

I OVERVIEW

A. Description

Program name:	Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security		
Countries:	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia		
GEF ID:	9607	Implementing Agency:	UNEP
Objective:	To accelerate the implementation of agreed upon priority actions to reduce the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security, and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations.		
Fiscal Year of Reporting:	FY 2025	Program Approval Date:	10/27/2016

II OUTCOME PROGRESS

A. Progress by Component

Anchored in the **Barcelona Convention system** and implemented by UNEP and EBRD and executed by UNEP/MAP and partner agencies (UNESCO-IHP, FAO, EIB, OSS, GWP-Med, WWF-Med, IUCN, and others), the Programme operates as a *laboratory of change* for the region, linking science, governance, and finance. MedProgramme activities mostly stems directly from the Work Program of UNEP/MAP and of the MAP Regional Activity Centres, in this sense their implementation is contributing to project objective which is in line with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the overall mandate of UNEP/MAP. The degree that implemented activities are contributing to the program objective varies and is reflected in the estimated progress towards the achievement of the specific outcomes.

Under **Component 1 - Reduction of Land Based Pollution in Priority Coastal Hotspots, and measuring progress to impacts** -

Child Project 1.1 is progressing steadily in the removal and disposal of POPs: in Algeria 401 tons of PCB-contaminated equipment were successfully disposed of and additional 613 tons are being prepared for disposal. In Lebanon, the disposal of 271 tons of PCB-contaminated equipment is proceeding although with some delays linked to the approval of the Basel Notification for international shipment and with some discrepancies in the actual quantities. In Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Tunisia, MedProgramme is working through UNOPS to collect and dispose ~700 tons of PCB-contaminated equipment. ~50–100 tons of mercury waste are also being disposed in Tunisia. The work on prevention of New POPs and the development of related Regulatory Framework has also progressed in Tunisia (report on mercury-containing medical devices and hotspots, regulatory framework updates), Albania (national workshop on safer alternatives in firefighting foams), Lebanon (inventory and sampling campaign for PFOS, HBCD, and SCCP), Libya (workshop on new POPs), Montenegro, (foam sampling and E-waste prevention), Morocco (report on PFAS/HBCD with regulatory recommendations). This implementation progress is contributing to achieve Outcome 1, namely measurable reduction of harmful chemicals and wastes (POPs, Mercury) and of excess nutrients.

Child Project 1.1 also finalized the update of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) consolidating findings from national TDAs, integrating the 2023 MED QSR results, and including gender-responsive analysis to support regional planning and the Strategic Action Programme. The structure of the MedProgramme report on progress to impacts and on the achievement of relevant SDGs has been outlined and related data collected.

The draft offshore monitoring strategy was also finalized with the identification of more than 20 potential offshore monitoring sites and the implementation of pilot sampling campaigns in five pilot stations to test IMAP methodologies on biodiversity, pollution, and marine litter indicators. The collaboration with the UNEP/MAP Info/RAC is contributing to

establish a regional data-sharing framework aligned with the MAP Data Policy and the implementation of the recommendations of the Mid-Term Evaluation of CP 1.1 are supporting the implementation of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management (KM) and Communications Strategy with the support of the Program Knowledge Management Task Force in view to recover the important delays caused by staffing difficulties in previous years. This implementation progress is contributing to Outcome 3 focused on enabling Partner Countries in identifying trends and progress to impacts whose achievement has been tentatively assessed at around 70%.

Child Project 1.2 is also progressing well although important delays were registered in Lebanon where the EIB decided to withdraw planned activities based on the important limitations identified in the country for the application of the available financing instruments and activities had to be replaced with the restoration and upgrade of two waste water treatment plants in collaboration with UNICEF. In Egypt, the Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities (MHUUC) and the EIB is being finalized for assessment, rehabilitation, upgrading and extension of three Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) in the Alexandria and Damietta Governorates to a total of 153,000 m³/d from 73,000 m³/d. In Tunisia, the contract for the feasibility study for the upgrade of a WWTP in the Governorate of Bizerte was signed and activities started. Child Project 1.2 also registered progress on the identification of national measures for implementation of the regional standards for wastewater treatment, sewage sludge management and aquaculture management in collaboration with the Child Project 1.1 which is working on the preparation of national action plans for reduction of pollution from land-based activities, although the timely implementation of agreements and delivery of outputs for preparation of those national measures remains a challenge; also good progress is registered on sharing and disseminating national measures for implementation of the regional measures and standards for wastewater treatment, sewage sludge management, desalination and aquaculture management although the evaluation of the extent of implementation of the developed guidelines and related regional standards in two Contracting Parties is facing some difficulties. Those activities are contributing to achieve Outcome 1.

Child Project 1.3 (ENVITECC) of the EBRD has a target to eliminate or prevent 1,250 tons of POPs under **Component 1 – Outcome 1** of the MedProgramme.

In 2021, EBRD ENVITECC carried out a PCB Audit in Bosnia and Herzegovina at Republika Srpska Railways. Sampling and analysis of the transformers in use revealed no PCB presence. No POPs containing waste was present at the Project site. EBRD then shared the results of the PCB Audit with the UNDP team in Bosnia and Herzegovina carrying out the country level POPs inventory.

In 2022, through a dedicated PCB Audit, EBRD ENVITECC identified 157 tons of PCB contaminated equipment as per Annex A of the Stockholm Convention in Tunisia. Afterwards, in 2023, ENVITECC team through liaison with UNEP/MAP and UNEP was informed that part of the EBRD identified PCB waste is to be disposed under Child Project 1.1 at the request of Tunisian Ministry of Environment. EBRD shared respective data with UNEP and discussed with the Tunisian Client their needs which led to the development of a follow-up support that will be kicked-off in Q4 2025/Q1 2026.

As of November 2025, EBRD investment pipeline includes two POPs Projects (under C&W Focal Area) for safe removal and disposal of PCBs, one Project in Tunisia with a public company and another in Türkiye with a private company. The GEF Grant Agreements have not been signed yet. ENVITECC team is in touch with UNEP C&W team to ensure that budgeting of any PCB disposal activity is aligned with the ongoing approach within the MedProgramme. This is especially of relevance in Tunisia as the Child Project 1.1 of UNEP/MAP have contracted UNOPS team to procure waste disposal services in Tunisia. ENVITECC team met the UNOPS team in the 3rd Annual Meeting in April 2025 and ENVITECC is in close liaison with UNEP/MAP for the status of the PCB disposal activities. Potential to combine the procurement of waste disposal activities is also underway.

The following is a summary of the latest POPs-related investment pipeline of ENVITECC:

- (1) Railway Modernization Projects in Western Balkans – several investments have been identified for potential intervention on PCB-contaminated equipment. Based on the E&S due diligence outcome and further liaison with the Clients, possibility of providing ENVITECC support will be identified.
- (2) Modernization of Electric Power Distribution/Transmission Systems in Western Balkans – several exploratory investments have been identified for potential intervention on management of PCB-contaminated equipment. Based on the E&S due diligence outcome and further liaison with the Clients, possibility of providing ENVITECC support will be identified.
- (3) Agribusiness Investments in ENVITECC Region – several investments at exploratory phase have been identified for potential intervention on POPs-containing pesticide presence. Specific questions have been shared with the EBRD internal teams to liaise with the Clients.
- (4) Manufacturing Industry Investments in ENVITECC Region – Several investments at exploratory phase have been identified for potential intervention on presence of POPs-containing chemicals in the operations either potential to be found within input raw materials used or in wastewater effluents. Follow-up ongoing with EBRD internal teams.
- (5) Airport and Port Investments (greenfield or expansion/modernization) in SEMED Region – some potential investments have been identified for intervention on POPs-containing firefighting foam systems. ENVITECC team have been in liaison with the wider MedProgramme partners as well and received PFOS inventory data for Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt from UNEP and MedWaves. These inventories include company names amongst which some are EBRD's existing or potential future clients. Discussions on potential ENVITECC support are ongoing.

Worthwhile noting that although numerous POPs related investment opportunities have been identified as outlined above, it can prove challenging to convert them into an opportunity for ENVITECC support due to data reliability and/or actual presence of POPs in the Client operations.

ENVITECC will kick-start a PCB study in Tunisia in Q4 2025/Q1 2026 with its Client STEG which will include training of 75 STEG personnel and purchase of PCB test kits to speed up the initial screening of more than 10,000 potentially PCB-contaminated transformers to ensure 2028 deadline of the Stockholm Convention is met for safe removal and disposal of PCB waste across their operations. Following completion of this TC, a PCB disposal support will be designed with STEG under ENVITECC.

Based on the cumulative evaluation of indicators of the result framework linked with CPs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, the progress in the achievement of Outcome 1 “in coastal hot spots and catchment areas, measurable reduction of harmful chemicals and wastes (POPs, Mercury) and of excess nutrients impacting human health and coastal habitats, achieved” has been assessed at around 50%.

Child Project 1.3 (ENVITECC) of the EBRD under **Component 1 – Outcome 2** of the MedProgramme identified three (3) private/public investments which fulfill all the indicator requirements under Outcome 2 as summarized below. At the Programme design, the total co-financing from the EBRD was expected to be USD 90 million and with the below three (3) investments signed this target has tripled to USD 271 million.

- In December 2023, under IW Focal Area, a GEF Grant Agreement of USD 1 million was signed between the EBRD and Region of Guelmim-Oued Noun in Morocco. The EBRD investment loan for this project is EUR 12 million (ca. USD 13.1 million). EBRD will support the Client for the upgrade of 4 existing wastewater treatment plants to tertiary treatment with the aim of recycling wastewater for irrigation purposes leading to recycling of ca. 10 million m3 per year of treated wastewater (please see <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2023/ebrd-eu-and-gef-support-morocco-efforts-to-restore-water-availability-in-guelmimoued-noun-region.html>). The GEF Grant Agreement is structured as

“cash-back” and as the Project has not yet implemented the construction and operation of the grant financed items no disbursements have been made under the GEF Grant Agreement.

In July 2024, under IW Focal Area, a GEF Grant Agreement of USD 750,000 was signed between the EBRD and Coca Cola HBC Egypt to promote the implementation of advanced wastewater treatment technologies and water management systems in Egypt as per EU discharge standards. The EBRD investment loan for this project is USD 130 million (please see <https://www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/news/2024/ebrd-provides-us-130-million-loan-to-cocacola-hbc-in-egypt.html>). The GEF Grant Agreement is structured as “cash-back” and as the Project has not yet implemented the construction and operation of the grant financed items no disbursements have been made under the GEF Grant Agreement.

- In March 2025, under IW Focal Area, a GEF Grant Agreement of USD 2.5 million was signed between the EBRD and Nador West Med Betoya Industriel and Logistic Zone in Morocco (NWM BILZ, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nador West Med S.A) to implement advanced wastewater treatment technologies with the goal of treated wastewater reuse from the two wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) that will be developed at the zone. The overall capacity of the WWTPs to be constructed will be approximately 4.8 million m3 per year. Worthwhile to note that operation of an advanced WWTP will also help support POPs removal from wastewater (POPs reaching to on-site sewer system due to use of firefighting foams for emergency drills or fire incidents) and ENVITECC will report such co-benefit under C&W Focal Area as well based on technical data that will be available. The EBRD investment loan for this project is EUR 110 million (ca. USD 128 million) (please see <https://www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/news/2025/ebrd--united-kingdom-and-gef-support-nador-west-med-port-complex.html>). The GEF Grant Agreement is structured as “cash-back” and as the Project has not yet implemented the construction and operation of the grant financed items no disbursements have been made under the GEF Grant Agreement.

Based on the evaluation of indicators of the result framework, the progress in the achievement of Outcome 2 “Private/public investments enable pollution reduction in priority coastal and catchments areas through the improvement of water and waste water management systems and the introduction of modern and efficient technologies and practices” has been assessed at 100% (pending grant disbursements under the signed GEF Grant Agreements for each investment for the identified Grant Financed Items).

Component 2. Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Coastal Zone

Child Projects of Component 2 include CP 2.1 on Integrated Management of Coastal Zones and Coastal Aquifers which contributes to Outcomes 4 (ICZM) and 5 (coastal aquifers), CP 2.2 on the Water-Food-Energy and Ecosystem NEXUS which contributes to Outcome 6 and SCCF on Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas which was endorsed at a later stage and is not reflected in MedProgramme Outcomes; however SCCF project can be considered contributing to Outcomes 4 and 5. Operational synergies and integration of results among those three projects were widely prepared in the Project Documents, yet their implementation took longer and more efforts than originally planned.

Child Project 2.1 is the pillar of the IW component of the MedProgramme. Through the collective contribution of its four Executing Partners (PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, UNESCO IHP and GWP Med) and integrating the results of CP 2.2 and SCCF, it has contributed to enhance Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), coastal resilience, and sustainability in the Mediterranean region at both the regional and national levels strengthening institutional capacities, improving legal and governance frameworks, operationalizing integrated management tools and monitoring capacities, and fostering cross-sectoral coordination, participatory planning, and gender-responsive approaches, thus moving the region closer to full compliance with and implementation of the ICZM Protocol; it has also developed a stronger scientific and management basis for the conjunctive management of surface and groundwater, coastal aquifers, and associated ecosystems and triggered tangible progress toward the program’s objective of integrating coastal and water management, applying the source-to-sea and WEF Nexus approaches to strengthen coastal resilience.

PROGRAM PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT (PPMR)

At the regional level, on ICZM, three main areas of implementation progress of CP 2.1 have been recorded:

- Coastal monitoring: the methodology for IMAP Candidate Common Indicator 25 (Land Cover Change – LCC) was upgraded, validated, and piloted in six countries significantly improving, together with the “conceptual framework for coastal observation”, the regional capacity for harmonized coastal observation and monitoring.
- Coastal legislation: The comparative study on coastal legislation across five countries was finalized, and its recommendations disseminated through targeted training, contributing to legal harmonization and improved compliance with ICZM principles.
- Governance mechanisms: The project supported national technical assistance for the ratification and implementation of the ICZM Protocol in four countries and the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Mediterranean Coast Day celebrations further strengthened policy advocacy and visibility for ICZM across the region.

At the national level, on ICZM, notable progress includes:

- Lebanon: The revised National ICZM Strategy and draft ICZM Law advanced significantly, supported by an active Inter-ministerial Coordination Group and the WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue. Development of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the Damour Area (source-to-sea) progressed through the first and the second multi-stakeholder consultation.
- Morocco: The ICZM Plan for the TTA region reached an advanced stage, with ongoing efforts to align coordination and implementation mechanisms with the national legal framework.
- Montenegro: The ICZM Plan for Boka Kotorska Bay was finalized and officially presented to national and local stakeholders, representing a concrete outcome of participatory coastal planning.

On conjunctive management of surface and groundwater, coastal aquifers, and associated ecosystems, CP 2.1 registered the following progress:

- Characterization and vulnerability mapping were completed in six countries (Albania, Montenegro, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia), providing the foundation for evidence-based land use planning and climate adaptation.
- National dialogues on conjunctive water management were launched in six countries, fostering multi-sectoral engagement and capacity building.
- Submarine Groundwater Discharge (SGD) assessments were conducted in seven countries, contributing to improved understanding of groundwater-sea interactions and the pressures affecting coastal ecosystems.
- Development of Coastal Aquifer Management Plans (CAMPs) for five priority aquifers is ongoing with strong stakeholder participation, advancing integrated, ecosystem-based management of shared water resources.

In terms of contribution to Program Objective, through regional harmonization, technical innovation, and strengthened institutional frameworks, Child Project 2.1 has:

- Operationalized the ICZM Protocol across multiple Mediterranean countries.
- Promoted evidence-based policy and planning for coastal zones and aquifers.
- Enhanced multi-level coordination among ministries, local authorities, and regional organizations.
- Fostered participatory, gender-responsive planning and increased stakeholder ownership of ICZM and coastal aquifer management processes.

Child Project 2.2 is registering significant progress at both regional and national levels in strengthening the enabling environment for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach within the Mediterranean region. The project has successfully advanced its dual objective of integrating the Nexus approach into coastal and water

management policy frameworks, and supporting the identification of practical interventions that deliver cross-sectoral benefits and strengthen resilience within the Mediterranean source-to-sea continuum.

Cumulatively, since inception, the project has established the institutional collaboration frameworks and technical tools required to mainstream the Nexus approach into national planning, policy dialogue, and project preparation. Progress achieved contributes directly to the broader program goal of promoting integrated natural resources management and sustainable coastal development under the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

At the regional level Child Project 2.2 achieved strong progress in advancing the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach across the Mediterranean has achieved the following:

- The draft Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy was finalized and is planned to be endorsed at the Barcelona Convention COP (Dec 2025) and Union for the Mediterranean Water Ministerial Meeting (Mar 2026)
- The integrated online Nexus training course

Key National Achievements include:

- Albania, Lebanon, and Morocco advanced institutional and operational frameworks for Nexus implementation including establishing Steering Committees for Policy Dialogues (SCPDs)
- Completion of Phase I and launch of Phase II Nexus Assessments. Phase II focuses, in Albania on cross-sectoral interventions in an irrigation reservoir, in Lebanon on food security and water/climate interactions across five basins, in Morocco on water/energy efficiency and agriculture in the Loukkos Basin.
- Demonstration activities on smart irrigation and on precision agriculture progressing in Tunisia and Lebanon.
- Preparation of project fiches for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing in Lebanon and Morocco

In terms of contribution to the MedProgramme Objective, CP 2.2 cumulative results since inception have created a solid foundation for scaling the WEFE Nexus approach regionally mostly through:

- Establishing a regional WEFE Nexus policy framework for integration into coastal and water governance;
- Strengthening institutional capacities and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms;
- Identifying bankable, cross-sectoral projects that operationalize the Nexus and support ICZM and climate adaptation objectives.

The SCCF project, which worked in close coordination with Child Project 2.1 and ended on 31 December 2024, has successfully mainstreamed climate adaptation into coastal planning in Morocco and Montenegro, strengthened regional knowledge and financing mechanisms, and produced tangible tools and methodologies for scaling adaptation actions across the Mediterranean. Activities applied innovative, participatory, and science-based approaches to assess and address climate risks in coastal zones, while promoting knowledge sharing, financing solutions, and regional cooperation across six Mediterranean countries. The project has exceeded expectations in regional coordination, capacity building, and catalytic partnerships for financing and policy integration thus contributing to Outcomes 4 and 5.

Key SCCF outputs include:

- Gender-sensitive climate risk assessments
- Implementation of the Climagine participatory foresight methodology
- Cost-benefit analyses and implementation timelines for identified adaptation options

- Training on nature-based and ecosystem-based Coastal Adaptation
- Adaptation measures identified integrated into the final ICZM Plans for the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region and the Boka Kotorska Bay
- Studies on legal, policy, and institutional barriers for implementing adaptation solutions in Morocco and Montenegro
- Guidelines Document on Financing Plans for Coastal Adaptation
- GCF Project Concept Note: “Sustainable Source-to-Sea Solutions for Mediterranean Coastal Resilience: Enhancing Blue Carbon Ecosystems and Water Adaptation Capacity”, supported by Morocco, Tunisia, Libya
- Regional assessment and capacity-building events for private sector engagement
- Report on “Coastal Risks and Good Practices for Adaptation in the Mediterranean”

In terms of Regional Impact, all six participating countries benefited from regional knowledge-sharing, including participation in trainings, consultations, climate adaptation finance assessments, enhancing capacity to integrate adaptation into coastal planning and investment frameworks.

Component 3. Protecting Marine Biodiversity

Since inception, MedProgramme Child Project 3.1 has made slow but strong progress toward strengthening Libya’s marine and coastal biodiversity protection framework. The project achieved about 73% of its targets, including finalizing the draft Law on Protected Areas, completing the national legal and institutional framework for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs), and launching the post-2020 National MCPA Strategy. A national inventory of 26 key conservation sites was completed, and the main features of three pilot MCPAs (Farwa Lagoon, Garah Island, Ain El-Ghezala) were assessed and characterized with broad stakeholder participation in view of developing inclusive management plans contributing to enhance climate resilience and livelihoods of coastal communities. Eight Libyan CSOs were trained and engaged in co-management, while awareness and visibility efforts helped raising national and regional awareness on the importance of protecting Libyan coastal and marine ecosystems. These cumulative results have laid the foundation for expanding seascapes under protection, improving management capacity, and ensuring participatory, science-based governance—contributing directly to Outcome 7 and the long-term resilience of Libya’s coastal and marine ecosystems.

Component 4. Knowledge Management and Programme Coordination

Due to delays linked to staff changes, MedProgramme Coordinating Child Project 4.1 has made discontinued progress in enhancing knowledge management, communication, and learning across the MedProgramme portfolio. The project is now well-positioned to consolidate its knowledge-sharing legacy, ensuring long-term impact through enhanced awareness, learning, and integration across Mediterranean countries and the global IW community, contributing to expand and multiply the impact of Child Project achievements and supporting the achievement of the multiple components of program objective.

Following the Mid-Term Review (MTR), the project successfully reorganized and accelerated implementation to ensure that lessons, tools, and innovations from all MedProgramme components are effectively captured, integrated, and disseminated. Major results include:

- Strengthened institutional and technical capacity, through the recruitment of highly qualified key experts.
- Establishment of a multi-partner Communications and Knowledge Management (KM) system, connecting GEF, UNEP, GRID Geneva, GRID Arendal, MIO-ECSDE, Info/RAC, and IW:Learn in a collaborative effort to enhance regional and global collaboration on information sharing and learning.

- The MedProgramme KM website and Platform, providing open access to data, tools, and lessons learned; supported by a KM Task Force and by training sessions in English and French to support partner engagement.
- Integration of MedProgramme case studies into international frameworks such as the UNECE Source-to-Sea Guidelines, showcasing global relevance and replication potential.
- Organization of 3 Annual Stock-Taking Meetings (ASM) with an evolving participatory format to showcase country achievements, programmatic synergies, and integration across themes and integrated dimensions such as the Blue Economy, Circular Economy, Climate Adaptation, and Sustainable Financing.
- Active participation in IW:LEARN events (IWC10) and initiatives to disseminate lessons, tools, and good practices from MedProgramme activities to the broader international water community.

Through these actions, CP 4.1 has significantly contributed to MedProgramme Outcome 8, by increasing the uptake of lessons and knowledge across the portfolio, improving the capacity of regional stakeholders to manage coastal and marine ecosystems, and fostering replication of successful policies and practices at both regional and global levels.

B. Progress on Cross-cutting Priorities

Gender integration and inclusion

From the outset of the project, a gender action plan was developed through a gender mainstreaming strategy and has been monitored by the MED PCU. The gender action plan was structured on 6 outcomes and 13 outputs. Indicators are obtained independently of Medprogramme's results framework. Specific actions have been defined for all child projects. The achievements of the Programme from its inception to September 2025 are listed in below:

Under outcome 1, gender issues in coastal zone and aquifers management and harmful chemicals as well as wastes in coastal hotspots were identified, 9 gender-sensitive assessments were conducted. Additional work is being carried out under CP 4.1 to achieve another indicator in this area, *the percentage of stakeholder consultations that are inclusive and gender-responsive for all CPs*.

Factors contributing to women's particular difficulties in redressing environmental imbalance addressed constitute the second outcome of the gender action plan. Seven project activities promoted gender equality and women's empowerment, and additional support is being provided by CP 4.1 to achieve the indicator. Outreach missions (to Tunisia, Egypt, and Lebanon in 2025) and consultations with local stakeholders, farmers, civil society organizations, and women leaders were conducted to make the assessments more comprehensive.

Capacity building is another outcome of the gender action plan. Under output 3.1, 32 project implementation staff were trained on gender in the chemicals and waste sector, and 25 women and men actively participated in the MedProgramme's Gender Community of Practice. 208 representatives from local organizations, NGOs, trade unions, workers' associations, and government bodies participated in and benefited from gender capacity building trainings, and 39 partnerships were established to promote gender equality and women empowerment. Capacity building activities continue in 2025 with two annual gender community of practice meetings, SCM meetings, and outreach missions. In addition, the first phase of chemicals and women-specific training was organized in Tunisia.

CP 4.1 supports child projects to achieve indicators of outcome 4, which is *gender equality and women's empowerment as a cornerstone of environmental management and governance*. Under outcome 5, 36 gender-sensitive strategic documents, policies, and plans for coastal zone management, marine spatial planning, and CVC adaptation were produced by the Child Projects.

GEF/UNEP communication, knowledge management, and publication materials on gender-transformative examples from the MedProgramme constitute outcome 6 of the gender action plan. 14 GEF/UNEP communication, knowledge management, and publication materials on gender-transformative examples were produced under the Med Programme. CP 4.1 continues its support in this regard. A 3-minute gender video is currently being prepared under the project. In addition, two women's stories have been prepared for publication.

Furthermore, a gender communication plan, a gender stakeholder engagement plan, and a gap analysis report have been prepared under CP 4.1. The publication of the updated gender strategy (2025-2026) and monitoring and evaluation mechanism is targeted for November 30. The submittal version of the annual gender report covering all years is planned to be ready for the end of 2025.

Furthermore, CP 4.1 gender activities have been promoted through Circular Gaia 2025, the MIO Regional Forum in Egypt, UNEP MAP EU projects, and UNEP newsletters.

Stakeholder engagement

Engagement of national and local stakeholders remains a core delivery mechanism. All Child Projects established national multi-stakeholder coordination structures involving national focal points, ministries, civil society organisations,

academia, civil society organisations and private operators. CP 1.1 and 1.2 maintained coordination with environmental authorities, wastewater agencies, and port authorities in nine countries. CP 1.3 supports the first regional EBRD Green City Action Plan and dedicated Gender Action Plan development in Guelmim-Oued Noun Region in Morocco and have been carrying out regional stakeholder engagement activities and meetings. Additionally, all EBRD investments that benefit from GEF investment grants are subject to EBRD's Environmental and Social (E&S) Policy and respective E&S Requirements (ESR) of which ESR 10 is on Stakeholder Engagement. Therefore all investment Projects have dedicated Project-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP). CP 2.1 and 2.2 expanded cooperation with local authorities, local councils, research institutes and water-user associations.

Regional events such as MedProgramme Stakeholder Forums in Tunisia and Egypt in September and October 2025 respectively, the WEFE Nexus Roundtables, and the ICZM and Aquifer-Management Consultations improved ownership and policy dialogue. Stakeholder Mapping was documented in September 2025 and further developed after the stakeholder Regional events such as MedProgramme Stakeholder Forums in Tunisia and Egypt in September and October 2025 respectively, the WEFE Nexus Roundtables, and the ICZM and Aquifer-Management Consultations improved ownership and policy dialogue. Stakeholder Mapping was documented in September 2025 and further developed after the stakeholder engagement activities. Stakeholder involvement at project level exceeds 70 percent of planned engagements, with broad representation of women and youth in consultation processes.

Private sector engagement,

Private-sector participation is pursued mainly through investment facilitation and technology-transfer components. CP 1.2 and 1.3 (EIB/EBRD) engage industrial and municipal utilities in wastewater-treatment investments (incl. under EBRD's CP 1.3 wastewater recycling and reuse as climate adaptation measure and also reduction/removal of new POPs in industrial wastewater systems through process modification or advanced treatment systems) and sludge-management solutions. CP 2.2 promotes private-sector dialogue through the WEFE Nexus Platform, encouraging resource-efficiency measures in agriculture and energy. SCCF promoted private sector investments in coastal adaptation measures. Private-sector partners also participated in knowledge-exchange events on circular-economy practices organised by MedWaves under CP 1.1.

Engagement remains moderate, reflecting the preparatory stage of investment activities, but provides a foundation for scaling up once demonstration projects are operational.

Knowledge management

The MedProgramme strengthened portfolio-wide knowledge flow and visibility through Child Project 4.1. The Knowledge Management Platform (KMP) was launched first in March 2023 and then in June 2025, accompanied by four bilingual trainings (EN/FR) for partners on content upload and use. The KM Task Force was reconvened and partially expanded to include national representatives. Consultations with stakeholders and a subsequent vote on proposed themes resulted in the adoption of the umbrella theme *"One Sea, Many Solutions"* for the final phase of the Programme, reinforcing ownership and commitment to its integrated approach. The KM Task Force continues to provide guidance on populating the platform and ensuring coherence of the Programme narrative in the later part of the year through consultations conducted with stakeholders during the field visits.

Data publication and the development of visualization tools are under way, with close to 50 pieces of content uploaded and 121 data points already available to users on the platform. The KMP serves as the central reference space for all child projects, supporting systematic documentation, exchange, and dissemination of results and lessons. Each project aligns its knowledge-management activities with CP 4.1 services, including participation in IW:LEARN and other regional knowledge networks.

Besides trainings on platform use, capacity-building activities supported these efforts through several focused trainings, including sessions for Info/RAC, the future KMP coordinator, on MAPEX and Story Maps to strengthen the use of digital tools and enhance visibility of Programme results.

Programme communication outputs expanded significantly during the last year. Six news stories were published through IW:LEARN and UNEP social media channels. Two animated videos, one event compilation video, and a full set of visuals were produced for the 3rd Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM), alongside a video highlighting the agricultural producer project in Tunisia. Material was also recorded for editing into other multi-media material to promote Programme results. The MedProgramme IW Specialist participated in a Tunisia regional radio show to promote MedProgramme values and achievements. Programme materials supported two BRS COP side events, and four story

pitches were prepared for regional media, including a targeted Source-to-Sea feature. These materials were distributed through Programme and partner networks, reaching broad audiences across the Mediterranean. The ASM convened over 60 stakeholders from 10 partner countries, demonstrating integration and learning across components and feeding case studies into regional policy processes.

Against the CP 4.1 Results Framework, verified progress stands as follows: experience notes and scientific publications are at approximately 50 percent of target (five of ten completed); awareness-raising tools are at approximately 40 percent (two of five delivered); and the programme monitoring system is operational, producing consolidated reports with full integration expected by mid-2026.

Overall, tangible results include the launch of the KMP, production of knowledge and media materials, strengthened communication outreach, and enhanced collaboration with GRID-Geneva and Info/RAC. These achievements underpin Outcomes 8 and 9 of the Programme, advancing knowledge generation, uptake, and coordinated reporting across the Mediterranean.

Capacity building

In 2025, five trainings were organized under the MedProgramme to strengthen knowledge management and communication capacities. Two bilingual sessions (EN/FR) were delivered for approximately 45 participants from child projects, Regional Activity Centers (RACs), and partner institutions, focusing on content upload, dataset management, and effective use of the Knowledge Management Platform (KMP). Separately, Info/RAC, the future KMP coordinator, and relevant UNEP staff received specialized training on MAPEX, Supersets, and Story Maps to ensure optimal use of KMP tools and to enhance the visibility and outreach of Programme results.

As part of the 3rd Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM 2025), a dedicated training session for journalists and youth representatives was also organized, attended by approximately 20 participants. The session focused on effective environmental communication, media engagement, and the role of youth in promoting Mediterranean sustainability. These activities strengthened the overall capacity of partners and stakeholders to use digital tools, manage data, and communicate Programme achievements more effectively.

C. Contribution to the Levers for Change

This section is specific to GEF-7 Impact Programs and GEF-8 Integrated Programs.

Progress achieved by the MedProgramme across following four transformation levers underpins the Programme's systemic impact.

1. Governance and Policies — Strengthening Integrated Frameworks

- Regional alignment: Updated National Action Plans (NAPs) and Pollution Hotspot Inventories under CP 1.1 & 1.2 directly support Contracting Parties' compliance with LBS and ICZM Protocols.
- Transboundary cooperation: CP 2.1 Buna Bojana Coastal Aquifer governance frameworks building groundwater diplomacy and shared resource management.
- ICZM and climate change adaptation: CP 2.1 and SCCF applied the *Climagine* participatory approach in Montenegro, and Morocco, to assess coastal risks and identify and embed climate change adaptation measures in coastal planning.
- MAP system coherence: The MedProgramme has aligned activities under a unified policy umbrella, feeding evidence and methodologies into Barcelona Convention COP 24 decisions on pollution, water management, biodiversity and ICZM.

- Cross-sectoral linkages: Engagement with ministries of environment, agriculture, energy, water and finance under WEFE Nexus dialogues and WEFE NEXUS Steering Committees is institutionalising a land–sea integration perspective
- Implementing the MAP Data Policy: reinforcing the regional mechanism governing environmental information management
- Libyan nature protection law and national Committee: reinforcing the governance of protected areas

2. Innovation and Learning — Scaling Knowledge and Tools

- Knowledge management platform: CP 4.1 launched the MedProgramme Knowledge Platform featuring among others, 126 interactive maps, the *Replication Atlas*, and thematic “learning fiches”.
- Data innovation: pilot studies supporting evidence-based elaboration of coastal zone management plans, nexus recommendations and strategies, coastal aquifer management plans, marine protected areas management plans.
- Capacity building: Over 2 000 practitioners trained through local and regional trainings and e-learning, creating a community of practice across 30+ institutions.
- Science-policy interface: results feed into updated TDA and MAP work plan 2026-2027 ensuring that lessons inform regional policy and action.

3. Financial Leverage — Catalysing Investment for Sustainability

- Resource mobilisation: Over USD 708 million in co-financing leveraged across national and regional partners is foreseen.
- Public–private innovation: CP 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 & SCCF piloted partnerships for hazardous-waste management, waste water treatment plant upgrade, wastewater recycling and reuse, reduction/removal of new POPs in industrial wastewater systems through process modification or advanced treatment systems, regional EBRD Green City Action Plan, ICZM management plans, climate change adaptation, WEFE NEXUS, MPAs and eco-tourism, engaging EIB/EBRD, local associations and local investors.
- Replication pipelines: Tunisia, Egypt; Lebanon and Montenegro are preparing national Replication Atlases identifying investment priorities for scaling through domestic and donor budgets.
- Project pipeline & beyond: Consultations with EU, FAO, UNDRR, OSS, and GWP-Med are defining new resource-mobilisation pathways—linking forest, land, and coastal resilience including through the emerging Mediterranean Forest Initiative (MFI).

4. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue — Driving Inclusion and Collective Action

- Interinstitutional, multisectoral and multilevel coordination mechanisms were activated in Morocco, Montenegro, Lebanon, Tunisia to facilitate MedProgramme coordinated implementation and outreach at the national level and the promotion and implementation of integrated approaches
- Regional convening power: Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) as part of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention network including its regional Activity Centers provide multistakeholder platform for uptake of the MedProgramme outputs.
- Mediterranean Stakeholder Forum (Cairo 2025) and national outreach missions (Tunisia, Morocco, Montenegro, Egypt, Lebanon) showcased integrated delivery among governments, agencies, and civil society.
- Youth and civil-society engagement: Collaboration with the [MIO-ECSDE | Mediterranean Information Office for Environment ...](#)
- COMPSUD, UfM Youth, and NGO networks mainstreamed youth, women, and community voices in national replication processes.
- South–South cooperation: Knowledge exchanges with Sahel and Atlantic initiatives extended the *Source-to-Sea* and WEF E Nexus approach beyond the Mediterranean basin.
- Visibility and communication: A joint UNEP/MAP–GEF visibility strategy amplified outreach through digital campaigns, events, and media—positioning the MedProgramme as a flagship of regional integration.

D. Partnerships and Trends

This section is specific to GEF-7 Impact Programs and GEF-8 Integrated Programs.

1. Collaborative Architecture and Synergy Framework

From its inception, the **GEF-funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme)** was designed as a **multi-agency partnership platform**, working to strengthen the Barcelona Convention/UNEP/MAP network including its Regional Activity centers (RACs), and bringing together UNESCO-IHP, EBRD, EIB, GWP-Med, WWF-Med, IUCN, and regional/national institutions under one integrated umbrella.

This architecture has allowed the MedProgramme to:

- **Bridge global and regional mandates** by translating the **GEF's International Waters, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Chemicals and Waste focal areas** into the **Barcelona Convention's regional commitments**;
- **Leverage technical excellence** from specialized partners (UNESCO on aquifers, GWP-Med on WEF E Nexus and transboundary governance, EIB/EBRD on sustainable financing, IUCN and WWF-Med on biodiversity and ecosystem restoration);
- **Strengthen coherence** across the four focal areas—pollution reduction, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable water management—turning siloed interventions into interconnected solutions;
- **Act as a replicable model** for other Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) partnerships worldwide (e.g., Benguela Current, Canary Current, or Black Sea).

2. Programmatic Synergies and Joint Action

The Programme's synergy mechanisms have matured into practical collaboration across the Child Projects:

- **Pollution Control and Circular Economy (CP 1.1 & 1.2 & 1.3):** Joint work with **UNEP/MAP MED POL, EBRD, EIB, and national environment ministries** have advanced PCB disposal, new POPs identification and management, mercury phase-out, wastewater treatment/recycling, and circular economy pilots aligned with the **Basel, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions**

- **Coastal Governance and ICZM (CP 2.1):** The **Climagine** methodology—co-developed with Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC—has become a shared participatory tool replicated in multiple countries, demonstrating integration across agencies and with **EU WES** and **Interreg Med** initiatives.
- **Transboundary Groundwater and Nexus (CP 2.1 & 2.2):** Coordinated by **UNESCO-IHP**, and **GWP-Med**, these projects have fostered dialogue platforms linking Balkan, North African, Sahelian, and Mediterranean states—an unprecedented water diplomacy effort bridging regions.
- **Marine Biodiversity and MPAs (CP 3.1):** Collaboration with **IUCN Med**, **WWF Med**, and **SPA/RAC** has improved governance of marine protected areas and piloted blue-finance models for eco-tourism and private-sector engagement.
- **Knowledge and Communication (CP 4.1):** The MedProgramme **Knowledge Platform**, **Replication Atlas**, and synergy dashboard operationalize collaboration among all partners—ensuring visibility, replication, and policy feedback into the MAP system and beyond.

3. Strategic Themes and Global Alignment

This architecture enables:

- **Cross-fertilisation of mandates** between global conventions (Basel, Stockholm, Minamata) and regional instruments (LBS, ICZM, SPA, Offshore, and Climate Adaptation Protocols).
- **Vertical integration** from regional policy to national implementation through targeted capacity-building and investment pipelines.
- **Horizontal integration** among GEF Agencies, Regional Activity Centres, and financial partners, ensuring coherence and complementarity of action.

The MedProgramme’s progress directly contributes to **global transformation trends and policy agendas**, including:

- **UN 2030 Agenda & SDGs:** Supports SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) through integrated ecosystem-based management, SDG 12, SDG 17 (Partnership).
- **UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029:** Demonstrates UNEP’s “systems transformation” pillars—**climate stability, nature positive, pollution free**—across land–sea interfaces.
- **GEF-8 Integrated Frameworks:** Anticipates the **GEF’s Source-to-Sea and Nexus approaches**, showcasing how integrated investments can scale up to multi-focal system transformation.
- **EU Green Deal & EU-UNEP Cooperation Framework:** Advances alignment with the **EU Mediterranean Strategy, Forest Strategy 2030, and Biodiversity Strategy 2030**, reinforcing circular economy, nature restoration, and blue economy synergies.
- **Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):** The Programme’s work on MPAs, ICZM, and marine litter directly supports **Targets 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8** on spatial planning, restoration, and pollution reduction.
- **UN Water and Climate Agendas:** National dialogues on conjunctive management of surface and ground water and WEFE Nexus pilots contribute to **UN Water Action Decade** commitments and the outcomes of the **UN 2023 Water Conference** and **COP 28/COP 29** adaptation discussions.

Global / Regional Framework	MedProgramme Contribution
UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs 6, 13, 14, 15)	Integrated land–sea management, pollution reduction, and biodiversity restoration
UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029	Operationalizing “systems transformation” for a climate-stable, nature-positive, pollution-free Mediterranean
GEF-8 Integrated Frameworks	Demonstrating Source-to-Sea, WEFE Nexus, and circular-economy linkages

EU Green Deal & EU–UNEP MoU Annex	Co-creation of governance and behavioral-change tools (e.g. joint Forum with EU WES BCA)
Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	Implementation of Targets 1–3 & 7 on planning, restoration, and pollution control
UN Water & Climate Agendas	Transboundary aquifer dialogues contributing to UN Water Action Decade outcomes

III IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

A. Challenges and Adaptive Management

1. Implementation Challenges & Strategic Deviations

1.1 Programme-level constraints

Across the portfolio, several systemic challenges affected implementation pace and delivery:

- **Compressed effective implementation period** due to protracted start-up, delayed legal and administrative arrangements, and COVID-related delays, leaving a shorter window (2021–2025/26) for ambitious, interconnected multi-country targets.
- **Complex architecture** (8+ Child Projects, multiple GEF Agencies, >30 partners) requiring intensive coordination for joint missions, combined work plans, data harmonisation, reporting, and communication.
- **Political and security instability** in parts of the region, affecting field activities, stakeholder access, and replication in selected hotspots and MPAs.
- **Procurement and recruitment bottlenecks**, particularly for technical studies, web platforms, and specialist expertise (especially on CP 4.1.).
- **Data availability and alignment issues**, including baselines not fully defined at inception, inconsistent result and indicator frameworks, fragmented monitoring systems, and challenges in harmonising reporting modalities across agencies.

These constraints led to **selective re-prioritisation**, with the MedPCU and partners focusing on: (i) high-leverage pilots; (ii) replication/scale-up processes with clear government ownership; and (iii) integration “products” (Replication Atlases, forums, joint missions) that maximise value across Child Projects.

2. Child Projects Facing Challenges / At-Risk Elements

Below **non-exhaustive highlight-style summary** of where risks to full achievement have emerged

1. Pollution & POPs/Hazardous Waste (e.g. CP 1.1)

- Issues:** Slow procurement, regulatory hurdles for PCB/mercury disposal, delays in infrastructure/contracting.
- Risk:** Full quantitative disposal targets may not be reached in all countries within the current timeframe.
- Mitigation:** Prioritisation of “ready” facilities and contracts; strengthened coordination with national focal points and IFIs; focus on demonstrable risk reduction plus pipeline for post-project investments.

2. ICZM & WEFE NEXUS & Demonstration Sites (e.g. CP 2.1)

- Issues:** differences in national coastal zone management frameworks; limited alignment with the ICZM protocol.

- b. **Risk:** Some spatial/management plans may remain at advanced draft or pilot stage.
- c. **Mitigation:** Strategic pivot to securing **political endorsements**, embedding methodologies (Climagine, land use planning tools) in institutions, and documenting replicable models for uptake under future funding.

3. Transboundary Aquifers & WEFE Nexus (e.g. CP 2.2 / 2.3)

- a. **Issues:** Complex national frameworks; data sensitivity; slower consensus-building than planned.
- b. **Risk:** Risks around finalisation of fully-fledged legal/institutional frameworks within project life.
- c. **Mitigation:** Focus on **platforms, diagnostics, dialogue roadmaps**, and draft cooperation arrangements; position outputs as stepping-stones feeding GEF-8/9 and other regional processes.

4. MPAs & Biodiversity (e.g. CP 3.1)

- a. **Issues:** Political instability at national level and conflicting interests in some sites, limited domestic resourcing, slow endorsement of new legal framework.
- b. **Risk:** Some area/management effectiveness targets at risk.
- c. **Mitigation:** Concentration on sites with strong political traction; integration with tourism/blue-finance pilots; stronger link to GBF targets and national biodiversity strategies.

5. Knowledge Management & Communication (CP 4.1)

- a. **Issues (per MTR):** Late and fragmented KM delivery; insufficient integration of Child Project outputs; underutilised knowledge platform; limited visibility of MedProgramme as “one programme”.
- b. **Risk:** Failure to fully capitalise on knowledge, replication and integration potential.
- c. **Mitigation & Turnaround:** See Section 5 below.

3. Co-Financing & Baseline Changes

Key issues, trends:

- **Delays in materialising some national co-financing** linked to non formalised administrative procedures.
- **Positive / neutral adjustments** where:
 - o EU and bilateral programmes (e.g. EU WES, ENI/NDICI, regional water and waste initiatives) effectively **reinforce MedProgramme baselines**, even if not always counted as formal co-financing at endorsement.
 - o International financial institutions maintain interest in MedProgramme-derived pipelines (pollution control, circular economy, coastal resilience), anchoring future investment prospects.
- **Strategic implication:** While some **headline co-financing ratios may be revised downwards or re-profiled**, the **qualitative baseline has strengthened**, with more robust policy frameworks, investment concepts, and replication pathways than initially defined.

4. Risk Update & Management (Drawing from MTRs, ASM recommendations and turnaround strategy)

Main risk areas and how they are being managed:

1. Complexity & Coordination Risk

- a. **Risk:** Fragmentation, overlaps, weak visibility of a “single” MedProgramme.
- b. **Response:** Stronger MedPCU convening role; joint missions; integrated communication strategy; Replication Atlas and synergy mapping; clearer guidance on branding and cross-referencing across Child Projects.

2. Time & Delivery Risk

- a. **Risk:** Insufficient time to complete all pilots/targets.

- b. *Response:* Prioritisation of mature activities; focused technical support; fast-tracking of critical contracts; seeking no-cost extensions where justified; documenting partial but scalable successes.

3. Political/Institutional Instability

- a. *Risk:* Disruptions in specific countries/sites.
- b. *Response:* Flexible geographic focus; reliance on regional mechanisms (UNEP/MAP, RACs); designing outputs that remain useful beyond political cycles (guidelines, frameworks, atlases).

4. Financial & Economic Risk

- a. *Risk:* Reduced fiscal space for environment; inflation and cost overruns.
- b. *Response:* Emphasis on leverage through IFIs, EU programmes, and upcoming GEF-8/9; positioning MedProgramme outputs as justification tools for additional finance.

5. Knowledge & Communication Risk (CP 4.1)

- a. *Risk:* Under-delivery would weaken replication & integration legacy.
- b. *Response:* *Turnaround strategy: strengthened management, clearer workplan, direct MedPCU oversight, integration of CP outputs into a single platform and narrative.*

B. Proposed Actions

5. Results Framework Adjustments & CP 4.1 Turnaround Strategy

5.1 Adjustments to the Results Framework

Targeted adjustments were made to better monitor achievement of results and align with MTR findings. Typical adjustments include:

- **Refining indicators** from Outputs to:
 - o Indicators already measured in the framework of national and regional environmental reporting frameworks, more relevant with expected Outcomes, **country-specific or pilot-specific indicators**; and
 - o clearer “**evidence of uptake/replication**” metrics (policies endorsed, tools institutionalised, investments prepared).
- **Re-sequencing milestones** to emphasise:
 - o completion of core pilots;
 - o delivery of knowledge products (Replication Atlas, guidance, platforms);
 - o and convening of key regional events (e.g. Cairo Forum, final ASM) as formal milestones of integration and learning.
- **Explicitly integrating cross-cutting themes** (integration, gender, youth, climate change, Source-to-Sea) into the indicator framework, reflecting how the programme has evolved in practice.

These changes were formalised following MTR recommendations and MedPCU consultations, and communicated through updated result frameworks and workplans.

5.2 How the MedPCU addressed the MTR of CP 4.1

The **MTR of CP 4.1** identified fragmentation, delays, and under-leveraged KM as critical issues. The **MedPCU Turnaround Strategy & Operational Plan** responded with concrete measures, including:

1. Strengthened Governance & Oversight

- a. Clarified roles and responsibilities between MedPCU, CP 4.1 team, and RACs.

- b. Introduced **tighter planning and reporting cycles**, with clear deliverable calendars linked to programme-wide priorities (ASM, COPs, major forums).

2. Re-focusing on High-Value KM Outputs

- a. Prioritised:
 - i. the **MedProgramme Knowledge Platform** as the single entry point;
 - ii. the **Replication Atlas** as flagship integration product;
 - iii. concise “**learning fiches**” and **synergy/replication maps** for decision-makers.
- b. Dropped or streamlined lower-impact activities to avoid dilution.

3. Integration Across Child Projects

- a. Systematic harvesting of outputs from all CPs (pollution, ICZM, aquifers, MPAs, WEFE Nexus) into:
 - i. cross-cutting stories,
 - ii. and region-wide guidance notes.
- b. Ensured each Child Project is visibly part of “one MedProgramme” through harmonised branding and shared narratives.

4. Support to Outreach & Behaviour-Change Agendas

- a. Mobilised CP 4.1 to co-design key events such as the **Regional Forum “Making the Behavioural Shift Happen” (Cairo, Oct 2025)** and national outreach missions.
- b. Positioned KM/communication as an **enabler for multi-stakeholder dialogue**, not just as stand-alone outputs.

5. Monitoring, Learning & Adaptive Management

- a. Established a lean **turnaround monitoring matrix** tracking:
 - i. delivery of key KM products,
 - ii. usage of the platform,
 - iii. integration of MedProgramme messages in regional fora.
- b. Used this evidence to adjust priorities in real time and to feed back into the programme’s overall results framework.

Result: CP 4.1 has shifted from a “lagging, fragmented” component to a **central driver of integration, replication, and visibility**, directly addressing MTR concerns and securing the MedProgramme’s legacy.

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C. Child Project Implementation Progress

GEF ID - Project Name	Country	Agency	Rating (IP DO)	Financing	Disbursed	CEO Endrst. Date	MTR date	Completion Date	Expected Completion Date	TE Date
10158 - Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya.	Libya	UNEP	MS MS	1,500,000.00	1,326,147.00	08/27/2020			04/30/2026	
9684 - Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts	Türkiye, Albania, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria	UNEP	MS MS	15,532,500.00	11,988,319.00	01/22/2020	08/30/2024		03/31/2026	
9685 - Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Food-Energy and Ecosystems NEXUS	Albania, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon	UNEP	S S	3,815,000.00	3,395,000.00	10/01/2019			03/31/2026	
9686 - Mediterranean Sea Basin Environment and Climate Regional Support Project	Algeria, Albania, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon	UNEP	MS MS	2,725,000.00	1,114,756.00	01/24/2020	09/01/2024		03/31/2026	
9687 - Mediterranean Coastal Zones Climate Resilience Water Security and Habitat Protection	Algeria, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia	UNEP	MS S	7,630,000.00	6,650,680.00	01/24/2020			03/31/2026	
9691 - Financing Advanced Environmental Technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Region for Water Systems and Clean Coasts (EnviTeCC)	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Türkiye	EBRD	S S	9,537,500.00	779,425.00	12/12/2019			12/31/2027	

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9717 - Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project	Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Albania, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia	UNEP	MS MS	5,450,000.00	4,537,092.00	02/12/2020			06/30/2027	
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Note: The rating scale for the Implementation Progress (IP) and Development Objective (DO) ratings is: Highly Satisfactory **(HS)**, Satisfactory **(S)**, Moderately Satisfactory **(MS)**, Moderately Unsatisfactory **(MU)**, Unsatisfactory **(U)**, Highly Unsatisfactory **(HU)** and Not Rated **(NR)**.

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D. Program Results

Indicator Name (Unit of measure)	Latest value (Actual)	Closing target (Expected)
2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management (Hectares)	2,500	33,824
2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness (Hectares)	2,500	33,824
4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (Hectares)	12,500,000	12,500,000
4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Hectares)	-	12,500,000
4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (Hectares)	12,500,000	-
5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia (Number)	-	1
7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (Rating)	1	1
7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (Rating)	2	4
7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (Rating)	1	4
7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (Rating)	1	1
7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products (Rating)	1	1
9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (Metric Tons)	3,300	3,300
9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type) (Metric Tons)	3,300	3,250
9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (Metric Tons)	-	50
9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Number)	1	3
9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Number)	-	3
9.6 POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided (Metric Tons)	-	650
11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (Number)	8,200	170,400
11.1 Female (Number)	4,100	82,200
11.2 Male (Number)	4,100	88,200

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E. Program Co-financing

Co-financing Type	Latest amount disbursed (Actual)	Closing target (Expected)
In-kind	13,691,711.00	246,174,760.00
Grant	0.00	1,600,000.00
Loan	0.00	609,000,000.00
Total	13,691,711.00	856,774,760.00

Co-financing Source	Latest amount disbursed (Actual)	Closing target (Expected)
Other	4,512,637.00	19,972,722.00
Donor Agency	0.00	524,908,871.00
Civil Society Organization	0.00	1,284,000.00
Recipient Country Government	9,179,074.00	219,770,589.00
GEF Agency	0.00	90,838,578.00
Total	13,691,711.00	856,774,760.00

ANNEXES

A. Results Framework

Component	Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Component 1: Reduction of Land Based Pollution In Priority Coastal Hotspots, and measuring progress to impacts	Outcome 1. In coastal hot spots and catchment areas, measurable reduction of harmful chemicals and wastes (POPs, Mercury) and of excess nutrients impacting human health and coastal habitats, achieved	1.1 Amount and type of POPs eliminated or reduced.	3,346 tonnes inventoried during PPG	Reduction and disposal of 2,650 tonnes of POPs (2000 tonnes of PCB and 650 tonnes of new POPs) (CP 1.1) 1,250 tons of POPs eliminated or prevented (CP 1.3)
		1.2 Amount of mercury reduced and disposed.	84.7 tonnes of mercury waste inventoried during PPG	Reduction and disposal of 50 tonnes of mercury
		1.3 WWTP extension and upgrade including treated wastewater	No baseline available	- At least 4 WWTP built or rehabilitated. - At least 150,000 m3/d of additional waste

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		reuse/reinjection and depollution of catchment areas in priority coastal hotspots.		water treated to secondary level. - At least 20,000 m3/d of additional treated wastewater reused. - At least 20,000 m3/d of additional sludge digested. - Risk reduction in at least two coastal hotspots
		1.4 Common regional standards on wastewater and sludge management and reuse, developed	No common regional standard available	Common regional standards on waste water and sludge management and reuse prepared as an input for the deliberation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
	Outcome 2. Private/public investments enable pollution reduction in priority coastal and catchments areas through the improvement of water and waste water management systems and the introduction of modern and efficient technologies and practices	2.1 Additional private/public wastewater systems discharging directly or indirectly into coastal hotspots upgraded	No baseline available	At least three private/public wastewater systems discharging directly or indirectly into coastal hotspots upgraded
		2.2 Additional m3 of water recycled per year in private/public systems	No baseline available	At least 1.5 million m3 of water recycled per year in private/public systems.
		2.3 Additional m3 of wastewater treated per year in private/public systems	No baseline available	At least 3.5 million m3 of additional wastewater treated per year in private/public systems
	Outcome 3. Littoral countries enabled to identify trends and progress to impacts	3.1 Updated baseline (TDA), including gender assessment.	2005 TDA	Baseline TDA is updated by the end of the programme
		3.2 Report on progress to impacts.	No progress to impact report available	By the end of the Programme, report on progress to impacts and on the achievement of relevant SDGs
		3.3 Number of additional sites for offshore stations.	No sites for offshore stations defined	Definition of minimum 20 locations for offshore reference monitoring stations.
		3.4 Proposal for a data sharing regional policy, developed.	No regional data sharing policy available	Data sharing regional policy prepared as an input for the

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				deliberation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
Component 2. Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Coastal Zone	Outcome 4: Coastal zone sustainability enhanced through the adoption of comprehensive national ICZM strategies, coastal plans and instruments, and the introduction of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) technical, regulatory, economic and market-oriented measures and improving gender equality	4.1 Number of hectares of landscapes and seascapes under improved management.	No baseline available	At least 12,500,000 hectares under improved management of landscapes and seascapes
		4.2 Number of countries implementing comprehensive ICZM and SCP approaches, including Coastal Zone Use-Capability mapping.	3 countries not implementing ICZM strategies, plans and approaches	At least 3 countries implementing ICZM strategies, plans and approaches.
		4.3 Number of persons, reflecting gender balance, trained on integrated approaches, ICZM, MSP, and adaptation to climate variability and change.	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 300 persons trained, reflecting gender, on ICZM, MSP and CVC adaptation
		4.4 Number of persons, involved in awareness raising activities	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 1,000 persons involved in awareness raising activities on coastal resilience and sustainability
	Outcome 5 Increased resilience to climatic variability and change, and enhanced water security of coastal populations through improved sustainability of services provided by coastal aquifers and by groundwater related coastal habitats	5.1 Number of priority coastal aquifers and related habitats under improved conjunctive surface and groundwater management.	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 5 priority coastal aquifers and related habitats under improved conjunctive surface and groundwater management
		5.2 Number of countries where nation-wide dialogue on conjunctive surface and groundwater management solutions have been initiated	No nation-wide dialogues on conjunctive surface and groundwater management in 6 countries	At least 3 countries have initiated nation-wide dialogues on conjunctive surface and groundwater management solutions
		5.3 Number of national inventories of submarine groundwater discharges (SGD)	No SGD inventory available in the 8 countries. It is an output	All countries complete SGD inventory

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	Outcome 6: Balancing of competing water uses improved through water, food, energy and ecosystems integrated governance	6.1 Number of priority coastal areas that develop Nexus assessments and endorse a Nexus Strategy/ Action Plan.	No priority coastal areas have a Nexus Strategy / Action Plan. It is an output	At least 3 priority coastal areas have a Nexus Strategy / Action Plan
		6.2 Number or transboundary basins and aquifers in which cooperation is enhanced	No cooperation framework in the selected transboundary basin/aquifer	At least 1 transboundary basin/aquifer with enhanced cooperation framework
		6.3 Number of bankable projects for priority interventions and investments	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 3 fiches of projects for priority interventions and/or investments
Component 3. Protecting Marine Biodiversity	Outcome 7: Expansion of seascapes under protection in Libya, and improved protected area management through the implementation of the Libyan Marine Protected Areas (MPA) National Strategy, mapping of marine key habitats, monitoring of marine megafauna (mammals, seabirds, turtles and cartilaginous fishes), capacity support mechanisms and adoption of permanent solutions	7.1 Number of additional hectares of marine protected areas in Libya.	104,946 hectares	At least 2,500 additional hectares of marine areas under protection in Libya
		7.2 Number of additional marine protected areas in Libya having management plans	No MPA endowed with a management plan in Libya	At least 1 MPA endowed with a management plan in Libya
		7.3 Number of MPAs with developed strategies to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPAs	No MPA under sustainable management scheme in Libya	At least 1 MPA under sustainable management scheme
		7.4 Number of sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes.	No sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes	At least 2 sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes
		7.5 Number of monitoring networks of marine key habitats	No monitoring networks for marine key habitats	At least 2 monitoring networks for marine key habitats established
		7.6 Number of training sessions to Libyan nationals (reflecting gender balance) on MPA networks planning and management, marine key habitats mapping and marine megafauna monitoring	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 5 training sessions to Libyan nationals (reflecting gender balance) on MPA networks planning and management, marine key habitats mapping, and marine megafauna monitoring
Component 4. Knowledge	Outcome 8	8.1 Number of experience notes and scientific publications	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 10 experience notes and peer reviewed scientific

PROGRAM PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT (PPMR)

Management And Programme Coordination	The increased uptake of lessons and of cutting-edge knowledge generated across the portfolio of interventions, and the active participation to IW LEARN activities, Communities of Practice, and events, improve the capacity of key regional stakeholders, and of the global IW community to build climate resilience, maintain coastal resources, protect biodiversity, and restore coastal ecosystems. Emphasis will be placed on fostering uptake and replication at the regional level of successful policies, practices and technologies implemented under the Programme through ad hoc awareness raising activities and tools: videos, manuals, progress reports, a MedProgramme Bulletin, a “Replication Atlas” highlighting areas and situations where replication of the Programme’s demonstrations should preferentially occur. These tools will target decision makers and practitioners in the Programme countries, IFIs active in the region, the private sector, and regional cooperation entities.	documenting the knowledge generated across the portfolio of interventions.		publications documenting the knowledge generated across the portfolio of interventions
		8.2 Number of awareness raising communication tools at regional and global levels on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the Programme	It is an output, No baseline available	At least 5 awareness-raising tools aimed at the regional and global audiences produced
Outcome 9 The effective coordination and learning among all Child Projects,		9.1 Programme monitoring system successfully developed and	It is an output, No baseline available	Periodic reports (every six months) on the progress of the Programme as a whole, and of all child projects

PROGRAM PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT (PPMR)

consistency with the Programme objectives, and synergies among projects and partners, ensured.		periodically reporting (every six months) on the progress of the Programme as a whole, and of child projects		
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B. Uploaded document

Document Title

Report on rapid assessment of sites of conservation interest along the Libyan coastline

ICZM Plan Montenegro

ICZM Plan Morocco

Identifying success factors for integrated coastal zone management: Development of a regional coastal plan in Morocco
on smart agriculture in the Lithani river region in Lebanon

The WEFE NEXUS demonstration actions on precision irrigation in Ghar El Mehl in Tunisia

Infographic - BRS COP

Annual StockTacking Meeting

Source to Sea Cases

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