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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 9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)



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9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)

Barcelona (Spain), 24 February 2023

Report of the 9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)

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Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337 - 1080 Tunis Cedex - Tunisia
E-mail: car-asp@spa-rac.org

Report of the 9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)

Introduction

1. The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols adopted, at their 22nd Meeting (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), two major regional strategies, that are: (i) the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO; Decision IG.25/11), and (ii) the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean (Decision IG.25/12).
2. Decision IG.25/11 urged the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) to provide technical support for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, through technical cooperation, capacity building activities, and external resource mobilization; and invited the relevant international organizations, funding agencies, international donor community and Contracting Parties as appropriate to give due consideration to the priority actions of the Post-2020 SAPBIO in their programming for supporting actions in the Mediterranean region.
3. SPA/RAC is giving capital importance to a realistic operational implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO supported by the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs. To this end, SPA/RAC launched a process aiming to elaborate and initiate the implementation of a Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030. This process is conducted in close consultation with the Contracting Parties, as well as the regional and international organizations that are members of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee.
4. In this context, SPA/RAC convened the 9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) (hereinafter referred to as the “meeting”). The meeting was held in Condes de Barcelona Hotel, in Barcelona, Spain, on 24 February 2023.
5. The objectives of the meeting were to:
 - Examine the next steps in the implementation at national and regional levels of the Post-2020 SAPBIO;
 - Review the preliminary draft of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (hereinafter referred to as “RMS”).
 - Have the involvement and support of the countries in the proposed projects.

Participation

6. All the SAPBIO National Correspondents were invited to attend or designate their representatives. The following Contracting Parties were represented at the meeting: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia.
7. The relevant intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations members of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee have also been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers. The secretariats of the following governmental and non-governmental organizations were represented as observers: European Topic Centre-University of Malaga (ETC-UMA) and the Mediterranean Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Med).
8. A representative of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) opened the meeting by videoconference.

9. SPA/RAC acted as the secretariat of the meeting.
10. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

11. The meeting was opened on Friday 24 February 2023, at 9:00 a.m. by the representatives of the host country, UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC.
12. Mr Jorge Alonso Rodríguez, Head of MPA Unit at the General Directorate for Biodiversity, Forest and Desertification of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain, after welcoming all the participants, highlighted the harmonization and alignment between the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Global Biodiversity Framework documents to address the biodiversity loss in the Mediterranean by 2030. He stressed the importance of this meeting to discuss the resource mobilisation strategy as a first step in the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the GBF conservation frameworks.
13. Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator, intervening via videoconference, acknowledged the SPA/RAC to give him the opportunity to participate in this important meeting. He gave a historical overview of the adoption of the two strategies and their importance as guiding documents for the conservation effort in the region. He stressed the importance of this consultation process for the finalisation of the resource mobilisation strategy that will support the implementation of these two major strategies.
14. Mr Khalil Attia, SPA/RAC Director, welcomed the participants and thanked the Spanish authorities for hosting the meeting. He stressed the importance of the meeting and the consultation process for the follow-up of the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation.

Agenda item 2: Organizational matters

2.1. Rules of procedure

15. The meeting agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI), as amended by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 and UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5), would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations.

2.2. Election of officers

16. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:
Chairperson: Mr Jorge Alonso Rodriguez (Spain),
Vice-chairpersons: Ms Jelena Uros (Croatia),
Ms Samia Boufares (Tunisia),
Rapporteur: Mr Mostafa Fouda (Egypt).

2.3. Adoption of the agenda

17. The Secretariat introduced the provisional agenda, which had been issued as document UNEP/MED WG.546/1, and the annotated version in document UNEP/MED WG.546/2.
18. After reviewing the two documents, the meeting approved the agenda and the proposed timetable.
19. The agenda of the meeting appears as Annex II to this report.

2.4. Organization of work

20. The meeting took place during the morning and afternoon of Friday 24 February 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
21. The working languages of the meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available during the plenary sessions of the meeting.

Agenda item 3: Steps undertaken towards the implementation 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) at regional and national levels

22. The Secretariat gave a brief update on the follow-up undertaken since the Eighth Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents and informed the meeting about the steps undertaken to initiate the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO at regional level.
23. The Contracting Parties representatives updated the meeting about the steps planned, initiated or undertaken towards the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO at national levels.
24. Several representatives highlighted the importance of joint solutions and cooperation among countries, and especially neighbouring countries, as an opportunity to support the implementation of the regional projects and the Post-2020 SAPBIO. SPA/RAC could play the role of facilitation and coordination among the Contracting Parties for such transboundary aspects, including transboundary marine protected areas and protected areas beyond national jurisdictions
25. Several countries, proposed to share their experience, knowledge, technical capacities related to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, monitoring and assessment and to offer in-kind assistance with others who need it.
26. Some representatives underlined the importance of participatory management, including co-management, as an important mechanism to support and accelerate marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, management and monitoring efforts.
27. One representative stated that the effort needed to be done is about finding innovative funding ways adapted to the global crisis.
28. Another representative recommended sharing the outcomes of the previous SAPBIO National Correspondents meetings on the SPA/RAC website.

Agenda item 4: Review of the Preliminary Draft of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean

4.1 Resource Mobilization Strategy

29. The Secretariat presented to the meeting the working document UNEP/MED WG.546/3 “Preliminary Draft of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030”.
30. The meeting commended the work of the Secretariat in elaborating the draft RMS and the associated project portfolio and coordinating the related process, including several meetings and mainstreaming the contributions of the Contracting Parties and relevant partners.

31. The meeting recommended finding innovative ways for fund mobilisation to finance marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, making use of innovative mechanisms and raising the interest and support of new categories of donors, including the private sector, financial institutions, banks and others. In this context, the Meeting recommended to consider the mechanisms proposed under the CBD (Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Target 18) and that the Barcelona Convention plays a role in adopting innovative financing mechanisms in the region, like reducing harmful subsidies.
32. The meeting recommended that countries develop their national sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, as a way to back and sustain their conservation efforts, beyond the fluctuations that could occur at the international donors' level.
33. Participants stressed the importance of detailing as much as possible the project concepts so that the proposals could be more complete and of interest.
34. The meeting recommended taking into account the existent initiatives and projects and building on the previous projects and initiatives by SPA/RAC and other partners.

4.2 Project portfolio

Project Concept 1: Conserving biodiversity and promoting blue economy as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Mediterranean through MCPAs and OECMs:

35. Several representatives expressed the interest of their country to participate in the project.
36. The meeting recommended including the aspect related to awareness raising and involvement of the sectors and other stakeholders in the area-based conservation efforts.
37. Further the identification and recognition of OECMs, the meeting recommended their implementation in the Mediterranean promoting biodiversity conservation.
38. The meeting recommended adjusting the aspect related to sustainable small-scale fisheries to include marine protected areas and/or OECMs, taking into account national legislations and the categories of the involved marine protected areas, the objective being to conserve biodiversity if sustainable SSF and sustainable tourism are authorized in an MCPA and areas under OECMs.
39. The meeting recommended adding the aspect related to the coherence of the network at sub-regional and regional levels beyond the support to be provided for the design of coherent national MPA networks.
40. Participants stressed the importance of the benefits and services that biodiversity and MPAs could provide to other economic sectors and recommended streamlining the Post-2020 SAPBIO within the relevant national strategies.

Project Concept 2: Recovering key Mediterranean marine and coastal habitats:

41. Several representatives expressed the interest of their country to participate in the project.
42. The meeting suggests to conceive concrete actions under this project based on existent knowledge, previous restoration pilots at European level, for instance, and identification of specific managed natural sites where the pressures causing the damage are removed.

Project Concept 3: The Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: Preserving ecosystem function & climate resiliency through enhanced marine turtle populations in the Mediterranean:

43. Several representatives expressed the interest of their country to participate in the project.
44. The meeting recommended further emphasising on marine turtles habitat protection activities; reduction of threats such as noise and light pollution; and inclusion of more accurate and effective activities, especially in relation to climate change effects on the species and how to define management measures.
45. One representative proposed to harmonise the project concept format with the other concepts, and to include activities on the softshell turtle *Trionyx triunguis*.

Project Concept 4: Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity:

46. Several participants, stressing the innovative aspect of this project, expressed the interest of their countries to be part of the project.
47. Participants suggested putting the activities under the umbrella of Sustainable Development Goals and encouraging job and economic resource creation. Capacity-building activities at all levels have to be foreseen.
48. The meeting recommended creating an ad hoc working group to share knowledge and solutions on catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders that could be financed by countries and donors.
49. The meeting proposed to give a more important role to civil society organizations for advocacy to promote transformative change.

4.3 Next steps

50. The meeting agreed that the participants will provide their written comments and inputs to the project concepts within one week after the meeting, to allow SPA/RAC to finalize the documentation for the donor conference, to be held in Paris, France, on 16 March 2023.

Agenda item 5: Any other business

51. No other matters were discussed.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and recommendations

52. The meeting reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat, modified and adopted it.
53. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting appear as Annex III to this report.

Agenda item 7: Closure of the meeting

54. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed on Friday 24 February 2023, at 5 p.m.

Annexe I: List of participants

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
REPRÉSENTANTS DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

CROATIA / CROATIE	<p>Ms Jelena UROŠ Senior Expert Advisor Nature Protection Directorate Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development Zagreb, Croatia E-mail: jelena.uros@mingor.hr</p>
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	<p>Mr Giannis IOANNOU Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Nicosia, Cyprus E-mail: GiIoannou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy</p>
EGYPT / ÉGYPTE	<p>Mr Mostafa FOUDA Advisor of Ministry of Environment Ministry of Environment of Egypt Nature Conservation Sector Cairo, Egypt E-mail: drfoudamos@gmail.com</p>
FRANCE / FRANCE	<p>Mr Jean VERMOT Coordonnateur Milieux marins et contentieux européen Point focal des protocoles biodiversité et aires protégées des conventions de Barcelone, Carthagène et Nairobi et du PASBIO Mission Europe et international Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité/DGALN Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire Paris La défense, France E-mail: jean.vermot@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p>
ISRAEL / ISRAËL	<p>Mr Simon NEMTZOV Head of International Relations Department of Scientific Information Israel Nature and Parks Authority Jerusalem, Israel E-mail: simon@npa.org.il</p>
ITALY / ITALIE	<p>Mr Leonardo TUNESI Head of the Unit "Marine biodiversity, habitat and species Protection" Department of Marine biodiversity, habitat and species Protection ISPRA - High Institute for Environmental Protection and Research Rome, Italy E-mail: leonardo.tunesi@isprambiente.it</p>
LEBANON / LIBAN	<p>Ms Lara SAMAHA Head of Department Department of Ecosystems Ministry of Environment Beirut, Lebanon E-mail: l.samaha@moe.gov.lb</p>

MALTA / MALTE	<p>Mr Luke TABONE Environment Protection Officer Biodiversity & Water Biodiversity and Water Unit Environment and Resources Authority Marsa, Malta E-mail: luke.tabone@era.org.mt</p>
MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNEGRO	<p>Ms Milena BATAKOVIĆ Senior Advisor Department of monitoring, analyses and reporting Environmental Protection Agency Podgorica, Montenegro E-mail: milena.batakovic@epa.org.me</p>
SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE	<p>Ms Tina CENTRIH GENOV Nature conservation advisor Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation Regional Unit Piran Izola, Slovenia E-mail: tina.centrih-genov@zrsvn.si</p>
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	<p>Mr Jorge ALONSO RODRÍGUEZ Head of MPA Unit General Directorate for Biodiversity, Forest and Desertification Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge Madrid, Spain E-mail: jarodrigz@miteco.es</p> <p>Ms Elvira GARCIA-BELLIDO Head of Marine Protected Species Unit General Directorate for Biodiversity, Forest and Desertification Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge Madrid, Spain E-mail: EMGBellido@miteco.es</p>
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	<p>Ms Samia BOUFARES Directrice de la Gestion des Écosystèmes Littoraux Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL) Tunis, Tunisie E-mail : boufaressamia@gmail.com</p>

**REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
REPRÉSENTANTS D'ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

<p>WWF World Wide Fund for Nature / Fonds Mondial pour la nature</p>	<p>Ms Camille LOTH Policy Manager WWF Mediterranean Le Pré-Saint-Gervais, France E-mail: cloth@wwf.fr</p>
<p>ETC-UMA European Topic Center, University of Malaga</p>	<p>Ms Dania ABDUL MALAK ETC-UMA Director Ed. Ada Byron - Módulo B, 2ª planta A C/Arquitecto Francisco Peñalosa, 18 29071-Malaga, Spain E-mail: daniaabdulmalak@uma.es</p>

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - SECRÉTARIAT
DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA
MÉDITERRANÉE**

<p>UNEP/MAP / PNUE/PAM United Nations Environment Programme / Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat / Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement / Unité de Coordination pour le Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée - Secrétariat de la Convention de Barcelone</p>	<p>Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia (online) MAP Deputy Coordinator UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit Barcelona Convention Secretariat Athens, Greece E-mail: gabino.gonzalezdeogracia@un.org</p>
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SECRETARIAT OF THE MEETING / SECRÉTARIAT DE LA RÉUNION

<p>SPA/RAC Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre / Centre d'Activités Régionales pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées</p>	<p>Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat B.P. 337, 1080 Tunis Cedex, Tunisia E-mail: car-asp@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Mr Khalil ATTIA Director E-mail: director@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Ms Souha EL ASMI Programme Officer (Specially Protected Areas) E-mail: souha.asmi@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Ms Saba GUELLOUZ Project Officer (Post-2020 SAPBIO / SPAMI Twinning Programme) E-mail: saba.guellouz@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Ms Aida ABDENNADHER</p>
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	<p>Project Assistant - Post-2020 SAPBIO Fundraising Strategy E-mail: aida.abdennadher@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Ms Lobna BEN NAKHLA Programme Officer - Species E-mail : lobna.bennakhla@spa-rac</p> <p>Ms Dorra MAAOUI Communication Assistant E-mail: dorra.maaoui@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Ms Naziha BEN MOUSSA Administrative Assistant E-mail : naziha.benmoussa@spa-rac.org</p> <p>Ms Imtinen KEFI Financial Assistant E-mail : imtinen.kefi@spa-rac.org</p> <p><u>Consultants / Consultants</u></p> <p>Mr Chedly RAIS E-mail: chedly.rais@okianos.org ; chedly.rais@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Interpreters/Interprètes</u></p> <p>Ms Ruth CARRERAS E-mail: Ruthcarreras63@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms Tatiana SALAET E-mail: tatianasalaet@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr Miguel JELELATY E-mail: mjelelaty@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms Natalia FERRER E-mail: nataliaivo@gmail.com</p>
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Annex II: Agenda of the meeting

Agenda

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| Agenda item 1 | Opening of the meeting |
| Agenda item 2 | Organizational matters

<i>2.1. Rules of procedure</i>
<i>2.2. Election of officers</i>
<i>2.3. Adoption of the agenda</i>
<i>2.4. Organization of work</i> |
| Agenda item 3 | Steps undertaken towards the implementation 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) at regional and national levels) |
| Agenda item 4 | Review of the Preliminary Draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Mediterranean

<i>4.1. Resource Mobilization Strategy</i>
<i>4.2. Project portfolio</i>
<i>4.3. Next steps</i> |
| Agenda item 5 | Any other business |
| Agenda item 6 | Conclusions and recommendations |
| Agenda item 7 | Closure of the meeting |

Annex III: Conclusions and Recommendations

**9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for
the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO)
Barcelona, Spain 24 February 2023**

Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

1. The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) organized the 9th Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) (hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting”) on 24 February 2023 in Barcelona, Spain.

Participation

2. All the National Correspondents of SAPBIO and the relevant partner organisations have been invited to attend or to designate their representatives.

3. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the Meeting: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia.

4. The secretariats of the following governmental and non-governmental organizations were represented as observers: European Topic Centre-University of Malaga (ETC-UMA) and the Mediterranean Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Med).

5. A representative of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) opened the meeting by videoconference.

6. SPA/RAC acted as the secretariat of the Meeting.

Objectives of the Meeting

7. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Examine the next steps in the implementation at national and regional levels of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.
- Review the preliminary draft of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (hereinafter referred to as “RMS”).
- Have the involvement and support of the countries in the proposed projects.

Organizational matters

8. The Meeting agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI), as amended by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 and UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5), would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations.

9. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:
- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Chairperson: | Mr Jorge Alonso Rodriguez (Spain), |
| Vice-chairpersons: | Ms Jelena Uros (Croatia),
Ms Samia Boufares (Tunisia), |
| Rapporteur: | Mr Mostafa Fouda (Egypt). |

10. The Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

General considerations

11. Participants expressed their gratitude to Spain for hosting the Meeting.
12. The Meeting noted with appreciation the support by the SAPBIO Advisory Committee member organizations for the elaboration of the draft RMS, including the harmonization with their post-2020 planned projects and activities and encouraged further synergy for their implementation.
13. The Meeting commended the work of the Secretariat in elaborating the draft RMS and the associated project portfolio and coordinating the related process, including several meetings and mainstreaming the contributions of the Contracting Parties and relevant partners.

Agenda item 3: Steps undertaken towards the implementation 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) at regional and national levels

14. The Meeting recommended sharing the outcomes of the previous SAPBIO National Correspondents meetings on the SPA/RAC website.
15. Several countries proposed to share their experience, knowledge, technical capacities and in-kind assistance with other countries on technical aspects related to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, monitoring and assessment.
16. The Meeting emphasised the importance of joint solutions and cooperation among countries, and especially neighbouring countries, as an opportunity to support the implementation of the regional projects and the Post-2020 SAPBIO; SPA/RAC could play the role of facilitation and coordination among the Contracting Parties for such transboundary aspects, including transboundary marine protected areas and protected areas beyond national jurisdictions.
17. Some countries underlined the importance of participatory management, including co-management, as an important mechanism to support and accelerate marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, management and monitoring efforts.

Agenda item 4: Review of the Preliminary Draft of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean

4.1. Resource Mobilization Strategy

18. The Meeting recommended finding innovative ways for fund mobilisation to finance marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, making use of innovative mechanisms and raising the interest and support of new categories of donors, including the private sector, financial institutions, banks and others. In this context, the Meeting recommended to consider the mechanisms proposed under the

CBD (Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Target 18) and that the Barcelona Convention plays a role in adopting innovative financing mechanisms in the region, like reducing harmful subsidies.

19. The Meeting recommended that countries develop their national sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, as a way to back and sustain their conservation efforts, beyond the fluctuations that could occur at the international donors level.

20. Participants stressed the importance of detailing as much as possible the project concepts so that the proposals could be more complete and of interest.

21. The Meeting recommended taking into account the existent initiatives and projects and build on the previous projects and initiatives by SPA/RAC and other partners.

4.2. Project portfolio

Project Concept 1: Conserving biodiversity and promoting blue economy as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Mediterranean through MCPAs and OECMs

22. Several representatives expressed the interest of their country to participate in the project.

23. The Meeting recommended including the aspect related to awareness raising and involvement of the sectors and other stakeholders in the area-based conservation efforts.

24. Further the identification and recognition of OECMs, the Meeting recommended their implementation in the Mediterranean promoting biodiversity conservation.

25. The Meeting recommended adjusting the aspect related to sustainable small-scale fisheries to include marine protected areas and/or OECMs, taking into account national legislations and the categories of the involved marine protected areas, the objective being to conserve biodiversity if sustainable SSF and sustainable tourism are authorized in an MCPA and areas under OECMs.

26. The Meeting recommended adding the aspect related to the coherence of the network at sub-regional and regional levels beyond the support to be provided for the design of coherent national MPA networks.

27. Participants stressed the importance of the benefits and services that biodiversity and MPAs could provide to other economic sectors and recommended streamlining the Post-2020 SAPBIO within the relevant national strategies.

Project Concept 2: Recovering key Mediterranean marine and coastal habitats

28. Several representatives expressed the interest of their country to participate in the project.

29. The Meeting suggests to conceive concrete actions under this project based on existent knowledge, previous restoration pilots at European level, for instance, and identification of specific managed natural sites where the pressures causing the damage are removed.

Project Concept 3: The Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: Preserving ecosystem function & climate resiliency through enhanced marine turtle populations in the Mediterranean

30. Several representatives expressed the interest of their country to participate in the project.

31. The Meeting recommended further emphasising habitat protection activities; reduction of threats such as noise and light pollution; and inclusion of more accurate and effective activities, especially in relation to climate change effects on the species and how to define management measures.

32. One representative proposed to harmonise the project concept format with the other concepts, and to include activities on the softshell turtle *Trionyx triunguis*.

Project Concept 4: Catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss in Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity

33. Several participants, stressing the innovative aspect of this project, expressed the interest of their countries to be part of the project.

34. Participants suggested putting the activities under the umbrella of Sustainable Development Goals and encouraging job and economic resource creation. Capacity-building activities at all levels have to be foreseen.

35. The Meeting recommended creating an ad hoc working group to share knowledge and solutions on catalysing transformative action by governments and stakeholders that could be financed by countries and donors.

36. The Meeting proposed to give a more important role to civil society organizations for advocacy to promote transformative change.

4.3. Next steps

37. The Meeting agreed that the participants will provide their written comments and inputs to the project concepts within one week after the meeting, to allow SPA/RAC to finalize the documentation for the donor conference.