

CATALYSING TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION TO HALT AND REVERSE THE LOSS IN MEDITERRANEAN MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

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As stressed during the CBD COP 15, halting, and reversing biodiversity loss requires urgent and transformative change from all stakeholders, from governments to the wider society. This also emerged clearly from the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO), underlining a clear necessity to improve coherence and complementarity of all strategies, policies, plans, initiatives, planning processes and funding affecting marine areas. Appropriate

coordination between various authorities and administrative services at all relevant levels to ensure the proper participation of all stakeholders in transparent decision-making processes. Transformative change should address weak levels of enforcement of legislation ratified to protect biodiversity including building capacity for the judiciary and administrative processes for the protection, conservation, and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity.

In this light, Project 4 seeks to support the streamlining of biodiversity in the political, legal, and public realms.

Issue

Mediterranean countries have made global and regional commitments to protect biodiversity as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD, and the Post-2020 SAPBIO of the Barcelona Convention. However, there is a **lack of real political will and recognition** at the highest government levels to develop appropriate governance schemes to ensure cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination at national/local levels. As such, **current efforts are far from**



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sufficient to meet these commitments, with weak levels of enforcement and lack of effective collaboration, and to halt and reverse the current loss of biodiversity in the Mediterranean basin.

Solutions

Such transformative change can only occur with (i) **a strong political will** to develop and enforce national strategies, action plans, laws, and policies relevant to the protection and sustainable use of marine living resources, but also (ii) through an increased and widespread **awareness and understanding of the values of and threats to biodiversity**. To address this, Project 4 will implement **two workstreams** over **2.5 years**. The total implementation cost of the project is estimated at **USD 1.500 million**, with a breakdown per activity as indicated in **italic* below. This cost includes expected co-funding from countries and implementing partners of 200K, and expected funding from donors of 1300K.

1 | STREAMLINING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO NATIONAL/REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND SECTORAL POLICIES

National, regional, and global strategies will be aligned for transformative change with increased stakeholder empowerment and stewardship.

Workstream 1 will:

- a. Support the appropriate **incorporation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO elements into country biodiversity national strategies and related action plans** through direct assistance for needed expertise and facilitation of consultation processes at national and local levels. *Estimated cost in USD - Total cost: 250K, expected in kind co-funding from countries and partners: 40K, expected funding from donors: 210K.*
- b. Develop **advocacy activities targeting decision makers** to increase awareness, ownership, and

mobilisation around the issue of biodiversity dramatic loss and the emergency to act. *Estimated cost in USD - Total cost: 300K, expected in kind co-funding from countries and partners: 40K, expected funding from donors: 260K.*

- c. Elaborate **educational programmes** to empower Youth in relation to marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, adapted to all school/university levels, **followed by a series of training** targeting school and university teachers to raise awareness across society. *Estimated cost in USD - Total cost: 320K, expected in kind co-funding from countries and partners: 40K, expected funding from donors: 280K.*

2 | IMPROVING COMPLIANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Control and enforcement of national legislation, in relation to the conservation of marine biodiversity and the use of living marine resources, will be enhanced. Workstream 2 will address the issues associated with enforcement - considered to be a contributing cause to biodiversity loss by building the capacity of the people responsible for enforcing the legislation on conservation and sustainable use - a Very High Priority action of the Post-2020 SAPBIO. Under this workstream, practical guidelines for the enforcement of the relevant legislation related to biodiversity will be prepared and adapted for each target country, alongside a series of training and information sessions targeting judiciary and administrative resources regarding marine biodiversity legislation.

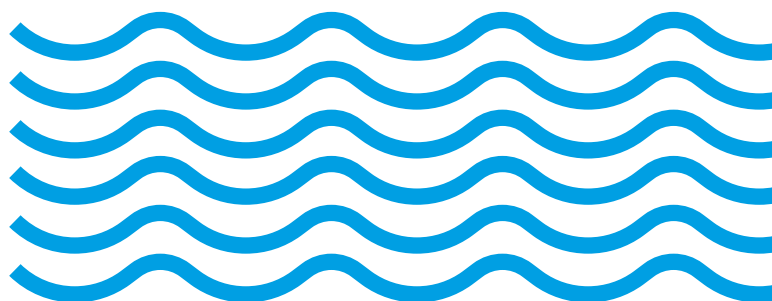
Estimated cost in USD - Total cost: 400K, expected in kind co-funding from countries and partners: 50K, expected funding from donors: 350K.

Implementation

This project will focus on capacity building and transfer of knowledge, within the following countries: Albania, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain.

This project will be coordinated and managed by SPA/RAC in collaboration with the project partners and the guidance of a Steering Committee composed of representatives of the participating countries, project partners and donors.

Estimated cost of the project coordination in USD (included in the total implementation cost, indicated above) - Total cost: 230K, expected in kind co-funding from countries and partners: 30K, expected funding from donors: 200K.



The activities of the project cover the following actions of the Post-2020 SAPBIO

27 **STREAMLINE Post-2020 SAPBIO**

Streamline the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Regional strategies and action plans, developed in the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol, into national strategies, action plans and legal frameworks

28 **POLITICAL WILL AND COORDINATION**

Ensure political will and recognition at the highest levels of Government or State, to develop appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination

29 **STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

Facilitate stakeholder engagement to address conflict between users, build capacity to contribute to the SAPBIO enforcement, particularly in MPA planning and management, through proper participation of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process

31 **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

Enable the compliance of the provisions of the SPA/BD and the ICZM Protocols and

related Action Plans at national level by strengthening capacities and cooperation between judiciary and administrative bodies

38 **AWARENESS**

Increase awareness, understanding and appreciating of the values and threats to the marine environment, stimulating improved behaviour, and of the responses and good practices, by targeting decision-makers and the general public, through reinforced and renewed mechanisms, including mass communications

39 **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

Promote the integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems conservation concerns into school, higher education, professional training, and citizen science, so that best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems are more accessible and replicable

42 **COOPERATION**

Increase cooperation both north/south, south-south, and between governmental and non-governmental actors at different levels, to support the Post-2020 SAPBIO, particularly in the less developed countries

Partners

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC); Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu); Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP); European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA); IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med); Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN); The Environmental Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (The MedFund).

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Workstreams	Activities	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
1 STREAMLINING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO NATIONAL/REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND SECTORAL POLICIES	a. Strengthening the marine and coastal biodiversity component of countries' biodiversity strategies	x	x	x	x		
	b. Advocacy activities targeting decision makers to increase their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the values and threats to marine and coastal biodiversity.	x	x	x			
	c. integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems conservation concerns into school, higher education, professional training, and citizen science.		x	x	x	x	
2 IMPROVING COMPLIANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT	Capacity building for judiciary and administrative resources along the enforcement chain for the regulations relating to marine biodiversity		x	x	x	x	



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Post 2020 SAPBIO

