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Sixteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points

Malta, 22-24 May 2023

**Agenda item 10: Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)**

**10.1. Measures taken for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO**

**Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) Advisory Committee**



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



13 April 2023

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**Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) Advisory Committee**

**Videoconference, 30 January 2023**

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**Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO**  
Videoconference, 30 January 2023

**1. Opening of the meeting:**

1. The meeting was opened by Mr Khalil Attia, SPA/RAC Director and Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator.
2. The meeting took place online, on Monday 30 January 2023, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. UTC+1.

**2. Objectives of the meeting:**

3. The meeting aimed to discuss the progress made in the elaboration process of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030, and to receive the SAPBIO Advisory Committee members' comments and feedback on the improvement of:
  - a) The Resource Mobilisation Strategy's terms of reference;
  - b) The Resource Mobilisation Strategy draft; and
  - c) The four project concepts which will constitute the project portfolio associated to the Resource Mobilisation Strategy.
4. The agenda of the meeting is in Annex I of this report.

**3. Participants:**

5. The meeting was attended by the following members of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee: UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, REMPEC, ACCOBAMS, ETC-UMA, GFCM, IUCN-Med, MedECC, MedPAN and WWF-Med.
6. The list of participants is contained in Annex II to this report.

**4. Introductory presentation by SPA/RAC:**

7. The SPA/RAC secretariat members presented the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration process, the Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) and the associated project concepts, referring to the relevant working documents, that were shared with the advisory committee members prior to the meeting, on 20 January 2023.
8. The presented project concepts were related to the following topics:
  - a) Project Concept 1: Conserving biodiversity and promoting blue economy as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Mediterranean through MCPAs and OECMs;
  - b) Project Concept 2: Recovering key Mediterranean marine and coastal habitats;

- c) Project Concept 3: The Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: Preserving ecosystem function and climate resiliency through enhanced marine turtle populations in the Mediterranean; and
- d) Project Concept 4: Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity.

## 5. General comments about the RMS draft:

- 9. The advisory committee stressed the importance of creating synergies and better coordination with ongoing projects or processes carried out within the UNEP/MAP system, by other partners and/or by the Mediterranean countries. The meeting also affirmed that avoiding duplication should be a key guiding principle for the RMS.
- 10. The final version of the project concepts forming the portfolio should include information about the countries involved in each activity and action.
- 11. The RMS should include (i) a mapping of the other relevant initiatives in the region such as Together for the Med or equivalent, (ii) detailed justification for the projects included in the portfolio, and (iii) an estimation of the financial cost of the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation.
- 12. The 3-year implementation period for the proposed projects is relatively short compared to the 8-year timeline of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.
- 13. The project concepts of the RMS should follow an integrative approach in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 14. In terms of data collection, the RMS should provide the donors with the baseline.

## 6. Specific comments about the project concepts:

### 15. Project Concept 1:

- a) The MEDECC is open to collaboration with SPA/RAC to create guidelines for climate change assessment in MCPAs.
- b) Nature-based solutions should be integrated into WP 1 and 2.
- c) To introduce the IUCN-Med Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) criteria into the overall project and some of its work packages.
- d) Use some of the criteria from the IUCN Green List in WP 1 and 2.
- e) IUCN-Med asked to be involved also in Activity 1.1.3.
- f) ACCOBAMS asked to be added in Action 1.1.1, Action 2.1. and Action 3.1.
- g) ETC-UMA asked to be engaged in projects 1, 2, and 4 and informed about sending a detailed proposal after the meeting.

### 16. Project Concept 2:

- a) The meeting suggested to use a sub-regional climate scenario to be linked to restoration and conservation.

## 7. Clarifications by SPA/RAC:

17. In response to the various comments and requests by advisory committee members, the SPA/RAC director provided the following clarifications:

- a) It is a deliberate choice of SPA/RAC to not mention the countries in the project concepts at this stage, and to wait until the meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents to have their expressed will and choice of the projects where they want to be involved.
- b) The Post-2020 SAPBIO is a regional strategy, and all the actors are concerned with its implementation. The RMS is meant as a framework for coordination and synergy.
- c) SPA/RAC invites the advisory committee members to mention for which activities their respective organisations propose to take the lead.
- d) The RMS version submitted to this meeting is a preliminary draft that will be completed and improved as consultation is progressing with the SAPBIO Advisory Committee and National Correspondents.
- e) A list of donors has already been established. Some of them gave already positive feedback. Other invitations are still to be sent.
- f) The 3 years duration for the proposed projects is only a tentative timeline that might be changed if the countries and/or other partners deem it necessary. It was set to allow for possible additional projects in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO that should be undertaken by the end of 2026.
- g) Concerning possible overlapping with other projects or initiatives, a lot of work is still to be done in view of the Post-2020 full and timely implementation. SPA/RAC started by considering the ongoing projects within the UNEP/MAP system. It invites the advisory committee members to provide information about any other ongoing or planned project which objectives could contribute in achieving the Post-2020 SAPBIO targets.
- h) About data collection, all the concerned organisations have to carry on the work on data collection in order to improve knowledge, synergy and coordination.
- i) One of the objectives of having an advisory committee made up of the most relevant organisations operating in the area of biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean is to avoid duplication. The SAPBIO Advisory Committee is expected to inform SPA/RAC about the projects which could interfere or overlap with the RMS project portfolio, or, more generally, contribute to the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation.
- j) While developing the proposed project concepts, the objective was not to identify the most important or priority topics to address, as this was already done during

the Post-2020 SAPBIO elaboration process, during which the countries decided on their priorities as reflected in the Post-2020 SAPBIO document adopted by the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties (Annex 3 of the Post-2020 SAPBIO).

**8. Closure of the meeting:**

18. The SPA/RAC director invited all the SAPBIO Advisory Committee members to attend the forthcoming SAPBIO National Correspondents meeting (Barcelona, Spain, 24 February 2023) as observers.
19. The Advisory Committee members were invited to provide their written comments and feedback about the RMS and associated project portfolio, by email, no later than Monday 6 February 2023.
20. Before declaring the meeting closed, Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator, and Mr Khalil Attia, SPA/RAC Director, acknowledged the SAPBIO Advisory Committee members for their attendance, commitment and valuable contribution to the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation process.

## **Annex I**



## Agenda

*Time is indicated in West Africa Time (WAT) / Central European Time (CET) / UTC+1.*

*Participants are kindly requested to convert to their respective time zones, if different from WAT/CET.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
13.30 - 13.45 UTC+1 (15')	<b>Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and opening</li> <li>▪ Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC (Co-chairs)</li> </ul>
13.45 - 14.30 UTC+1 (45')	<b>Agenda item 2 - Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO process and its next steps</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation</li> <li>▪ Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
14.30 - 15.30 UTC+1 (60')	<b>Agenda item 3 - The Resource Mobilisation Strategy</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation</li> <li>▪ Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
15.30 - 15.45 UTC+1 (15')	<b>Agenda item 4 - Any other matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
15.45 - 16.00 UTC+1 (15')0	<b>Agenda item 5 - Closure of the meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC</li> </ul>

## **Annex II**

**List of participants****REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

<b>ACCOBAMS – Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area</b>	<b>Ms Susana SALVADOR</b> Executive Secretary E-mail: <a href="mailto:ssalvador@accobams.net">ssalvador@accobams.net</a>  <b>Ms Maÿlis SALIVAS</b> Project manager Email: <a href="mailto:msalivas@accobams.net">msalivas@accobams.net</a>
<b>ETC-UMA – European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis - University of Malaga</b>	<b>Ms Dania ABDUL MALAK</b> ETC-UMA Director E-mail: <a href="mailto:daniaabdulmalak@uma.es">daniaabdulmalak@uma.es</a>
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<b>IUCN-Med – International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation</b>	<b>Mr Maher MAHJOUR</b> Regional Programme Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:maher.mahjoub@iucn.org">maher.mahjoub@iucn.org</a>  <b>Ms Yaprak ARDA</b> Marine Programme Officer E-mail: <a href="mailto:Yaprak.Arda@iucn.org">Yaprak.Arda@iucn.org</a>
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**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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**SECRETARIAT OF THE MEETING**

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