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Draft Roadmap for the updating of the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO)

Background

In 2003, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) to address the complex threats facing marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The SAPBIO was elaborated over a 3-year period starting in 2001 within the framework of a wide process of consultation at national level aimed at assessing the status of the marine and coastal biodiversity with the view of identifying national priorities. Based on the assessment National Action Plans were elaborated to address the identified priorities.

The results of national processes were compiled to elaborate a regional component of SAPBIO so as to support national action plans and their coordination.

The priority actions identified by SAPBIO were as follows:

- Inventory, mapping and monitoring of Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity
- Conservation of habitats, species and sensitive sites
- Evaluation and attenuation of the impact of threats to biodiversity
- Development of research to improve knowledge and fill in the knowledge gaps on biodiversity
- Development of competences to ensure coordination and technical assistance
- Information and participation
- Better awareness-creation

During their Ordinary Meeting held in Paris (January, 2012), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention recommended to evaluate the progress made so far in the implementation of the SAPBIO and to define the orientations of SAPBIO at national and regional levels for the coming years (Decision IG20/6). The roadmap proposed in this document proposes the approach and the steps to undertake the requested assessment and definition of orientations.

General approach

The process for updating the SAP BIO should be oriented towards further integrating the SAPBIO with the other strategies and Plans of Action under UNEP/MAP. In this context, the orientations of SAP BIO for the coming years should be in line with the ecological vision of the Ecosystem Approach and its following strategic goals adopted by the Contracting Parties:

- To protect, allow recovery, and where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems – thus also protecting marine biodiversity – in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status allowing for sustainable use
- To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts or risks to human and/or ecosystem health and/or on the uses of the sea and the coasts
- To preserve, enhance, and restore a balance between human activities and natural resources in the sea and the coasts and reduce their vulnerability to risks.

Furthermore, the five strategic goals of the 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan for biodiversity adopted in Nagoya under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) should be

considered bearing in mind the specificities and the state of the marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

Proposed phasing and actions:

1. Evaluating the progress made so far in the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO)

The evaluation shall be conducted at national level by the SAP BIO National Correspondents with the support of RAC/SPA and in consultation with the relevant national organisations and experts. The following actions will be undertaken:

- Develop exchange with Parties to collect necessary information
- Verify with SAP BIO National correspondents eventual implementation of national priority actions and national action plans
- Evaluate with countries and relevant regional organisations regional priority actions undertaken and countries benefitted by them
- Assessment of outputs achieved

2. Defining the orientations of SAPBIO at national and regional levels for the coming years, in accordance with the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and the Aichi targets

National SAP BIO Strategies and Programmes have to be the basis for concerted national short- and long-term plans and actions, integrated into national planning and funding systems. National Programmes should define: actions, phasing, responsibilities, funding, prerequisites, deadlines and reporting/monitoring/evaluation.

In addition, National Strategies should focus on sustainability by applying economic instruments and or other regular sources, and on defining and establishing provisions for implementation of national actions. National Strategies should also provide inputs for establishment of National institutional arrangements.

The following actions will be undertaken to define the orientation of SAP BIO for the coming years at national and regional level:

- Review, refine, prioritise Regional, National APs and Investment Portfolio for the coming years, in accordance with the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and the Aichi targets
- Create National SAP BIO Strategic Action Plans integrated in national policies (promoting the integration of SAP BIO priorities within the country's environmental ones)
- Adapt National, Regional institutional arrangements to address the Aichi CBD goals through the updated SAP BIO
- Design/preparation of selected sub-Regional projects and NAPs and preparatory activities for actions to be funded by donors

3. Investigating options for ensuring appropriate financial support for the implementation of SAP BIO at national and regional levels

Based on the orientations and priorities defined under the previous phase, a regional fund raising strategy will be developed. In this context, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Identification of potential sources/partners, sustainability
- Mobilization of the necessary scientific and technical expertise, including national experts, key research projects managers and international/regional institutions' experts groups
- Organization of consultation meetings
- Coordination and consultation within MAP system and with other regional bodies
- Assessment of countries needs, to implement wide regional projects and collated national projects
- Donors approach and/or Donors Conference (at the occasion of the next Meeting of the National Focal Points for SPA)

4. Developing Interactive Participatory Programme: Partners and other RACs

The involvement of partner organisations in the progress evaluation process, in the definition of the orientations for the coming years and in the implementation of the related activities and projects should be encouraged. This will require in particular:

- Interactive Participatory Programme
- Partners responsibilities sharing
- Joint medium/long planning
- Identification/Definition of opportunities and needs for involvement of other MAP components

Proposed timetable

	2012		2013	
1. Evaluating the progress made so far in the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAPBIO)				
2. Defining the orientations of SAPBIO at national and regional levels for the coming years, in accordance with the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and the Aichi targets				
3. Investigating options for ensuring appropriate financial support for the implementation of SAPBIO at national and regional levels				
4. Developing Interactive Participatory Programme: Partners and other RACs				