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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

2nd Meeting of the SAP BIO National Correspondents

Istanbul, Turkey, 2nd June 2010

REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE SAP BIO NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

*In the framework of a sustainable development approach, this document will be available only
in electronic format during the meeting*

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Introduction

1. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to (i) further integrate the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) into its programme of activities, (ii) prepare project proposals and seek funding for the SAP BIO implementation through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) support, but also by exploring possibilities with external donors, and (iii) continue to cooperate with all relevant organizations, agencies and institutions for the SAP BIO implementation.
2. The Component 3 “Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs” of the “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) is in line with this context. This component is subdivided into 2 sub-components: Sub-component 3.1 “Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network” to be implemented by RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO) and Sub-component 3.2 “Promotion of the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through ecosystem – based management approaches to be implemented by FAO, in collaboration with GFCM.
3. The Sub-component 3.1, which receives the financial support of the European Commission (EC), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to Development (AECID), the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the MAVA Foundation, will be implemented within the framework of two projects the “MedMPAnet” Project under RAC/SPA responsibility and the “MedPAN South” under WWF-MedPO responsibility.
4. The Meeting of the National Correspondents of the SAP BIO was convened to present and discuss the activities under RAC/SPA responsibility within the MedMPAnet Project. The Meeting served also as inception meeting of the above mentioned Sub-component 3.1 of the MedPartnership. It was held in Istanbul (Turkey) at the “The Peak Hotel”, the 2nd of June 2010, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey.

Participation

5. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Commission, France, Greece, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.
6. The Management Unit of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership), the co-executing agencies (WWF Mediterranean Programme Office and FAO) of the Component 3 of the MedPartnership and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) were also represented.
7. The following members of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee were represented: ACCOBAMS, FAO, GFCM, IUCN, MedPAN Association, REMPEC and WWF-MedPO..
8. The following institutions and organizations were represented by observers: Conservatoire du Littoral, UNDP Turkey, Turkish Marine Research Foundation.
9. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting

10. Mr Abderrahmen GANNOUN, Director of RAC/SPA, welcomed the participants and thanked the Turkish authorities for their assistance in organizing the Meeting. After recalling the context in which the Meeting was organised, he stressed the importance of the event, noting that this Meeting of the SAP BIO National Correspondents was convened to inform the Focal Points and the National Correspondents about the activities under RAC/SPA responsibility within the MedMPAnet Project. He also stressed that the Meeting serves also as inception meeting of the Sub-component 3.1. of the MedPartnership. He emphasized that the Projects under the Sub-component 3.1. are being carried out thanks to the financial support of the European Commission, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to Development, the French Global Environment Facility and the MAVA Foundation.
11. Ms Virginie Hart, UNEP/MAP marine and coastal expert for the MedPartnership, reminded participants that the MedMPAnet and MedPAN South activities discussed today are part of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership), and briefly presented the overall objectives and activities under the UNEP/MAP regional component (including the activities related to MPAs) which compliments the WB led Investment Fund. Ms Hart also stressed the importance of UNEP/MAP's role in the coordination and communication of all MedPartnership activities.

Agenda item 2 Rules and regulations

12. The rules of procedure adopted for the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) apply *mutatis mutandis* to the current meeting.

Agenda item 3 Election of Officers

13. After informal consultations, the Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Ms Nadia CHENOUF (Algeria)
Vice-Chairpersons: Ms Lydia MEYER (France)
 Ms Ivna VUKSIC (Croatia)
Rapporteur: Mr Habib BEN MOUSSA (Tunisia)

14. RAC/SPA acted as Secretariat of the Meeting

Agenda item 4 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

15. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda contained in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.349/1 Rev.1. The agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.
16. The meeting considered the organization of work proposed by the Secretariat as contained in the annotated provisional agenda of the meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.349/2) and adopted it with minor changes to the timetable.

Agenda item 5 **Presentation of the Component 3 « Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs» of the «Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem » (MedPartnership)**

17. Under this agenda item, making reference to document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.349/3, the Secretariat described the MedMPAnet Project, its context, its objectives, its scope and duration, its activities and the expected results.
18. The objective of the MedMPAnet Project was to enhance the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features, through the creation of an ecologically coherent Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in the Mediterranean region as required by the SPA/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. The project was expected to build on the network of existing MPAs and to assist countries to improve the representativeness of the network.
19. Within the MedMPAnet Project, a set of activities will be implemented around 4 action categories: (i) 5 Demonstration projects on MPAs creation, financial analysis and sustainability mechanism in Albania, Croatia, Libya, Montenegro and Tunisia , (ii) Establishment of priority activities to create MPAs, identification of stakeholders & potential partnership required and characterization of marine sites suitable to become MPAs, (iii) Exchange of experience and training to improve new/existing MPAs management, and (iv) Communication and public awareness on the results and achievements of the Project.
20. The representative of WWF-MedPO emphasised that the MedPAN South project was aimed at enhancing the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features by assisting the participating countries in improving the management of their marine protected areas. The Project was organised in 2 main components: (i) Strengthening of the management effectiveness of MPAs in 5 pilot sites (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey) and (ii) A region-wide Capacity Building Programme for MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities.
21. The representative of FAO presented the Component 3.2 of the MedPartnership, led by FAO in collaboration with GFCM. He emphasized that the component was aimed at promoting the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through ecosystem-based management approaches. The component included 3 main actions: (i) The application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries, (ii) Addressing bycatch of regionally important species, and (iii) Supporting fishermen participation in monitoring and management of coastal MPAs.
22. Several delegates thanked RAC/SPA and its partners for the quality and pertinence of the planned activities which will lead to maintain the long-term functioning of the Mediterranean LME through the use of an ecologically-coherent network of protected areas combined with the sustainable use of renewable marine resources.
23. The representative of MedPAN Association proposed that the association be added to the coordination structure of the MedPartnership.
24. The representative of the Conservatoire du Littoral stressed that the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) is supporting other actions in line with the objectives of the MedPartnership namely the "Assessment of the economic value of the goods and services provided by MPAs ecosystems", executed by Blue Plan and the "Small Islands Initiative" executed by the Conservatoire du Littoral.

25. The representative of UNDP-Turkey informed the Meeting that a national level project entitled PIMS 3697 “Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs)”, a GEF funded project under its Biodiversity Programme started on 29 May 2009. The project aims to facilitate expansion of the national system of marine and coastal protected areas and improve its management effectiveness. Expected outcomes of the project are three-fold: (i) Responsible institutions will have the capacities and internal structure needed for prioritizing the establishment of new MCPAs and for more effectively managing existing MCPAs, (ii) MCPA financial planning and management systems developed and implemented will be facilitating effective business planning, adequate levels of revenue generation and cost-effective management, and (iii) Inter-agency coordination mechanisms will be in place to regulate and manage economic activities within multiple use areas of the MCPAs. Under this, inter-agency co-ordination will be encouraged at national and site level. He finally noted that both MedMPAnet and MedPAN South projects have overlapping activities; therefore, synergies and common activities should be developed jointly with clear MoUs¹.
26. The representative of ACCOBAMS stressed the need of ensuring coordination of the activities planned in the participating countries with the activities promoted with other organisations.
27. The representative of the European Commission stressed the need of coordination and harmonisation of the activities undertaken within the biodiversity component of the MedPartnership. He asked to further clarify the links between the activities undertaken under both EC co-financed projects, the MedMPAnet Project and the High Seas Project, in order to avoid overlapping and duplication.
28. In response to the question posed by the representative of the European Commission, the Secretariat indicated that the MedMPAnet Project activities were aimed at enhancing the effective conservation of regionally important coastal marine biodiversity features, through the creation of an ecologically coherent coastal and marine protected network in areas under national jurisdiction, while the High Seas Project was aimed at identifying Mediterranean marine areas of conservation interest in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) that means areas in the open seas including the deep sea.
29. The RAC/SPA Director emphasized the need to reinforce the coordination among the high number of involved organisations in the strategic partnership within the different components. Some of these partners, which receive indirect funding, are not present to the Meeting. He stressed that some organisations, while not being main co-executing partners remain as privileged partners such as Conservatoire du Littoral, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and MedPAN Association.
30. The representative of the Conservatoire du Littoral emphasized the marked progress of the initiatives related to the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity through the MedPartnership. He stressed quite rightly the actual and effective coordination role of RAC/SPA.
31. The representative of the MedPartnership Management Project Unit stressed also the important need of harmonisation of the activities with the other organisations. She emphasized the importance of networking, regular exchange and coordination which really influence the success of the activities.

¹ More information on the project can be obtained from <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem2.aspx?WebSayfaNo=2193>

32. RAC/SPA Director expressed availability of RAC/SPA for any initiative, proposal or request of collaboration and cooperation. In this regards, the request of Conservatoire du Littoral to become member of the Advisory Committee of SAP BIO has been welcomed.

Agenda item 6 Discussions with the SAP BIO National Correspondents on the implementation of activities of the MedMPAnet Project

33. Under this agenda item, the Meeting was held in the form of “bilateral” consultations in which RAC/SPA, has examined separately with each concerned delegation by the MedMPAnet Project the activities to be implemented at country level, the sites and the priority activities, the work plan and the expected results.
34. A time schedule for these bilateral consultations was established during the Meeting.
35. In order to further harmonise the implementation of the activities by the three co-executing partners of Component 3 of the MedPartnership in the concerned countries, RAC/SPA proposed to the representatives of the co-executing partners (WWF-MedPO and FAO) to join these bilateral consultations.
36. The bilateral consultations allowed to further inform, discuss and adjust the activities to be implemented at national level with the representatives of the concerned countries. They lead to the review of some countries workplans and timetables. The countries revised workplans within the MedMPAnet Project are presented in Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 7 Any other matters

37. The floor has been given to the representative of UNEP – DELC who presented the UNEP’s work on Bio-cultural Community Protocols and its relevance to MPAs. He emphasized that the bio-cultural community protocol is an approach/tool developed and used by indigenous and local communities to manage and use biodiversity and ecosystems according to their customary laws and practices. He stressed that UNEP’s work on Bio-cultural Protocols aims at addressing the issue of imbalance in management and governance of tangible and intangible resources including biodiversity (striking a balance).
38. The representative of MedPAN Association made a presentation on the the Network of Managers of MPAs in the Mediterranean and its contribution to SAP BIO programme and Strategic Partnership. She emphasized that the network takes into account the objectives of the CBD, the SPA/BD Protocol, the EU Directives, and ACCOBAMS, through its 2010-2012 strategy, and develops strategic partnerships with the relevant organisations and institutions in the Mediterranean such as RAC/SPA and UNEP/MAP, WWF, IUCN, Conservatoire du Littoral, ACCOBAMS, French MPA Agency, etc.

Agenda item 8 Conclusions and recommendations

39. The Meeting of the National Correspondents of the SAP BIO, serving also as inception meeting of the Sub-component 3.1. of the MedPartnership, permitted to present and discuss the activities of both MedMPAnet Project (under RAC/SPA responsibility) and the MedPAN South (under WWF-MedPO).
40. The bilateral meetings allowed to further discuss and adjust the activities to be implemented at national level with the representatives of the concerned countries and lead to the review of some countries workplans and timetables.

41. The Meeting recalled the importance of harmonisation and coordination between the co-executing partners of the Component 3 of the MedPartnership and the other relevant activities, projects and initiatives being implemented in the Mediterranean. As emphasized by Several delegates, there is a clear need of networking, regular exchange and coordination which really influence the success of the activities.

Agenda item 9 Closure of the Meeting

42. RAC/SPA Director expressed his satisfaction with the results and outcomes of the Meeting and recalled the availability of RAC/SPA for any initiative and proposal of collaboration and cooperation.

43. The Chair closed the Meeting on the 2nd of June 2010 at 1.10 p.m.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – *LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS*

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ANNEX II - AGENDA

- Agenda item 1 – Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2 – Rules of Procedure
- Agenda item 3 – Election of the bureau
- Agenda item 4 – Adoption of the Agenda and organization of
work
- Agenda item 5 – Presentation of the Component 3
« Conservation of biological diversity:
implementation of SAP BIO and related
NAPs» of the « Strategic Partnership for the
Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem
(MedPartnership) »
- Agenda item 6 – Discussions with the SAP BIO National
Correspondents on the implementation of the
activities of the MedMPAnet Project
- Agenda item 7 – Any other matters
- Agenda item 8 – Conclusions and recommendations
- Agenda item 9 – Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX III – COUNTRIES REVISED WORK PLANS WITHIN THE
MEDMPANET PROJECT
(BASED ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE BILATERAL MEETINGS)**

CROATIA

Proposed Pilot activities to be developed by RAC/SPA for the creation of MPAs

ACTIVITIES	Purpose	Expected outputs	Methodology	2009				2010				2011				2012				2013			
				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
I. Identification and planning of new MPAs network																							
Inception, planning, zoning and development of new MPAs	- Inception, planning, zoning and development (management, monitoring and evaluation) of newly created MPAs (exact locations conditioned to adaptive findings: Vis Island or any other potential site proposed and agreed at national level) to be based on sound scientific knowledge.	- On-the-job trained local personnel on ecological quantification of MPAs ecosystems and related fisheries - Ecological study to filling gap aspects performed, and GIS-based maps produced for the demonstration areas - Fisheries study on fleet locally operating in the surrounding areas	Technical assistance by international consulting teams, in collaboration with local teams, to undertake : - Ecological survey (in the demonstration areas), - Fishery study (in the demonstration areas)																				
Identification of stakeholders participation mechanism for the pilot MPAs	- An important part of the national MPAs creation strategy defined	- A report on local stakeholders participation mechanisms and consensus achievement in MPAs creation produced - Replicable stakeholder participation toolkits developed	A technical expertise to be developed in the MPA-sites to: - Identify stakeholders (individuals and organised groups) to participate in the MPA-creation process - Survey needs and demands from stakeholders - Propose participatory mechanisms tailored to each new-MPA demonstration area																				
				2009				2010				2011				2012				2013			

ACTIVITIES	Purpose	Expected outputs	Methodology	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
II. Improved MPA Management																							
On-job-training on planning, management and ecological aspects of MPAs	- Managers, practitioners and relevant authorities get experience with their own MPAs																						
III. Ensuring financial sustainability of MPAs network																							
Demonstration Project on financial sustainability mechanism in new areas	- Financial sustainability of the specific MPA project is to be strengthened - MPA-staff is to be conveniently trained to reach financial and management objectives	- A report on financial planning of the ongoing MPA produced - A training course celebrated, and training material produced and furnished to local MPA practitioners	A technical expertise is to be developed to: - Identifying potential source of financial incomes to create and launch a new MPA - Establishing a Financial Plan - A training course to MPA staff in financial issues																				

Libya

Proposed Pilot activities to be developed by RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLE	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION	SUGGESTED DATES/LOCATION	2009				2010				2011				2012				2013			
				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Establish a common project Team	Focal points identified	Each organization is responsible for the identification of a Focal Point	EGA, MBRC, WWF-MedPO, UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA, IUCN-Med																				
Compile existing information / knowledge – assess information gaps and CB needs + identify priority actions + identify stakeholders/partnerships	One report summarizing the findings of the different assessments	UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA (with the contribution of WWF, for CB needs assessment, and IUCN-Med)	Before and after workshop of October																				
Collect all existing laws and then have an expert of the legal department from EGA + external expert for new legal instruments for MPA	Reports	IUCN- UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA	May - October																				
Define priority activities required + Identify stakeholders & potential partnership for MPAs creation	1 workshop with national and international experts + report to be elaborated	UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA	October – November for the workshop in Tripoli																				
Run an underwater survey (habitats/fish)	Field surveys completed. Data stored in the project GIS database	WWF-MedPO - UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA	Two surveys 2010 - 2011																				
Development of Monitoring program	Monitoring system (annual monitoring program of ecological and socioeconomic indicators)	WWF-MedPO – with support of UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA	Together with the underwater survey (identification of ecological indicators for future monitoring of MPAs)																				
Identify CB needs – Mentor programme	needs identified for EGA and MBRC	WWF-MedPO with support of UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA	First workshop April 20-23 in Barcelona																				

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLE	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION	SUGGESTED DATES/LOCATION	2009				2010				2011				2012				2013																					
				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV																		
Media/communication products	Release of media products on Libya's efforts in protecting the last pristine Mediterranean shores (including 1-hour National Geographic TV film, and one article in National Geographic Magazine	WWF-MedPO – NatGeo – with support of UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA	After each survey																																						



MONTENEGRO

Proposed Pilot activities to be developed by RAC/SPA for the creation of MPAs

ACTIVITIES	Purpose	Expected outputs	Methodology	2009				2010				2011				2012				2013			
				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
I. Identification and planning of new MPAs network																							
Establish priority activities required to create MPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The actual needs and demands of the country concerning the creation of MPAs taken into account - The precise set of activities to be implemented, agreed and planned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on priority needs diagnosis for MPAs creation in Montenegro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine, at a preliminary stage, the present national situation to create new MPAs (starting from NAPs and National Reports within SAP BIO) - Survey (based on interviews to institutions and local technical workshops) national demands and needs - Elaborate together with national officers a needs diagnosis for the country. 																				
Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs (country coast assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIS-based, ecological and fishery survey of the present situation of their marine areas - a valuation of marine areas will be made in order to select the best areas to become MPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report on the (prioritized) list of sites worthy of being protected at the national (or sub-national Mediterranean) level furnished 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical assistance by international consulting teams, in collaboration with local teams, to undertake : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological survey, - Small scale fishery survey - Advice to MPA-site selection 																				
Inception, planning, zoning and development of new MPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inception, planning, zoning and development (management, monitoring and evaluation) of newly created MPAs (exact locations conditioned to adaptive findings: Island Katici, Platamuni and Old Ulcinj, Kotor bay-Bojana transboundary estuary-lake skadar area) to be based on sound scientific knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-the-job trained local personnel on ecological quantification of MPAs ecosystems and related fisheries - Ecological study to filling gap aspects performed, and GIS-based maps produced for the demonstration areas - Fisheries study on fleet locally operating in the surrounding areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical assistance by international consulting teams, in collaboration with local teams, to undertake : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological survey (in the demonstration areas), - Fishery study (in the demonstration areas) 																				

ACTIVITIES	Purpose	Expected outputs	Methodology	2009				2010				2011				2012				2013			
				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Identification of stakeholders participation mechanism for the pilot MPAs	- An important part of the national MPAs creation strategy defined	- A report on local stakeholders participation mechanisms and consensus achievement in MPAs creation produced - Replicable stakeholder participation toolkits developed	A technical expertise to be developed in the MPA-sites to: - Identify stakeholders (individuals and organised groups) to participate in the MPA-creation process - Survey needs and demands from stakeholders - Propose participatory mechanisms tailored to each new-MPA demonstration area,																				
II. Improved MPAs management																							
On-job-training for managers, practitioners and relevant authorities in identified demonstration areas on planning, management and ecological aspects of MPAs	- Managers, practitioners and relevant authorities get experience with their own MPAs																						
III. Ensuring financial sustainability of MPAs network																							
Demonstration Project on financial sustainability mechanism in new areas	- Financial sustainability of the specific MPA project is to be strengthened - MPA-staff is to be conveniently trained to reach financial and management objectives	- A report on financial planning of the ongoing MPA produced - A training course celebrated, and training material produced and furnished to local MPA practitioners	A technical expertise is to be developed to: - Identifying potential source of financial incomes to create and launch a new MPA - Establishing a Financial Plan - A training course to MPA staff in financial issues																				



