



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



The Mediterranean  
Biodiversity  
Centre

# Implementing Global Biodiversity Conservation Targets at Regional level in the framework of the Barcelona Convention

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Webinar on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): Outcomes, follow up and way forward  
7 March 2023, 09.00 – 11.15 (UTC+1)

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By: Khalil ATTIA, Director of SPA/RAC – UNEP/MAP

# The UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention System

- **UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit – Barcelona Convention Secretariat**, based in Athens (Greece).
- **MAP Components : 6** Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the MED POL Programme.
- **Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)** based in Tunis (Tunisia).



# SPA/RAC: the Marine Biodiversity Centre

## SPA/RAC

The Marine Biodiversity Centre At The Service Of The Mediterranean Countries

### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS & BIODIVERSITY

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre, SPA/RAC, is created in 1985 to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).

1

#### Inventory and mapping

With the aim to identify species and sites of conservation interest.

2

#### Developing research

To complete knowledge and fill in gaps on biodiversity.

3

#### Conservation programmes coordination

At regional level, to mitigate threats on biodiversity components, while taking into account the Ecosystem Approach principles.

4

#### Monitoring & assessment

Of the marine biodiversity status, within the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

5

#### MPAs & SPAMI development

Creation and enforcement towards a coherent network.

6

#### Capacity building

To strength skills for biodiversity monitoring & MPAs management.

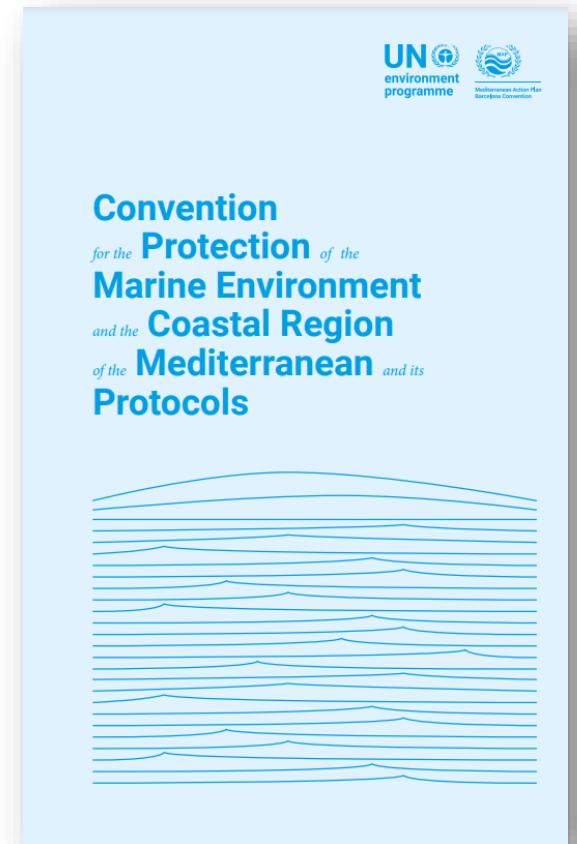
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#### Information, outreach and education

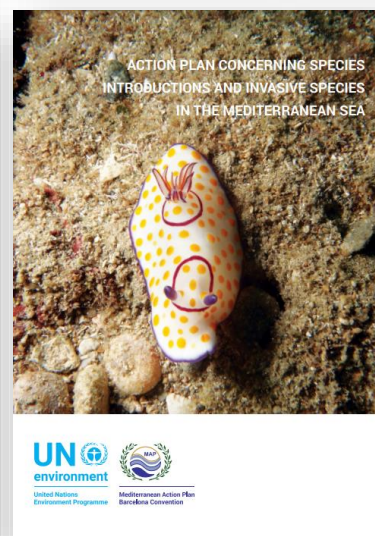
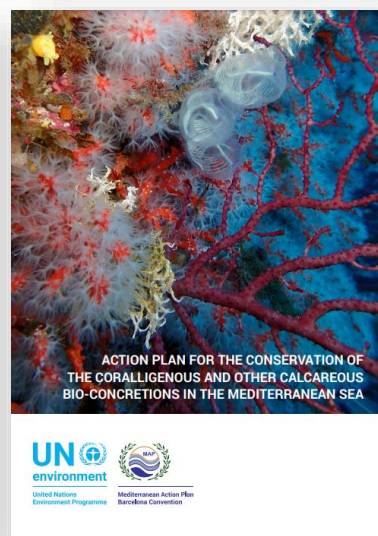
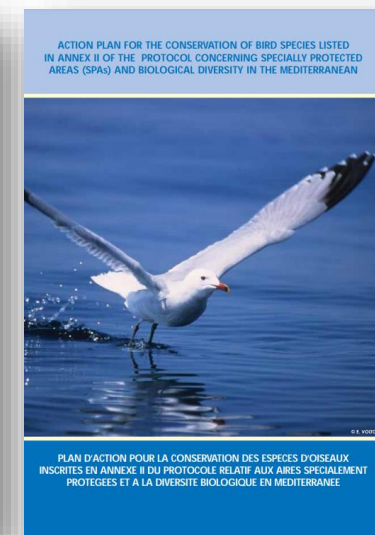
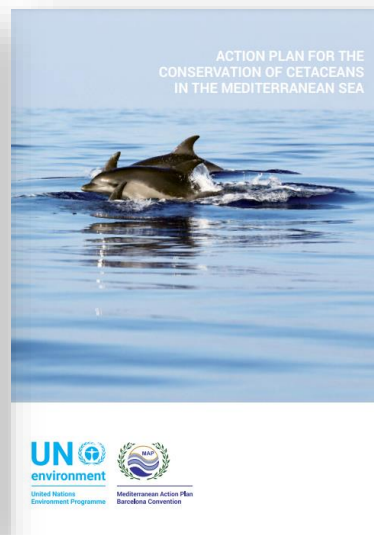
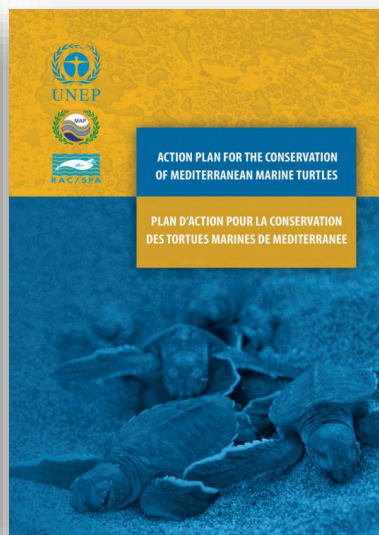
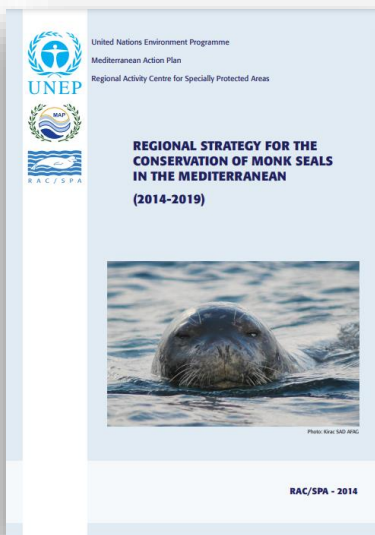
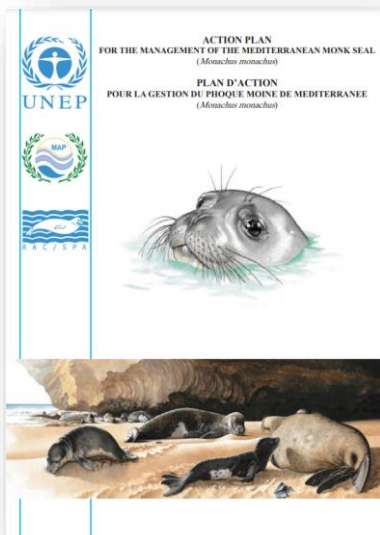
On biodiversity and MPAs issues.

# The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

- **Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP / MAP):** established in 1975 as the institutional framework for cooperation in addressing common challenges of the Mediterranean marine environment.
- Convention for the **Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean:** adopted in Barcelona, in 1976; amended in 1995.
- **7 Protocols** addressing specific topics:
  - Dumping Protocol
  - LBS Protocol
  - Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol
  - Prevention and Emergency Protocol
  - Offshore Protocol
  - Hazardous Wastes Protocol
  - ICZM Protocol.



# Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Species and Habitats under the SPA/BD Protocol



5 Action Plans & 1 Strategy for the conservation of species (**Mediterranean Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Cetaceans, Cartilaginous Fishes, and Marine & Coastal Birds**)

3 Action Plans for the conservation of habitats (**Marine Vegetation, Coralligenous, and Dark Habitats**)

1 Action Plan on **Species Introductions and Invasive Species**

# Global targets for 2030: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

## *Among the targets for reducing threats to biodiversity:*

**TARGET 2:** Ensure that by 2030 **at least 30 % of areas of degraded** terrestrial, inland water, and **marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration**, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

**TARGET 3:** Ensure and enable that by 2030 **at least 30 %** of terrestrial and inland water areas, and **of marine and coastal areas**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, **are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

## *Considerations for the implementation of the GBF:*

**Cooperation and synergies:** Enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the CBD and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective mandates, including at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, would contribute to and promote the implementation of the Framework in a more efficient and effective manner;

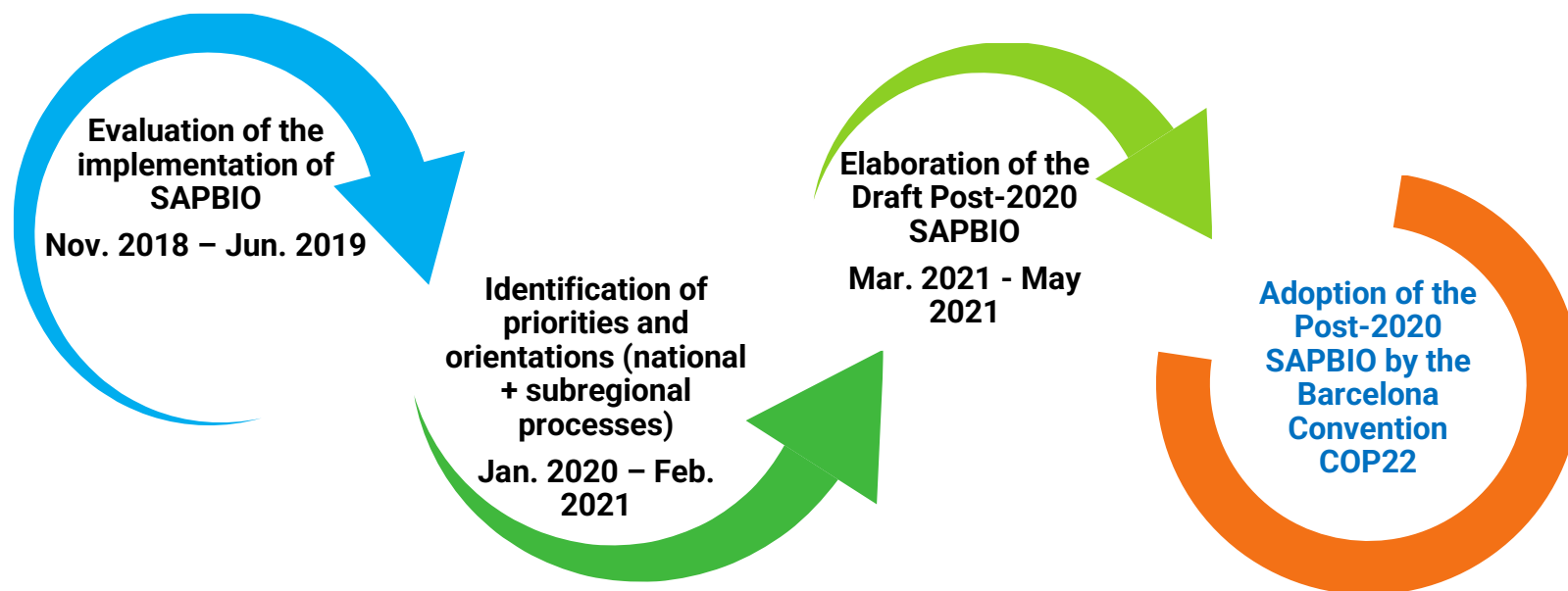
## CBD COP 15, Montreal, December 2022



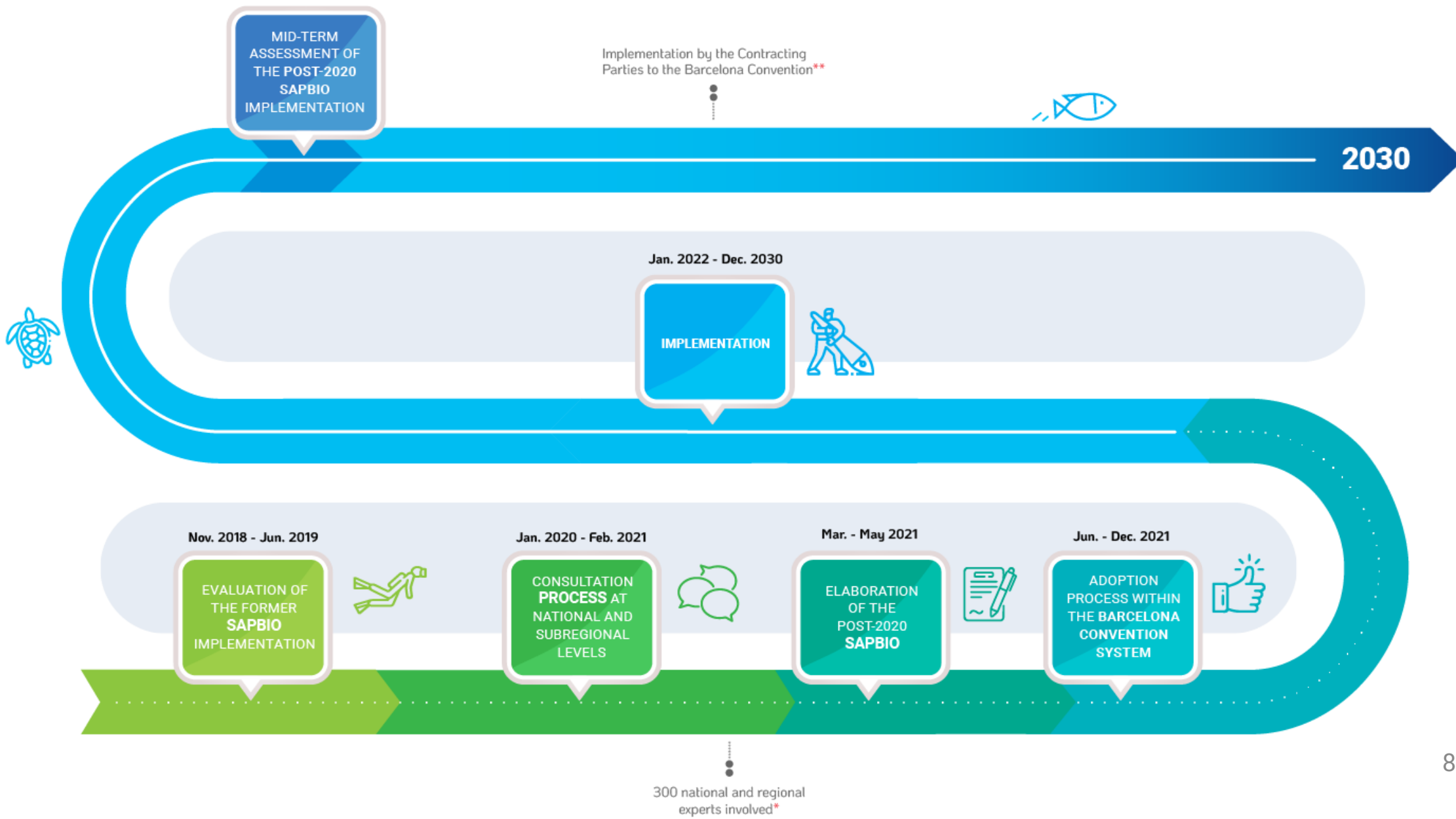
# The Post-2020 SAPBIO: elaboration process

The SAPBIO is a 15 years life cycle strategic action programme that enables a **collective regional** implementation of the Barcelona Convention Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Protocol.

It identifies needs, priorities, synergies for the **conservation and sustainable use** of marine and coastal **biodiversity** in the Mediterranean. The action proposals build on a participative bottom-up process and is harmonized with the main biodiversity frameworks (at regional and global levels).



# The Post-2020 SAPBIO: elaboration process





# The Post-2020 SAPBIO: vision and goals

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*Vision: “By 2050, marine and coastal biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy Mediterranean Sea and coast, and delivering benefits essential for all people”*

## **Goal 1. Reduce the threats to biodiversity**

- 1. Address specific pressures on biodiversity*
- 2. An effective network of marine protected areas and OECMs*
- 3. Ecosystem health and restoration, and nature-based solutions*

## **Goal 2. Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people’s needs**

- 4. Improve knowledge on marine and coastal biodiversity*
- 5. Sustainable fisheries in harmony with biodiversity conservation*
- 6. Mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity within other administrative and socio-economic sectors*

## **Goal 3. Enable the necessary transformative change, putting in place tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming**

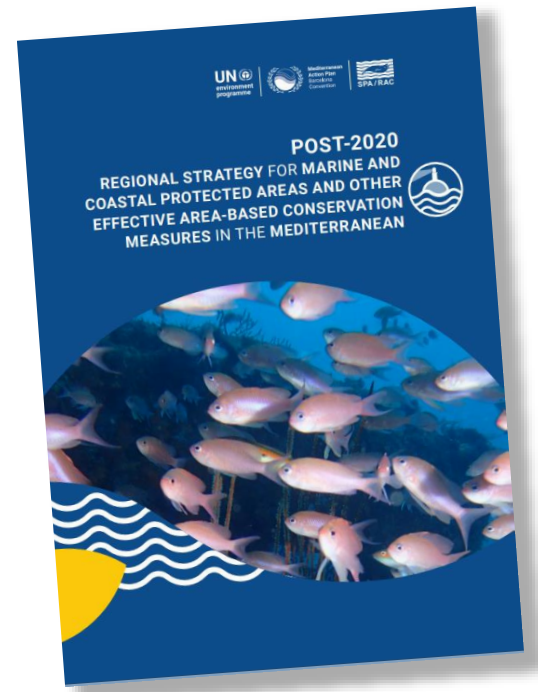
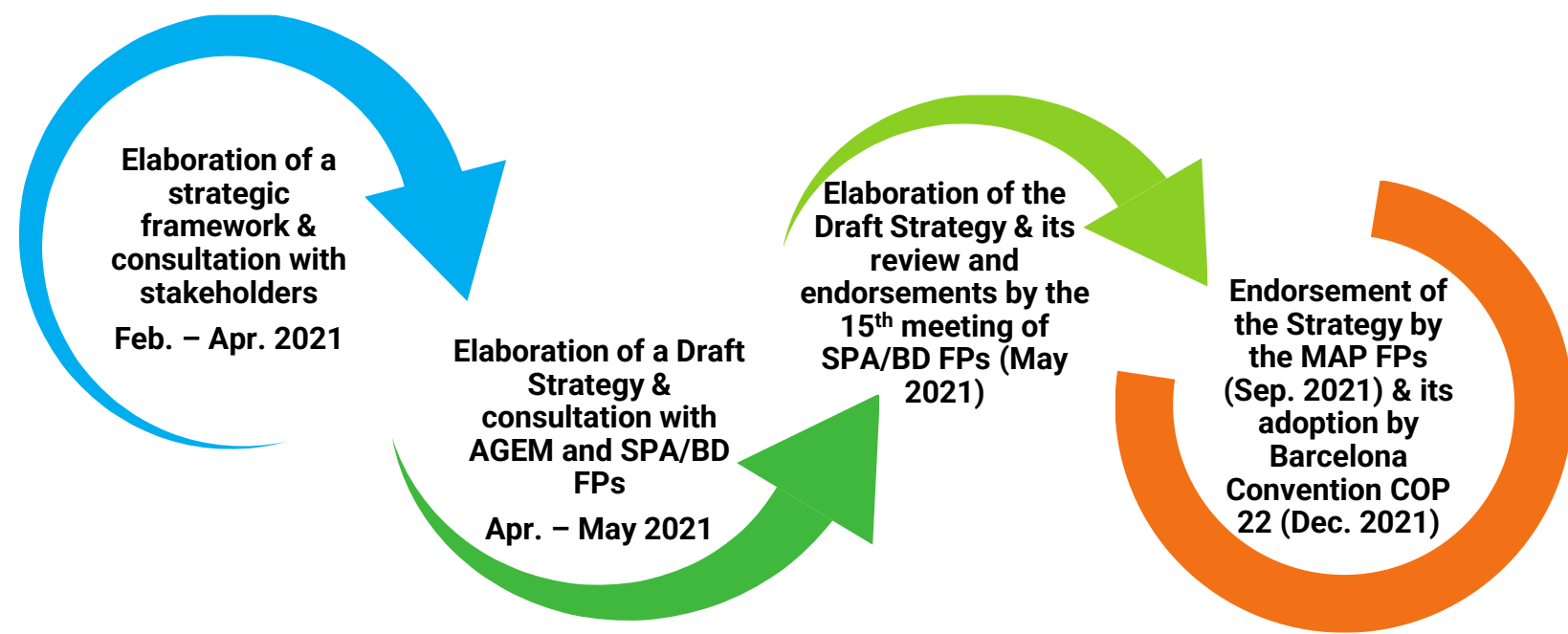
- 7. Monitoring and reporting*
- 8. Capacity building and networking*
- 9. Outreach and awareness*
- 10. Mobilizing sufficient resources*

# What the Post-2020 SAPBIO proposes for biodiversity recovery



# The Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs & OECMs: elaboration process

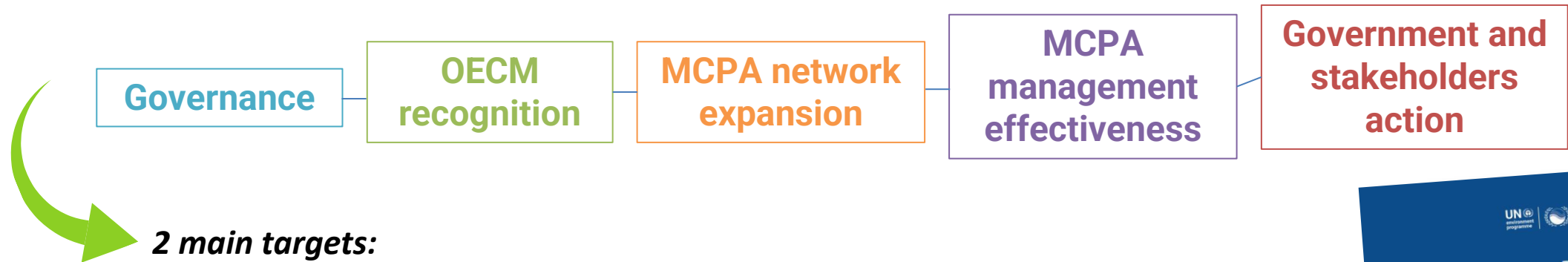
Overview of the adoption of the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean



# The Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs

Adopted by the Barcelona Convention COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 Dec. 2021)

Reaching the global target in terms of area-based conservation implies numerous and ambitious quantitative and qualitative improvements to be made at different levels :

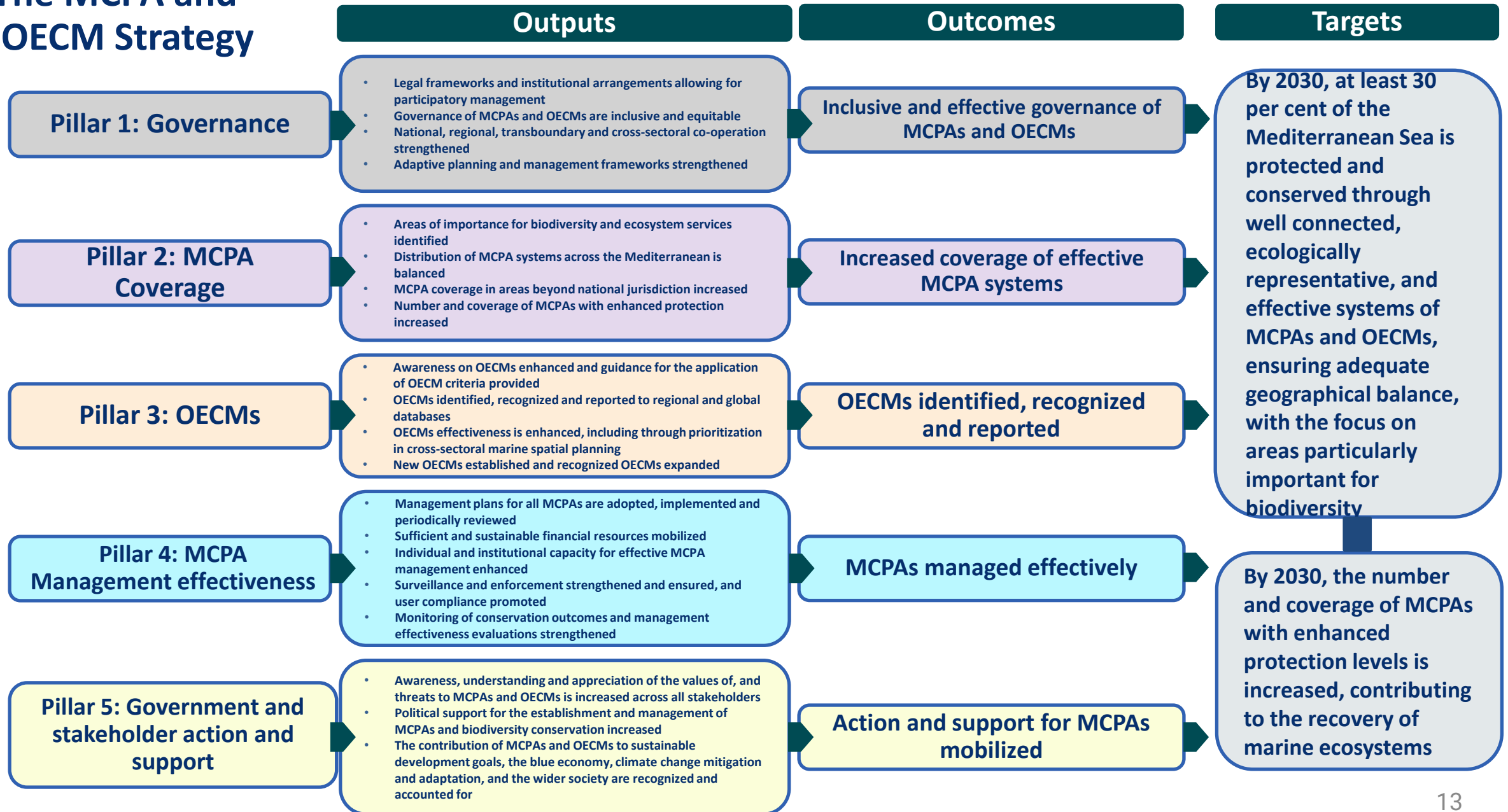


1) By **2030**, at least **30 %** cent of the Mediterranean Sea is **protected and conserved** through well connected, ecologically representative, and effective **systems** of marine and coastal protected areas (**MCPAs**) and other effective area-based conservation measures (**OECMs**), ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity

2) By **2030**, the **number and coverage** of MCPAs with **enhanced protection levels** is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems



# The MCPA and OECM Strategy



# Implementation and Monitoring

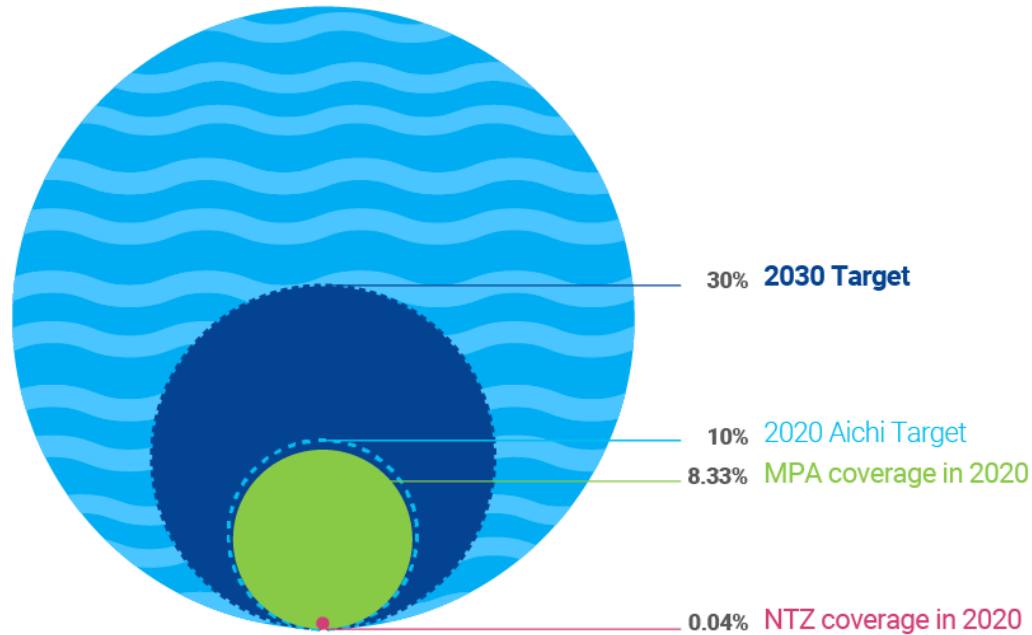
The Post-2020 Regional Strategy **5 Strategic Pillars / 5 Strategic Outcomes** and **20 Outputs** are supported by **126 Proposed Actions** to be implemented by the Contracting Parties and Regional & International Organizations.

An **Evaluation and monitoring framework** is being prepared for the Post-2020 Regional Strategy (2022-2023), with the technical support of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (**AGEM**).

A **resource mobilization strategy** is under preparation to support the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO and Post-2020 MCPA-OECM Strategy, in consultation with the CPs and regional partner organizations.



# The System of Mediterranean MPAs in 2020



*In 2020*

**8.33%**

of Mediterranean waters  
are under a protection status

**1,087**

officially designated  
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

The **Mediterranean Targets** by **2030** are :

**1<sup>st</sup>**

At least  
**30%**

of protection through effective  
systems of **MCPAs and OECMs**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**



**Increasing** the number and  
coverage of **MCPAs with enhanced protection level**

# The system of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas in 2020



**8.33 %** Source 1  
Surface under protection status  
**209,303 km<sup>2</sup> / 1,087 officially designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) including\*:**

- 257 MPAs with a national statute: 3.19 % (including the Cetaceans Migration Corridor in the Mediterranean - Spain: 1.84 %)
- 829 marine Natura 2000 sites: 3.17 %
- Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals (France, Italy, Monaco): 3.49 %

\* Some of these MPAs are recognised as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The network of SPAMIs covers 138,464 km<sup>2</sup> (5.17 %) with 89 sites.

**0.04 %** Source 2  
Cumulative surface of no-go, no-take or no-fishing areas

**97.33 %** Source 1  
Share of the total Mediterranean surface under designation located in the European Union member countries waters

**18 %** Source 1  
Share of MPAs that confirmed having a management plan implemented (10 % fully implemented; 8 % partially implemented; 7 % not implemented or inexistent; 75 % not reported)

**+ 2 points**  
Overall net gain in the percentage of surface under designation between the end of 2016 and the end of 2019\*, including:  
- 23 MPAs with a national statute (47,499 km<sup>2</sup> added)  
- 140 marine Natura 2000 sites (13,690 km<sup>2</sup> added)

\* 2016 figures have been re-calculated in the scope of the 2020 analysis

## Perspectives

The international conservation community is calling to conserve 30% of sea areas through well-connected systems of protected areas and OECMs by 2030. The post-2020 MPA Forum Roadmap aims to support the global and regional efforts towards achieving the 2030 goals.

**OECMs**  
Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) are a conservation approach offering the opportunity to recognise de facto conservation taking place outside protected areas\*. When they are officially recognised, OECMs will contribute to ecologically representative and well-connected conservation systems. In the Mediterranean, a number of area-based management measures (representing 13.5% of the sea) could be recognised as OECMs, when they comply with the CBD criteria. Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (0.43%) of the International Maritime Organisation and Fisheries Restricted Areas (RMA – 0.22% and EFH – 0.30%) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. National OECMs may also be identified.  
\* A definition for OECMs was adopted during COP14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2010



## An insight into management

Managers from 152 nationally designated Mediterranean MPAs shared their experience via an online survey in 2019. Data about various aspects of their management were collected to assess if conditions are favourable for MPAs to ensure an effective management. The trends in these data are shown here in pie charts.

Do MPAs have a governance council?



Do MPAs have sufficient budget?



Do MPAs have a monitoring system?



Do MPAs have suitable regulations?



Are MPAs kept under regular surveillance?



Poster prepared in the framework of



1,087 officially MPAs covering 209,303 km<sup>2</sup>

8.3 % of the Med

0.04 % of no-go, no-take, no-fishing areas

97.33 % in EU member countries waters

Mainly coastal and in shallow waters



# UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC efforts towards expanding the regional MPA system and improving its management

- SPA/RAC is supporting the Mediterranean countries in:
  - Undertaking baseline studies (socio-economic, ecological, stakeholders) for future MPA establishment;
  - Establishing and managing MPAs (elaborating management plans, business plans, communication strategies; undertaking pilot management/monitoring actions, capacity-building programmes, exchanges, SPAMI/MPA Twinning Programmes, etc.)
- These efforts have been intensified during the last 20 years, with the entry into force of the SPA/BD Protocol (Dec. 1999):
  - 56 sites (MPAs/SPAMIs and future MPAs) in 18 Mediterranean countries



This was possible thanks to the generous support of external donors: EU, MAVA, FFEM, GEF, Italy, AECID, ...

# Resource Mobilization Strategy to support the implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO including the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPA and OECM

## Framework of the Strategy:



- The Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) is aimed as a **strategic framework for the whole Mediterranean**.
- It is built as a space of **collective and synergic action** of all the relevant (regional and national) marine conservation actors in the Mediterranean.
- In the same way, like the Post-2020 SAPBIO, **it is aimed to be considered as a frame for coherence among regional and national actions** seeking, to the extent possible, complementarity and avoiding overlapping of biodiversity conservation programmes and marine resource sustainable management.

# Content of the Draft Resource Mobilization Strategy

UNEP/MED WG.546/3  
Page 1

Preliminary Draft of the Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including the  
Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs, for the period 2022-2030

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## 1. Introduction :

(MTS 2022-2027 and its relevant resource mobilisation strategy) and especially the SPA/BD Protocol and its related strategies and action plans.

## 2. Background:

(1) comparative advantage of the Post-2020 SAPBIO in the context of the other main international, European and regional relevant initiatives and strategies and (2) the expected added values of its implementation, for the Mediterranean biodiversity and the sustainable development of the region.

## 3. Resource needs:

A description of the kind of support needed by the Contracting Parties for their efforts in implementing the Post-2020 SAPBIO, such as **capacity building; technical, scientific, legal, or institutional assistance; financial resources mobilization;** etc.



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## **4. Alternative scenarios:**

This section should present and detail the alternative scenarios that may be followed in order to fund the Programme actions. These scenarios should be built from the evaluation and lessons drawn from the previous SAPBIO (2004-2020).

## **5. Operating method:**

This section should present all processes to be considered to ensure the success of the fundraising efforts.

## **6. Project portfolio:**

This section should include a portfolio of 4 projects aimed at implementing the highest-priority actions of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, over the eight next years.

This portfolio should also include a series of project concept notes for the Post-2020 SAPBIO actions not covered by the Full Project concepts.



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## **7. Governance:**

This section should develop the governance of the Programme; the SAPBIO Advisory Committee and National Correspondents, should play their coordination role in the implementation of the Strategy with the permanent support of the SPA/RAC

## **8. Communication:**

In order to build a positive image that encourages donors to provide, renew or maintain their support, a communication plan is being developed and will be implemented by SPA/RAC with the support of a specialised agency, for the period before, during and immediately after the donors' conference.

## **9. Implementation calendar:**

This section will provide the timeline for the implementation of all the activities of the Strategy harmonised with the mid-term evaluation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO itself and the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Six-Year Medium-Term Strategy (MTS 2022-2027).



## 2021– 2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021–2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems and restore them as well as conserve the ecosystems that are still intact.



The Mediterranean Symposia are periodic meetings dedicated to scientific investigation on marine and coastal biodiversity and its conservation, organized by UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC within the Barcelona Convention framework.

Themes include marine vegetation, coralligenous, dark habitats and non-indigenous species in the Mediterranean.



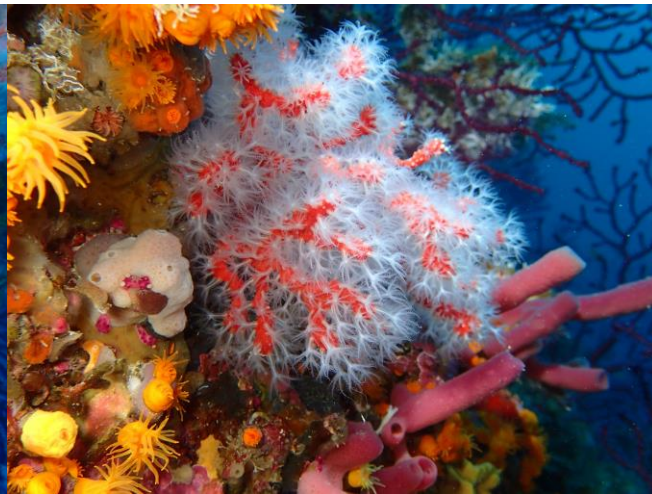
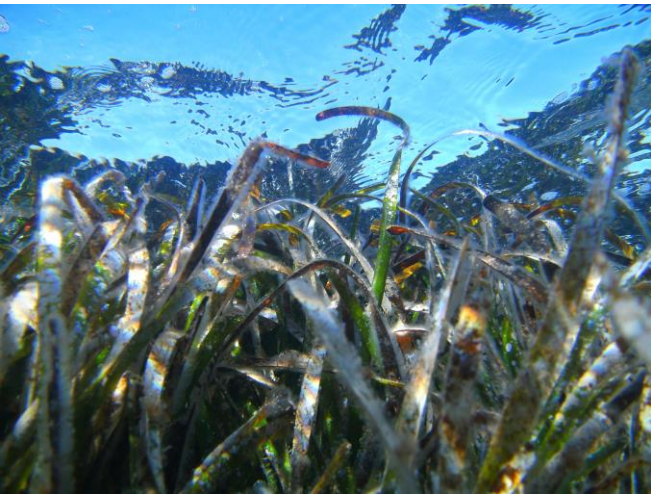
# POST-2020 SAP BIO



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T1.6 By 2027 develop the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/or regeneration potential (as nursery areas and/or carbon stocks), and by 2030 complete the restoration of most of those selected.





**Draft RESTORATION PROGRAMME for *Pinna nobilis***

Tunis, Tunisia June 2022

## Pinna nobilis restoration programme

A mass mortality event affecting *Pinna nobilis* populations was first detected in 2016 along the Spanish coast. The still ongoing mortality outbreak has been found to be caused by a pathogen, which rapidly spread throughout the Mediterranean Sea causing mortality rates of 80-100% across many regions. During the regional workshop (June 2022) organized by SPA/RAC, the participants made an update overview of the situation of *Pinna nobilis* in their respective countries and shared information on some restoration activities implemented in few countries confirming the regional alarming situation and the need and urgency to act for monitoring, studying and restoring the species as soon as possible in a coordinated manner with a proven scientific approach.

Participants also discussed the proposed draft *Pinna nobilis* restoration programme. The programme objectives, national and regional priority actions as well as implementation timetable were discussed and a final programme version was agreed.

The programme implementation will start in 2023.



# Thank you!

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