicators;
- c) One set of quality assured data per national/pilot IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online;
- d) 191 MPAs designed and included in the MPA network;
- e) MPA related GES assessments showing positive trends based on data collected in during the project in at least in 5 MPA;
- f) 5 trainings, workshops and exchange visits for 100 experts;
- g) Submission of quality assured data on IMAP implementation at national level for 7 countries;
- h) 18 workshops, national trainings;
- i) Minimum of 50 National experts from the beneficiary countries are trained on different aspects of IMAP;
- j) 7 needs assessment reports for the integration of biodiversity & NIS, and pollution and marine litter (including microplastics) and coastal hydrography, are submitted;
- k) 2-3 complementary studies to the national IMAPs showcasing integrated monitoring areas in and outside of MPAs;
- l) 7 national mechanisms are in place the submission of quality assured data to regional data platforms;
- m) 18 workshops, national trainings, dedicated trainings, country missions, ‘Train the trainers’, exchange of specific best -practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), assistance in monitoring protocols/policy developments, in line with national IMAPs and specific country needs;
- n) 2 regional best practices meetings;
- o) Minimum 50 experts trained proportionately in the different areas of expertise;
- p) 14-21 (2-3/country) designed and implemented integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas;
- q) 7 integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas;
- r) 7 sets of National data (i.e., at least one per country) and one data set per each selected indicator;
- s) Minimum 50 national experts trained for the implementation of the national integrated monitoring programmes;
- t) 14-21 new integrated monitoring stations, both in MPAs and high-pressure areas;
- u) 20 Contracting Parties having an MPA National Strategy/Action Plan;
- v) 1 national MPA policies prepared;
- w) MPA network (4 MPAs) established in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt;

- x) Minimum 20 trainings delivered directly through training workshops organized in Egypt for the MPA Network Strategy;
- y) Organization of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas (300 participants) in the Mediterranean to pave the way for the post-2020 MPA agenda process in the Mediterranean;
- z) Strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs in line with the CBD post-2020 orientations;
- aa) 45 stakeholders/experts consulted for the post-2020 MPA agenda;
- bb) 14 new/existing MPAs receiving support for effective management;
- cc) 8 new/existing MPAs receiving support for strengthening their financial sustainability;
- dd) 3 MPA management plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context;
- ee) 3 MPA business plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context;
- ff) 3 consultation workshops for MPA management;
- gg) 90 stakeholders contributing to the management plans elaboration processes;
- hh) 3 complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps;
- ii) 3 complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies;
- jj) 3 training workshops are organized for improved MPA management;
- kk) 2 exchange country visits;
- ll) 2 case studies on MPA socio-economic benefits; and
- mm) 20 stakeholders involved in MPA management advisory committees.

14. With regards to project management, the following indicators have been established:

- a) 15 project indicators are observed in a regular way throughout the project implementation;
- b) 2 reports per year per country (per executing partner) throughout the project implementation;
- c) Percentage of budget expense against approved budget at half yearly basis; and
- d) 4 Steering Committee Meetings.

15. As part of the overall project management, UNEP MAP will conduct an independent final evaluation of the Programme that will cover all components. This final evaluation will be conducted towards the end of the implementation period and the evaluation report will be annexed to the final report of the project.

Annex I

Project Log-frame: Indicators, Baseline Values, Targets

	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)¹⁸ When applicable, the data will be sex disaggregated</i>	<i>Current value* (reference year)</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
Impact (Overall objective) I	The Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean is strengthened through a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs.	1. Number of national IMAPs implemented	1. Baseline: 0 Countries <u>30 Jun 2022</u>	1. Target: 7 national IMAP (7 Countries) <u>31 December 2022</u>	<i>The latest available value of the indicator(s) at the time of reporting (* to be updated in interim and final reports)</i>	1. Barcelona Convention Reporting System	N/A
		2. Number of countries reporting data related to IMAP indicators	2. Baseline: 0 Countries <u>30 June 2022</u>	2. Target: 7 Countries <u>31 December 2022</u>		2. IMAP InfoSystem (At least one set of quality assured data per country accessible for each chosen common indicator in the IMAP Info system)	
		3. Number of National quality assured datasets available online per national/site IMAP selected indicator	3. Baseline: 0 National quality assured data available online <u>30 June 2019</u>	3. Target: Minimum one set of quality assured data per national/pilot IMAP selected indicator per country reported and accessible online <u>31 December 2022</u>		3. MAPMED database	
		4. Number of nationally designed MPAs included in the regional MPA network (Baseline: 186; Target: 5)	4. Baseline: 185 MPAs) <u>30 June 2019</u>	4. Target: 191 MPAs <u>31 December 2022</u>	<i>The latest available value of the indicator(s) at the time of reporting (* to be updated in interim and final reports)</i>	4. Report on MPA status in the Mediterranean	

	The Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean is strengthened through a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of MPAs.	5. MPA related GES assessments showing positive trends based on data collected in during the project	5. Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	5. Target: at least in 5 MPA <u>31 December 2022</u>	<i>The latest available value of the indicator(s) at the time of reporting (* to be updated in interim and final reports)</i>	5. Trainings, workshops and exchange visits reports; Interim and final reports of the IMAP-MPA project	
		6. Number of capacity building activities: trainings, workshops and exchange visits	6. Baseline: N/A	6. Target: 5 trainings, workshops and exchange visits for 100 experts <u>31 December 2022</u>			
Outcome 1	Enhanced level of capacity in each country to implement IMAP and report reliable data for the IMAP common indicators	▪ Number of mechanisms set up to submit quality assured data on IMAP implementation at national level	▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	▪ Targets: 7 countries <u>31 December 2022</u>	▪ Current value: 0	▪ Country integrated biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes ▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System; IMAP Info system	Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable
		▪ Number of workshops, national trainings	▪ Baseline: 11 <u>30 June 2019</u>	▪ Target: 18 <u>31 December 2022</u>	▪ Current value: 11	▪ Guideline documents ▪ Training / workshop reports	
		▪ Number of experts benefitting from training <u>on different aspects of IMAP</u>	▪ <u>Baseline: 0</u> <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪	▪ <u>Target: Minimum of 50 National experts from the beneficiary countries</u>	▪ Current value: 11		

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	Number of in-depth needs assessment reports for the integration of biodiversity & NIS, and pollution and marine litter (Including microplastics) and coastal hydrography.	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Targets: 7 reports (One per country) <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0	- Country integrated biodiversity and pollution monitoring programmes - Consultation workshops minutes - Lists of participants - Barcelona Convention Reporting System	Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable
		Number of complementary studies to the national IMAPs showcasing integrated monitoring areas in and outside of MPAs	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Targets: 2-3 per country depending upon the selected sites <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
		Number of mechanisms set up for the submission of quality assured data to regional data platforms	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Targets: 7 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		

Output 1.2	Capacity building and exchange of best practice at the national, sub-regional and regional level through specific training sessions and meetings	Number of workshops, national trainings. Dedicated trainings, country missions, 'Train the trainers', exchange of specific best - practices (possible South-South, but also North-South cooperation), assistance in monitoring protocols/Policy developments, in line with national IMAPs and specific country needs.	Baseline: 11 30 June 2019	Target: 18 31 December 2022	Current value: 11	- Guideline documents . - Training / workshop reports - Exchange meeting reports - List of participants	- Political instability - Change in country priorities - Lack of commitment from countries - Turnover of governmental staff - Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas - Sensitivity of information by some countries that could be considered as non-communicable
		Number of regional best practices meetings	Baseline: 1 30 June 2019	Target: 2 31 December 2022	Current value: 1		
		Number of experts trained	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: Minimum of 50 experts trained proportionately in the different areas of expertise			

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; and hydrography both within and surrounding MPAs	▪ Number of designed and implemented integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas	▪ Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	▪ Target: 14-21 (2-3/country, in line with IMAP, one or two in MPAs, and one in a high-pressure area) <u>31 December 2022</u>	▪ Current value: 0	▪ Integrated monitoring programmes reports ▪ Quality assured data ▪ National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	▪ Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards ▪ Bad weather conditions preventing from running marine field surveys
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Output 2.1	Integrated/joint monitoring in MPAs and high-pressure areas carried out in identified pilot sites for the agreed common indicators	Number of integrated monitoring pilots in MPAs and in high pressure areas	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 7 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value:	- Integrated monitoring programmes reports - Quality assured data - National monitoring data populated in IMAP Compatible Info System	- Inability to implement field activities in some countries/areas due to security hazards - Bad weather conditions preventing from running marine field surveys
		National monitoring data uploaded in the IMAP Compatible Info System	Baseline: <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 7 sets of National data (i.e., at least one per country) and one data set per each selected indicator <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: present MED POL database		
		Number of national experts trained for the implementation of the national integrated monitoring programmes	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: Minimum of 50 national experts <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: Assessment of national capacities prepared in the framework of EcAp-MED II Project		
		Number of new integrated monitoring stations, both in MPAs and high-pressure areas	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Targets: 14-21 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: Number of stations in present national monitoring programmes		

Outcome 3	Enhanced implementation of the governance and policies which relate to the Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Mediterranean countries	▪ Number of Contracting Parties having an MPA National Strategy/Action Plan	▪ Baseline: 19 <u>30 June 2019</u>	▪ Target: 20 <u>31 December 2022</u>	▪ Current value: 19	▪ The document of the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt ▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System; Info-MAP System ▪ SPA/RAC Focal Point Report	▪ The concerned Contracting Party facilitates the elaboration of its MPA National Strategy/Action Plan
Output 3.1	Support for the development of a National MPA Network Strategy for the Egyptian coast	▪ Number of national MPA policies prepared ▪ An MPA network established in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. ▪ Number of workshops/meetings and experts	▪ Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪ Baseline: 1 <u>30 June 2019</u> ▪ Baseline: 0	▪ Target: 1 <u>31 December 2022</u> ▪ Target: 4 <u>31 December 2022</u> ▪ Target: <u>minimum 20 training delivered directly through training workshops</u>	▪ Current value: ▪ Current value: ▪ Current value:	▪ The document of the National Strategy for the development of an MPA network in the Mediterranean coast of Egypt ▪ Workshops/meetings reports/minutes	▪ Country facilitates experts participation in field surveys in areas located in politically sensitive sectors ▪ Political instability ▪ Turnover of governmental staff ▪ Security problems and hazards in some areas ▪ Long institutional porcedures

Output 3.2	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	The Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	Baseline: 2 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 2	Proceedings, Declaration and recommendations of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	- High mobilisation and commitment of MPA stakeholders - Lack of commitment from governmental bodies
		Number of participants to the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 300 which is representative and balanced proportionate of stakeholders (50% of stakeholders policy makers)	Current value: 0	List of participants to the 2020 Forum	
Output 3.3	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 through a participatory process	A strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs in line with the CBD post-2020 orientations (and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean will be elaborated).	Baseline: 2 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 2	The strategic document on Mediterranean MPAs	- Key national and regional partners involved in the process - Lack of responsiveness to electronic consultations
		Number of consulted stakeholders/experts (Baseline: 0; Target: 45)	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 45 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0	Responses to the consultation	
Outcome 4	Improvement of on-site MPA management and identification of mechanisms which	Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support in view of an effective management	Baseline: 9 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 14 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 9	- Management plans documents - Business plans documents	Key national and local stakeholders involved in the management

	ensure MPA sustainability	▪ Number of new/existing MPAs receiving support for strengthening their financial sustainability	▪ Baseline: 5 <u>30 June 2019</u>	▪ Target: 8 <u>31 December 2022</u>	▪ Current value: 5	▪ Barcelona Convention Reporting System ▪ MAPAMED database	plans elaboration processes
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Output 4.1	Elaboration of MPA management plans and provision of support for their effective implementation	Number of MPA management plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0	- Management plans documents - Business plans documents - Consultation workshops minutes - Lists of participants	- Key national and local stakeholders involved in the management plans elaboration processes - Political instability - Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least in the beginning of the process - Turnover of governmental staff - Security problems and hazards in some countries/areas
		Number of MPA business plans based on sound scientific knowledge, comprehensive consultation and engagement of stakeholders and integration in the wider social and economic context	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
		Number of consultation workshops	Baseline: 5 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
		Number of stakeholders contributing to the management plans elaboration processes	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 90 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
		Number of complementary ecological studies, including GIS-based maps	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
		Number of complementary socio-economic/fisheries studies	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
Output 4.2	Improvement of MPA management through capacity	Number of training workshops	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 3 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0	Training workshops reports	Key local stakeholders involved in the

	building and initiation of management plan implementation	Number of exchange visits	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 2 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0	Exchange visits reports	MPA managemnt - Turnover of governmental staff - Lack of commitment or mistrust from some stakeholders, at least in the beginning of the process - Use conflicts between MPA stakeholders
		Number of case studies on MPA socio-economic benefits	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 2 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0	- MPA socio-economic benefits case study reports - Minutes of the MPA management advisory committees meetings	
Outcome 5	Effective and timely project coordination and implementation ensured	Number of stakeholders involved in MPA management advisory committees	Baseline: 0 <u>30 June 2019</u>	Target: 20 competent authorities per country <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		
		Number of project indicators observed in a regular way throughout	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 15 <u>31 December 2022</u>	Current value: 0		

Output 5.1	Project management and coordination Project	Number of reports during implementation of project received	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: Minimum 2 per year per country per executing partner	Current value: 0		
		Percentage of budget expense against approved budget	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target half yearly	Current value: 0		
		Number of Steering Committee meetings held	Baseline: 0 30 June 2019	Target: 4 (Annually)	Current value: 0		