



## **Part I: Project Information**

### **GEF ID**

10725

### **Project Type**

FSP

### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

### **CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

### **Project Title**

Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME

### **Countries**

Regional, Georgia, Türkiye, Ukraine

### **Agency(ies)**

UNDP

### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

UNESCO-IOC

### **Executing Partner Type**

Others

### **GEF Focal Area**

International Waters

### **Sector**

### **Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Invasive Alien Species, International Waters, Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan Preparation, Pollution, Nutrient pollution from all sectors except

wastewater, Persistent toxic substances, Nutrient pollution from Wastewater, Learning, Large Marine Ecosystems, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Coastal, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

No Contribution 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Significant Objective 1

**Biodiversity**

**Land Degradation**

**Submission Date**

6/16/2023

**Expected Implementation Start**

6/18/2024

**Expected Completion Date**

6/18/2028

**Duration**

48In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

285,000.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
IW-1-1	Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities Sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems	GET	3,000,000.00	13,517,173.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,000,000.00</b>	<b>13,517,173.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project Objective**

Enhancing Marine and Coastal Protected Area national and regional management and adoption of Blue Economy approaches in the Black Sea to support long-term sustainable livelihoods derived from ecosystem services.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
--------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Ecosystem Based Management of coastal and marine habitats	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1: Reduced threats to coastal states marine ecosystems and services to improve ecosystem status and community livelihoods	<p>Output 1.1: Priority ecosystems sites and pressures mapped to guide MSPs, and to analyze gaps for MCPAs on priority habitat protection.</p> <p>Output 1.2: Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies in each project country available to guide EBM policy reforms.</p> <p>Output 1.3: Updated national databases in each project country to complement the Black Sea Information System (BSIS output 3.4) with new components on biological and socio-economic aspects.</p> <p>Output 1.4: National action</p>	GET	1,000,000.00	5,150,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p>strategies in each project country developed/agreed to further co-operate in synergy with relevant IMO and other projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations for BSC consideration and possible adoption.</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Strengthening regional environmental governance and knowledge	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2: Countries have strengthened political and legal commitments and capacity to implement the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols with increased effectiveness of the Permanent Secretariat	<p>Output 2.1: Updated basin analysis (TDA) leading to revised BS SAP, proposed for adoption by BSC.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonize approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc. endorsed by each project country and submitted to BSC for consideration and adoption.</p> <p>Output 2.3: Development and recommendation for consideration and possible adoption by BSC of regional indicator framework for EBM for annual reporting and relevant</p>	GET	1,002,640.00	4,700,000.00



Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
-------------------	----------------	-------------------	------------------	------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

components of  
BSIS.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Regional Co-ordination of interventions	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3:  Strengthened impacts from GEF and other partners and projects? activities	Output 3.1: Co-ordination mechanism established and functional with other projects in the Black Sea region, learning from other LME co-ordination mechanisms.  Output 3.2: Implementation of national/ regional capacity development programmes on EBM, building on best practices from e.g. Barcelona Convention.  Output 3.3: National and regional strategies and programmes to share information and experiences.  Output 3.4: Updated and enhanced web-based Black Sea Information System (BSIS) to facilitate	GET	551,503.00	1,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
-------------------	----------------	-------------------	------------------	------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

regional and national awareness raising (with new information from 1.3).

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Knowledge Management, communications and outreach	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4: Stakeholders enabled with improved information (lessons and benefits of the project) to sustain and replicate actions	<p>Output 4.1: Established IW:LEARN compliant website within existing BSC website.</p> <p>Output 4.2: Project stakeholder and gender strategies documented, implemented and shared across BS region.</p> <p>Output 4.3: Participation in regional and global GEF IW:LEARN activities.</p> <p>Output 4.4: Development of IW Experience Notes and other IW:LEARN related products and services.</p> <p>(1% of overall budget allocated to IW:LEARN</p>	GET	175,000.00	1,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			related activities).			
Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Technical Assistance	Outcome 5: M&E strategy guides project management to achieve delivery of project outputs	Output 5.1: Participatory monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented to facilitate adaptive project management, including independent Mid-term and Terminal evaluation.	GET	128,000.00	1,000,000.00
				<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>	<b>2,857,143.00</b>	<b>12,850,000.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
			GET	142,857.00		667,173.00
			<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>142,857.00</b>		<b>667,173.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>				<b>3,000,000.00</b>		<b>13,517,173.00</b>

Please provide justification

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Government of Georgia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,458,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of T?rkiye	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Ukraine	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Other	IOC-UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	56,462.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	550,000.00
Other	IOC-UNESCO	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,452,711.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>13,517,173.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

The IOC contribution is made up of in-kind support, primarily in terms of providing staff support to the project implementation, both from regular professional and administrative positions. Number of days dedicated to project support have been evaluated and calculated using standard UNESCO rates. The other part of the investment has been identified by matching on-going contributions from Govt of Norway and the European Commission to the IOC for supporting implementation of ecosystem-based approach through regional frameworks. NB: Whilst the co-financing identified at PIF has been exceeded, additional contributions have not been secured, as a consequence of the political situation in the region, and covid restrictions limiting new projects. The co-financing support from the three countries is detailed in their co-financing letters and will support the project achieve its objective by making available results from parallel projects relating to MPAs and through the anticipated support of government representatives at meetings (including steering committees) workshops etc. UNDP: is committed to co-finance the project kind from the UNDP Ocean Innovation Facility dedicated to identifying and financing a suite of pilot initiatives that demonstrate highly innovative approaches to ocean sustainability, cutting across most of the SDG14 targets and associated sustainability challenges. By providing seed financing, advice and guidance, technical, knowledge and networking support, the Facility is helping to remove key barriers by demonstrating approaches that can deliver transformational changes in ocean and ocean-relevant land-based resource management. The OIC Innovators targeting Marine Protected Area, Coastal Ecosystems, and non-fisheries Blue Economy will strongly contribute to the implementation of the Black Sea LME project by providing

knowledge, lesson learned and innovation. IOC: In kind support will support the project coordination, planning and implementation of relevant project activities, as well as administrative operations of the project by back stopping the project team with all required support. Mobilized investment through IOC initiatives in Marine spatial planning, sustainable ocean planning will help create technical capacities relevant to national and regional marine management processes. For example, the IOC technical resources developed through the MSPGlobal (EC funded) initiative will contribute to assessing existing marine management structures in the region, identify gaps and build recommendations for implementation of component 1 and 2 of the project. ----- NB: Whilst the co-financing identified at PIF has been exceeded, additional contributions have not been secured, as a consequence of the political situation in the region, and covid restrictions limiting new projects. The co-financing support from the three countries is detailed in their co-financing letters and will support the project achieve its objective by making available results from parallel projects relating to MPAs and through the anticipated support of government representatives at meetings (including steering committees) workshops etc. UNDP: is committed to co-finance the project kind from the UNDP Ocean Innovation Facility dedicated to identifying and financing a suite of pilot initiatives that demonstrate highly innovative approaches to ocean sustainability, cutting across most of the SDG14 targets and associated sustainability challenges. By providing seed financing, advice and guidance, technical, knowledge and networking support, the Facility is helping to remove key barriers by demonstrating approaches that can deliver transformational changes in ocean and ocean-relevant land-based resource management. The OIC Innovators targeting Marine Protected Area, Coastal Ecosystems, and non-fisheries Blue Economy will strongly contribute to the implementation of the Black Sea LME project by providing knowledge, lesson learned and innovation. IOC: In kind support will support the project coordination, planning and implementation of relevant project activities, as well as administrative operations of the project by back stopping the project team with all required support. Mobilized investment through IOC initiatives in Marine spatial planning, sustainable ocean planning will help create technical capacities relevant to national and regional marine management processes. For example, the IOC technical resources developed through the MSPGlobal (EC funded) initiative will contribute to assessing existing marine management structures in the region, identify gaps and build recommendations for implementation of component 1 and 2 of the project. The project team, the executing and implementing agencies will make all the possible efforts to secure additional co-financing during the inception phase and the first year of the project implementation. This additional co-financing will be reported as part of the PIR process. The project team, the executing and implementing agencies will make all the possible efforts to secure additional co-financing during the inception phase and the first year of the project implementation. This additional co-financing will be reported as part of the PIR process.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNDP	GE T	Regional	International Waters	NA	3,000,000	285,000	3,285,000.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>3,000,000.00</b>	<b>285,000.00</b>	<b>3,285,000.00</b>



**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

---

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

150,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

14,250

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	150,000	14,250	<b>164,250.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>14,250.00</b>	<b>164,250.00</b>

Please provide justification

Agency request to increase the PPG from \$100K to \$150K is based on the necessity to organize close consultations with the other two GEF agencies ? World Bank and FAO in order to agree on the joint actions, establishment of the coordination mechanism in the Black Sea region between the three GEF projects and extensive consultations between a number of stakeholders in the Black Sea.

**Core Indicators**

**Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management**

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
418,243.00	418,251.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created**

<b>Total Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<b>Name of the Protected Area</b>	<b>WDP A ID</b>	<b>IUCN Category</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------	-----------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

**Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness**

<b>Total Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
418,243.00	418,251.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDA ID	IUCN Category	Total Habitat (Expected at PIF)	Total Habitat (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Habitat (Achieved at MTR)	Total Habitat (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
<input type="checkbox"/> GE - Kolkheti	<input type="checkbox"/>		15,743.00	15,751.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> UA ? NW shelf	<input type="checkbox"/>		402,500.00	402,500.00					

**Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management**

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Shared water Ecosystem</b>	Black Sea	Black Sea		
<b>Count</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Black Sea	4	4		

**Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Black Sea	3	3		

**Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
Black Sea	3	3		

**Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
Black Sea	1	2		

**Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments**

	<b>Number (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at TE)</b>
<b>Female</b>	5,000	5,000		
<b>Male</b>	5,000	5,000		
<b>Total</b>	10000	10000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use. At the PIF stage, the actual size of the marine protected areas were identified in Georgia: Kolkheti area 15,743 ha and in Ukraine: North-west Shelf: 402,500 ha, on the basis of the national reporting to the Black Sea Commission on the Marine Protected Areas, with additional adjustment from Georgia. Core indicator 7: Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management. The Black Sea is considered as one shared marine water body. The TDA /SAP for the Black Sea is already formulated and partly under implementation. The Black Sea Commission and its Expert groups are in place to support the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, which is a legal framework for regional cooperation and the activities necessary to reduce pollution and enhance the protection of the marine environment. The National Ministries are represented in the Black Sea Commission. Core indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment. The number of direct beneficiaries estimated at PIF stage has been accepted by the countries.

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### **Brief project description:**

The Black Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) is a semi enclosed sea, connected to the world ocean only through narrow Istanbul and ?anakkale Straits, and to the shallow Sea of Azov by the Kerch Strait in the north. The LME covers a surface area of about 460,150 km<sup>2</sup>, including the Sea of Azov, of which 2.21% is protected. The north-western part of the Black Sea is shallow but in other places its waters reach a depth of more than 2,200 m. The Black Sea catchment area entirely or partly extends over 18 countries: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Russian Federation, T?rkiye, Ukraine -- about one third of the area of continental Europe and containing in excess of 160 million people. Every year, Europe?s largest rivers, (the Danube, Dnieper and Don) carry about 350 km<sup>3</sup> of river water into the Black Sea. As a consequence of its almost landlocked nature and lack of circulation in its deep waters, the Black Sea LME is particularly vulnerable to environmental stresses originating from human activities in the catchment area.

An important approach to address key issues identified is through the strengthening of designated or potential Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). It is well known that the reproduction of most living marine natural resources takes place in the coastal zones resulting from the ?edge-effect? where physicochemical and biological interactions are most intense at this interface between land and water. This zone suffers the highest human pressure because of urban expansion, transport, infrastructure development, exploitation of living and non-living resources and impacts from recreation areas. Around 15 million people live in the 2 km wide coastal zone of the Black Sea.

This UNESCO/UNDP/GEF Project is aimed to fill in the gaps and remove overlaps in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of living resources in the Black Sea in Georgia, T?rkiye and Ukraine. It will assist to three national governments, as well as to main regional players (Black Sea Commission, Black Sea Economic Commission, etc.) to revise and strengthen their commitments in the field of biodiversity and blue economy.

The overall long-term objective of the project ?Enhancing Marine and Coastal Protected Area national and regional management and adoption of Blue Economy approaches in the Black Sea to support long-term sustainable livelihoods derived from ecosystem services? will be delivered through achieving four main outcomes and interlined components.

It is planned that, as a result of project implementation, three national strategies and regional assessment in the field of MCPAs will be elaborated. The Project will also pioneer the creation of an MPAs network in the Black Sea and the formation of transboundary MPA between Black Sea coastal countries. Dedicated project activities will be concentrated on addressing invasive species, habitats

mapping, elaboration of biodiversity indicators, baselines and thresholds, and the updating of the 2009 Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.

The Project will exploit existing and new cooperative arrangements with other regional projects and partners including the European Union, UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, IMO, etc. This will enable the creation of synergies with other initiatives and transfer of best practices to stakeholders to the Black Sea region. The Project will also be implemented in close collaboration with two GEF projects, implemented by World Bank and FAO in the Black Sea region.

### **describe any changes in alignment with the project design with the original pif**

#### **Summary of changes since PIF**

? Ongoing conflict in Ukraine has impacted the baseline conditions, the ability to collect information and coordinate with authorities, some of Ukrainian MPAs are currently under occupation. Due to these political reasons, the co-financing foreseen by active partners during the PPG phase could not be secured. The project team, the executing and implementing agencies will make all the possible efforts to secure additional co-financing during the inception phase and the first year of the project implementation. This additional co-financing will be reported as part of the PIR process.

? Component 4 (addressing knowledge management, communications and M&E) has been split to create Component 4 (focusing on knowledge management and communications) and Component 5 (M&E).

? Minor changes have been made to the Project Output titles to enhance clarity. However, there has been no change to the intention or ambition of the outputs.

? To accommodate more emphasis on SESP and ESMF related activities, including the gender and stakeholder strategy implementation, the budget for the revised Component 4 has been increased, together with the provision of a budget for the new Component 5 (M&E) (with a corresponding decrease in Component 1 budget). Component 5 also contains the cost for 3 PSC meetings. Changes are summarised below.

<b>Component</b>	<b>Component Budget at PIF stage (USD)</b>	<b>Component Budget at CEO Endorsement stage (USD)</b>
1	1,153,000	1,000,000
2	1,002,640	1,002,640
3	551,503	551,503
4	150,000	175,000
5	0	128,000

PMC	142,857	142,857
Total	3,000,000	3,000,000

**1a. Project Description.**

**1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);**

There have been no major changes to the global environment problem, causes or barriers.

The Black Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) is a semi enclosed sea, connected to the world ocean only through narrow Istanbul and ?anakkale Straits, and to the shallow Sea of Azov (currently occupied) by the Kerch Strait in the north. The LME covers a surface area of about 460,150 km<sup>2</sup>, including the Sea of Azov, of which 2.21% is protected. The north-western part of the Black Sea is shallow but in other places its waters reach a depth of more than 2,200 m. The Black Sea catchment area entirely or partly extends over 18 countries: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Russian Federation, T?rkiye , Ukraine- about one third of the area of continental Europe and containing in excess of 160 million people. Every year, Europe?s largest rivers, (the Danube, Dnieper and Don) carry about 350 km<sup>3</sup> of river water into the Black Sea. As a consequence of its almost landlocked nature and lack of circulation in its deep waters, the Black Sea LME is particularly vulnerable to environmental stresses originating from human activities in the catchment area.

In order to address the above mentioned challenges, the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, also known as Bucharest Convention, was signed and ratified in 1992 and 1994, respectively. It provides the legal basis for combating pollution from land-based sources and maritime transport, achieving sustainable management of marine living resources and sustainable human development in the Black Sea region. It successfully serves as Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea and is also the only existing legal instrument in the field of marine environment which has all the Black Sea riparian countries as signatories.

The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, also known as Bucharest Convention, was signed and ratified in 1992 and 1994, respectively. It provides the legal basis for combating pollution from land-based sources and maritime transport, achieving sustainable management of marine living resources and sustainable human development in the Black Sea region. It successfully serves as Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea and is also the only existing legal instrument in the field of marine environment which has all the Black Sea riparian countries as signatories.

Together with the Bucharest Convention, the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol) was signed in 2002 and ratified in 2011. Article 1 states that the purpose of this Protocol is to maintain the Black Sea ecosystem in the good ecological state and its landscape in the favourable conditions; and to protect, to preserve and to sustainably manage the biological and landscape diversity of the Black Sea in order to enrich the biological resources. In conjunction with provisions of the Bucharest Convention and its other Protocols, the CBD Protocol is intended to serve as a legal instrument for developing, harmonising and enforcing necessary environmental policies, strategies and



measures in preserving, protecting and sustainably managing nature, historical, cultural and aesthetic resources and heritage of the Black Sea states for present and future generations.

Within this mandate, the countries of the Black Sea, with the support of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) created to implement provisions of Bucharest Convention, has undertaken assessments of the transboundary problems and their causes (through a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis - a TDA) leading to Strategic Action Plan (for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea - BS SAP)[1] in 1996 and updated in 2009. They also prepared a State of the Environment Report (SOE - 2009 - 2015)[2] which is in progress for updating. The SOE report was prepared in accordance with outline of the report which incorporated both existing approaches to ocean assessment - UN World Ocean Assessment approach and European approach reflecting provisions of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Article 3.1. of the BS SAP 2009 foresees that the Ecosystem Approach is one of the three key management approaches in the Black Sea. It is being described as the primary framework for action under the Convention on Biological Diversity and represents a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The ecosystem approach recognizes that humans are an integral component of many ecosystems. Considering abovementioned, as well as arrangements with other regional seas conventions, in particular those under MoU between BSC PS and UNEP/MAP, signed in 2016.

An important approach to address key issues identified is through the strengthening of designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs[1]). It is well known that the reproduction of most living marine natural resources takes place in the coastal zones resulting from the "edge-effect" where physicochemical and biological interactions are most intense at this interface between land and water. This zone suffers the highest human pressure because of urban expansion, transport, infrastructure development, exploitation of living and non-living resources and impacts from recreation areas. Around 15 million people live in the 2 km wide coastal zone of the Black Sea.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are first of all "Marine Managed Areas". As such, they are managed following the 12 principles[3] of the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach defined in the Convention on Biodiversity and is equivalent to the Ecosystem Approach agreed upon with Decision V/6 of the CBD COP5.[4]. In a nutshell, EBM holds that natural resource management is about managing people's behaviour in ecosystems, rather than the ecosystems themselves. Typically, EBM attempts to regulate human activities and reach conservation objectives through the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). MPAs and other similar approaches (Aichi Target 11) are "the" places where conflicting demands need to be tackled via multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial approaches. In this regard, MPAs offer opportunities for endless "lesson learning" in conservation science, including generating further knowledge, using such knowledge to empower stakeholders and eventually address conflicts among them. An important example of successful application of the EBM approach is the European Union which aiming to maintain ecosystem health and to sustain ecosystem services that

---

people rely on, has adopted the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) of marine space. Among the European seas, the Mediterranean Sea has pioneered in application of EBM and strengthening the MPAs network on the regional level.

It is well known and can be applied to the Black Sea that the reproduction of most living marine natural resources takes place in the coastal zones[5]5 because of the "edge effect" in which physicochemical and biological interactions are most intense at the interface between land and water. This zone suffers the highest human pressure because of urban expansion, transport, infrastructure development, exploitation of living and non-living resources and impacts from recreation areas. Around 15 million people live in the 2 km wide coastal zone of the Black Sea, 6 million of them in Ukraine[6]6.

Conflict between economic activities and the need to maintain living resources has led to the establishment of MPAs. One of the first Black Sea MPAs, the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, was established in Ukraine as early as 14 July 1927 to protect coastal and marine communities near the Dnieper River delta. It is difficult to determine the precise extent of the existing Black Sea MPA network due to:

- Almost all the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) include marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and terrestrial Protected Areas (PAs).
- Parts of the aquatic area are lagoons or closed limans[7]7, isolated from the sea, which are not included as part of the Black Sea by definition.
- The definition and classification of protected areas in the Black Sea countries differ to a greater or lesser degree from the IUCN classification[8]8. For example, where the IUCN has seven categories of protected area, Bulgaria has five, Romania has ten[9]9, and Ukraine has 11; in addition, their classification criteria are different.

Another difficulty in determining the total area of MPAs in different countries is that their areas often include sites with multiple designations. For example, the transnational Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania and the Danube Biosphere Reserve in Ukraine also include wetlands in the Ramsar list. The Natura 2000 protected area "Ropotamo" (Ropotamo wetland complex) in Bulgaria contains four natural reserves, several Ramsar wetlands and the Blato Alepu nature monument. A recent publication on Black Sea MPAs says that there are no MPA areas in T?rkiye, but there a Ramsar wetlands (1998) in the Kizilirmak River delta (Begun et al., 2012) which has 6,900 ha protected marine area. Also on the Black Sea coastline, 38 terrestrial natura protection areas that some of them include coastal marine areas in T?rkiye[10]10 . Under the MISIS Project[11]11 the establishment of new MPAs with focus on transboundary MPAs and MPAs networking was analyzed based on the example of Strandzha-Ignea

---

area[12]12. In addition, there are 16 integrated coastal and marine areas that are currently being evaluated and recommended by Universities (KTU, Ordu U.) and NGOs (TUDAV) as new MCPA.

There are 92 protected sites with a total area of 16,940 ha, 48 sites of Nature 2000 with a total area of 5,300 ha, and 31 marine protected areas of 302,200 ha in Bulgaria. In Georgia, Kolkheti National Park (area 45,980 ha as of 2022) includes both a terrestrial part of 29,229 ha and a marine part of 15,751[13]<sup>13</sup> significant terrestrial areas of which are designated as Ramsar (1996),[14]<sup>14</sup> Emerald (2019)[15]<sup>15</sup> and UNESCO (2021)[16]<sup>16</sup> sites. Romania has eight sites of Nature 2000 with the area of 138,700 ha and two marine protected areas with a total area of 108,000 ha. Russian Federation reported increase of the total protected area. There is only one marine protected area (Utrish) with total area 9,848 ha. It includes 9,065 ha of forest land and 783 ha of the sea area. On the Black Sea coast of T?rkiye, there are nearly 40 terrestrial areas under protection (due to geological features, terrestrial ecological structure, or beaches etc. used for socio-cultural purposes). These protected areas are adjacent to the sea, some of which partially cover sea areas up to 1 km from the shore. These areas are not directly defined as coastal and marine protected areas yet, as there is no current legislation on MPAs.

The main protected area site is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania, 193,900 ha of which (or about 50% of the total area) is marine. The Black Sea's MPAs vary in size from tiny scientific reserves of 1 ha up to the newly designated Zernov's Phyllophora Field in the northwest shelf of Ukraine (402,500 ha). The role of Ukraine in the Black Sea biodiversity conservation is crucial. The largest area of the continental shelf of the Black Sea, the most unique bottom communities (Phyllophora ?fields?), as well as the main feeding aquatic areas of fishes and dolphins are allocated within Ukrainian exclusive economic zone. Ukraine has included a number of plant and animal species of the Black Sea to the national red list (The Red Book of Ukraine), launched the population monitoring of threatened species (in particular, the annual counts of dolphins), and established the first marine protected areas in the Black Sea (Zernov Phyllophora Field, and Small Phyllophora Field wildlife refuges).

Within the activities of the Black Sea Commission there were attempts to harmonize the management of MPAs, the draft Guidelines on the MPA management were developed and discussed. The Black Sea region would benefit from updated and regionally adopted/recognized MPA Guidelines for the Black Sea. At the same time, considering twinning with UNEP/MAP and cooperation with other regional seas, creation of MPAs managers' network is also on the agenda of the Black Sea Commission. The MPA-related component of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP 2017-2022) was not sufficiently elaborated, therefore next BSIMAP draft will require further assistance to introduce MPAs issue properly.

The Black Sea region is under impact of global climate change tendencies. The global average temperature is estimated to have risen by 0.6°C over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and there are few scenarios of following development. Globally, 2010 is estimated to be the warmest year ever recorded since modern measurement began, closely followed by 2005. No single year since 1985 has recorded a

---

below-average mean. The 2001-2010 decade was also the warmest ever recorded for each continent. Europe and Asia recorded the largest average temperature anomaly for the decade (+0.97°C). Climate processes have some specifics in the Black Sea region: short-term periods of increased temperature in summer, increased number of extraordinary meteorological phenomena, warmer in general winter seasons are typical features of the climate change consequences in the Black Sea region. Four key climate change indicators – greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification – set new records in 2021. This is yet another clear sign that human activities are causing planetary scale changes on land, in the ocean, and in the atmosphere, with harmful and long-lasting ramifications for sustainable development and ecosystems, according to the World Meteorological Organization's new report. Despite setbacks from Covid-19, real-time data indicate that global greenhouse gas emissions continued to increase in 2021[17]<sup>17</sup>.

During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Black Sea suffered catastrophic ecological collapse mainly due to human activities, leading ultimately (and quite rapidly) to the destruction of fisheries on which coastal communities largely depended for their economic well-being generated by the 'Blue Economy' from the Black Sea. In addition, the impacts of pollution (nutrients, oil, hazardous substances, etc.) and invasive species had a detrimental effect on the biodiversity of the Black Sea. Pollution had been made worse through significant coastal developments designed to increase tourism.

The 2009 Black Sea SAP identified the *transboundary problems* as:

- Eutrophication/nutrient enrichment;
- Changes in marine living resources;
- Chemical pollution (including oil); and
- Biodiversity/habitat changes, including alien species introduction.

The Black Sea State of the Environment report identified the *consequences of environmental change* as including:

- Decline in the Black Sea fisheries was irreversible. According to the modern estimation, about 85 percent of the Black Sea stocks are fished at biologically unsustainable levels;
- Natural habitats, notably wetlands and shelf areas, supporting important biotic resources are still under anthropogenic impact (polluted waters discharged; littering of coastal and marine environment etc.), leading to developing tourism, recreation and health sectors having worse quality of ecosystem services;
- Some progress was achieved in the field of the protection of coastal biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes, in 2008-2014 several new national parks and natural reserves were established in the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea coastal zone, however, these optimistic steps were not supported by strong management and appropriate resources;
- Dynamic quality of coastal water impacted by pollution from multiple coastal sources and offshore installations and activities is an issue for rapidly developing touristic sector in all Black Sea countries.

---

[1] Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea 1996 - 2000 Report ([blacksea-commission.org](http://blacksea-commission.org))

---

[2] Black Sea Commission 2019, <http://www.blacksea-commission.org/SoE2009-2014/SoE2009-2014.pdf>

[3] MPCA, MPA, MSP and EBM: This project makes frequent reference to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) recognizing the designation of MPAs but acknowledging the importance (indicated in the title of this project) of marine and coastal zones on related ecosystems. These approaches are supportive of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and the development of Marine Spatial Plans (MSPs) designed to provide an integrated management of marine and coastal protected areas.

[4] <https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml>

[5] See <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7148> which describes that "The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Thus, the application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention: conservation; sustainable use; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources." (CBD COP 5 Decision V/6, A., 1.).

[6] Zaitsev, Y. (2006) Littoral concentration of life in the Black Sea area. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment*, **12**, 113-128.

[7] Panchenko, T. (2009) *Guidelines on Territorial Planning in Coastal Zone. Version 2*. Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea Project (ECBSea). EuropeAid/120117/C/SV/Multi.

[8] Liman is defined in the Black Sea region as an enlarged estuary formed as a lagoon at the wide mouth of one or several rivers, where flow is constrained by a bar of sediments, as in the Dniester Liman.

[9] Lausche, B. (2011) *Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. xxvi + 370 pp.

[10] Begun, T., Velikova, V., Muresan, M. et al. (2012) *Conservation and Protection of the Black Sea Biodiversity: Review of the existing and planned protected areas in the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkiye) with a special focus on possible deficiencies regarding law enforcement and implementation of management plans*. Report for Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System (MISIS). <http://www.misisproject.eu/>

[11] <https://says.csb.gov.tr/citizen>

[12] MISIS Project | Black Sea Marine Region documents ([europa.eu](http://europa.eu))

[13] [SoE\\_Report\\_MPA\\_Strandzha\\_Igneada.pdf](#)

[14] <https://matsne.gov.ge/document/view/14752?publication=25>

[15] <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/893>

[16] <https://emerald.eea.europa.eu/?query=Adopted%20sites,SITECODE,GE0000006>

[17] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1616>

[18] WMO | State of the Global Climate 2021 [Climate Reports](#) | [United Nations](#)

[19] European Commission defines it as "All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts? as will be followed by the project countries through their Association Agreements with the EU. Where beneficial the project will also explore the definition of Blue Economy suggested by the GEF STAP.

#### Black Sea SAP 2009 ? Progress on Implementation

The BS SAP 2009 for the first time reorganized the priorities and actions required to meet arising environmental challenges in the region by introduction of 65 management targets and defining four BS SAP 2009 Ecosystem Quality Objectives (EcoQOs). The relevant actions regarding these four targets are reflected in the so called EcoQO Matrices, annexed to the document. After analysing the 65 targets introduced in the matrices, it may be seen that the new BS SAP 2009 referred to a number of cross-cutting issues to be addressed, inter alia, capacity strengthening for enforcement (pollution, alien species, fisheries management); improved public engagement; strengthen the regional coordinating role of the BSC; climate change as a phenomena. Important chapter of the BS SAP 2009 is the one related to the monitoring of the SAP. Also, Ecosystem Approach was introduced as one of the three key environmental management approaches for the Black Sea. The effectiveness of this approach will be determined after the countries report for the first time on the implementation of the abovementioned measures. The outcomes of these important reports will formulate the basis for future amendments of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan and TDA and will be reflected in the new ?Black Sea Declaration? to be adopted in the near future.

According to the provided questionnaire on the implementation of the BS SAP' 65 management targets, most of them were successfully implemented. General picture is that for the period of 2009-2014 the state of the Black Sea environment shows slow, but gradual improvement compared to the period of 2002-2007 covered by the previous Regional Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (BS SAP 1996). Significant progress was achieved in terms of waste water management, cross-cutting issues, like climate change, marine litter and marine noise were introduced on the environmental agenda.

- ? During reporting period the Black Sea countries have demonstrated steady economic growth;
- ? Global economic crisis of 2008 was not crucial for coastal economies and the BS littoral states demonstrated strong potential for rehabilitation and further grow;
- ? Since previous report the structure of economic activities was not changed. The leading sectors are tourism, food processing, agriculture and transport, including shipping. Tourism is an accelerator for many other sectors of the BS littoral states economy;
- ? Despite importance of the fisheries, this sector has historically lacked an integrated management strategy and sustainable development;

- ? Natural habitats of coastal and marine environment remain under pressure of mainly land-based human activities. In spite on establishing new protected areas (national parks and natural reserves) on the coast and in open sea, degradation of ecosystems is not prevented and biodiversity decline is ongoing;
- ? The number of population in the coastal zone is growing in Bulgaria, Russia and Turkey and decreasing in Georgia (except Batumi, which is growing), Romania and Ukraine;
- ? There is a sustainable growth in access to drinking water and sanitation in all countries;
- ? There is an increase in the amount of municipal wastes. The number of landfills has increased in Romania, T?rkiye and has decreased in Russia and Bulgaria. There is only one incineration plant located in the Black Sea Coastal Settlements of T?rkiye, used for recycling and incineration of municipal s waste of TRABR?KAB (Trabzon and Rize Province Local Governments Solid Waste Facilities Construction and Operation Union municipality union for Trabzon and Rize) Trabzon and Rize provinces waste..
- ? Erosion of the coast is increasing. However, there are very few projects implemented to prevent it;
- ? There are activities going on to improve protection of the coastal zone environment, including marine;
- ? On-going urbanization, infrastructure development, offshore exploitation of hydrocarbon deposits are the key factors of economic development in the near future. Strengthening of cooperation, enhancement of political links, between the riparian states as well as the relevant technical assistance for them from the international community are therefore needed in order to ensure implementation of the principles of sustainable development of the Black Sea region.

The importance of conservation and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in the Black Sea is crucial to enhance a sustainable development of the sea basin and encouraged provision of assistance to countries in creating adequate coastal and marine governance frameworks, hence by implementing the ecosystem-based approach principles. The intensification of coastal and maritime activities in the Black Sea requires an integrated planning, effective decision-making and additional efforts at the regional scale, including transboundary coordination to achieve sustainability and improved management. Additionally, the large marine ecosystem is facing increasingly significant stress from climate change, habitat destruction and overexploitation; thus, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience threatens to undermine the economic activities that rely upon these resources.

The causes of the environmental problems have been updated for the 2009 Black Sea SAP (and these will be updated through this project for the three countries involved) as: Eutrophication; Habitat Destruction; Invasive Species; Hazardous Substance Pollution and Overfishing.

## **2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;**

The conflict in Ukraine is continuing to have an impact on the availability of information and the direct ecosystem impacts from the conflict on the coastal waters and the socio-economic conditions of the population. The Ukraine National Report (Annex 14c in the Project Document) provides details (October 2022) of the on-going impacts in 2022 that will need further post-conflict assessments to establish the full impact of the conflict on the Black Sea coast and MPAs. There are no other changes to baseline scenarios.

Moreover, as indicated by Ukraine, more than 20 nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered losses due to Russian aggression since February 2022. As a result, the 32.7% of Ukraine's marine protected areas cannot be managed according to European standards, as they are in a state of annexation and occupation.

Overall, the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has created an unprecedented experience for the modern world, the impact on the marine ecosystem of the Black Sea as a result of military actions that will affect all Black Sea countries. This situation will require the additional target indicators in the system for monitoring the Ecological Status Class in accordance with the MSFD standards. The post-war restoration of the ecological status, biological component and socio-economic potential of marine ecosystems affected by hostilities will also require the use of new-targeted tools in the EBM methodology related to the elimination of negative consequences. Thus, the development of a methodology for assessing and restoring marine ecosystems, including MPAs, as the result of military impact, can become a special component in many of the Project's activities. The Project will contribute to the efforts of UNDP[1] to ramp up cooperation to fight with consequences of ongoing military aggression in the region, to improve emergency response, post-war recovery and infrastructure restoration through improved data collection and analysis, by developing, inter alia, relevant methodologies and information sharing in the region. Proper approaches to data collection applied at an early stage can help ensure that the information is accurate and accessible to all the relevant government institutions, international partners and other stakeholders.

It should again be highlighted that the PPG phase was conducted under COVID 19 restrictions which limited face-to-face meetings and travel which coupled with the ongoing conflict in the region has severely limited the initiation of new donor funded projects that could be partnered with. However, in addition to the secured co-finance in accordance with the approved PIF, the PPG phase has remotely approached a number of new potential co-financing partners with EU funds. Whilst these have not been secured it is expected that further cooperation with new EU partners will continue during project execution.

The recent GEF/World Bank project, 'Blueing the Black Sea', and GEF/FAO Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea? project will be complemented by this current project. The GEF/World Bank project is designed to incentivize public and private investments for pollution reduction in target countries. The long-term objective of the project would be to improve environmental health of the Black Sea and increase social and economic benefits for the population. This will be achieved by promoting Blue Economy approaches to help address pollution (sewage, oil, toxic substances, etc.) and their economic impacts under changing climate conditions. The GEF/FAO project, has the objective to reverse the overexploitation of select commercial living marine resources by enhancing the capacity of Black Sea countries to manage fisheries, including through the application of ecosystem-based management tools. This will be achieved through capacity development, enhancing monitoring and surveillance of IUU fishing and further application of specific EBM tools.

**The main lessons learnt** from relevant projects and programmes include:



- Since its establishment, the BSC has been actively involved with activities in multiple relevant projects[2] as a key stakeholder and end-user. Both finalised and on-going projects in the region (and from GEF LME actions globally, including guidelines developed under the GEF LME:LEARN project) will guide and inform this project with, for example, MPA management and the establishment of networks with adjacent LMEs (e.g. Mediterranean Sea). These include the actions being implemented by the GEF FAO Fisheries and World Bank Blueing the Black Sea Projects.

•**MPA Management:** Current MPA Guideline in the Black Sea have not been adopted by the BSC Contracting States. This project will utilise experiences from e.g., the COCONET Project[3] that introduced the need to harmonize the efforts with designation of MPAs on the regional level and helped with elaboration of MPA Guidelines for the Black Sea.

Experiences from the MISIS Project will facilitate the establishment of transboundary MPAs. This project introduced the concept of transboundary MPA with a review of the existing and planned protected areas in the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Romania, T?rkiye) with a special focus on possible deficiencies regarding law enforcement and implementation of management plans.

•**Networks :** Regional cooperation mechanisms adopted in the Mediterranean Sea to share experiences (e.g. the establishment of networks of MPA managers) will be reviewed and used to create similar structures in the Black Sea region, with the possibility of linking to the networks in the Mediterranean to gain experiences in the field of MPAs and biological monitoring;

- **Information Management:** Current biological monitoring within the BSIS is considered insufficient and this project will strengthen databases supported under EMBLAS.[4][5].

---

[1] [New collaboration to enhance and expand assessment of war damages | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

[2] Relevant projects include (for example) UE4EMBLAS, EMODNet, BS DOORS, BS BRIDGES, BS CONNECT, BlackSea4Fish, CENOBS, Marine Litter MED, Marsplan-BS II, FORCOAST, ABBIOMED, LitOUTer, MARIAS, GES4SEAS etc, see description in Annex XX

[3] [FP7 - COCONET project ? ISMAR \(cnr.it\)](#)

[4] Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS, <http://emblasproject.org>) ? series of EU supported regional projects (UKR/RUS/GEO), implemented by UNDP. Key institutions from three participating countries are involved since 2013 joint activities, which intend to implementation of the Black Sea monitoring programs, in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, supporting countries in implementing requirements of their association agreements with EU in marine monitoring domain.

[5] <http://database.blackseadb.org/>

### **3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;**

There have been no material changes to the alternative scenario and this is presented in detail in the Project Document (section 2 and 3). This UNESCO/UNDP/GEF Project is aimed to fill in the gaps and remove overlaps in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of living resources in

the Black Sea in Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine. It will assist to three national governments, as well as to main regional players (Black Sea Commission, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, etc.) to revise and strengthen their commitments in the field of biodiversity and blue economy.

The 2009 TDA/SAP identified the main causes of the environmental problems (presented above) and the barriers that this project will address to reach the project objective include:

The main barriers to addressing the causes of the Development Challenges, and consequently resolving the environmental problems impacting the Black Sea include:

1. **Lack of national capacity on EBM, MSP and Coastal management** with insufficient capacity to support monitoring of biodiversity, both in terms of protected areas and threats via alien invasive species. Capacity for the monitoring of biodiversity ranges from good to poor throughout the region. Facilities and infrastructure can sometimes be poor and human capital while mostly skilled, can often be lacking. Capacity for biodiversity monitoring is particularly low in Ukraine, which has significantly degraded administrative and technical services capable of marine research and conservation since 2014 on the occupied MPAs in the Crimean Peninsula. A threat for the biodiversity of the Black Sea Northwest region has emerged due to the countries' inability to perform sufficient monitoring and protection activities which became even more sensitive after beginning of military invasion to Ukraine.

2. **Insufficient regional guidance and ecosystem information to inform EBM and MPA management including:**

? **Fragmented information and data sharing networks for oceanographic and environmental monitoring.** The overall extent of environmental impact of fishing activities and gear, and of aquaculture development activities is not well known. In order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the environmental impact of these activities, it would also be necessary to collect gendered information and sex-disaggregated data in the context of livelihoods such as fishing and aquaculture and their respective value chains.

? **The Black Sea Information System (BSIS) needs to be further updated** and biological component of Black Sea Regional Pollution Database / Black Sea Water Quality Database (managed by Regional Activity Center for Pollution Monitoring and Assessment - PMA RAC - in Odessa, Ukraine) needs to be supplied with biological and socio-economic data.

3. **Insufficient regional coordination and governance to ensure sustainability of ecosystem services provided by MPAs, including:**

? Inadequate regional co-ordination between national and regional interventions in the Black Sea basin. Over the last 30 years there have been multiple nationally and internationally (e.g. EU, GEF, World Bank, etc.) funded programmes to address the historic problems impacting the Black Sea region, with attempts made to improve the information and knowledge sharing of the results of the projects (e.g. DABLAS - Danube and Black Sea Task Force), but there is a need for further co-ordination and information sharing capabilities to ensure the lessons and experiences delivered are made available to a wide range of national and regional stakeholders.

? Poor coordinating mechanisms to address governance, policy development and knowledge sharing for environmental concerns. Stakeholder appreciation of the practical implications of ecosystem-based management is somewhat lacking in the region. Stakeholders in this case include both Governments, and women and men at the community level who are engaged in different livelihoods that depend upon ecosystem services such as fishing, aquaculture, agriculture. This can affect the will to implement in practice any measures developed or improve the enforceability of new laws. The Black Sea countries have different socio-economic and political structures, and they participate in diverse regional and international organizations and instruments.

? **Insufficient involvement of stakeholders, including women, from local communities in the planning and management processes.** There is a need to collect more information of the needs of local stakeholders that are dependent on the resources of coastal waters (fishers, tourism) for their livelihoods. For example, there is insufficient information on: How do women and men interact with the environment for obtaining ecosystem services? What are the different training and capacity development needs of

women and men working in post-harvest and processing industries? What type of training and capacity development would be required in order to mitigate impacts on the environment?

4.

Therefore, the activities under this Project aim to:

- Implement the provisions of the Bucharest Convention and its CBD Protocol;
- Update the Black Sea SAP 2009;
- Elaborate next SoE Report;
- Update BSIMAP;
- Update biological component of the Black Sea Information System (BSIS);
- Create the MPAs managers network and twin it with Mediterranean MPAs Managers Network;
- Update the MPAs guidelines for the Black Sea;
- Introduce climate change into agenda and main documents of the Bucharest Convention;
- Further assist the functioning of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) sites in the Black Sea (assigned under CBD Convention).

At the **national level**, the project will identify conflicts and compatibilities amongst human uses and in between human uses and the environment to as part of the preplanning process of marine spatial planning in each beneficiary country. In parallel, national analysis will identify the status and potential of maritime activities to define a national strategy on sustainable blue economy and the opportunity to be implemented at the regional scale attending to optional scenarios. In the context of biodiversity protection and conservation, the project will continue the work on habitats classification and mapping to facilitate the designation of MPAs sites (and will include already designated Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas - EBSA - sites and adopted by the Convention on Biodiversity[1]) in the region[2], pursue development or related pilot projects and the need for regionally agreed methodological guidelines for identification, designation and management of MPAs. These efforts may facilitate the designation of national and transboundary (building on the work undertaken by the MISIS Project on the Bulgaria - Türkiye transboundary MPA Igneada-Rezovo) MPAs to promote ecologically functional and interconnected ecosystems in the Black Sea. This project will strengthen institutional capacities in beneficiary countries to define the best mechanisms to implement ecosystem-based management solutions in the region.

At the **regional level**, the project will update inventories and maps of important biological and ecological areas and current human activities to develop cumulative impact mapping in support of decision making for the adoption of Regional Guidelines on Marine Protected Areas and marine spatial planning. Working groups and Networks of marine protected area managers and national competent authorities on marine spatial planning will be created to define principles, goals and objectives of the proposed planning exercises. The conservation aspects and the sustainable blue economy actions became an opportunity to help beneficiary countries to integrate the regional environmental policies and strategies into their national legal frameworks and cope with Black Sea transboundary environment problems. The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Protocol (BCBLP) is fundamental for the national plans or programmes for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and for the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources in each contracting party to the Bucharest Convention.

The overall long-term objective of the project ?Enhancing Marine and Coastal Protected Area national and regional management and adoption of Blue Economy approaches in the Black Sea to support long-

term sustainable livelihoods derived from ecosystem services? will be delivered through achieving four main outcomes and interlined components.

It is planned that, as a result of project implementation, three national strategies and regional assessment in the field of MCPAs will be elaborated. The Project will also pioneer the creation of the MPAs managers network in the Black Sea and the formation of transboundary MPA between Black Sea coastal countries. Dedicated project activities will be concentrated on addressing invasive species, habitats mapping, elaboration of biodiversity indicators, baselines and thresholds, and the updating of the 2009 Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.

The Project will exploit existing and new cooperative arrangements with other regional projects and partners including the European Union, UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, IMO, Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea and Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) etc. This will enable the creation of synergies with other initiatives and transfer of best practices to stakeholders to the Black Sea region. The Project will also be implemented in close collaboration with two GEF projects, implemented by World Bank (specifically on the Blue Economy) and FAO (involving fisher organisations) in the Black Sea region, benefitting the overall update of the TDA/SAP in the region, strengthening the BE strategies in the three project countries and assisting with the acceptance of the ecosystem advantages improved management of MPAs with fishers.

The project will ensure that through regional activities non GEF eligible countries will be invited to participate (at their own expense) to facilitate the wider uptake of new approaches to MPA management. The Project's Theory of Change (ToC) highlights the actions to address the main barriers that are limiting the wider adoption of MCPAs with enhanced management to strengthen the ecosystem resources of the Black Sea. The developed ToC is derived from the Problem Tree (both figures below).

---

[1] To which all BS countries are signatories.

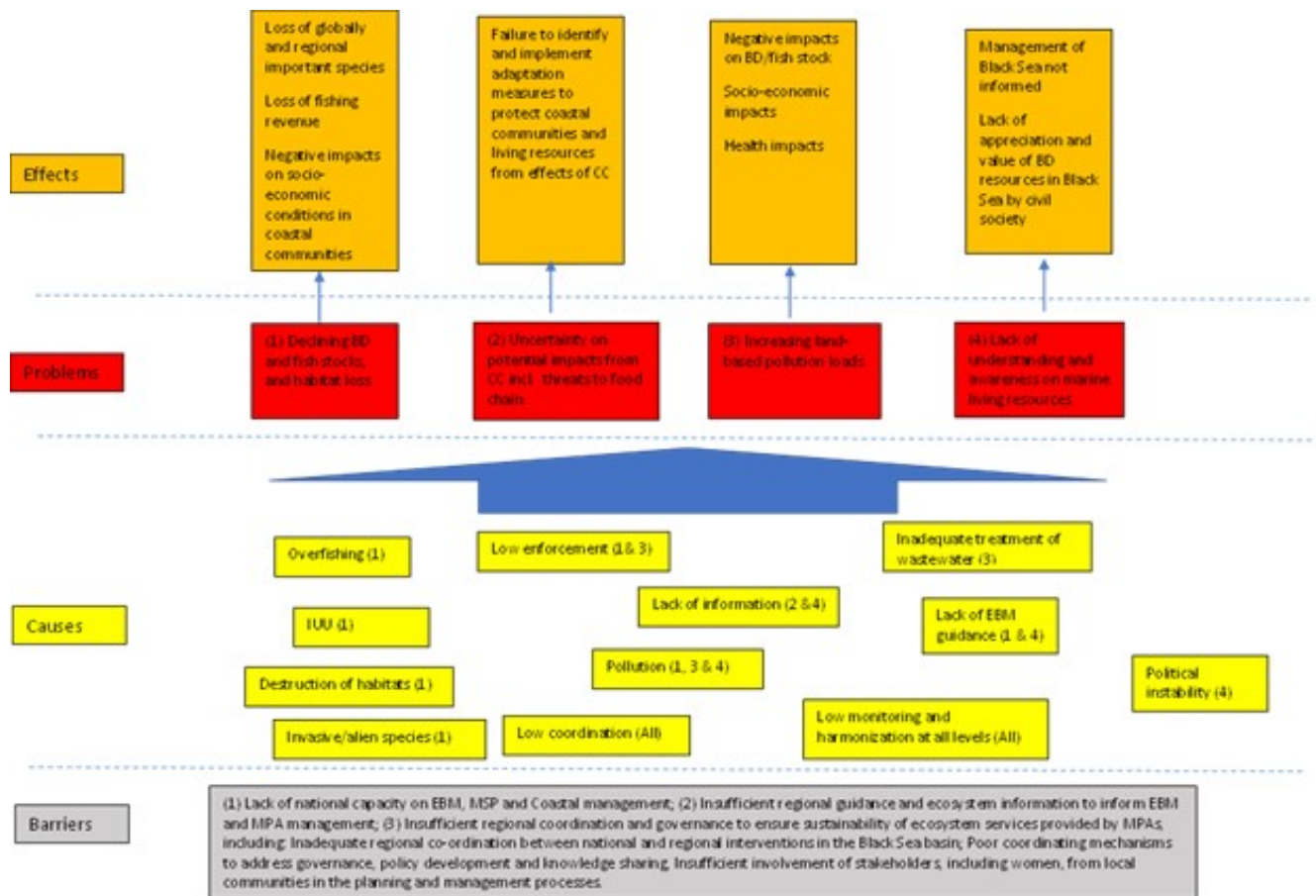
[2] in 2015 the BSC PS established the cooperation with CBD Convention secretariat in Montreal. An issue of common interest was a process of the description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA process). On 23-29th April, 2017 workshop on description of EBSA sites in the Black Sea region was organized together with Caspian Sea in Baku and 17 sites were named as EBSA sites for the Black Sea. These sites were adopted during COP 14 of CBD Convention (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10 - 22 November 2018).

[3] Relevant projects include (for example) UE4EMBLAS, EMODNet, BS DOORS, BS BRIDGES, BS CONNECT, BlackSea4Fish, CENOBS, Marine Litter MED, Marsplan-BS II, FORCOAST, ABBIOMED, LitOUTer, MARIAS, GES4SEAS etc, see description in Annex XX

[4] FP7 - COCONET project ? ISMAR ([cnr.it](http://cnr.it))

[5] Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS, <http://emblasproject.org>) ? series of EU supported regional projects (UKR/RUS/GEO), implemented by UNDP. Key institutions from three participating countries are involved since 2013 joint activities, which intend to implementation of the Black Sea monitoring programs, in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, supporting countries in implementing requirements of their association agreements with EU in marine monitoring domain.

[6] <http://database.blackseadb.org/>



**Figure: Project Problem Tree**

The Project's objective will be delivered through five interlinked components.

**Component 1: Ecosystem Based Management of coastal and marine habitats.**

Component 1 will build on the work undertaken by the countries to establish MPAs and will strengthen the capacity to apply EBM approaches. This component will focus on specific national actions that will strengthen ecosystem protection whilst encouraging the development of targeted Blue Economy strategies with national authorities and relevant private sector organisations (in co-ordination with the approved GEF, World Bank and FAO projects focused on the Black Sea). The project will support countries that have signed/ratified the Espoo Convention to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning of activities proposed through Blue Economy Strategies.

Component 1 will deliver **Outcome 1.1: Reduced threats to coastal states marine ecosystems and services to improve ecosystem status and community livelihoods.**

Component 1 will achieve this outcome through the completion of the following outputs.

? **Output 1.1: Priority ecosystems sites and pressures mapped to guide MSPs and to analyse gaps for MCPAs on priority habitat protection.**

This output will undertake specific and targeted actions to update information (including maps) on priority Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to facilitate the preparation of national Marine Spatial Plans (MSPs), involving wide stakeholder engagement to ensure this information is made accessible for public and other stakeholders. This work, undertaken at the national level will support Component 2 (output 2.1) on the update of the Black Sea SAP endorsed in 2009. This output will also provide a rapid assessment (building on existing national assessments where available) on the gaps in institutions, policies and methodologies. Information from this output will also guide regional recommendations on best practices on Marine and Coastal Protected Area (MCPA) management towards priority habitat protection.

The activities undertaken in this output will include:

1. Reviewing adequacy of national arrangements in support of ecosystem approaches with emphasis on the governance of marine and coastal areas;
2. Identification of gaps in EBM policies and proposals to address these gaps;
3. Habitat mapping and classification (in accordance with the standards of the WFD and the MSFD to identify the Reference Sites and areas with "No GES?", and by applying EUNIS classification) and their further inclusion to BSIMAP and Annexes to CBD Protocol;
4. Revision and adoption of the national and regional guideline on MPAs (adding functional indicators for assessing of the Ecological Status Class (ESC) in accordance with the MSFD and indicators of ecosystem services in accordance with the principles of the "Blue Economy" and, where appropriate, taking account of global approaches, such as indicators established under GBF[1]);
5. Creation and support of a Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Black Sea (in discussion and in coordination with national authorities), twinning with Mediterranean MPAs Managers Network;
6. Identifications of organisations/ministries with responsibilities potentially impacting MCPAs;
7. Identification of responsibilities and recommendations to reduce overlaps and gaps;
8. Documenting national approaches for management and monitoring of MCPA;
9. Preparing best practices and related recommendations for inclusion in regional guidance on MCPA (Component 2, Output 2.2) based on Mediterranean experience;
10. Assessment of the consequences of military operations in the Black Sea to national MPAs and developing proposals to minimize these consequences.

**? Output 1.2: Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies in each project country available to guide EBM policy reforms**

The project will support the development of **national** Blue Economy Strategies, consistent with the ecosystem objectives of the established coastal management and MPAs established. The strategies will support national activities to undertake economic evaluations to be considered in the development of revised policies in a post-war scenario, where interventions should consider no-regret and low-regret options that can be implemented well under various assumptions. Assessments will be undertaken in each country to assess approaches to EBM with respect to policies, responsible organisations and implementation to inform regional guidance on EBM implementation in the Black Sea. Assessment will also consider the perspectives from the different sectors utilising the ecosystem services in coastal waters (e.g. fishing, shipping, aquaculture, tourism, etc., including the gender dimension in each sector) and the impacts of EBM on pollution management. In addition, the assessment will identify recommendations or reforms (e.g. the introduction of eco- standards) that could be implemented nationally that are consistent with regional guidance (Component 2, Output 2.2). This output will necessitate national authorities from differing branches of government to co-ordinate through, for example, inter-ministerial committees and/or commissions. The output will co-ordinate regional initiatives supported by the GEF through the World Bank's project on the Black Sea and utilise regional material prepared by the project.

Activities will include:

1. National needs assessment for Blue Economy:
  - a. National assessment of current policies, institutions, governance arrangements and sector requirements for ecosystem services relevant to Blue Economy, taking account of any specific aspects related to gender roles in fish and aquaculture value chains;
  - b. Support to inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial meetings where required;
  - c. Recommendations for strategy;
2. Preparation of Strategic Environment and Social Assessments, one for each Blue Economy Strategy in each participating country, with details of activities outlined below;
3. Development and acceptance (PSC approval) of strategy to strengthen blue economy approaches;
4. Assessment of different sector requirements for ecosystem services;
5. Recommendations of any national and regional policy reforms.

Appropriately scoped Strategic Environment and Social Assessments (SESAs), one for each participating country, will be prepared under this output. The SESA processes will respect the national legislative and regulatory obligations for the SEA processes in each participating country and will address concerns identified under UNDP SES **Standard 1**: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.10, 1.14, **Standard 3**: 3.2, 3.6, **Standard 5**: 5.2 and 5.4, and **Standard 8**: 8.1, and any other risks identified through consultations with the relevant stakeholders during the consultations held within this output. Where potentially significant impacts are found, appropriate consultations under Article XV (5) of the Bucharest Convention will be undertaken. Where appropriate, SESA processes will take into account of requirements compliant with the Espoo Convention[2].

The following SESA analytical and participatory elements will be integrated into the above activities for the preparation of each of the national Blue Economy Strategies:

1. Specify key social and environmental issues that should be considered in the Blue Economy Strategies (using the relevant SESP conclusions as a starting point).
2. Analyze the trends in key social and environmental issues and their expected future evolution without the Blue Economy Strategies (e.g. how does the situation evolve, does it reach any critical turning points or bottom lines, how is it being managed through existing policies and legal and institutional systems, and how it may evolve in the future under the BAU scenario).
3. Analyze individual and cumulative impacts of interventions proposed in the Blue Economy Strategies on these trends.
4. Recommend mitigation and enhancement measures - both for the proposed activities as well as wider/flanking measures that should be integrated into the proposed Blue Economy Strategies to maximize their environmental and social benefits and reduce its adverse impacts.
5. Consult relevant stakeholders in key phases of this process.

**? Output 1.3: Updated national databases in each project country to complement the BSIS with new components on biological and socio-economic aspects**

National databases to ensure compatible data flows in support of the Bucharest Convention will be developed and/or upgraded in Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine. The regional database for pollution is maintained by the BSC and its PMA Activity Center (Odesa, Ukraine) (and enhanced through output 3.4). The Commission's Permanent Secretariat will guide the requirements and specifications for the database update that will be undertaken by the project. The updated national databases will support the regional work on MCPA/MPAs following EBM approaches, and will also benefit GFCM and the GEF/FAO fisheries project under preparation with co-ordination of available information led by the BSC and this project respectively.

Activities will include:

1. Assessment of needs for national databases in line with relevant regional requirements set in the BSIMAP, Annexes to Protocols and Guidelines.
2. Development of the templates for entering and calculating new environmental and economic indicators in national databases and BSIS developing these from feasible data and indicator sets, contributing to Global Biodiversity Framework and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (CBD);
3. Validation of steps to create a GIS system for visualizing the Black Sea network of MPAs as an operational information unit of the BSIMAP;
4. Introduction and management of updated national databases to the BSIS hosted by PMA Activity Center.



? **Output 1.4: National action strategies developed/agreed to further co-operate in synergy with relevant IMO and other projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations for BSC consideration and possible adoption**

National action plans to address the problems of invasive species will be developed in co-operation with specific guidance from IMO (e.g. GloFouling, Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention etc.) to reduce the threats to bioresources and ecosystems and taking stock of existing initiatives, established good practices and cooperation arrangements.

Activities will include:

1. Facilitation of agreement between IMO and BSC PS to develop capacity building activities to address threats of invasive species for shipping and other relevant activities;
2. Development of harmonized guidelines and strategies to be presented to BSC for further adoption at regional level and incorporating into national instruments, such as NBSAPs, where appropriate;
3. Establishment of mechanism to exchange the information in BSIS on new invasive species in coastal transit zones and MPAs.

**Component 2: Strengthening regional environmental governance and knowledge**

Component 2 will build on a wealth of regional co-operative projects and programmes over the last 30 years. The project will assist with the regional guidance on EBM and management of MPAs and will also assist the Permanent Secretariat to increase the effectiveness of the information available for stakeholder (including public) awareness raising. A key strength in the Black Sea region has been the adoption by the countries of the region of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) in 2009 based on a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (2007). This project will undertake a rapid update of the TDA (based on SoE reports and available information) to lead to revised SAP recommendations and management actions that will reflect recent best-practices documented by GEF IW:LEARN and the wider IW community. This will include recent TDA/SAP guidance from IW:LEARN on incorporating EBM, climate change adaptation, gender assessments and economic valuation of ecosystems from Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects, and planned work by the GEF/FAO fisheries and World Bank Blue Economy projects on the Black Sea. Regional strategies and plans will be developed (outputs 2.2 and 2.4) that will assist with harmonising national approaches and contribute to the updates of national action plans (NAPs). The information within the updated TDA will help inform a revised SAP for implementation over the next decade. Flagship species such as dolphins and sturgeons, prominently depicted on Black Sea Commission's logo, as well as protected by continent-wide agreements (such as Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons) and related regional and national initiatives could be considered as backbone for spearheading ecosystem approaches in the Black Sea.

Component 2 will deliver **Outcome 2.1: Countries have strengthened political and legal commitments and capacity to implement the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols, with increased effectiveness of the Permanent Secretariat.**

? **Output 2.1: Updated basin analysis (TDA) leading to revised BS SAP, proposed for adoption by BS Commission**

The Black Sea countries endorsed the previous SAP in 2009 with a TDA accepted in 2007. As a consequence, it is desirable to update both the assessment of the transboundary pressures and any changes in the last 10 years together with updating the ecosystem objectives and management actions for the coming 10 years. In addition, this update will be an opportunity to include recent GEF IW:LEARN best practices developed, in particular to include guidance prepared by GEF LME:LEARN on addressing issues specific to LMEs including utilising EBM approaches to managing the Black Sea. The updated TDA and BS SAP will also ensure that the transboundary assessment and the management actions proposed undertake a targeted economic valuation of ecosystems, adopting the approach recently adopted by IW:LEARN. Finally, the Black Sea basin will benefit from a detailed gender assessment of the roles and responsibilities of personnel engaged in coastal and marine activities and management related to the Blue Economy. Specifically, the revised TDA leading to an updated BS SAP will include additional information on:

? Recent guidance on EBM approaches (including from GEF/FAO fisheries project on the Black Sea);

? Updated TDA/SAP guidance prepared by GEF IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN to address climate change adaptation, gender mainstreaming, ecosystem service valuation, MSP and sustainable use of marine resources through sustainable Blue Economy actions, etc.;

? Recent climate change information and scenarios on potential impacts on ecosystems and services relevant to the Blue Economy;

? Gender assessments of roles and responsibilities of women and men in fish and aquaculture value chains, coastal and marine activities and management., (following GEF IW:LEARN guidance), in particular to promote sustainable solutions for strengthening their livelihoods.

Proposed activities (taking account of the above):

1. Updating TDA information in 3 countries;
2. Updating BS SAP information in 3 countries;
3. Consultation with relevant stakeholders on the updated TDA / BS SAP;
4. Presenting BS SAP to BSC for consideration for adoption.
5. Engaging with local women and men to understand how livelihoods can be strengthened and made sustainable.

The updating of TDA and BS SAP shall focus on key social and environmental issues in the basin, and analysis of trends of these issues and their evolution under a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario (e.g., how does the situation evolve, does it reach any critical turning points or bottom lines, how is it being managed through existing policies and legal and institutional systems, and how it may evolve in the future under the BAU scenario). The results of the TDA will be made available for the preparation of the national Blue Economy Strategies and their SESA processes under Output 1.2.

**? Output 2.2 Developed and/or updated Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonize approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc. endorsed by each country and submitted to BSC for adoption**

Article 4 of CBD Protocol requires that *The Contracting Parties shall produce and commonly agree on the Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol within three years of the Protocol coming into force which shall be reviewed every five years.* On the basis of the Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea, the Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol, entered into force in 2011), the Contracting Parties shall adopt strategies, national plans and/or programmes for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and the sustainable use of marine and coastal biological and landscape resources and shall integrate them into their national sectoral and intersectoral policies.

The project will co-ordinate closely with other ongoing and planned interventions in the Black Sea region. In particular, the project will work closely with activities under the EU's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) initiative (e.g. Black Sea Connect, EU H2020 projects BRIDGE, and DOORS ?) and will ensure close alignment with the Common Marine Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea. With respect to consideration of the wider catchment issues, cooperation would be reinstated with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River[3] (ICPDR) on matters related to biodiversity conservation, such as flagship sturgeon species. Such a cooperation would be facilitated through the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat.

In support of the BS SAP update, the project will prepare updated regional documents (protocols, plans and guidelines). This will strengthen the BSC's Protocols (e.g. on Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation, draft Cetaceans Conservation Plan, draft MPAs Guidelines etc). Regional Guidance Documents will be prepared to harmonise basin-wide approaches to MCPAs designation and management, habitat protection, etc. The full list of documents to be updated will be confirmed during the PPG phase with the BSC Permanent Secretariat. These will be drafted by the project with the involvement of the BSC and especially relevant BSC Advisory Groups. The draft Protocol updates, and other relevant documents, will be presented to the BSC for their consideration and possible adoption.

Activities will include:

1. Agreeing with BSC which documents require updating or development;
2. Updating the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol, draft Cetaceans Conservation Plan, relevant part of BSIMAP etc.;

3. Developing regional guidance documents on MCPA in the Black Sea for habitat protection;
4. Distributing documents for comment and consideration for national approval;
5. Submission of the draft documents for comments and consideration for BSC adoption;
6. Regional workshops held in parallel/back-to-back with BSC regular events;
7. Process Framework under the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standard 5 to determine potential economic displacement impacts and the most effective/appropriate management options for addressing these.

**? Output 2.3: Development and recommendation for consideration and possible adoption by BSC of regional indicator framework for EBM for annual reporting and relevant components of BSIS**

To demonstrate to a range of stakeholders in the Black Sea region of the benefits of EBM, and the contributions made to this approach by the BSC and the project, a series of relevant indicators will be developed to report overall long-term progress to enhancing the ecosystem status and the services derived from the Black Sea. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that the BSC and countries have the means to collect and report the necessary datasets for an extended period. This data will also be of value to enable countries to report progress on addressing the problems of the Black Sea to multiple donors (including the GEF, EU, UNEP, FAO, ACCOBAMS[4], etc.). Indicators will also be selected with full involvement of national and regional stakeholders and will be designed to meet a wide range of reporting needs.

Activities will include:

1. Elaboration of dedicated indicators for EBM and their introduction to the BSIMAP and checking against other reporting requirements (MSFD reporting, FAO/GFCM, ACCOBAMS, UNEP Global Group on Indicators, Global Biodiversity Framework, etc.) at regional and/or national levels, as appropriate) with special consideration to sustainability of indicator use;
2. Elaboration of reporting guidelines, including information on baselines and thresholds;
3. Elaboration of guidelines to use remote monitoring techniques (e.g. satellite assessment) of the ecological state of watersheds adjacent to sea coastal zones and MPAs in BSIS;
4. Organization of the series of workshops (including online) by leading European experts in the field of MSFD standards and EBM of aquatic ecosystems, for national experts, decision makers and stakeholders.

**Component 3: Regional Co-ordination of interventions**

This component will focus on the important issues of regional co-ordination between other GEF and EU projects in the region. There have been multiple projects on the Black Sea in the past and a key lesson

has been the need to improve co-ordination to minimise overlap and to increase the interaction through sharing of information and results. The GEF will have three interlinked regional international waters projects in the region, and this project will engage proactively with the initiatives led by FAO (on fisheries) and the World Bank (on Blue Economy aspects within the basin). These activities will build on relevant guidance prepared by GEF IW:LEARN on LMEs relating to ecosystem management. There is also a need to co-ordinate and collaborate with other on-going and planned regional projects funded by, for example, the EU.

Component 3 will deliver **Outcome 3.1: Strengthened impacts from GEF and other partners and projects? activities.**

? **Output 3.1: Co-ordination mechanism established and functional with other projects in the Black Sea region, learning from other LME co-ordination mechanisms**

The multiple projects underway or planned require adequate co-ordination to ensure good co-operation and information sharing. The three GEF projects (through FAO, World Bank and UNDP) on the Black Sea will be organized to have coordinated formal (e.g. PSC meetings ? relevant project staff from the parallel projects will be invited where appropriate) and informal (workshops, capacity building events, stakeholder dialogues, etc.) activities. In addition, regional and relevant national projects will be linked to the GEF funded projects through the website and participation at common-interest meetings and workshops. The coordination mechanism will be also used to facilitate any relevant transboundary consultations within the SESA processes of the national Blue Economy Strategies (should they be found to have any potentially significant transboundary effects.) The establishment of a co-ordination mechanism will draw on experiences elsewhere (e.g. PEMSEA, CLME, Mediterranean, etc.).

Activities will include:

1. Regular coordination meetings (in addition to observer status at PSC meetings) with GEF Black Sea projects, both through regular (quarterly) virtual and/or in-person meetings;
2. Establishment of coordination mechanism and information sharing that will be confirmed during the project inception phase;
3. Participation of all three projects in relevant, common workshops where appropriate;
4. Establishing links between project websites and developing a common web portal (within the GEF IW:LEARN website to ensure sustainability post-project) to enhance knowledge management across the region in partnership with Black Sea Commission's information system (BSIS);
5. Capacity development on transboundary EIA / SEA consultations, including, where appropriate, the Espoo Convention.

? **Output 3.2: Implementation of national/regional capacity development programmes on EBM, building on best practices from e.g. Barcelona Convention**

The project will deliver capacity development programmes to strengthen the ability of various stakeholder groups (e.g. BSC PS, national authorities involved in Black Sea SAP implementation, CSOs/NGOs, private sector involved in the blue economy, MPA managers, etc.) to implement and manage MPAs. The capacity development will cover both formal workshops and the sharing of experiences and best practices from other regional seas (e.g. Barcelona Convention). This output will link closely with, and complement the work of, the GEF/FAO fisheries project on EBM. The gender-sensitive training programmes will be focused on assisting stakeholders with the overall implementation of an EBM approach within the Black Sea region and highlighting the benefits to all sections of society of improved ecosystem services and livelihoods of citizens inhabiting the basin from this approach. The capacity development will continue to support strengthening the participation of women and girls within the basin at all levels of decision making. The overall goal of the capacity development will be to further encourage the sustainable implementation of the regional updated Black Sea SAP.

Activities will include:

1. Identification of training needs for different stakeholder groups based on the stakeholder analysis identified during the PPG phase;
2. Identification of specific training needs for women's groups and for strengthening the role of women in the management of MPAs and means to assess the impacts of the training;
3. Agreement on necessary capacity development and building on training activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region with respect to MPA management;
4. Delivery of capacity development training to specific stakeholder groups;
5. Capacity development for SEA and EIA processes for developments that may adversely affect the Black Sea environment including, where appropriate, the Espoo Convention.

### **? Output 3.3: National and regional strategies and programmes to share information and experiences**

The project will engage at a national and regional level with a wide range of stakeholders. It will develop a strategy (incorporating any necessary Covid-19 restrictions and post-conflict issues in the region) and programme for national and regional information and awareness raising interventions that will be undertaken in Components 1 and 2 respectively. Output 3.3 will co-ordinate these activities and deliver specific awareness raising workshops (potentially held together with the GEF/FAO fisheries and World Bank/GEF projects under development) related to EBM, MPA and blue economy issues linked to these at national and regional meetings. All meetings will be conducted considering any different needs of women and men. All meetings will be subject to an attendee 'assessment' of the content, and sex disaggregated data will be collected for annual reports.

Activities will include:

1. Developing regional and national strategies and memorandums of understanding for sharing information (linked with the activities to enhance the BSIS ? Output 3.4 and Project communication in Component 4);
2. Developing of approaches to be adopted for working under any Covid-19 restrictions (subject to national regulations);
3. Assisting regional organisations (BSC) and national bodies to develop and implement strategies where required;
4. Assisting with post-Covid strategies where needed;
5. Facilitating initial strategies to address post-conflict priorities with respect to MPAs in Ukraine.

? **Output 3.4: Updated and enhanced web based BSIS to facilitate regional and national awareness raising**

The project will undertake a brief review of users' feedback on the current BSIS and their future requirements. Working closely with the BSC PS and national data/information providers and users, the project will develop and implement a new system to incorporate all relevant information developed by the project (and provide a system for incorporation of information from other national and regional projects). Additional national data will be made regionally available through output 1.3. The updated BSIS will further facilitate regional co-ordination and raising national awareness on the benefits to ecosystems and the blue economy from EBM approaches the strengthening of MPAs. This will be of benefit to the GCFM and the GEF/FAO fisheries and the GEF/World Bank projects to further the implementation of EBM approaches.

Activities will include:

1. Creation of co-ordination mechanism based on BSIS between all individual, national and regional data providers to be consistent with on-going BSC reporting requirements that will link to indicator development (Output 2.3) for assessment of EBM;
2. Creation of a special interactive page on the BSIS website demonstrating the modern processes of restoration of the MPAs (such as biocenoses of the Zernov's Phyllophora Field on the Black Sea shelf).

**Component 4: Knowledge Management, communications and outreach**

This component will focus on ensuring that the lessons and experiences from the project from national activities as well as regional actions are disseminated widely. The project will review the approaches to knowledge management adopted in other LMEs (e.g UNEP/MAP approaches to developing a knowledge management strategy).The project will also contribute 1% of the GEF budget to support the GEF

IW:LEARN activities to share experiences within the IW community of projects through global and regional meetings, twinning's, and capacity development activities.

Component 4 will deliver **Outcome 4** *Stakeholders enabled with improved information (lessons and benefits of the project) to sustain and replicate actions.*

? **Output 4.1: Established IW:LEARN compliant website within existing BSC website**

The project will establish an IW:LEARN compliant website following the guidance and best practices available. The website will link with other regional projects and partner organisations. This will be implemented within the inception phase of the project.

Activities will include:

1. Develop and maintain a project website following GEF IW:LEARN guidance;
2. Develop and maintain linkages for a common portal to share information between the World Bank, FAO and UNDP GEF projects on the Black Sea. This will be sustained within the GEF IW:LEARN website and will be linked with the BSIS.
3. Explore alternate means of communication to disseminate information to local stakeholders who may not have access to online information.

? **Output 4.2: Stakeholder and gender strategies documented, implemented and shared across the Black Sea region**

Draft stakeholder engagement (reflecting any likely Covid-19 restrictions and means to continue engagement minimising travel and contact) and gender inclusion strategies (including M&E indicators and targets) prepared during the PPG phase will be reviewed during the Inception Phase and submitted for approval at the Inception Meeting. These strategies will define the work of the project in dealing with differing stakeholder groups and ensuring that the project adopts an active role in encouraging the involvement of girls and women in ecosystem management within the Black Sea region. The Safeguards consultant will assess strategies develop by the project to ensure there are no impacts on stakeholder groups in the region and will monitor activities against the Project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). During the inception phase the project will consult with the UNDP Regional SES specialist at the UNDP's Vertical Fund Program Support and Oversight & Compliance Unit to verify the specific steps proposed for the application of the project's SES arrangement in the detailed project plan

Activities will include:

1. Update and implementation of the draft stakeholder mapping and engagement plan and draft gender strategies developed during the PPG phase;
2. Consult with UNDP's Vertical Fund Program Support and Oversight & Compliance Unit to verify specific steps for SES arrangements;



3. Annual review and update of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Strategy and Social and Environmental Safeguards and ESMF;
4. Implement national and regional workshops to encourage adoption of gender strategies identified in the region;
5. Regional presentation of recommended national approaches for comment by Black Sea Commission and participating countries.

? **Output 4.3: Participation in regional and global GEF /IW:LEARN activities**

The project will active engage (in-person and remotely) in a range of IW:LEARN activities such as biennial GEF IW Conferences, website support, thematic meetings, twinning workshops, etc.

Activities will include:

1. Establish linkages between the Black Sea LME Sea Project website and the IW: LEARN website;
2. Provide mid-Term and final Lessons and Practices Report to IW: LEARN;
3. Attendance at two GEF International Waters Conferences and other GEF-related workshops and meetings (e.g. LME workshops).

? **Output 4.4: Development of IW Experience Notes and other IW:LEARN related products and services**

Following IW best practices, the project will prepare at least three GEF Experience Notes related to EBM, strengthening MPAs, etc. In addition, the project will engage with IW:LEARN to prepare other relevant material as required on the activities of the project to ensure that lessons are shared widely throughout the GEF IW and LME community of projects.

Activities will include:

1. Identification and preparation of at least three GEF Experience Notes;
2. Delivering capacity development material on MPA to IW:LEARN;
3. Sharing with IW:LEARN experiences from cooperation from other LMEs (e.g. Mediterranean).

The project will allocate at least 1% of the overall GEF budget to involvement with IW:LEARN related activities.

**Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

Component 5 will finalize and implement an integrated approach to project level M&E, building on the draft project M&E plan presented below.

Component 5 will deliver **Outcome 5** *M&E strategy guides project management to achieve delivery of project outputs.*

? **Output 5.1: Participatory monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented to facilitate adaptive project management**

The M&E plan developed during the PPG phase will be revalidated at the Project Inception/PSC meeting. The plan details the information to be gathered and specify the responsible project staff, for the routine monitoring and evaluation to meet GEF and UNDP requirements (e.g. PIRs, quarterly reports, etc.). The M&E plan will ensure that indicators and their targets presented in the Project Results Framework are collected at the required time. The plan will also provide an outline Terms of Reference for the independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluations (TE) that will be conducted.

Activities will include:

1. Refinement and adoption of the project's monitoring and evaluation plan by PSC;
2. Undertake annual Project Steering Committee Meetings;
3. Collection and analysis of agreed M&E parameters (targets, progress on the Gender Strategy and SES Plan) for reporting in PIRs, etc.;
4. Undertaking an independent MTR;
5. Undertaking and independent TE.

The project will update the key findings of the 2007 TDA (e.g. transboundary problems, causal chain analysis, climate change impacts, economic valuation of ecosystems etc.) through the recent SoE report to enable the update of the Black Sea SAP to guide the next ten years of SAP implementation. Through the development of national and regional plans/strategies in components 1 and 2, the project will support further development and elaboration of National Action Plans (NAPs) in-line with the SAP updates.

Discussions revealed a strong need to strengthen the scientific knowledge base as the solutions to improve understanding and common knowledge base on marine living resources in the region, and availability of good quality data. This project will provide expertise and recommendations for updating the BS SAP 2009 and elaboration of next Black Sea State of Environment Report (SoE) 2015-2020, improve the understanding and the common knowledge base on marine living resources in the regions with direct data inputs and information to the Black Sea Information System and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (BSIMAP 2017-2022) to support the sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources through planning and strategic actions. The work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the GEF/FAO fisheries project will also benefit from the availability of updated regional information. This work on BSIS will also directly support the EBM objectives of the GEF/FAO fisheries project under preparation through the UNDP's project strengthening of planning tools (MCPA/MPA and the use of MSP). Where appropriate, the project will investigate previous GEF projects that have developed tools (models,

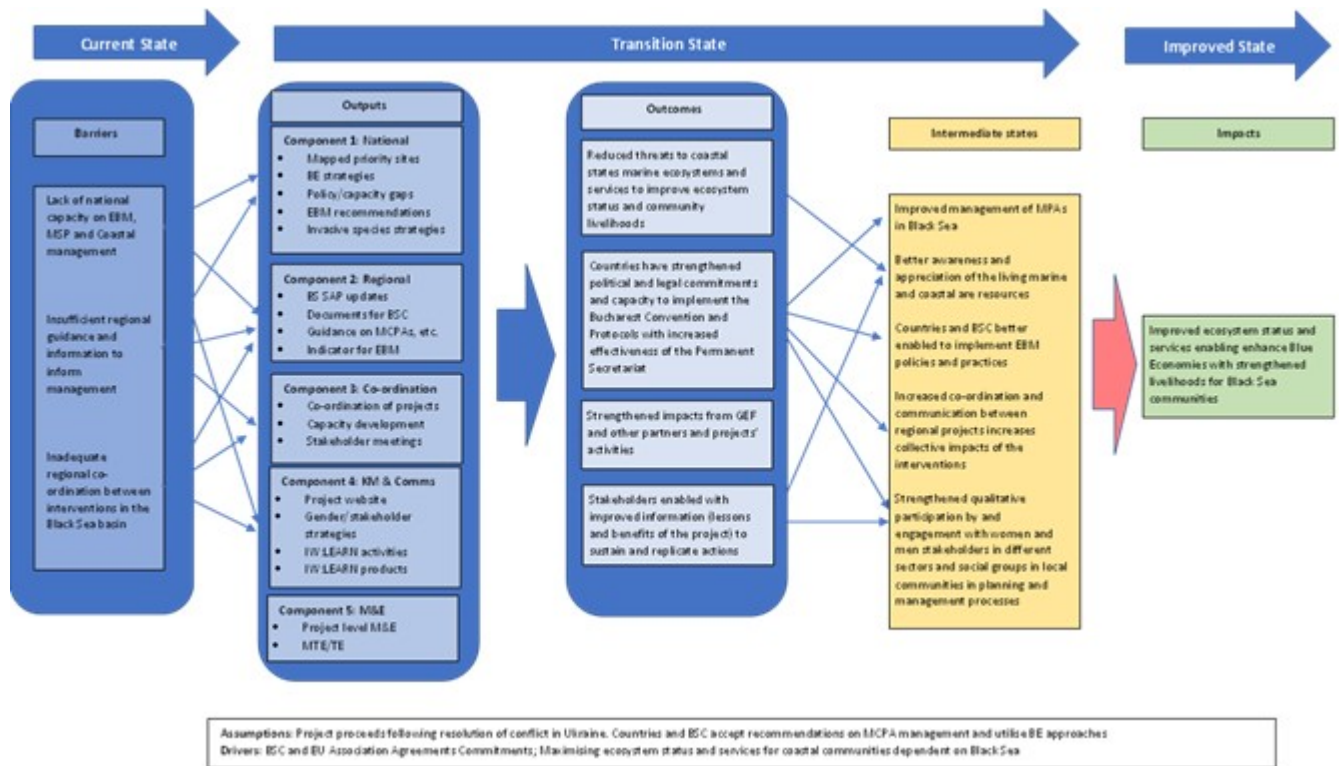
knowledge products etc.) to assist policy makers and planners to strengthen the governance of coastal ecosystems (e.g. GEF ID 4690).

These actions will facilitate the valuation of ecosystem services in the region and more importantly, the inclusion of ecosystem valuation studies as an integral part in decision models for specific marine management decisions at the national scale, especially those linked with the implementation of the integrated coastal zone management principles and implementation of ICZM Guidelines in the Black Sea[5] adopted by the Black Sea Commission in 2018, marine spatial planning and sustainable blue economy.

The project has been designed to facilitate the **co-ordination** of the current GEF projects led by FAO and the World Bank in the Black Sea region to ensure that these three initiatives collectively deliver actions that strengthen the regional livelihoods through sustainable utilization of the blue economy resources for the population while ensuring enhanced ecosystem protection of the living resources. When and where necessary, the project will utilize appropriate Covid-19 lessons and experiences to enable co-ordination, technical exchanges and capacity development to continue with relevant social distancing and travel restrictions.

The main project activities, outputs and outcomes are presented above (Section 3). **If** the outputs and expected outcomes are delivered, **then** the project will achieve the anticipated long-term impacts as summarized in the ToC (below).:The overarching assumptions that are necessary for the project to achieve the expected goal and impact include the cessation of conflict in Ukraine and the acceptance of MPA management and coordination, and the utilisation of Blue Economy approaches.

The changes, and the main assumptions and drivers for the project are presented below showing the linkages between the current barriers to change, the expected outputs and outcomes towards the intended long-term impact: *?Improved ecosystem status and services enabling enhance Blue Economies with strengthened livelihoods for Black Sea Communities?.*



**Figure: Project Theory of Change (ToC)**

The project will also contribute to national targets associated with SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs in the Black Sea region. In addition, it is noted that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects[1]. The role of managed ecosystems in mitigating climate change by promoting carbon sequestration and storage and by buffering against uncertainty in management, environmental fluctuations, directional change, and extreme events will also be highlighted in the TDA/SAP process. The proposed project will have benefits to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, it will also substantiate possible climate change scenarios and implications they bring.

#### 4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

This Project remains completely aligned with the GEF-7 Strategy for International Waters Objective 1 (*Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities*) in-line with strategy areas 1 (*Strengthening healthy coastal and marine ecosystems*) as presented in the PIF. The Project also contributes to the GEF Biodiversity focal area by strengthening governance and management of marine and coastal protected areas.

The Project supports the GEF 7 strategy and the BSC's SAP Objectives 1 and 2[2]. Specifically, the Project is expected to deliver over 418,000 ha of Marine Protected areas (created or under improved management for conservation of sustainable use ? GEF 7 Core Indicator 2) with over 10,000 direct beneficiaries (50:50 sex disaggregated).

The Project is expected to contribute to long-term global environmental benefits and assist with strengthening the socio-economic benefits of communities dependent on the Black Sea ecosystem services. The project's multiple outputs are likely to support:

- ? Long-term positive contributions to biodiversity (e.g. through adoption of EBM approaches, strengthening the management capacity of MCPAs and EBSA sites, reduced invasive species issues, etc.);
- ? The updated TDA and SAP will provide a detailed baseline of the current ecosystem status and the pressures on the environment and a roadmap to address the key transboundary pressures for the countries (with the support of the BSC) over the next 10 years. Through the updated TDA and SAP the region will benefit through a better understanding of the economic valuation of ecosystem tools developed by GEF IW:LEARN.
- ? Benefits accruing from enhanced co-ordination between three GEF projects and other donors' activities.

The project will also contribute to national targets associated with SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs in the Black Sea region. In addition, it is noted that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects[3]. The role of managed ecosystems in mitigating climate change by promoting carbon sequestration and storage and by buffering against uncertainty in management, environmental fluctuations, directional change, and extreme events will also be highlighted in the TDA/SAP process.

#### **5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;**

There have been no changes to the expected incremental reasoning since the PIF. In summary the project will:

The GEF grant of USD 3,000,000 is leveraging a co-financing contribution of USD 13,517,173 that will collectively contribute to the incremental activities adding to the historic and the current baseline. The experiences and lessons will be widely distributed throughout the Black Sea region and more widely through the GEF IW:LEARN projects and the on-going work of the countries of the Black Sea region, the BSC, UNESCO-IOC, and other partners. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and COVID have impacted the start of other new projects and programmes in the region that have delayed the securing of additional co-financing. The project will work to increasing the co-financing contribution during execution.

The GEF grant is acting as a catalyst to focus the national (and partner) co-financing on the strengthening of MPA management (that will link with the GEF FAO project), developing national strategies on Blue Economy (linking with the GEF World Bank Project) and updating the TDA/SAP with the endorsement from the Project countries for approval by the BSC.

#### **Without the GEF Grant - baseline scenario**

The three project countries of the Black Sea region are participating in multiple regional initiatives with national and donor resources that are providing direct actions in responses to the Black Sea SAP (2009). This work is conducted with close co-ordination with the Black Sea Commission who have the regional task of overseeing the overall implementation of the BS-SAP.

? The baseline activities that are planned to be undertaken include:

? Countries participating in Black Sea Commission activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, surveys, etc.)

? Countries of the Black Sea region implementing the EU Marine Directive with Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine pursuing this under their respective Association Agreements with the EU.

? Participating in multiple regional projects (as described above).

However, there is currently limited focus on Marine Protected Area Management and the utilisation of EBM approaches in the region.

### **With the GEF Grant - incremental reasoning**

The GEF is funding interlinked projects in the region to provide key inputs to supporting regional blue economy approaches (through the World Bank), improving fisheries management (through FAO) and this project addressing EBM and providing additional co-ordination of these three GEF projects and between the GEF projects and other donor/national financed projects.

The GEF grant will assist with the application of economic valuation of ecosystems to be undertaken under the revised TDA to help increase the visibility of the MPAs nationally and regionally.

The project will undertake a rapid update of the TDA based on recent information to identify any changes to the key transboundary problems previously identified and to update the causal chain analysis. This will enable an updated SAP to be developed to establish agreed programmes of actions for the region for the coming decade.

The current project will take an active role (through Component 3) to facilitate the collaboration and sharing of information between the three GEF projects, the three beneficiary countries and the BSC. The current project will also be taking the lead to update the TDA and SAP for the three Black Sea Countries by helping to ensure that relevant data from the FAO and World Bank projects is integrated into the updated TDA.

Information from the updated TDA will assist with the current SoE report (2015 - 2020) and to guide any additional information needs in preparation to the SoE 2021 - 2025 report.

### **6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

There have been no changes to the expected global environmental benefits since the PIF.

The project will support the GEF International Waters focal areas addressing transboundary problems identified in the 2009 Black Sea SAP, through support to strengthening the management and coordination of MPAs that will assist with the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem services and functions of the Black Sea to the benefit of coastal communities and the overall ecosystem of the LME.

In particular the project will contribute to the GEF Core Indicators, 2 7 and 11.

- GEF Core Indicator 2 - 418,25a ha (Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use;
- GEF Core Indicator 7 ? 1 shared waterbody (Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management) with contributions to sub-indicators 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4;
- GEF Core Indicator 11 - 10,000 direct beneficiaries 50:50 Women ? Men (Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management)

The core indicators will be achieved through the GEF grant and the expected co-finance for this project. In summary the project will contribute to long-term global environmental benefits and assist with strengthening the socio-economic benefits of communities dependent on the Black Sea ecosystem services. The project?s multiple outputs are likely to support:

- ? Long-term positive contributions to biodiversity (e.g. through adoption of EBM approaches, strengthening the management capacity of MCPAs and EBSA sites, reduced invasive species issues, etc.);
- ? The updated TDA and SAP will provide a detailed baseline of the current ecosystem status and the pressures on the environment and a roadmap to address the key transboundary pressures for the countries (with the support of the BSC) over the next 10 years. Through the updated TDA and SAP the region will benefit through a better understanding of the economic valuation of ecosystem tools developed by GEF IW:LEARN.
- ? Benefits accruing from enhanced co-ordination between three GEF projects and other donors? activities.
- ? The activities planned will form a content of future regional documents (i.e. National Strategies, updated TDA SAP etc.) which will describe the (binding) obligations of parties to adopt the measures that reduce pressure on the marine and coastal ecosystem and support livelihoods. Moreover, these documents would set the methods of monitoring and assessment of effectiveness of implementation of these measures on national and regional levels.

The strengthening of the effectiveness of MPA management and the improved ecosystem status that will be achieved as a result of this, is considered to be offer significant benefits to the long-term, sustainable livelihoods of stakeholders (e.g. fishers, tourism organisations, etc.) dependent on natural resources in the Black Sea.

The project will also contribute to national targets associated with SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs in the Black Sea region. In addition, it is noted that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects[4]. The role of managed ecosystems in mitigating climate change by promoting carbon sequestration and storage and by buffering against uncertainty in management, environmental fluctuations, directional change, and extreme events will also be

highlighted in the TDA/SAP process. The proposed project will have benefits to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, it will also substantiate possible climate change scenarios and implications they bring.

#### **7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?**

There have been no changes to the planned innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling-up.

The Project proposes **innovative** activities based on addressing the ecosystem-based management approach and application of the Blue Economy concept for the entire region. It is worth mentioning that since the EBM approach was for the first time introduced into the BS SAP 2009, there were no real attempts to address it on the regional level, thus, relevant Output 1.1 of the project will identify the gaps in EBM policies and elaborate concrete proposals to address them. Moreover, the Project will link the EMB approach and national Blue Economy Strategies to be developed under dedicated Output 1.2, making them consistent with BS SAP 2009 Ecosystem Quality Objectives and MPAs managers networks to be established. Relevant Outputs will also push for creation of national inter-ministerial committees and co-ordination of regional initiatives supported by the GEF through the World Bank's and FAO's projects on the Black Sea.

The Project will also include pioneer activities, such as creation and support of a Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Black Sea, as well as using available cooperation arrangements for twinning it with existing MPAs Network for Mediterranean Sea. This will help the Black Sea Commission to successfully implement its commitments under both, BS SAP and the MoU with UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and relevant Joint Work Plans established between Mediterranean and the Black Sea so far (Outputs 2.2 and 3.2).

Another innovative tool to be further elaborated and established in the region is transboundary MPA to be created between neighbouring Black Sea member states. The Project also foresees the first update of the so-called CBD Protocol under Bucharest Convention and adoption of the regional MPAs Guidelines to summarize best practices and lessons learnt to coordinate the MCPA management on regional level.

The **sustainability** of project results will be stipulated by the choice of practices and activities to ensure that all its deliverables will form a part of regional commitments and will be documented (updated TDA and BS SAP, Protocols, Guidelines etc., Outputs 2.1 and 2.2) for further successful implementation on the regional level. Dedicated Output 1.3 will also update national databases to complement the regional BSIS database with brand new components on biological and socio-economic aspects. This will ensure that compatible and sustainable data flows in support of the Bucharest Convention and its regional database for pollution will be upgraded in Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine. In its turn updated national databases will support the regional work on MCPA/MPAs following EBM approaches and will also benefit GFCM and the GEF/FAO fisheries project under preparation with co-ordination of available information led by the BSC and this project respectively.

Project also aims to create a solid organizational structure, i.e. which will unite the efforts of various MPA managers and link all relevant activities with the Mediterranean Sea.



The Project, through close cooperation with BSC, will be part of and will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the Black Sea adopted for the entire region with the support of the European Commission. This initiative guides stakeholders from academia, funding agencies, industry, policy, and society to address together the fundamental Black Sea challenges, to promote the blue economy and its prosperities of the Black Sea region, to build critical support systems and innovative research infrastructure and to improve education and capacity building. The Initiative has identified four main pillars on which a new set of research and innovation actions will be developed. The outcomes of the Project will be sustained through data sharing mechanisms that are being currently created under SRIA.

The Project deliverables will also be incorporated into main documents of the BSC (BSIMAP, TDA, BS SAP etc.) and, thus, be sustained and have the potential to be scaled up in the future.

The Project's deliverables linked to sustainable MPAs management will address and directly contribute to sustainable livelihoods in the Black Sea, such as subsistence farming or fishing, as well as opportunities and incentives for people to generate income through environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate management of their natural resources (physical, economic, environmental and social).

The national BE strategies to be developed under the Project will introduce a set of principles that underpin best practice in any development intervention in any livelihoods: people-centered, responsive and participatory, multi-level, conducted in partnership, sustainable and dynamic.

The Project will facilitate the scaling-up of practices and arrangements recognized by the stakeholders, particularly fishers and coastal population, both women and men, within the framework of the Project, to sustainably anchor resilience to crises in coastal territories and further development of MPAs. This experience and practices can be further promoted and used by stakeholders in other regions and on the global level (within initiatives under UN Regional Seas Program, SOI Initiative, EBSA process etc.).

Component 4 will capture the lessons and best practices from the sequential delivery from the previous components and recommend options for replication and scaling-up while also ensuring that the positive work undertaken by the Project are well documented and distributed.

Through the coordination of the BSC PS, results of the project on the management of MPAs will be encouraged to be adopted across the basin and shared with partner organisations.

---

[1] Roberts, C., *et al.* Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change., PNAS | June 13, 2017 | vol. 114 | no. 24 | 6167-6175. <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/24/6167.full.pdf>

[2] BS SAP? Ecosystem Quality Objectives (EcoQOs): EcoQO 1: Preserve commercial marine living resources and EcoQO 2: Conservation of Black Sea Biodiversity and Habitats ([Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution \(blacksea-commission.org\)](http://blacksea-commission.org))

[3] Roberts, C., *et al.* Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change., PNAS | June 13, 2017 | vol. 114 | no. 24 | 6167-6175. <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/24/6167.full.pdf>

[4] Roberts, C., *et al.* Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change., PNAS | June 13, 2017 | vol. 114 | no. 24 | 6167-6175. <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/24/6167.full.pdf>

---

[1] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf>

[3] (<https://www.ICPDR.org>)

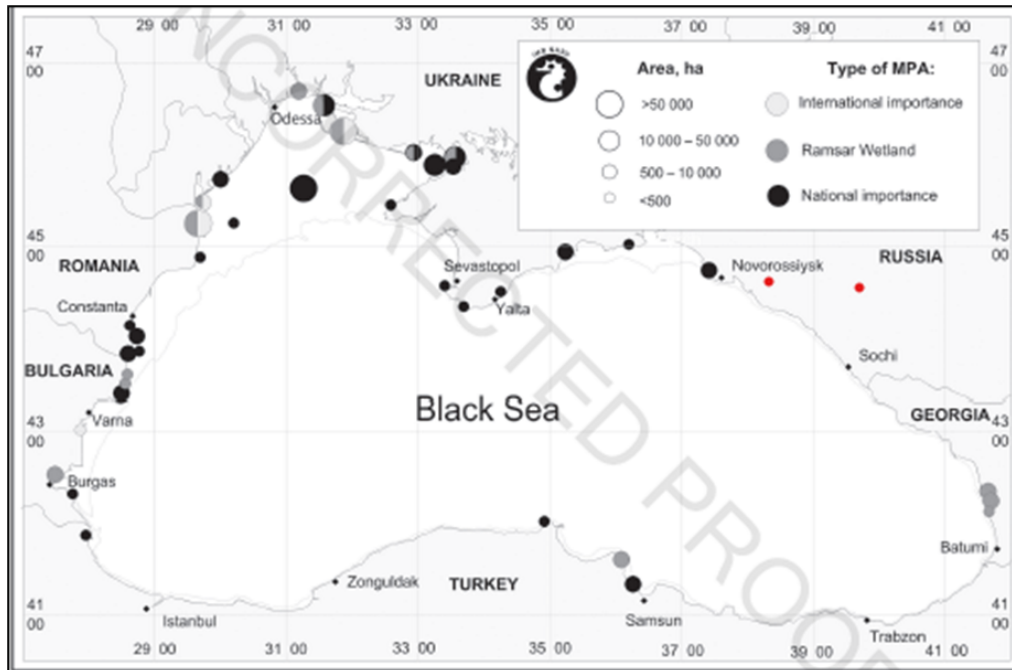
[4] Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (<https://accobams.org/>)

[5] [Black\\_Sea\\_ICZM\\_Guideline](http://blacksea-commission.org/) (blacksea-commission.org)

#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

*1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates*



The Black Sea MPAs of international and national importance[1]

[1] Alexandrov, B., Minicheva, G. and Zitsev, Y. *Black Sea Network of Marine Protected Areas: European Approaches and Adaption to Expansion and Monitoring in Ukraine*. in *Management of Marine Protected Areas: A new Perspective*, Goriup P (ed) 2017

### 1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

### 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities No

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The project will engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, utilizing existing structures as much as practicable. Over 70 *potential* stakeholders were identified and their interests in the proposed project assessed. A stakeholder analysis is presented below indicating the potential interest of each stakeholder group in relation to the project, the estimated effect on project interests and their importance and influence the project.

### **Stakeholder Analysis**

The overall objective of the stakeholder engagement plan is to ensure that the interests and priorities of different stakeholder groups and sectors are fully integrated into the activities of the project, As indicated above, the GEF/UNDP Black Sea Project is to support the stakeholders strengthen the management of MCPAs within the Black Sea Region through national actions to strengthen capacity and policies and to ensure the regional expectations agreed by the BSC are met. Specific objectives of the draft Engagement Plan:

- ? Raising awareness and informing stakeholders on the goal and objectives of the GEF-UNDP project;
- ? Encouraging national and local awareness of the importance and benefits of marine and coastal protected areas;
- ? Gathering regional, national and local inputs to the project execution;
- ? Increasing the distribution of knowledge from the current three GEF projects (World Bank, FAO and UNDP) and from other bilateral and multilateral donors;
- ? Participation in monitoring and evaluation and, where necessary, through a planned grievance mechanism (see below).
- ? Providing linkages between wider stakeholder groups and the project's gender strategy.

The PMU (specifically the Project Manager and the Knowledge Management/Communications expert) will facilitate contact between the specific project activities and potentially interested stakeholders. Where appropriate the broader capabilities of the GEF IW:LEARN project (designed to facilitate exchange of information and sharing of experiences between related projects) will be involved. The engagement initiated in the project development phase will continue and expand during full project execution through planned activities, including:

- ? Meetings and Workshops

- ? Inception Phase/meeting
- ? Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings (of partners and observers). These will be organised at least annually and will be the main supervisory body to approve outputs, confirm planned budgets and expenditure, agree any proposed changes and note progress towards the project's intended outcomes and objectives.
- ? Project specific meetings (e.g. the development of Blue Economy Strategies (Output 1.2) or the updating of the TDA/SAP (Output 2.1)). These will include expert technical meetings on MCPAs and Blue Economy and meetings with national policy makers.
- ? Training sessions/capacity building (e.g. on information management at national/regional levels, strengthening capacities on EBM and MCPA management, etc.).
- ? Regional meetings (e.g. meetings with BSC and BSC PS, participation in meetings with FAO/World Bank GEF projects or strengthening linkages with the EU in support of the national Associations Agreements).
- ? Inter-regional meetings and exchange/twinning events (e.g. with Mediterranean on establishing a Network of MPAs managers and through GEF IW:LEARN).

The PMU will have an officer responsible for knowledge management and communication who will facilitate the capture of lessons and experiences, providing summary newsletters (via the website and social media on key outputs from the project specifically targeted at different stakeholder groups).

#### ? Communications

Communication with stakeholders is a key part of the project's activities. This is essential to highlight the aspects of MCPA that are necessary to strengthen, the benefits that they deliver and the roles that stakeholders have at strengthening the overall management (with consequential benefits to the ecosystem services they support). The project will use the lessons and practices recommended by the GEF IW:LEARN project based on 20+ years experiences in communicating International Waters actions to global audiences. The communication will be directed to national, regional and global audiences.

The project has specific actions to coordinate information and knowledge from the parallel FAO and World Bank Black Sea projects (on Fisheries and Blue Economy respectively) and from other sources (e.g. EU financed projects and actions on the Mediterranean).

- ? Website
- ? Social media
- ? Press (TV, radio and newspapers)

- ? Project Progress reports within the planned M&E processes
- ? Preparation of policy briefs and public relations material to facilitate the understanding of the importance and benefits of MCPAs to the economic services provided by the Black Sea
- ? GEF and IW:LEARN Experience Notes and related publications including Lessons and Best Practices related to MCPA management and links to the Blue Economy in the Black Sea.

Output 4.2 of the project will deliver both the updated/revised Gender Strategy (within 6 months of project start) to guide the project's execution and prepare a Communication Plan (within 3 months of the project start) for approval by the PSC.

### Stakeholders Engagement Timeline

Stakeholders	Interests at stake in relation to project	Effect of project on interests (+ 0 -)	Importance 1=Little/No Importance  2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance  4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Influence 1=Little/No Influence  2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence  5=Very Influential	
Implementing partner (GEF Executing Entity): IOC-UNESCO					
1	IOC - UNESCO	Strengthen policies and capacities on management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the Black Sea	+	5	5
GEF agency:					
2	UNDP	Ensure global environmental benefits are generated, and effective and efficient project implementation	+	5	5
Regional stakeholders					

Stakeholders		Interests at stake in relation to project	Effect of project on interests (+ 0 -)	Importance 1=Little/No Importance  2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance  4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Influence 1=Little/No Influence  2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence  5=Very Influential
1	Black Sea Commission	Key regional partner of the project. The Black Sea Commission and its Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS), based in Istanbul will be a key member of the PSC and the project outputs are aligned with BSC priorities.	+	5	5
2	Bulgaria, Romania and the Russian Federation	Participate (at their own expense) in project activities, meetings and share the findings of the project outputs towards strengthening the management of marine and coastal protected areas.	0	2	2
3	European Union (EU)	Support countries through various Association Agreements (GE, TR and UA), environment projects including activities in-line with the EU Marine Framework Strategy Directive (MFSD).	+	4	4

Stakeholders		Interests at stake in relation to project	Effect of project on interests (+ 0 -)	Importance 1=Little/No Importance  2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance  4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Influence 1=Little/No Influence  2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence  5=Very Influential
4	UN FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (UN FAO GFCM)	Support the strengthening of MCPA management and sharing lessons between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. GFCM is also responsible for the execution of the GEF-FAO project	+	5	5
5	Black Sea Economic Commission (BSEC)	Has oversight of economic activities across the Black Sea region including Blue Economy activities. The BSEC is executing the GEF-World Bank project	+	5	5
6	GEF	Supports the World Bank and FAO to implement critical projects in the region (Blueing the Black Sea with this GEF-UNDP project facilitating information exchanges between the three GEF projects, the BSC and the Contracting States of the Black Sea Convention. This coordination will be undertaken through Component 3 of the UNDP project.	+	5	5
Key national agencies and central government stakeholders:					



Stakeholders		Interests at stake in relation to project	Effect of project on interests (+ 0 -)	Importance 1=Little/No Importance  2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance  4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Influence 1=Little/No Influence  2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence  5=Very Influential
7	Ministries and Departments (including Environment, Protected Areas, Agriculture, International Relations, Tourism, Transport, etc. full details of multiple national authorities provided in the Project Document Annex 8b).	Assessment of the project's activities through the PSC that will provide opportunity to guide the direction of the project	+	4	4
Civil Society / Non-government Organizations					
8	Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):	Facilitate improved understanding of the importance and benefits of MCPAs and how these communities can, with any relevant training, contribute to their management.	+	4	4
Enterprises					

Stakeholders		Interests at stake in relation to project	Effect of project on interests (+ 0 -)	Importance 1=Little/No Importance  2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance  4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Influence 1=Little/No Influence  2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence  5=Very Influential
9	Private Sector	These include those engaged in Blue Economy activities including fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, port facilities. industries and agriculture within the coastal region will be targeted where they have a specific impact on land-based protected areas or on adjacent MPAs (or potential MPAs).	+	4	4
Academic and research organizations:					
10	Academia/Scientific Institutes	Undertake the work of the project and will build on the capacities pre-existing in the countries.  Valuable resource in academic institutions with a clear mechanism for further dissemination through teaching of students.	+	5	5
Local communities where project interventions are planned:					

Stakeholders		Interests at stake in relation to project	Effect of project on interests (+ 0 -)	Importance 1=Little/No Importance  2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance  4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Influence 1=Little/No Influence  2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence  5=Very Influential
16	Local communities, fishers	Increased knowledge, strengthened capacities, sustainable livelihood opportunities	+	5	4
<b>Vulnerable Groups</b>					
17	Lipovane	Engaged in traditional types of fishing in the protected area of the Danube Biosphere Reserve of the Black Sea	+	2	2
Activity		Expected date or frequency			
Inception phase and workshop		During the first 3 months of project execution			
Formal adoption of revised/updated stakeholder engagement plan (Output 4.2) and communication plan		Presented at Project Inception meeting and adopted at 1st PSC meeting			
Gender Strategy update (Output 4.2)		Within 6 months of project start			
Adoption of Grievance Mechanism		Presented at Project Inception meeting and adopted at 1st PSC meeting			
Establishment of Project website (compliant with GEF IW:LEARN recommendations)		Within 3 months of project start			
Establishment of Project social media feeds		Within 6 months of project start			
Stakeholder meetings (e.g. for TDA and SAP development)		As required			
Formal stakeholder meetings to brief specific stakeholder groups (e.g. fishers, tourism bodies, etc.)		At least every year			
Stakeholder capacity development activities		As required and linked to Output 1.2 (Blue Economy strategies), Output 1.4 (Invasive species), Output 2.1 (TDA/SAP ? this will require multiple meetings), Output 2.2 (Guidance documents on MCPAs), Output 3.1 (coordination with other projects), Output 3.2 (Capacity building on EBM), Output 4.2 (Stakeholder and Gender Strategies, Output 4.3 (regional and global GEF IW meetings)			

Participation of stakeholders in MTE and TE	At mid-point and end of project
Project Steering Committee meetings	As partners or invited as observers, held at least annually

The Project Manager will be responsible for ensuring that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is revised/updated during the Inception Phase (and approved at the first PSC meeting) and implemented. He/she will be assisted by the PMU officer responsible for Knowledge Management and Communications. The project will develop a multi-year work programme with sufficient resources to provide effective stakeholder engagement.

### **Grievance Redress Mechanism**

In case any grievances exist among Project beneficiaries, stakeholders or partners, they will initially be encouraged to direct these to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and provide sufficient background information in order to assess the cause of the grievance and identify possible solutions. If the PMU based on its assessment of the seriousness and complexity of the problem is not able to provide a solution, the grievance may be escalated to the relevant (Government) partners and/or the Project Steering Committee. The PSC may decide to organise an *ad hoc* meeting in order to address the issue, or, if appropriate depending on the urgency, postpone the issue until the next planned regular meeting.

### **Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes**

**Co-financier; Yes**

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes**

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain) Yes**

### **Stakeholder Contacts**

Due to COVID restrictions operating during the PPG stage, in-person meetings were limited in Georgia and Türkiye, and impossible in Ukraine due to the ongoing military conflict. However a detailed desk-based assessment of *potential* stakeholders who could be involved and interested in the project was undertaken by national and regional experts. The following meetings were held with stakeholders in Türkiye and Georgia with the objective of raising awareness on the project and seeking any feedback to guide the national activities.

**Türkiye**

Information meetings were held with the institutions listed below, which are authorized institutions on the management of marine areas and protection areas of the provinces on the Black Sea coast.

**Institutions related to coastal management, pollution, planning:**

1. Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change;
  - Trabzon Directorates of Conservation of Natural Assets
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:
  - Trabzon and samsun Directorates of Nature Conservation and National Parks
  - Trabzon Directorate branch of Fisheries

**Institutions related to marine and coastal activities and tourism:**

1. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Cultural and Archaeological Sites):
  - Trabzon Directorate of Tourism
  - Trabzon port authorities

**NGOs/CSOs which related fisheries, environment, economy**

- TURMEPA Samsun Office
- DOK?EP ( Eastern Black Sea environmental associations platform)
- Fisheries cooperative and associations ( Trabzon)
- DOGATAR?H (Association of the Protection of Natural and Historical Heritages)

**Georgia**

The following stakeholders met and consulted in the course of national report preparation.

- ? Chief Specialist, Biodiversity and Forestry Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, GFCM Contact Point
- ? Deputy Head, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), National Environment Agency (NEA), Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
- ? Head, Black Sea Protection Convention Division (BSPCD), Department of Environmental Supervision (DEA), Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
- ? Leader, Small-Scale Fisherman Team in Guria Region
- ? Owner of Seiner ?Samegrelo?, Chairman of Fishermen Association of Georgia
- ? Owner, Seiner ?Albatross?, Co-Founder of Black Sea Marine Fisheries Cluster of Samegrelo Zemo-Svaneti Region, Georgia

## PPG Validation Meeting

A virtual validation meeting was held on the 16 December 2022. The purpose of the meeting was *“To support the validation process, initiated with the circulation of the UNESCO/UNDP/GEF draft Project Document, with a briefing to national representatives and other regional stakeholders on the documents to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat for endorsement?”.*

The participants invited included delegates from the three countries, regional bodies, national and regional consultants and representatives from UNESCO-IOC and UNDP. Specifically:

- Government representatives from Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine
- BSC National Focal Points from Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine
- National Technical experts from Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine
- Representatives of the BSC
- Representatives from BSEC
- UNDP CO representatives from Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine
- UNDP RTA
- UNESCO-IOC
- Technical representatives from GEF projects planned for the Black Sea from World Bank and FAO
- National and international consultants engaged in the Project Document Development

The meeting participants received copies of draft Project Document and annexes in advance to provide additional background to the project and the importance of the meeting. Following the briefing of the participants they were given six weeks to provide any written comment or request for clarification to the project development team. All comments and suggestions received were included in the final documents.

A detailed stakeholder analysis and draft engagement plans are annexed to the Project Document (Annexes 8a and 8b). A summary of key elements of the stakeholder involvement is presented below.

The stakeholder engagement plan aims to strengthen cooperation and coordination that will help to promote and implement stronger and more effective cross-sectoral management and stewardship of the Black Sea. The existing collaborations and partnerships have some considerable history of success already and this will help to ensure further the long-term uptake and sustainable impact of this Project into the future. In particular, this project will coordinate and cooperate with the other regional GEF projects[1].

The stakeholder analysis, and list of the main partners/stakeholder, their national/regional roles and their potential interest in project activities. Stakeholder engagement will focus on generating buy-in and support from specific partners and beneficiaries who are taking responsibility for certain activities. The Project will prioritise such interventions and partner strategies to deliver outputs in an appropriate sequential manner. The Project will ensure that stakeholders and partners are well-informed and updated on the intended Project goals and delivery. Stakeholder meetings will be discussed and agreed

during the project inception phase and included in the finalised stakeholder engagement plan (Output 4.2).

Stakeholder engagement and the development and/or strengthening of partnerships will be central to the long-term sustainability of this Project. This will support the work of the BSC-PS and the nationally agreed Association Agreements with the European Union.

The project will engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, utilizing existing structures as much as practicable. Over 70 *potential* stakeholders were identified and their interests in the proposed project assessed. A stakeholder analysis is presented below indicating the potential interest of each stakeholder group in relation to the project, the estimated effect on project interests and their importance and influence the project.

---

[1] FAO Fisheries Project and WB Blueing the Black Sea Project

### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

A summary of the Project's draft Gender Strategy and Engagement Plan is included below.

Estimated stakeholder numbers gender disaggregated per top (red), mid (yellow) and employee (green) levels

#### Türkiye

Women in the Black Sea region are very limited in maritime and fishing activities. Women's employment in the region generally works in fish processing factories, sales-marketing facilities or as a very few women engineers in the operation and management of fisheries-related facilities. According to the years, female labor in the region is given in the Table 1.

Table1. Basic Indicators of Female Labour Force (%) in the Black Sea region of Türkiye [1][2]

Stakeholders estimated figures (gender disaggregated)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Sum
PCEPNR Parliamentary Committee	1	1			1		1	2		3
MEPA Leadership (Minister, Deputies)	1			5			6			6
MEPA BFD Biodiversity and Forestry Department		3		1	2		1	5		6

<b>Stakeholders estimated figures (gender disaggregated)</b>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	<b>Sum</b>
MEPA ECCD Environment and Climate Change Department	1	1					1	1		2
MEPA IREID International Relations and EuroIntegration				1			1			1
MEPA APA Agency of Protected Area		1		1			1	1		2
MEPA KNP Kolkheti National Park		2	2	1		8	1	2	10	13
MEPA DES Department of Environmental Supervision	1	1					1	1		2
MEPA BSPCD Conventional Division of Black Sea Protection			6	1		9	1		15	16
MEPA NEA Leadership (Head)	1						1			1
MEPA NEA Pollution Monitoring	1						1			1
MEPA NEA Data Bases					2			2		2
MEPA NEA Licensing				1	2		1	2		3
MEPA NEA Fish Stock Assessment	1	2			1		1	3		4
MEPA EIEC Environmental Information and Education Center	1	1					1	1		2
DEA Department of Environment of Adjara A.R.	1	1			1		1	2		3
MIA BP CG Min. Internal Affairs Border Police Coast Guard				1	1	2	1	1	2	4
MoESD MTA Maritime Transport Agency	1	1			1		1	2		3
MoESD Spatial Planning	1				2		1	2		3
MRDI Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure		1			1			2		2
MES Ministry of Education and Science	1	1			1		1	2		3
TSU IOH Institute of Oceanography and Hydrology			1		3			3	1	4
BSU WESD BMCD Batumi State University		1			1			2		2
GIS and RS Consulting Center GeoGraphic, LLC		1	2		1			2	2	4





TR83 (Samsun, Tokat, ?orum, Amasya )	33,7	8,3	30,9	35,1	7,6	32,4	39,9	7,8	36,8	37,9	8,7	34,6
TR90(Trabzon,Ordu, Artvin, Rize, Giresun, G?m??hane)	36,6	5,2	34,7	39,7	4,4	38	40,4	6,8	37,7	43,5	11,3	38,6
<b>T?rkiye</b>	<b>30,8</b>	<b>11,9</b>	<b>27,1</b>	<b>31,5</b>	<b>12,6</b>	<b>27,5</b>	<b>34,2</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>29,4</b>	<b>34,4</b>	<b>16,5</b>	<b>28,7</b>

There is at least one association working on women's employment and women's rights in almost all of the Black Sea provinces. Most of national and local NGO are:

- ? WWF-T?rkiye
- ? Do?a Derne?i
- ? TURMEPA-T?rkiye
- ? T?DAV.

In T?rkiye Black Sea coast there are currently no women's groups interested in fisheries, MPAs and especially Environmental protection NGO. A current project (WE TOUR-Black Sea Women Entrepreneurship Connection ? Empowering Women through Tourism) is due to be completed in 2023 with relevance to the tourism sector.

## Ukraine

The results of the analysis of the involvement of various target groups of partners/stakeholders on the average and at the final stage of the Project showed that men still predominate in the target groups and their average percentage of the number of women is 62.

Involvement of Ukrainian Partners/Stakeholders at different stages of the Project and its Gender structure

Target group	Mid-term	End of Project	Gender Ratio (Men/Women), %
Government	3	5	80/20
Academic	3	3	52/48

Education	2	2	30/70
National Parks/Protected areas in coastal areas	5	5	65/35
Fisheries organisations or associations	-	4	95/5
Coastal farms	1	1	60/40
Coastal tourism organisations	-	2	43/57
Industry in the coastal area	-	2	75/25
Port Authorities	-	1	80/20
NGOs/Women's groups	3	6	25/75
<b>Total: 31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Average: 60/40</b>

- In Ukraine, in recent years, there has been a tendency to increase the role of women in the socio-political, economic, scientific and cultural processes. This trend is reflected on the example of the change in the gender structure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine from 1990 to the present. The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada is still far from gender balance, but the trend is encouraging. If in the first convocation there were only 2.5% of women (12 out of 475 deputies), then in the current convocation - 20.6% (87 out of 423 people's deputies). In the second convocation of the Verkhovna Rada, women made up 4.1% of the entire composition (18 out of 436 deputies), in the third - 8% (38 out of 477), in the fourth - 5.5% (28 out of 509), in the fifth - 8, 7% (42 out of 483), in the sixth - 7.8% (42 out of 541), in the seventh - 9.6% (46 out of 478), in the eighth - 12% (56 out of 468).

In the absence of specific gender disaggregated information, policies and data in the context of the MPAs in the project area, it will be necessary to develop project-specific baseline data of women and men engaged in primary marine dependent livelihoods in the MPAs, following the project initiation. The Black Sea LME project is not a community-based project. In the absence of pre-existing ties to the local community, and in the context of the project objective, it would be appropriate to conduct a gender analysis of key fish and aquaculture value chains. A gender analysis of the value chains will identify tasks, roles and responsibilities of women and men in relation to the fishing and aquaculture livelihoods. Who does what, where and how.

The value chain analysis will highlight gaps in access to resources for women and men, and the different needs and priorities required to secure their livelihoods. It will also indicate power structures in the community and barriers to participation in decision making and governance institutions. The value chain analysis will be carried out in a participatory process through which a target population will be identified for monitoring project results and impacts. This target population will provide the baseline data against which impacts, and results can be measured.

The GEF 7 programming directions identify 'unbalanced participation and decision making in environmental planning and governance at all levels' as one of three significant gender gaps most relevant to GEF projects. The gender strategy for this project will focus on addressing this gap and will recognize both women and men at all levels of governance in the management of MPAs as partners and important stakeholders.

The overall strategy of the Project in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment is to:

- Assess and steer the Project's activities, as well as the direct and indirect benefits of the Project, in order to promote gender equality;

? Support the equal participation of men and women in the Project, especially at the decision-making level;

? Establish indicators that effectively help to measure progress towards gender equality.

The Project will ensure that men, women, youth and marginalized groups benefit adequately from capacity enhancement and effective participation in decisions related to resource management and livelihood support, as well as the distribution of benefits. The Project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in areas related to capacity building and activities which relate to MPA management and monitoring, etc. Socioeconomic assessments will draw out any inequalities and propose mitigation and/or resolution practices and activities. The Results Framework includes gender-related quantifiable targets to the compulsory indicators on direct and indirect beneficiaries. The Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan identifies the objectives and actions that will be taken under each Project Component Output.

The Gender Strategy and Action Plan responds to GEF and UNDP guidance regarding gender mainstreaming in Project development and implies that the needs, priorities, power structures, status, and relationship between men and women are identified and incorporated into the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Project; in this way men and women can participate proportionally and benefit equally from the Project intervention. This draft plan will be updated, revised and implemented across the project activities during the Project Inception phase through Output 5.2.

EU4EMBLAS[3] partners with UNDP and UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia to advocate for increased participation of women in environmental protection using the regional STEM4ALL[4] digital platform . They share case studies on how programmes are designed and executed to advance inclusive decision-making that ensures gender-responsive interventions. EU4EMBLAS also publishes stories of the women scientists in their programmes on the STEM4ALL platform to give more visibility to the important role women play in climate action. Lessons from these case studies and experiences can be shared with project partners and stakeholders and can be used in training programmes for creating gender awareness.

The draft Gender Action Plan is summarized below.

<b>Gender Outcome 1: Gender balanced participation and decision making in the planning, management, and governance of MPAs</b>					
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Description of targets and indicators</b>	<b>Data source/ Collection methods</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>

<p>Gender responsive actions implemented resulting from gender balanced participation in planning and management processes</p> <p>Decisions reflect the contribution by women to decision making, planning and management of MPAs</p>	<p>Both women and men participate in all meetings and consultations</p> <p>Project staff have capacity to facilitate gender balanced participation in decision making</p>	<p>Women's participation is qualitative and is not measured only by the number of women and men attending the meetings.</p> <p>Qualitative participation will be measured by the number of times women speak and are heard in meetings and consultations</p> <p>Project staff will receive training in gender responsive facilitation of participation in meetings and consultations</p>	<p>Recorded evidence of decisions taken as a result of contribution by women</p> <p>Project staff who organise and monitor the meetings</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Interviews and feedback from women and men regarding their contribution to decisions taken in meetings</p> <p>Evidence of implementation of gender responsive decisions</p>
<p>Women appointed to governance committees at the national and regional levels</p>	<p>To be set during the inception phase</p>	<p>Realistic targets can be set depending upon the situation at the country level.</p>	<p>Recorded evidence</p>	<p>At the end of the project</p>	<p>Records of meetings</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2: Livelihoods of women and men engaged in fish and aquaculture value chains strengthened</b></p>					

<p>Gender analysis of value chains and collection of sex-disaggregated data institutionalized at the national level</p> <p>Partnerships established with other organizations and projects in the region to address the gender gaps in the value chains</p>	<p>Value chain analysis of target fish and aquaculture completed in Georgia and Turkey (and in Ukraine if possible)</p>	<p>Value chain analysis will provide a baseline for measuring changes in livelihood outcomes.</p> <p>An analysis of value chains will provide information about gender gaps in the value chains which would need to be taken into account in order to strengthen livelihoods</p> <p>The project will not implement specific activities to reduce gender gaps in the value chains. The project could find other opportunities to enable this such as partnering with civil society organisations and other projects in the region</p>	<p>Reports of value chain analysis</p> <p>Reports of partnerships with other organisations/projects in the region</p>	<p>Mid-term and end of the project</p>	<p>Interviews and feedback from project staff and partners</p> <p>Feedback from target populations</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity of women and men in the target population to engage in EBM</b></p>					

Women and men in the target population equipped with knowledge about EBM approaches	X Number of women and men receive training and information about EBM	Information is communicated in a way that is accessible to women and men in the target population  Project activities and results widely disseminated to create awareness	Training reports  Communication strategy and materials	Mid-term and end of project	Feedback from trainees  Review of training materials  Review of means of communication of information
---	--	---	--	-----------------------------	---

[1] [https://www.dokap.gov.tr/Upload/Genel/dokap-bolge-kalkinma-programi-eylem-plani-2021-2023-pdf-505396-rd\\_51.pdf](https://www.dokap.gov.tr/Upload/Genel/dokap-bolge-kalkinma-programi-eylem-plani-2021-2023-pdf-505396-rd_51.pdf)

[2] <https://www.tuik.gov.tr/>

[3] [Home - EMBLAS project](#)

[4] [STEM4ALL digital platform](#)

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes**

**Improving women's participation and decision making Yes**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes**

**Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### 4. Private sector engagement

##### **Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

The private sector has been involved at all stages of the development of the project from participation in BSC meetings prior to the PIF development through interactions with national consultants in the development of the Project Document. A detailed stakeholder analysis and stakeholder engagement plans (Annexes 8a and 8b of the Project Document) provide more information. A summary of more comprehensive analysis undertaken in the PPG phase is presented below.

The analysis has identified multiple private sector groups and organisations involved in the Blue Economy operating in the three countries within the coastal region, including fishers (small scale and larger enterprises) aquaculture, fish processing, farming, port authorities, coastal tourism organisations, oil and gas, etc.. These organisations have also been tentatively identified through the World Bank's Blueing the Black Sea Project that identified key sectors engaged in Blue Economy activities in each country.

All project components will involve and engage with the private sector. This involvement will include targeted private sector briefings and exchanges of information relevant to the coastal region, advising and commenting on guidance documents and strategies prepared for national and regional authorities (including the BSC PS), training focusing on coastal regions and understanding the benefits of MPAs, etc.

? **Component 1** will focus on specific national actions that will strengthen ecosystem protection whilst encouraging the development of targeted blue economy strategies with national authorities and relevant private sector organisations (in co-ordination with the approved GEF, World Bank and FAO projects focused on the Black Sea).

? **Component 2** will update the TDA and SAPs in the three countries with a specific focus on Blue Economy activities that could be supported through enhancements of the ecosystem services delivered by MPAs.

? **Component 3** will provide training and stakeholder engagement activities (e.g. output 3.2). The capacity development will assist national Blue Economy development and to enable coastal organisations to better value marine and coastal protected areas.

? **Component 4** will engage the private sector to ensure knowledge/awareness raising products are in-line with the needs of organisations working in the coastal region and deriving benefits (or impacting) ecosystem services from marine and coastal locations.

? **Component 5** will actively engage the private sector in the execution of the mid-term and terminal evaluations.

#### 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives



**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

**5. Risks**

The Project’s UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and UNDP Risk Register are annexed to the Project Document. The main risk management strategies that the Project will employ include:

- Identification of any new risks or altered risk status within the Project quarterly Reports, particularly any issues or problems that may have arisen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Risk reviews at the scheduled regular Steering Committee Meetings (based on Quarterly Reports);
- Annual Project Implementation Reviews (which include a Critical Risk Management section); PIRs will include an update on any of the issues related to the current COVID pandemic that may be affecting the Project and what actions are needed;
- Mid-Term Review.

The SESP has assessed the primary social and environmental risks arising from the Project, including the level of significance of those risks and identifying what social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential moderate to high risks. This further arrives at an overall Project risk categorization. This overall process helps to identify any risks of economic displacement or adverse impacts on livelihoods arising from Project activities and deliverables.

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
1	On-going conflict in Ukraine restricts access to coastal areas, availability of data, ecosystem impacts on BS, etc.	Political (Conflict)	Impacts from the 2014 and current conflict in the region are currently impacting coastal and marine areas, including MPAs. Preliminary assessments (undertaken under conflict conditions) are presented in the National Analysis for Ukraine  L -4 I ? 5  High Risk Level	Until the resolution of the current conflict there is no work possible in Ukraine associated with this project.  However it would be possible for the project to commence in Georgia and T?rkiye, with Ukraine when the conflict has been resolved.	IOC-UNESCO UNDP

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
2	National authorities fail to coordinate on coastal management and management of MCPAs	National Regulatory	Impacts from poor intra-governmental coordination will result in a failure to achieve the goals of improved MPA management (and their BD and socio-economic) benefits for the communities dependent on their resources  L - 1 I ? 4  <b>Low Risk Level</b>	The Project will support strengthening inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral co-ordination through component 1 (output 1.2). This will be complemented by increasing the sharing of the evidence of enhance management of MPAs from other regions (e.g. Mediterranean) and other countries in the Black Sea.	PMU IOC- UNESCO Countries
3	Climate change / increased extreme weather impacts on MCPAs	Political/Strategic	Climate Change is a significant threat to coastal communities with increases to potential seawater rise and storm events.  L- 3 I ? 5  <b>Substantial Risk Level</b>	The PPG phase has prepared a detailed assessment of the available information on CC scenarios for the Black Sea region.  Within the updated TDA/SAP (Component 2, output 2.1) the project will assist with updating the potential CC scenarios and, where necessary, make recommendation on resilient measures that can be incorporated within the SAP.  The project will also develop a shared information resource with the FAO and World Bank GEF Projects (Component 3) to facilitate regional and national responses to CC impacts.	Countries IOC- UNESCO Stakeholders PMU

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
4	Pollution events impacting MCPAs	Regulatory and Strategic	<p>The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has released and will continue to release unknown quantities of toxic material that will inevitably have a negative impact on the Black Sea's largest MPA (see Risk 1)</p> <p>In addition, all countries have challenges to control discharges to sea from land-based and ship sources and their impacts on coastal and marine protected areas.</p> <p>L- 2 I- 3 <b>Moderate</b> Risk Level</p>	<p>The updated TDA/SAP (Component 2, output 2.1) will assist with reviewing the potential pollution risks (land-based and shipping) on MCPAs and, where necessary, recommend management or structural measures that will minimise impacts of a pollution incident for inclusion in the SAP.</p> <p>The project (Component 3) will receive additional information from the other GEF projects and the BSC from routine information provided by the countries on pollution sources.</p>	BSC-PS Countries PMU IOC-UNESCO

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
5	Lack of support from private sector or civil society for enhancing MCPAs management	Social and Environmental	<p>The sustainable development of the Black Sea coastal areas requires the acceptance by key stakeholder groups (communities, fisherfolk, tourism sector, etc.) on the EBM approaches being recommended by this project for the MCPAs. If these groups do not fully understand the importance of the MCPAs or the ecosystem services they support then the management/governance of MPCAs will be compromised.</p> <p>L - 2 I ? 3</p> <p><b>Low Risk Level</b></p>	<p>All project components 4 will work with national (regional and global) stakeholders to ensure that awareness of the importance and benefits of MCPA for ecosystem services (livelihoods) is appreciated.</p> <p>The PPG phase has undertaken a broad assessment of stakeholders and their potential interests in the project activities. During the inception phase the project will work with key interest groups (and reflect any issues identified in the SESP) to ensure all groups interacting in coastal and marine protected areas are included in discussions that lead to management decisions.</p> <p>Component 3 will specifically undertake training on EBM approaches and Component 4 will guide the delivery of the draft stakeholder and reflect any issues highlighted in the gender strategy</p>	Countries PMU IOC- UNESCO

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
6	Difficulties with non-GEF countries in region supporting project activities impacting regional endorsement of SAP	Political	<p>The project is supporting 3 out of the 6 Black Sea States to update the BS SAP. The conclusions of the updated TDA and recommendations of the updated SAP will be approved by Gorgia, T?rkiye and Ukraine with the support of the BSC-PS. The BSC-PS will facilitate the acceptance and adoption by the non-GEF eligible countries.</p> <p>L - 1 I ? 3</p> <p><b>Low Risk Level</b></p>	<p>The updating of the SAP has been promoted by the BSC and the project will work closely with the BSC-PS to ensure that the non-eligible countries are encouraged to contribute to the updating of the TDA and SAP and to participate in capacity development workshops.</p> <p>All workshops, training events and meetings organized by the project will invite participants from the region where possible and practicable.</p>	PMU IOC- UNESCO BSC-PS
7	Co-ordination with regional projects does not function effectively	Operational	<p>The UNDP/GEF project provides a significant coordination role to the FAO and World Bank GEF projects. The failure of this coordination will reduce the ease of information sharing (although it will still exist through GEF IW:LEARN and the BSC-PS mechanisms)</p> <p>L - 1 I ? 2</p> <p><b>Low Risk Level</b></p>	<p>The project, with the support of the BSC-PS will actively encourage enhanced co-operation and co-ordination between GEF and other donors? projects. Component 3 (Output 3.1) will establish a process to enable routine information and lesson sharing together with participation at relevant meetings/workshops.</p> <p>Preliminary meetings/discussions have taken place between the three GEF projects during the PPG Phase and all projects indicated the clear benefits and their willingness to cooperate</p>	IOC- UNESCO PMU

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
8	Covid-19 restrictions limit travel and in-person meetings	Other (Health)	<p>Whilst the initial stages of Covid-19 restrictions have led to significant disruptions, experience of holding remote meetings, workshops and training events have demonstrated that effective means to reduce the negative impact of travel restrictions on the work of the project are available. In addition, Covid-19 restrictions demonstrated clearly the environmental benefits of delivering key activities whilst minimizing travel requirements reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p>L - 2 I ? 2</p> <p><b>Low Risk Level</b></p>	<p>COVID-19 poses a short-medium term risk to the project execution and the project. The draft stakeholder strategy that describes alternative methods of communications and meetings (e.g. internet) should travel/social contact be not permitted. The project will also assess the longer-term impacts of any on-going COVID restrictions on e.g. sustainability or changes in working practice during project implementation.</p>	PMU IOC-UNESCO

#### 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

The Project is to be implemented by UNDP with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IOC-UNESCO) acting as the Implementing Agency.

The overall project governance arrangements are indicated below.

# Project Governance Arrangements

## Project Board/Steering Committee

<b>Development Partners</b> UNDP BPPS NCE represented by PTA UNDP-IRH	<b>Project Executive</b> IOC-UNESCO UNDP-IRH	<b>Beneficiary Represe</b> National Focal Po Georgia, Turkiye, U BSC UNDP COs
---	--	---

**UNDP Project Assurance**  
*Tier1: IRH NCE RTA + RTL  
(programmatic oversight)*  
*Tier2: (1) RTA, NCE/BPPS  
(GEF policy compliance)*

**Implementation Partners**  
IOC-UNESCO

**Istanbul Based  
Project Management Unit**  
Project Manager  
KM Officer  
Admin Officer

**National Consultants**  
(Georgia, Turkiye and  
Ukraine)

- Team Leader
- Assistant
- Technical Consultants

**Regional Consultants**  
Technical consultants

**Project Stakeholders/Partners**  
National Ministri  
BSC-PS  
GEF/FAO Black Se  
Project  
GEF/World Bank  
Sea Project  
EU EU4FMBIAS

The Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Istanbul and responsible for day-to-day management will be composed of three staff. They will be supported by a part-time 'Team Leader', drawn from one of the national consultants delivering technical work in each country. S/he will be responsible for coordinating all studies and training activities in the country. Additional assistance would be provided in each country with a part-time support the multiple meetings, workshops and training events that are expected with a wide range of stakeholders.

### Project Management Unit

(Full-time staff)

Project Manager/Coordinator - Consultant	The Project Manager will be based in the Istanbul PMU and will report to UNESCO. He/She will be advised and guided by the part-time PTA. The Project Manager will be responsible for all day-to-day management actions related to the execution of the UNDP/UNESCO/GEF Black Sea Project
Knowledge Management/Communication - Consultant	The Knowledge Management/Communication Consultant will be based at the PMU in Istanbul. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and the PTA during the Project Inception Phase.
Administration /Finance - Consultant	The Administration / Finance Consultant will be based at the PMU in Istanbul. The Administration/Finance Consultant will take a leading role in contracting national and regional consultants (identified below), assisting the national team leader and assistant with administrative actions and facilitate the payment schedules for each expert, providing PMU approved (signed by the Project Manager) directions for payments to be made by UNESCO.

### Regional Consultants

Policy/Institutional Expert ? Consultant (part-time)	The Policy/Institutional national expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs including: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul
Marine and Coastal Protected Area/Biodiversity Expert - Consultant (part-time)	The Marine and Coastal Protected Area/Biodiversity expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs including: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.



Blue Economy/Socio-economic Expert - Consultant (part-time)	The Blue Economy/Socio-Economic expert will provide economic inputs to Project Outputs including 1.2, 1.3, 2.1 and 3.3. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.
Database/Information Expert - Consultant (part-time)	The Database and Information Management expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs including 1.3, 2.2, 2.3 3.4 and 4.1. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.
Climate Change/Adaptation Expert (part-time)	The Climate Change and Adaptation expert will provide inputs to Project Output 2.1. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.
Gender Expert ? Consultant (part-time)	The Gender expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor during the Project Inception Phase. The Gender expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul
Capacity Development Experts ? Consultant (part-time)	The Capacity Development expert will provide inputs to Project Output 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. The Capacity Development expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the National Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.

#### National support offices ? each project country

National Team Leader Consultant (part-time)	This will be an additional role for one of the national experts. The position will supervise and coordinate all nation actions and liaise close with the PMU
Team assistant ? Consultant (part-time)	Assisting the National Team Leader with administrative issues (national meetings and workshops, communicating with stakeholders, assisting with project website in national languages, etc.)

#### National Consultants - each project country

Policy/Institutional Expert ? Consultant (part-time)	The Policy/Institutional national expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs including: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. The Policy and Institutional Expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul
Marine and Coastal Protected Area/Biodiversity Expert - Consultant  (part-time)	The Marine and Coastal Protected Area/Biodiversity expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs including: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. The Marine and Coastal Protected Area/Biodiversity Expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.
Blue Economy/Socio-economic Expert - Consultant  (part-time)	The Blue Economy/Socio-Economic expert will provide economic inputs to Project Outputs including 1.2, 1.3, 2.1 and 3.3. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. The Blue Economy/Socio-Economic expert report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul
Database/Information Expert - Consultant  (part-time)	The Database and Information Management expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs including 1.3, 2.2, 2.3 3.4 and 4.1. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. The Database and Information Management expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul
Climate Change/Adaptation Expert  (part-time)	The Climate Change and Adaptation expert will provide inputs to Project Output 2.1. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and PTA during the Project Inception Phase. The Climate Change and Adaptation expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul.
Gender Expert ? Consultant (part-time)	The Gender expert will provide inputs to Project Outputs 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2. Specific details of the required inputs will be specified by the Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor during the Project Inception Phase. The Gender expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul
Capacity Development Experts ? Consultant (part-time)	Development expert will report to the Project Manager via the National Team Leader. Liaison with the Regional Experts working on this project will be essential and will be coordinated via the PMU in Istanbul

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established involving:

- Key national representatives acting as focal points
- Representatives of the Black Sea Commission
- UNDP Country Office representatives
- UNDP IRH and IOC-UNESCO as representatives of the project executive
- Observers as requested by the PSC (e.g. civil society, private sector, consultants, related project representatives)

The Project Management Unit (to be based in Istanbul) will act as the secretariat.

The PSC will aim to meet at least once per year in-person, additional meetings could be held via web-based communication systems. The chair of the PSC will rotate between the representatives of the three countries.

#### **Coordination with other initiatives**

Component 3 of the project will focus on coordination with other GEF and non-GEF projects in the region. In particular Component 3 will support close contact with the GEF FAO and World Bank projects in the Black Sea and provide a shared information system.

In particular the project will use the activities supported in Component 3 (Output 3.2) to build stronger linkages with actions being undertaken in the Mediterranean, especially with regards to the establishment of a 'network of MPA managers'. The experiences from the Mediterranean will support the work on Ecosystem Based Managements and link with the GEF/FAO fisheries project.

Through the GEF World bank and FAO projects on the Black Sea, this project will support additional linkages with General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Black Sea Economic Commission (BSEC). Contacts with the International Commission for the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea and, Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) will be supported through the activities of the BSC PS.

#### **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The Project is aligned and will support Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine meet national priorities associated with:

- ? Contributing to SDG 14 goals and targets
- ? Contribute to the ongoing work of the Bucharest Convention and BSC PS;

- ? Contribute to meeting national and regional targets of the CBD Aichi goals and the recent (2022) Global Biodiversity Framework targets for marine waters.
- ? Support the objectives of Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine with their agreed objectives within the EU Association Agreements
- ? Further enhance the governance and management of the marine and coastal protected areas and the ecosystem service they provide supporting coastal Blue Economy activities that will strengthen livelihoods.
- ? Support national strategies and policies mainstreaming gender actions within responsible ministries.

The Project is aligned with national and regional CBD Aichi goals and will directly address marine ecosystem component of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 23 action-oriented global targets, Actions to reach these targets will be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, to which all Black Sea countries are parties to and other relevant international obligations, such as CBD Protocol of Bucharest Convention, ACCOBAMS and GFCM commitments, as well taking into account national circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions. The following groups of targets will be addressed: 1. *Reducing threats to biodiversity*, 2. *Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing*, 3. *Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming*.

The bilateral Association Agreements between EU and three Black Sea countries (Georgia, Türkiye and Ukraine) created a framework for bilateral cooperation through environmental protection and climate change chapter, while implementation of numerous multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) is requirement of Free Trade Agreement part. Environmental acquis comprises legal arrangements on air quality, water quality, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution control and risk management, chemicals, noise and climate change as well as horizontal issues covering all areas of environmental management in general. Furthermore, environmental acquis also includes several international agreements. Alignment with the environmental acquis and its implementation require serious investment. Below relevant to implementation of Project parts of AAs are mentioned:

Horizontal legislation covers arrangements pertaining to such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (ELD) and access to environmental information.

EU legislation on water quality is mainly composed of Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the linked directives, such as MSFD Directive.

The EU's most important legislation in the field of nature protection are the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) on conservation of biodiversity through establishing NATURA 2000 network, and the CITES Regulation (EC/338/97) on protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

Regarding Climate Change, there are several legal arrangements in the EU on monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, emissions trading system (2003/87/EC), reducing emissions from sectors not covered by the emissions trading system (Effort Sharing Decision-406/2009/EC and Regulation (EU) 2018/842), carbon

capture and storage, controlling F-gases and the protection of the ozone layer, reducing emissions from the transport sector, and emissions stemming from land-use and land-use change.

The Project will mostly cover implementation of MSFD and other water quality and nature protection directives.

The activities under this Project are also fully aligned with and will significantly contribute to the ongoing work of the BSC, including amendments to all major documents under Bucharest Convention (CBD Protocol; Black Sea SAP 2009; SoE Report; BSIMAP; biological component of the Black Sea Information System (BSIS); creation of basis for the MPAs management and development (creation and twinning of MPAs managers network; update the MPAs guidelines for the Black Sea; introduction of climate change into agenda and main documents of the Bucharest Convention; further assistance to improve coordination with initiatives and partners (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) under CBD Convention, ACCOBAMS, GFCM etc

### 8. Knowledge Management

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

Knowledge management will be a central aspect of this project. Component 4 is dedicated in collecting and collating information collected within this project, and making linkages to other projects (e.g GEF FAO and World Bank projects on the Black Sea through Output 3.1) and dissemination this information to the stakeholder within the countries, region and more widely with through GEF IW:LEARN. The project will also contribute 1% of the GEF budget to support the GEF IW:LEARN activities to share experiences within the IW community of projects through global and regional meetings, twinning's, and capacity development activities. The expectation is that this knowledge sharing will facilitate the sustainability of outputs in the countries and region and support the upscaling of lessons to other LMEs.

Draft stakeholder analysis and engagement plans (Annexes 8a and 8b of the Project Document) will be updated and approved during the Inception Phase under Output 4.2. The project website will be established under Output 4.1, also during the Inception Phase.

The anticipated budget for each component on knowledge management (training, workshops and conferences plus web based developments (to be specified and confirmed in the project inception) is approximately 250,000 USD.

The following table summarizes the main training and awareness actions that are planned.

Outputs	Dissemination/Awareness Products	Anticipated Quarter
Output 1.1: Priority ecosystems sites and pressures mapped to guide MSPs and to analyse gaps for MCPAs on priority habitat protection	Maps and associate guidance on priority sites	8
Output 1.2: Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies available to guide EBM policy reforms	Draft and final strategies	Draft 10 Final 12

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Dissemination/Awareness Products</b>	<b>Anticipated Quarter</b>
Output 1.3: Updated national databases to complement the BSIS with new components on biological and socio-economic aspects	Updated databases and training	Draft DB 12 Training 12 -16
Output 1.4: National action strategies developed/agreed to further co-operate with relevant IMO projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations for BSC consideration and possible adoption	Draft and final strategies Awareness raising on invasives	Draft 10 Final 11 Training 10 -16
Output 2.1: Updated basin analysis (TDA) leading to revised BS SAP, proposed for adoption by BS Commission	TDA/SAP draft and final Training on updating, awareness raising on issues and proposed SAP plans	Training ? 3 Awareness ? 5 - 12
Output 2.2 Developed and/or updated Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonise approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc. submitted to BSC for adoption	Draft and final documents Awareness raising events on the plans	Draft 10 ? Final 12 Awareness 8-16
Output 2.3: Development and recommendation for consideration and possible adoption by BSC of regional indicator framework for EBM for annual reporting and relevant components of BSIS	Draft and final indicator frameworks. Workshops to discuss potential indicators/targets Awareness raising events	Draft 7 Final 8 Awareness 7 - 12
Output 3.1: Co-ordination mechanism established and functional with other projects in the Black Sea region, learning from other LME co-ordination mechanisms	Planned coordination meetings with GEF FAO/WB projects Meetings/awareness raising for other partners on the achievements of this project	1 - 16
Output 3.2: Implementation of national/regional capacity development programmes on EBM, building on best practices from e.g. Barcelona Convention	On-going capacity development actions on EBM	3-16
Output 3.3: National and regional strategies and programmes to share information and experiences	Awareness raising on all strategies	4- 16
Output 3.4: Updated and enhanced web-based BSIS to facilitate regional and national awareness raising	Training and awareness raising on BSIS updates and operation	6 - 12

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Dissemination/Awareness Products</b>	<b>Anticipated Quarter</b>
Output 4.1: Established IW:LEARN compliant website within existing BSC website	Project website -	1 - 16
Output 4.2: Stakeholder and gender strategies documented, implemented and shared across the Black Sea region	Final project strategies for Gender and stakeholders Safeguards awareness raising events	2 - 16
Output 4.3: Participation in regional and global GEF /IW:LEARN activities	Participation in IW Conferences	TBD
Output 4.4: Development of IW Experience Notes and other IW:LEARN related products and services	Preparation of Experience notes	TBD
Output 5.1: Participatory monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented to facilitate adaptive project management	Awareness raising on M&E plan (linked to reporting) MTE and TE preparatory awareness raising and presentation of draft reports	7 and 15

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes indicators for each outcome. These indicators will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved.

The Project's monitoring plan is presented below.

**Monitoring Plan:** The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored by the Project Management Unit annually, and will be reported in the GEF PIR every year, and will be evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. Project risks, as outlined in the risk register, will be monitored quarterly.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project objective from the results framework	<p><b><u>Mandatory Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11):</u></b></p> <p># direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</p>	3000 by mid-term and 10000 by end of project (50-50 F/M) reported annually in PIR	Total number of all direct project beneficiaries expected to benefit from all project activities	Data from all project activities to be collected by the regional and national project teams	On-going collection and reported annually	Project Manager to oversee collection	PSC reports	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Lack of interest from stakeholders engaging with project</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Stakeholder engagement plan (Output 5.2) identifies appropriate stakeholder groups responsible /utilizing the MCPAs and attracts them to participate</p>



Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>GEF Core Indicator 2):</p> <p><b>Marine protected areas</b> created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)</p> <p>GEF Core Indicator 2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness</p>	<p>Project recommendations on management approaches confirmed by the PSC for consideration for adoption in national MPAs.</p> <p>At least 5% increase in area across the Black Sea recommended by end of projects, including at least 1 transboundary MPA, to be considered for implementation by countries within 10 years</p>	<p>Based on adoption or expected adoption of project guidance to enhance management approaches</p>	<p>National and regional reports on MPA approaches submitted to the BSC PS and available to the Project</p>	<p>Summarized and reported by project to the PSC</p>	<p>PMU and national teams</p>	<p>PSC</p> <p>National and regional reports</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Project prepared guidance not accepted at national or regional levels</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>National / regional acceptance of importance and benefit of MPAs</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>(GEF Core Indicator 7):</p> <p>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</p> <p>Core Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation</p> <p>Core Indicator 7.2: Level of Regional Legal Agreements and</p>	<p>There will be no change to the number of water bodies. (1)</p> <p>All sub-indicators will improve by mid-term and will achieve a maximum level by end of project (4)</p>	Target levels defined in GEF core indicators	MTE and TE will provide assessment to validate annual estimates made by the PMU and reported to PSC and in PIRs	Annually	<p>PMU</p> <p>MTE/TE consultants</p> <p>Project website</p>	<p>PSC minutes</p> <p>PIRs</p> <p>MTE/TE reports</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Based on previous GEF projects these are all expected to increase.</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Existing TDA/SAP will be update</p> <p>National teams will facilitate the identification and recommendation of new/revised policies to strengthen BSC and Bucharest Convention requirements</p> <p>National and regional teams will engage with ministries/sectors to facilitate establishment/strengthening of IMCs.</p> <p>Project will deliver a</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation</p> <p>Core Indicator 7.3: Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees</p> <p>Core Indicator 7.4: Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products</p>							<p>website within 3 months and the linked Project Management (IWLEARN and Black Sea LME Project) will facilitate engagement with regional and global IWLEARN activities.</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<b>Project Outcome 1</b>	Countries create conditions for competitive, innovative and sustainable Blue Economy by developing sectors and skills, fostering investments and increase in BE revenue derived from coastal and marine protected areas	By mid-term, at least 2 preliminary concepts for Blue Economy approaches identified.  By end of project at least 5% (on baseline figure to be confirmed) increases in Blue Economy identified and presented to PSC	The baseline will identify topics (to be agreed by project) including fish catch, tourism, etc.	The baseline figures will be derived from the World Bank's Blueing the Black Sea project (reports being finalized).  During project execution national and regional teams will collate information and obtain update information from the GEF World Bank project to support national information	Reported annually to PSC and in PIRs	National institutes / ministries and consultants	Consultant reports  BSC/BSIS	<u>Risks:</u>  Acceptance of project recommendations on Blue Economy approaches.  <u>Assumptions:</u>  The results from the established World Bank projects on Blue Economy accepted by countries.  Private sector organisations (fishers, tourism) actively engage and participate in the development of Blue Economy approaches

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p><b>Indicator 6</b> Countries and BSC accept project recommendations to strengthen MCPA management</p>	<p>Mid-term the project will provide outline concepts on MCPA management</p> <p>By end-of-project &gt; 3 policies to protect MCPAs preliminarily identified. Countries consider project guidance that could lead to a 5% increase MPA areas within 10 years</p> <p>Identification of 1 transboundary MPA</p>	<p>Indicator in-line with the plans of the BSC/countries.</p> <p>Targets were developed in consultation with national /regional consultants</p>	<p>National reports from partner consultants</p> <p>Information to be collected by consultants and national /regional bodies following a methodology to be agreed within the first 6 months of project execution</p>	Reported annually to PSC and in PIRs	National / regional consultants	National Ministries BSC / BSIS	<p><u>Risks:</u> BSC and countries do not accept project recommendations</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u> Main parties involved in PSC meetings and will ensure that outputs meet the needs of BSC and countries</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<b>Project Outcome 2</b>	<b>Indicator 7</b> Three countries have recommendations to enhance governance/management capacity of MCPAs	By mid-term national gaps to fully meet needs of BSC identified.  By the end of project all three countries confirm increased capabilities with regards to governance and management of MCPAs	The target is derived from BSC reports annual reporting templates and requirements set in Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.	Data will be collected by national and regional consultants based on BSC and reports from national ministries	Reported annually to PSC and in PIRs	PMU from national and regional sources	National ministries for MPAs  BSC reports/B SIS	<u>Risks:</u> Countries do not accept recommendations  <u>Assumption:</u> Indicator and targets derived from BSC and other relevant (global, sectoral) requirements

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<b>Indicator 8</b> Three countries? data and recommendations for BS SAP and CBD Protocol updating submitted to BSC for possible consideration and adoption promoting enhanced MCPA policies across Black Sea	By mid-term countries and BSC accept update to Black Sea TDA for three countries  By end-of-project an updated BS SAP for the three countries will be presented to BSC and countries	As agreed (TDA/SAP for 3 countries) with the countries and BSC	The output will deliver an updated BS-SAP.  Progress towards this will be monitored by the project	Reported annually to PSC and in PIRs	PMU	PSC  BSC  Country? ministries	<u>Risks:</u>  Update TDA and SAP not accepted by countries and/or BSC  <u>Assumption:</u>  Close involvement in the development of the updates will be maintained with countries/BSC and they will be fully involved in the supervision /approval of documents through the PSC

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<b>Project Outcome 3</b>	<b>Indicator 9</b> Independent assessments of regional projects identify benefits of improved co-ordination between projects	By mid-term the information criteria to be shared regionally between projects agreed  By end of project the TE summarises the overall level of cooperation and coordination together with the benefits accrued	Prior to this project there was limited coordination between projects in the region	Information will be exchanged through regular meetings of the GEF project teams and participation in their PSC meetings.	Reported annually to the PSC and in PIRs	PMU and project teams in the FAO and World Bank GEF projects on the Black Sea	PSC minutes  FAO/World Bank reports on cooperation  BSC reports/overview on regional projects	<u>Risks:</u>  Failure of the 3 current GEF projects to coordinate  <u>Assumptions:</u>  Meetings held with the GEF Agencies during the PPG phase confirm willingness and benefits of ensuring cooperation that will support the regional socio-economic development and environmental protection of the region



Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p><b>Indicator 10</b> Updated strategies and information shared between GEF projects in the Black Sea and the BSC to enhance the activities on MPAs, fisheries and the Blue Economy</p>	<p>By mid-term the project will have an agreed mechanism for sharing information with links to national /BSC and IWLEARN  By end of project countries, BSC and IWLEARN continue the operation of the information sharing in the region</p>	<p>Based on discussions held in PPG phase</p>	<p>Currently the BSC data sharing lacks certain data sets that will be addressed through the UNDP, FAO and World Bank Projects.</p>	<p>Annually reported to PSC and in PIRs</p>	<p>PMU in partnership with the FAO and World Bank GEF projects.</p>	<p>BSC/BSIS  Countries</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u>  Failure of the 3 current GEF projects to coordinate  <u>Assumptions:</u>  Meetings held with the GEF Agencies during the PPG phase confirm willingness and benefits of ensuring cooperation that will support the regional socio-economic development and environmental protection of the region</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project Outcome 4	Indicator 11 Stakeholders (national, regional and global) accessing lessons and experiences	By mid-term stakeholder engagement plan finalized, approved and implemented including annual stakeholder meetings  By end-of-project additional 5 GEF Experience Notes prepared and participation in GEF IW Conferences and at least 3 IW:LEARN twinning events	Stakeholder engagement plan (Output 5.2) building on draft (Annex XX).  Participation in GEF global and regional actions based on lessons from IW projects	Names provided to PMU by countries and regional organisations seeking travel/subsistence support	Annually reported to PSC and in PIRs	Data will be collected by PMU with input from national and regional consultants	PSC minutes  Reports from national and/or regional bodies by project supported staff	<u>Risks:</u>  Failure to attract national and/or regional experts to attend meetings  Lack of relevant information to share with global audiences  Failure to disseminate information gathered from global meetings  <u>Assumptions:</u>  PMU will coordinate and supervise participants attending meetings and facilitate through national/regional consultants information collected

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p><b>Indicator 12</b> Information and knowledge used by national/regional stakeholders to support MCPA management strengthen socio-economic conditions of coastal communities promoting blue economy approaches</p>	<p>By mid-term the project will establish a mechanism to facilitate knowledge management and dissemination on MCPAs</p> <p>By end-of-project a science policy dialogue on marine data and utilization</p> <p>The project will facilitate a mechanism to exchange best practices in the region</p>	<p>Targets established based on the regional BSC needs (BSIMAP, BSIS etc.) to strengthen knowledge management</p>	<p>Sources will include the GEF FAO/World Bank/UNDP projects and other projects identified by the BSC or countries</p>	<p>Annually reported to PSC and in PIRs</p>	<p>PMU supported by consultants</p>	<p>PSC minutes BSC GEF FAO/World Bank projects</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Failure to attract national and/or regional experts to attend meetings</p> <p>Lack of relevant information to share with global audiences</p> <p>Failure to disseminate information gathered from global meetings</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>PMU will coordinate and supervise participants attending meetings and facilitate through national/regional consultants information collected</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project Outcome 5	<b>Indicator 13</b> PSC, BSC, GEF and GEF Agency informed through agreed progress reports	For the duration of the project - All necessary project reports produced and meetings held	As per best practices	Based on information collected by project (above)	Annually for PSC and in PIRs	PMU	PSC minutes  MTE/TE reports	<u>Risks:</u>  Failure to implement M&E plan (Section XX)  <u>Assumption:</u>  Inception/PSC meetings ensure the PMU delivers the expected management reports
	<b>Indicator 14</b> Project is delivered on-time and according to plan with positive feedback at mid and end of project from Evaluations	MTE and TE reports delivered	As per best practices	Information collected by MTE/TE consultants based on extensive stakeholder consultation and input	At mid-term and end-of-project	MTE and TE consultants supported by PMU	PSC  PIR	<u>Risks:</u>  None  <u>Assumptions:</u>  UNDP ? UNESCO recruit appropriate consultants

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
(See Annex 10 for Gender Strategy and Action Plan)  Gender Outcome 1: Gender balanced participation and decision making in the planning, management, and governance of MPAs	Gender responsive actions implemented resulting from gender balanced participation in planning and management processes  Decisions reflect the contribution by women to decision making, planning and management of MPAs	Both women and men participate in all meetings and consultations  Project staff have capacity to facilitate gender balanced participation in decision making	Women's participation is qualitative and is not measured only by the number of women and men attending the meetings.  Qualitative participation will be measured by the number of times women speak and are heard in meetings and consultations  Project staff will receive training in gender responsive facilitation of participa	Recorded evidence of decisions taken as a result of contribution by women  Project staff who organise and monitor the meetings	Annually	PMU	Interviews and feedback from women and men regarding their contribution to decisions taken in meetings  Evidence of implementation of gender responsive decisions	<u>Risks</u>  The level of participation by women and men from different social groups within the target population is influenced by power relations in the community.  Existing governance structures may not provide opportunities for women to participate in decision making bodies  <u>Assumptions</u>  Local women and men are willing to participate in the meetings and consultations.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
			tion in meetings and consultations					<p>Project staff are equipped with skills to facilitate qualitative participation by women and men in the target populations</p> <p>There are women in senior positions in the existing governance structures at the national and regional levels who can contribute to the governance of the MPAs</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<b>Gender Outcome 2: Livelihoods of women and men engaged in fish and aquaculture value chains strengthened</b>	<p>Gender analysis of value chains and collection of sex-disaggregated data institutionalized at the national level</p> <p>Partnerships established with other organizations and projects in the region to address the gender gaps in the value chains</p>	Value chain analysis of target fish and aquaculture completed in Georgia and Türkiye (and in Ukraine if possible)	<p>Value chain analysis will provide a baseline for measuring changes in livelihood outcomes.</p> <p>An analysis of value chains will provide information about gender gaps in the value chains which would need to be taken into account in order to strengthen livelihoods</p> <p>The project</p>	<p>Reports of value chain analysis</p> <p>Reports of partnerships with other organisations /projects in the region</p>	Mid-term and end of the project	PMU	<p>Interviews and feedback from project staff and partners</p> <p>Feedback from target populations</p>	<p><u>Risks</u></p> <p>Existing civil society organisations, women's organisations, cooperatives and other projects in the region may not be willing or able to partner with the LME project to engage with the local population for conducting the value chain analysis.</p> <p>Insufficient or limited support from the private sector in the fish and aquaculture industry for the gender analysis of the value chains.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u></p> <p>Project staff has the knowledge and skills to</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
			will not implement specific activities to reduce gender gaps in the value chains. The project could find other opportunities to enable this such as partnering with civil society organisations and other projects in the region					conduct the gender analysis of the value chains.  There are civil society organisations including women's organisations active in the project area and are willing to develop partnerships with the LME project



Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<b>Gender Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity of women and men in the target population to engage in EBM</b>	Women and men in the target population equipped with knowledge about EBM approaches	Number of women and men receive training and information about EBM	Information is communicated in a way that is accessible to women and men in the target population  Project activities and results widely disseminated to create awareness	Training reports  Communication strategy and materials	Mid-term and end of project	PMU	Feedback from trainees  Review of training materials  Review of means of communication of information	<u>Risks</u> Women and men do not participate in the training activities in sufficient numbers  <u>Assumptions</u> Training activities and communication materials are effective in highlighting gender aspects

The proposed M&E budget is presented below.

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:</b>		
<b>GEF M&amp;E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)</b>	<b>Indicative costs (US\$)</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
<b>Inception Workshop and Report</b>	<i>25,000 USD</i>	Inception Workshop and Report within 2 months of the First Disbursement
<b>M&amp;E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework</b>	<i>(See below)</i>	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
<b>Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)</b>	<i>None</i>	Annually (typically between June-August)

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:</b>		
<b>GEF M&amp;E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)</b>	<b>Indicative costs (US\$)</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
<b>Monitoring of SESP, ESMF / ESMP, Livelihood Action Plan, Stakeholder engagement plan and Gender strategy</b>	<i>22,819 USD plus costs Included in Output 4.2 and detailed within ESMF (Annexes 9a and 9b)</i>	On-going.
<b>Supervision missions</b>	<i>From UNDP Agency Fees</i>	Annually
<b>Learning missions</b>	<i>Included in Component 4</i>	As needed
<b>Support to PSC and final project meeting</b>	<i>20,000 USD (support for meetings also provided in C1 ? C4)</i>	Annually and at end of project
<b>Travel for MTE/TE</b>	<i>10,181 USD</i>	
<b>Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):</b>	<i>25,000 USD</i>	<b>18 December 2026</b>
<b>Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE):</b>	<i>25,000 USD</i>	<b>18 March 2028</b>
<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b>	<b><i>128,000 USD</i></b>	

[1] Data collection methods should outline specific tools used to collect data and additional information as necessary to support monitoring. The PIR cannot be used as a source of verification.

[2] Taking account of national actions and plans reported to the Black Sea Commission PS

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?**

The project will deliver benefits to the population (approximately 15 million people) within the coastal region that are dependent on the ecosystem services derived from the Black Sea, and to the ecosystem that will benefit from enhance management of marine and coastal protected areas.

It is planned that, as a result of project implementation, three national strategies and regional assessment in the field of MCPAs will be elaborated. The Project will also pioneer the creation of an MPAs network in the Black Sea and the formation of transboundary MPA between Black Sea coastal countries. Dedicated project activities will be concentrated on addressing invasive species, habitats mapping, elaboration of biodiversity indicators, baselines and thresholds, and the updating of the 2009 Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.

The Project will exploit existing and new cooperative arrangements with other regional projects and partners including the European Union, UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, IMO, etc. This will enable the creation of synergies with other initiatives and transfer of best practices to stakeholders to the Black Sea region. The Project will also be implemented in close collaboration with two GEF projects, implemented by World Bank and FAO in the Black Sea region.

**Environmental Benefits**

The updated TDA and the endorsed SAP will provide additional details of the problems and the means to address the issues identified with recommendations for monitoring coastal ecosystem.

The region's important and significant biodiversity will benefit from the expected improved management that will be supported arrangements that will be explored and shared with all countries of the Black Sea Basin via the involvement of the BSC PS.

The project will also encourage further adoption from IMO (and other) programmes on addressing issues of invasive species in the Black Sea. Experiences from other LMEs, e.g. the Mediterranean, will assist in guiding the work in the Black Sea, including on the establishment of network PA managers to share lessons and to build cooperation within and between the Black Sea countries. These actions will provide additional benefits to the GEF/FAO EBM fisheries project under implementation in the Black Sea Region.

**Social-economic benefits**

The project will promote greater transboundary co-operation to ensure that the population and the ecosystem benefit from improved coordinated management of the Black Sea ecosystem services to support the growth potential with the Blue Economy activities in the region. The project will closely cooperate with the GEF World Bank Project addressing wider Blue Economy issues within the region.

Through the development of the updated TDA/SAP (output 2.1) the involved countries will have improved understanding of the remaining threats in the Black Sea region and shared approaches to address these. The project will support a wide range of stakeholders to participate in the TDA/SAP updates and to encourage relevant stakeholder groups to reduce ecosystem stress on important Blue Economy activities, including fisheries, coastal tourism that will benefit from improved management of marine and coastal protected areas.

**11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks**

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

**Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\***

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva I	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	High or Substantial		

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any

measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

### Project Information

<i>Project Information</i>	
1. Project Title	Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME (PIF stage)
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	6590
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Black Sea Region (Georgia, T?rkiye and Ukraine)
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	05 November 2022

### Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

**QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?**

*Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach*

The project is informed by the UN Human rights mechanisms, which includes measures to assist participating countries to realize (respect, protect and fulfill) human rights under international law and implement human rights-related standards in national law. The project will engage stakeholders throughout the project cycle, from project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The project has established a grievance redress mechanism to ensure that project affected people will have an avenue to voice their complaints or concerns about the project. The project will ensure that the GRM will be institutionalized in the project.

The project will work closely with the countries, the Black Sea Commission and the European Union to continue promoting human rights approaches. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea embraces various human rights concepts that relate to the activities of this project. These include the right of innocent passage; freedom of the high seas; the common heritage of mankind which includes the requirement that all activities be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

Recognizing the significant contribution of sustainable fisheries to global food security, income, wealth and poverty alleviation for present and future generations, there is an urgent need for action at all levels to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of fisheries resources through the wider application of the precautionary approach and through the mitigation of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing noting that such IUU may give rise to safety and security concerns for individuals on vessels engaged in such activities.

The project's main focus on strengthening the capacities and approaches to enhance the management of protected areas (marine and coastal) that will enhance the ecosystem resources they can deliver. These ecosystem services will benefit communities dependent on these for their lives and livelihoods.

***Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment***

The project has been designed to be consistent with the core principles and priorities of the UNDP approach to gender equality and empowerment, as outlined in the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025, and the GEF Policy on Gender Equality (SD/PL/02, July 01, 2018). The project carries a UNDP GEN-1 gender marker, which is defined as projects having outputs that have some contributions to gender equality.

The project has developed a Gender Action Plan, which responds to GEF and UNDP guidance regarding gender mainstreaming in Project development and implies that the needs, priorities, power structures, status, and relationship between men and women are identified and incorporated into the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Project; in this way men and women can participate proportionally and benefit equally from the Project intervention.

The Project will benefit from gender experts and gender analysis and will apply a meaningful participatory process for engaging women's voices. In addition the results framework will include indicators to address gender inequality issues. Strategies to enhance improving roles and livelihoods for women will be drafted during the PPG phase and endorsed by the first PSC during inception.

The Project Results Framework will contain relevant indicators and targets that will be developed following IW:LEARN's guidance (prepared by UNESCO WWAP) for collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data.

The Project Team will seek to achieve gender balanced PCU.

The project is likely to score 2 on the ATLAS Gender Marker when the concept is developed in the Project Document.

***Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience***

The **sustainability of project results** will be stipulated by the choice of practices and activities to ensure that all its deliverables will form a part of regional commitments and will be documented (updated TDA and BS SAP, Protocols, Guidelines etc., Outputs 2.1 and 2.2) for further successful implementation on the regional level. Dedicated Output 1.3 will also update national databases to complement the regional BSIS database with brand new components on biological and socio-economic aspects. This will ensure that compatible and sustainable data flows in support of the Bucharest Convention and its regional database for pollution will be upgraded in Georgia, T?rkiye and Ukraine.

The project Objective is *?Enhancing Marine and Coastal Protected Area national and regional management and adoption of Blue Economy approaches in the Black Sea to support long-term sustainable livelihoods derived from ecosystem services?* The project will achieve this through capacity development of key stakeholder groups and by improving access and availability of environmental information. The project is being formulated in close co-operation with experts from the region and representatives of the Black Sea Commission.

A key output of the project will be an updated SAP (based on the 2009 endorsed SAP) that will be the guiding plan for the BSC and the countries of the region for the next 10 years and will be used to seek post project financing by the countries.

The project will actively seek co-operation with community, government and other interested stakeholders who will participate in the project?s activities and capacity building exercises.

An exit strategy to focus national and regional attention on the achievements will also be developed to promote sustainability.

This project will be executed in close co-operation with the Black Sea Commission as the secretariat to the Bucharest Convention endorsed by the six Black Sea Countries.

***Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders***

The project supports the meaningful participation and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders to promote and implement stronger and more effective cross-sectoral management and stewardship of the Black Sea. The project will engage with different stakeholders through capacity building, and access to knowledge products that the project will generate. The project established Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to ensure that affected communities have an avenue to file their complaints and grievances. The project has an Accountability Mechanism, composed of Compliance Review and Stakeholder Response Mechanism. The Compliance Review is an avenue for affected persons or groups to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with the Social and Environmental Standards. The Stakeholder Response Mechanism on the other hand, helps project affected stakeholders to jointly resolve their concerns and disputes. Stakeholders will be informed of the project's Accountability Mechanism in various consultations.

Stakeholder engagement will focus on generating buy-in and support from specific partners and beneficiaries who are taking responsibility for certain activities. The Project will prioritise such interventions and partner strategies to deliver outputs in an appropriate sequential manner. The Project will ensure that stakeholders and partners are well-informed and updated on the intended Project goals and delivery. Stakeholder meetings will be discussed and agreed during the project inception phase and included in the finalised stakeholder engagement plan (Output 4.2).

Stakeholder engagement and the development and/or strengthening of partnerships will be central to the long-term sustainability of this Project. This will support the work of the BSC-PS and the nationally agreed Association Agreements with the European Union.

## Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p><b>QUESTION 2:</b> What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</b></p> <p><i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</b></p>
--	---	---

<i>Risk Description (Broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	<i>Impact and Likelihood (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</i>	<i>Comments (optional)</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</i>
---	--	--	--------------------------------	---



<p><b>Risk 1:</b> The implementation of additional regulations and restrictions on fishers in MPAs and communities in coastal areas could reduce their access to resources and cause economic displacement.</p> <p><b>Human Rights:</b> P.2, P.3, P.4, P.5, P.6, P.7</p> <p><b>Accountability:</b> P.13, P.14, P.15</p> <p><b>Standard 5:</b> 5.2, 5.3</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Changes in the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) may potentially affect these economic activities and the livelihoods dependent on them.</p> <p>Based on the Blue Economy information from World Bank Blueing the Black Sea Program (BBSEA) draft reports showed that for Georgia, export of fishery products includes European anchovy, fish meal and fish oils; for T?rkiye, these include European anchovy for fishing, fish meal and fish oils and fish meal, and frozen or processed trout-salmon; and for Ukraine, current baseline information is irrelevant because of the current conflict.</p>	<p>Targeted assessments will be prepared to include the management measures related to potential economic displacement of fishers in MPAs and communities in coastal areas arising from the development and / or updating of Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonise approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc., (Output 2.2) resulting in their reduced access to resources. Where these targeted assessments suggest potentially significant impact, the project will develop the Livelihood Action Plan to ensure that members of potentially affected communities can participate in the design of project components, and in the determination of measures necessary to address any potentially significant impacts on livelihood activities. Private sector from fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, port facilities. industries and agriculture within the coastal region will be included in this process. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan prepared during PPG will be updated during the project?s inception phase and will provide detailed arrangements for the engagement of all key stakeholders that may be adversely affected by the economic consequences of changes of access/use to marine resources through the MCPA access restriction.</p> <p>No project activities that could result in economic displacement, reduced access to resources, or require livelihood restoration support for economically displaced communities, can commence until required further studies have been completed and approved and the identified social and environmental mitigating and monitoring measures are put in place.</p> <p>-</p>
--	---------------------------	-----------------	--	---

<p><b>Risk 2:</b> Women may be more negatively impacted by protected area status in marine and coastal areas from restricted access.</p> <p><b>Human Rights:</b> P.2, P.3, P.4, P.5, P.6, P.7</p> <p><b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:</b> P.9, P.10, P.11</p> <p><b>Accountability:</b> P.13, P.14</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Gender Analysis has been conducted during the PPG, which considered the role of women and men utilizing the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and the ecosystem resources they provide and the impact of likely restrictions on current practices. It was established that women are more negatively impacted by protected area status in marine and coastal areas arising from restricted access to these resources. This restriction is exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in coastal communities in Ukraine. It was also established that women are underrepresented in the different sectors of the blue economy, such as fisheries, aquaculture, as well as inland and offshore aquaculture.</p>	<p>The project has prepared a Gender Action Plan. The draft plan responds to GEF and UNDP guidance regarding gender mainstreaming in Project development and implies that the needs, priorities, power structures, status, and relationship between men and women are identified and incorporated into the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Project; in this way men and women can participate proportionally and benefit equally from the Project intervention. The Gender Action Plan will be updated, revised and implemented across the project activities during the Project Inception phase through Output 5.2.</p> <p>The overall strategy of the Project in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Assess and steer the Project's activities, as well as the direct and indirect benefits of the Project, in order to promote gender equality;</li> <li>? Support the equal participation of men and women in the Project, especially at the decision-making level;</li> <li>? Establish indicators that effectively help to measure progress towards gender equality.</li> </ul> <p>The Project will ensure that men, women, youth and marginalized groups benefit adequately from capacity enhancement and effective participation in decisions related to resource management and livelihood support, as well as the distribution of benefits. The Project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in areas related to capacity building and activities which relate to MPA management and monitoring, etc. Socioeconomic assessments will draw out any inequalities and propose mitigation</p>
---	---------------------------	-----------------	--	---

			<p>and/or resolution practices and activities. The Results Framework includes gender-related quantifiable targets to the compulsory indicators on direct and indirect beneficiaries. The Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan identifies the objectives and actions that will be taken under each Project Component Output.</p> <p>The Gender Action Plan will be further refined during the project inception phase as needed.</p>
--	--	--	---

<p><b>Risk 3:</b> Blue Economy strategies could have a negative environmental and social effects.</p> <p><b>Standard 1:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.10, 1.14</p> <p><b>Standard 3:</b> 3.2, 3.6,</p> <p><b>Standard 5:</b> 5.2 and 5.4</p> <p><b>Standard 8:</b> 8.1</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Blue Economy strategies could have a negative environmental effects both in national and transboundary settings and also potential social impacts on the affected communities.</p>	<p>Appropriately scoped Strategic Environment and Social Assessments (SESA) will be prepared for Output 1.2: Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies available to guide Ecosystem Based Management policy reforms and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Approaches to EBM with respect to policies, responsible organisations and implementation to inform regional guidance on EBM implementation in the Black Sea;</li> <li>? Perspectives from the different sectors utilising the ecosystem services in coastal waters (e.g. fishing, shipping, aquaculture, tourism, etc., including the gender dimension in each sector) and the impacts of EBM on pollution management; and</li> <li>? Identify recommendations or reforms (e.g. the introduction of eco-standards) that could be implemented nationally that are consistent with regional guidance (Component 2, Output 2.1.2).</li> </ul> <p>The assessments will incorporate the applicable legislative obligations for the SEA processes in the respective counties and will address concerns identified under UNDP SES <b>Standard 1:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.10, 1.14, <b>Standard 3:</b> 3.2, 3.6, <b>Standard 5:</b> 5.2 and 5.4, and <b>Standard 8:</b> 8.1, and any</p>
--	---------------------------	--------------------	---	---

				<p>other risks identified through consultations with the relevant stakeholders during the consultations held within the Output 1.2.</p> <p>Where potentially significant impacts are found, appropriate consultations under Article XV (5) of the Bucharest Convention will be undertaken.</p>
<p><b>Risk 4:</b> The Blue Economy Strategies and MCPAs are vulnerable to climate change that could impact the ecosystem services they provide.</p> <p><b>Standard 2:</b> 2.1, 2.2, 2.3</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 2</p>	Moderate	<p>The climate change is expected to lead to short-term periods of increased temperature in summer, increased number of extraordinary meteorological phenomena, and warmer winter seasons in the Black Sea region.</p>	<p>Any likely impacts of climate change on the Blue Economy Strategies and MCPAs will be discussed with regional stakeholders and projects. The design of project activities will be based on the 'no regrets' principles, and follow SES requirements as further risks are identified.</p> <p>In addition, Output 2.1: Updated basin analysis (TDA) and Output 2.2: Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonize approaches to MCPA, habitat protection will consider relevant impacts of the climate change on the marine environment, protected areas and their ecosystem services they provide.</p>

<p><b>Risk 5:</b> Project outcomes can be adversely impacted with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine</p> <p><b>Human Rights:</b> P.2, P.7</p> <p><b>Standard 1:</b> 1.1</p> <p><b>Standard 3:</b> 3.6, 3.8</p> <p><b>Standard 7:</b> 7.6</p> <p><b>Standard 8:</b> 8.1, 8.2</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused significant disruptions to major maritime trade routes, with serious implications for international shipping and the global supply chain, especially wheat exports to developing nations. The lack of commercial access to the sea may have long-term global consequences for food security, economic development, and the ecosystem services that Black Sea provides.</p>	<p>While it is difficult to predict the outcome of the current conflict, the project will continue monitoring the project implementation, specifically in Ukraine. Under Output 3.3 (National and regional strategies (including possible COVID-19 restrictions) and programmes to share information and experiences), activities include facilitating initial strategies to address post-conflict priorities with respect to MPAs in Ukraine.</p> <p>The project will consider the most likely post-war economic and trade patterns in the region and reflect them in the Blue Economy strategies, MPAs, etc. All proposed interventions shall be based on no/low-regret options that can operate well under various assumptions.</p>												
<b>QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?</b>																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; text-align: center;"><i>Low Risk</i></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">?</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderate Risk</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">?</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Substantial Risk</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>There were three moderate risks and two substantial risks, hence the overall rating of the project is Substantial. The risk related to ongoing conflict in Ukraine is beyond the control of the project.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High Risk</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					<i>Low Risk</i>	?		<i>Moderate Risk</i>	?		<i>Substantial Risk</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There were three moderate risks and two substantial risks, hence the overall rating of the project is Substantial. The risk related to ongoing conflict in Ukraine is beyond the control of the project.	<i>High Risk</i>	?	
<i>Low Risk</i>	?															
<i>Moderate Risk</i>	?															
<i>Substantial Risk</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There were three moderate risks and two substantial risks, hence the overall rating of the project is Substantial. The risk related to ongoing conflict in Ukraine is beyond the control of the project.														
<i>High Risk</i>	?															
<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)</b>																

Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects

<b><u>Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)</u></b>	?			<b><i>Status?</i></b> <b><i>(completed, planned)</i></b>
<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>		?	Targeted assessment(s)	Gender Analysis (completed)
		?	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	
		■	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Scoped SESAs for Output 1.2 (planned)
<b><i>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)</i></b>	?			
<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>		■	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	Gender Action Plan (completed)  Stakeholder Engagement Plan (completed)  Livelihood Action Plan (planned)
		■	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	Scoped ESMP following scoped SESAs for Output 1.2 (planned)

		ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed
<i>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?</i>		<b>Comments (not required)</b>	
<i>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</i>			
<i>Human Rights</i>	■	Risks 1 and 2	
<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	■	Risk 2	
<i>Accountability</i>	■	Risks 1 and 2	
<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</i>	■	Risk 3	
<i>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</i>	■	Risk 4	
<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</i>	■	Risk 3	
<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	?		
<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	■	Risks 1 and 3	
<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	?		
<i>7. Labour and Working Conditions</i>	?		
<i>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	■	Risk 3	

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 5 - SESP	CEO Endorsement ESS	



**Title**

**Module**

**Submitted**

**6590 SESP template\_Black  
Sea\_25Sept2020\_final**

**Project PIF ESS**

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

<p><b>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal(s):</b>  <i>The main focuses for the project will respond to:</i>  SDG 14 ? Life Below Water</p> <p><i>The project will also contribute to:</i>  SDG 5 ? Gender Equality  SDG 6 ? Clean Water and Sanitation  SDG 8 ? Decent Work and Economic Growth  SDG 11 ? Sustainable Cities and Communities  SDG 13 ? Climate Action  SDG 15 ? Life on land  SDG16 ? Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p>				
<p><b>This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD):</b></p>				
	<p><b>Objective and Outcome Indicators</b>  <b>(no more than a total of 20 indicators)</b></p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p>	<p><b>Mid-term Target</b></p>	<p><b>End of Project Target</b></p>
<p><b>Project Objective:</b></p>	<p><b>Enhancing Marine and Coastal Protected Area national and regional management and adoption of Blue Economy approaches in the Black Sea to support long-term sustainable livelihoods derived from ecosystem services</b></p>			
	<p><u>Mandatory Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11):</u> # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</p>	<p><i>Not applicable</i></p>	<p>3,000 50-50 disaggregation percentage (F/M)</p>	<p>10,000 50-50 disaggregation percentage (F/M)</p>

<p><b><u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicators:</u></b></p> <p>- (GEF Core Indicator 2): <b>Marine protected areas</b> created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)</p> <p>GEF Core Indicator 2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness</p>	<p><i>The current MPAs in the 3 beneficiary countries are:</i></p> <p><i>Georgia ? (Kolkheti) 15,751ha;</i></p> <p><i>T?rkiye ? no current designated MPAs, ; but have 45 terrestrial protected areas covering 264,998 in the Turkish Black Sea Region[1];</i></p> <p><i>Ukraine ? 402,500 ha;</i></p> <p><i>Total 417,994 ha.</i></p>	<p>By mid-term, outline recommendations for MPA management presented to countries and BSC for discussion.</p> <p>Recommendations to increase number and extension of area (in percent and in ha) of marine protected areas (MPAs).</p> <p>Recommendations to create transboundary MPAs with participation of beneficiary countries.</p>	<p>Project recommendations on management approaches confirmed by the PSC for consideration for adoption in national MPAs (for existing 418,243 ha and for all new national and transboundary MPAs, in discussion with BSC and utilizing information from BSIMAP).</p> <p>At least 5% increase in area across the Black Sea recommended by end of projects, including at least 1 transboundary MPA, to be considered for implementation by countries within 10 years.</p>
--	--	---	--

	<i>(GEF Core Indicator 7): Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</i>	1			
	<b>Core Indicator 7.1</b> <i>Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation</i>	4	4		4
	<b>Core Indicator 7.2:</b> <i>Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation</i>	3	3		4
	<b>Core Indicator 7.3:</b> <i>Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees</i>	3	3		4
	<b>Core Indicator 7.4:</b> <i>Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products</i>	1	3		4
<b>Project component 1</b>	<b><i>Ecosystem Based Management of coastal and marine habitats</i></b>				

<p><b>Project Outcome 1</b> <i>Reduced threats to coastal states marine ecosystems and services to improve ecosystem status and community livelihoods</i></p>	<p>Countries create conditions for competitive, innovative, gender responsive and sustainable Blue Economy by developing sectors and skills, fostering investments and increase in BE revenue derived from coastal and marine protected areas</p>	<p>Blue Economy information is based on World Bank BBSEA draft reports that will included when approved by national governments and complemented with updated national information where available</p> <p>The key target fish in <b>Georgia</b> is European anchovy, fish meal and fish oils being main products exported with revenues of both, on average, increased throughout the period of 2015-2021. In 2021 revenues constituted 16.9 (meal) and 9.2 (oil) mill USD.[2] Total catch of Anchovy in Georgia, e.g. in 2019, constituted 89,813 tonnes (FAO <a href="#">FishStatj</a>).</p> <p>The main target fish in <b>Turkiye</b> is European anchovy for fishing, fish meal and fish oils and fish meal, and trout (called as Turk Salmon) aquaculture in marine cages frozen or processed trout-salmon being main products exported , fish farming in cages is one of the leading sectors in</p>	<p>At least 2 preliminary recommendations on BE approaches presented to PSC applicable to 3 countries</p> <p>GE</p> <p>Introduce measures to improve tourism statistics in Georgia to better account for sustainability of coastal and marine tourism and eco-tourism in MCPAs.</p> <p>National inventory of artisanal fisheries and recommendations for sustainability.</p> <p>Analysis of MCPA potential in support of sustainable fisheries, recommendations.</p> <p>Gender analysis of value chains completed and analysed in Georgia and Turkiye (Ukraine if possible).</p> <p>Capacity development needs of women and men engaged in value chains identified.</p> <p>Consultative process and mechanism for participation by women and men in the</p>	<p>Opportunities for at least a 5% growth in the BE identified and accepted by PSC by end of project</p> <p>? increase of sustainable tourism numbers based on EBM compatible approaches</p> <p>? Adoption of new gender responsive management approaches to MPAs leads to increase fish catch within 10 years</p> <p>? At least 4 approaches to BE adopted that would lead to an increase in revenue by 5%</p> <p>? Gender analysis of value chains completed and analysed in Georgia and Turkiye (Ukraine if possible).</p> <p>? Capacity development needs of women and men engaged in value chains identified.</p> <p>? Consultative process and mechanism for participation by women and men in the management of value chains (contributing</p>
---	---	---	---	---

		<p>recent years. In 2021 total fish catch rate is 262 289,7 tones.( TU?K,2021), .in the cage system 49,219 (DKIB 2022)tonnes trout produced by aquaculture.</p> <p>The current conflict in <b>Ukraine</b> renders current baseline information irrelevant and this will be assessed post-conflict. Information is presented in Annex 14c.</p> <p>Gender analysis of target fish and aquaculture value chains will identify the capacity development needs of women and men for strengthening livelihoods and the opportunities for engagement in decision making and planning processes for EBM</p>	<p>management of value chains (contributing to improved EBM) is established.</p>	<p>to improved EBM) is established.</p>
--	--	---	--	---

	<p>Countries and BSC accept project recommendations to strengthen MCPA management</p>	<p>Land and/or marine protected areas, such as Kolkheti PAs, can be established per Law of <b>Georgia</b> On the System of Protected Areas. Currently MPA constitute less than 1 % of EEZ. In 2022 the Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD) has been adopted, Georgia will follow the targets for terrestrial, freshwater and marine[3].</p> <p><b>T?rkiye</b> currently has no MPA in the Black Sea but has 45 terrestrial Protected Areas in the coastal Black Sea Region[4],</p> <p>The current conflict in <b>Ukraine</b> renders current baseline information irrelevant and this will be assessed post-conflict. Information is presented in Annex 14c.</p>	<p>Outline recommendations on MCPA management presented to PSC</p>	<p>Identification of at least 3 new or improved policies to protect coastal and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Identified national and regional policies for adoption to protect and enforce regulations on MCPA (MPAs Guidelines).</p> <p>Countries accept recommendations to increase number of national MPAs and consider adoption of at least 1 transboundary MPAs in the region.</p> <p>Established effective cooperation with other regional seas (network of MPAs managers) e.g. Mediterranean.</p>
<p><b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 1</b></p>	<p><i>Output 1.1: Priority ecosystems sites and pressures mapped to guide MSPs, and to analyse gaps for MCPAs on priority habitat protection.</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.2: Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies available to guide EBM policy reforms.</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.3: Updated national databases to complement the Black Sea Information System (BSIS output 3.1.4) with new components on biological and socio-economic aspects.</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.4: National action strategies developed/agreed to further co-operate in synergy with relevant IMO and other projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations for BSC consideration and possible adoption.</i></p>			
<p><b>Project component 2</b></p>	<p><b><i>Strengthening regional environmental governance and knowledge</i></b></p>			

<p><b>Outcome 2</b>  <i>Countries have strengthened political and legal commitments and capacity to implement the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols with increased effectiveness of the Permanent Secretariat</i></p>	<p>Three countries have recommendations to enhance governance /management capacity of MCPAs</p>	<p><b>Georgia:</b> <i>Kolkheti wetlands, in addition to national protected areas (including 5 nm wide 15,751 ha marine part),[5] are also designated as international sites: Ramsar (1996),[6] Emerald (2019),[7] and UNESCO (2021). [8] PA management plans for Kolkheti are approved.</i></p> <p><b>T?rkiye:</b> <i>K?z?l?rmak Deltaic area (56,000ha ) designated as international area is a Ramsar SITE (1998), ?t has management plan and it has 20.000ha coastal wetland and waterbody which is under natura site protection</i>  <i>The current conflict in Ukraine renders current baseline information irrelevant and this will be assessed post-conflict. Information is presented in Annex 14c.</i></p>	<p><i>Three countries have identified gaps and prioritised needs to fully implement Bucharest Convention</i>  GE  Kolkheti National Park (KNP) Administration enhances its enforcement capacities and mandate in the marine part of KNP.  Border Guard of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia enhances its experience with EBM to better meet marine conservation objectives of KNP in cooperation with KNP Administration.</p>	<p>3 countries acknowledge increased capacity to implement Bucharest Convention enhanced with at least 5 recommendations for on-going capacity development</p>
--	---	--	---	--



<p>Three countries? data and recommendations for BS SAP and CBD Protocol updating submitted to BSC for possible consideration and adoption promoting enhanced MCPA policies across Black Sea</p>	<p><b>Georgia:</b> Black Sea SAP EcoQO 2b: Conserve coastal and marine habitats and landscape:  (14) in Georgia no new MPA was created yet.  (15) National ICZM Strategy for Georgia and one local ICZM plan developed, but not approved.  (15) Regional ICZM Guideline was prepared and endorsed by the Black Sea Commission.<sup>[9]</sup>  (16): In Georgia KNP management plan (including for marine part) was updated and approved.  (17) EIA system upgraded and SEA was introduced in Georgia.</p> <p><b>Turkiye</b> prepared Guideline for Black Sea Provinces ICZM was prepared in 2021 ? 2022.</p> <p><i>The current conflict in Ukraine renders current baseline information irrelevant and this will be assessed post-conflict. Information is presented in Annex 14c.</i></p>	<p>Updated TDA approved by PSC involving the three countries and BSC</p> <p>Countries to review and implement provisions of the Black Sea ICZM Guideline, its chapters X. Specific Coastal Ecosystems and XI. Coastal Landscapes, in particular</p>	<p>Updated BS SAP information available for the three countries, Countries provided national and regional recommendations on the implementation of CBD Protocol and updates to BS SAP. BSC considered for possible adoption draft documents (MPA Guidelines, Guidelines on establishment of the MPA managers network, updated indicators for BSC annual reporting, template on the reporting on implementation of CBD Protocol, proposals for biological component of BSIS, Black Sea ICZM Guidelines, etc.),</p>
--	--	---	---

<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2</b>	<p><i>Output 2.1: Updated basin analysis (TDA) leading to revised BS SAP, proposed for adoption by BSC.</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.2: Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonise approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc. submitted to BSC for consideration and adoption.</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.3: Development and recommendation for consideration and possible adoption by BSC of regional indicator framework for EBM for annual reporting and relevant components of BSIS.</i></p>			
<b>Project component 3</b>	<b>Regional Co-ordination of interventions</b>			
<b>Outcome 3 Strengthened impacts from GEF and other partners and projects? activities</b>	Independent assessments of regional projects identify benefits of improved co-ordination between projects	N/A ? no coordination before project starts	Agreed criteria established to monitor impacts of improved inter-project information sharing including information relevant to women	TE report summarises level of enhance coordination and benefits accrued, including increase of women directly involved in the management of Blue Economy activities and MCPA management

	<p>Updated strategies and information shared between GEF projects in the Black Sea and the BSC to enhance the activities on MPAs, fisheries and the Blue Economy</p>	<p>GEF IW:LEARN summarises previous Black Sea project results</p> <p>Work undertaken by BSC on sharing information, however the BSIS is using outdated information and lacks biological and socio-economic components, at same time BS Information Policy document (2007) needs to be updated due to a very restrictive approach to information and information disclosure procedure, some countries never report and it complicates regional analysis of information, lack of enforcement /infringement for obtaining information</p>	<p>Agreed mechanism established for sharing information between WB, FAO and UNDP projects</p> <p>Mechanism of interaction with BSC and its bodies is created and enhanced (joint meetings, back-to-back meetings, running of biological component of BSIS, etc.)</p> <p>Establish linkages between the Project website, the IW:LEARN website and other partners' websites</p> <p>Over 250 trained in each country on EBM approaches involving at least 50% women</p>	<p>Countries and BSC consider relevant lessons identified by the project on sharing approaches for on-going and future initiatives in the region</p> <p>Over 500 trained in each country on EBM approaches involving at least 50% women</p>
<p><b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3</b></p>	<p><i>Output 3.1: Co-ordination mechanism established and functional with other projects in the Black Sea region, learning from other LME co-ordination mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Output 3.2: Implementation of national/ regional capacity development programmes on EBM, building on best practices from e.g. Barcelona Convention.</i></p> <p><i>Output 3.3: National and regional strategies and programmes to share information and experiences.</i></p> <p><i>Output 3.4: Updated and enhanced web-based Black Sea Information System (BSIS) to facilitate regional and national awareness raising (with new information from 1.1.3).</i></p>			
<p><b>Project component 4</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge Management, communications and outreach</b></p>			

<b>Outcome 4</b> <i>Stakeholders enabled with improved information (lessons and benefits of the project) to sustain and replicate actions</i>	Stakeholders (national, regional and global) accessing lessons and experiences	N/A  Currently national and regional stakeholders access a range of sources for BS information (national and regionally through BSIS)  GEF IW:LEARN provides information on GEF IW projects but limited information is available on other donors activities	Stakeholder engagement plan implemented. Meetings with stakeholders (at least annually) record evidence of lessons and experiences being shared	At least 5 Experience Notes (1 per country and 2 regional); participation of national experts at GEF IW conferences; Participation in at least 3 IWLEARN twinning events
	Information and knowledge used by national/regional stakeholders to support MCPA management strengthen socio-economic conditions of coastal communities promoting blue economy approaches	N/A Information needs on MCPAs established during project inception phases based on series of awareness raising events	Agreed and established national/regional stakeholder knowledge management and dissemination mechanism Gender Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan implemented across all project activities.	Enhanced regional science-policy dialogue on marine data collection and utilisation Regular mechanism to exchange of BATs and best practices with other countries/regions is established
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 4</b>	<i>Output 4.1: Established IW:LEARN compliant website within existing BSC website.</i> <i>Output 4.2: Project Stakeholder and gender strategies documented, implemented and shared across BS region.</i> <i>Output 4.3: Participation in regional and global GEF /IW:LEARN activities.</i> <i>Output 4.4: Development of IW Experience Notes and other IW:LEARN related products and services.</i> <i>(1% of overall budget allocated to IW:LEARN related activities).</i>			
<b>Project component 5</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</b>			
<b>Outcome 5 M&amp;E strategy guides project</b>	PSC, BSC, GEF and GEF Agency informed through agreed progress reports	Project Document presents approach to M&E and reporting	All necessary project reports produced and meetings held	All necessary project reports produced and meetings held

<b>management to achieve delivery of project outputs</b>	Project is delivered on-time and according to plan with positive feedback at mid and end of project from Evaluations	N/A	MTE completed as scheduled	TE completed as scheduled
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 5</b>	<i>Output 5.1: Participatory monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented to facilitate adaptive project management.</i>			

[1] National Monitoring Report (2019) submitted by T?rkiye to the Bucharest Convention

[2] [https://pmcresearch.org/periodic\\_show/397/Marine-Fishing-Sector-in-Georgia](https://pmcresearch.org/periodic_show/397/Marine-Fishing-Sector-in-Georgia)

[3] TARGET 3 Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and of coastal and marine 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

[4] National Monitoring Report (2019) submitted by T?rkiye to the Bucharest Convention

[5] Law of Georgia on Establishment and Management of Kolkheti Protected Areas  
<https://www.matsne.gov.ge/document/view/14752?publication=25>

[6] <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/893>

[7] <https://emerald.eea.europa.eu/?query=Adopted%20sites,SITECODE,GE0000006>

[8] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1616>

[9] Guideline on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea (Black Sea ICZM Guideline)

[http://www.blacksea-commission.org/Downloads/Black\\_Sea\\_ICZM\\_Guideline/Black\\_Sea\\_ICZM\\_Guideline.pdf](http://www.blacksea-commission.org/Downloads/Black_Sea_ICZM_Guideline/Black_Sea_ICZM_Guideline.pdf)

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

**Comments at PIF stage**

**GEFSec comments**

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	<p><b>Risks to Achieving Project Objectives.</b></p> <p>GEF notes that the revised TDA/SAP envisioned under this project will include climate risk scenarios and recommendations specific to the Black Sea. However, for future climate risk assessments please be more concrete and reflect on how the project (components, outcomes and outputs) addresses the identified climate risks. As part of this analysis please note that STAP as part of their PIF screening will seek answers specific to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?</li> <li>? How will the project be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impacts been addressed adequately?</li> <li>? Have measures to address the risks been considered? How will these risks be dealt with?</li> <li>? What technical and institutional capacity, and information is needed?</li> </ul>	<p>The national consultants addressed the climate change in their work, dedicated Annex to ProDoc with climate change scenarios was developed. Sensitivity to climate changes and measures to address risks were also addressed in the Annex 15 of the ProDoc and is summarised in the CEO section 1a.1.</p>
2	<p><b>Co-ordination</b></p> <p>Please confirm that during the PPG phase this project will closely coordinate with the FAO (GFCM) and WB projects approved at the June 2020 council meeting?</p>	<p>During the PPG development phase discussions on future coordination meetings were held with teams from the GEF/World Bank and FAO/World Bank Projects</p>

	Comment	Response
3	<p><b>Additional Comments to be considered by Agency at time of CEO Endorsement</b></p> <p>Building of country and BSC capacity is an important priority for GEF and part of the longer term project sustainability. By CEO Endorsement, additional clarity should be provided regarding how UNESCO IOC will build national level capacity by involving national agencies and black sea commission centres in the execution of project activities.</p> <p>By CEO Endorsement, the Theory of Change will need to be further refined by adding and describing the causal linkages between the foreseen activities and the outcomes.</p>	<p>During the Project implementation it is planned to involve national agencies and dedicated bodies of the Black Sea Commission (Permanent Secretariat, Advisory Groups and Activity Centers) in all activities, including capacity building (reflected in Annex ?Stakeholder Engagement Plan?) and summarised in the CEO document (stakeholders and knowledge management sections)</p> <p>The Theory of change figure and description (Project Document Section 3.2) has been significantly elaborated with text in the CEO document (Section ? 1a.3 ? alternative)</p>

#### STAP Comments

	Comment	Response
	<b>Overall STAP Response</b>	
	<p>The proposed project builds upon prior (2009) SAP for the Black Sea. While ecological trends are clearly unacceptable, the PIF fails to make a convincing case that the envisioned response is well conceived, or will address these trends in new and impactful ways.</p>	<p>The CEO document now contains information copied from the ProDoc that describes the benefits and importance of MPAs (Section 1a1, 2 and 3).</p>
	<p>The assumption is that increased coordination and information and updating of Blue Economy approaches including training on the EBM approach, will lead to enhanced livelihoods from ecosystem services. Lack of detail on the ?how? (i.e., the specific mechanisms and incentives) leaves substantial doubt that the overall objective will be achieved. For example, what are the financial and other incentives that will lead people and</p>	<p>Increased coordination and information, as well as finalizing work on Blue Economy approaches in BS countries, including training on the EBM approach (defined in Section 1a.1 of the CEO document), will lead to harmonization of efforts and better management on all levels of MPAs.</p> <p>Increased coordination and information on EMB approach will lead to elaboration and endorsement of necessary legislative acts and legally binding documents of regional significance, which in its turn will boost its implementation and enforcement in all</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	institutions to engage in non-polluting or otherwise less harmful activities?	Project's countries. This will inevitably affect livelihoods and improve the ecosystem services. The incentives and other policies to ensure MPA benefits will be developed in cooperation within countries (including all key stakeholders) and between countries where appropriate during the project activities described in Section 1a.3 (alternative) of the CEO document.
	Assumptions and drivers are poorly articulated. "Maximising ecosystem status and services" may be considered a motivation of the project (or of certain actors), but how is it a driver of either current trends or shifts in behavior of key actors? assumptions and drivers	The Theory of change figure and description (Project Document Section 3.2) has been elaborated and has been presented to the countries. This is presented in Section 1a.3 of the CEO document)
	Barriers (e.g. insufficient guidance) appear selected to justify the intervention rather than ground the analysis of responses needed.	The Theory of change figure and description (Project Document Section 3.2) has been elaborated and has been presented to the countries. This is presented in Section 1a.3 of the CEO document)
	Risk analysis is unconvincing with regards to mitigation measures. For example, "lack of support from private sector or civil society" would seem to be a very substantial risk, given the need to shift behaviors to affect ecosystem threats and status. Responses indicated suggest a lack of ambition to address the root causes of current trends.	The risks have been further elaborated including the inclusion of the current military conflict in Ukraine. These are presented in Section 5 of the CEO document. The support from civil society is considered "low risk" with the focus on national strategies on BE and enhancing the MPA management at national and regional levels. Clearly civil society (and private sector and academia) will need to be closely involved and the main stakeholders have been identified (although there has been limited contact due to COVID restrictions during the PPG and conflict in Ukraine).
	<p><b>Objective</b></p> <p>While the problems are well articulated in terms of impacts of overfishing, pollution, invasive species, etc. a significant shortcoming is that the PIF does not describe specifically how it will support "longterm sustainable livelihoods" despite this being part of the overall project objective.</p>	The national consultants have assisted by ensuring that activities proposed link to both national strategies and priorities of local coastal communities. The importance to enhancing management of MPAs and the improvements that will arise to ecosystem services (and consequentially to the livelihoods of coastal communities) are discussed in Section 1.a. 3 of the CEO Endorsement document.



	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p>The assumption is that increased coordination and information and updating of Blue Economy approaches (which are not defined) including training on the EBM approach, will lead to enhanced livelihoods from ecosystem services. Lack of detail on the 'how?' (i.e., the specific mechanisms and incentives) leaves substantial doubt that the overall objective will be achieved.</p>	<p>Increased coordination and information, as well as finalizing work on Blue Economy approaches in BS countries, including training on the EBM approach (defined in Section 1a.1 of the CEO document), will lead to harmonization of efforts and better management on all levels of MPAs.</p> <p>Increased coordination and information on EMB approach will lead to elaboration and endorsement of necessary legislative acts and legally binding documents of regional significance, which in its turn will boost its implementation and enforcement in all Project's countries. This will inevitably affect livelihoods and improve the ecosystem services.</p>
	<p><b>Project Components</b> Planned activities include mapping of priority ecosystems, national blue economy strategies, updated information for the BSIS, updated TDASAP, improved coordination, etc. All of these activities contribute to the overall objective of cooperation between Black Sea states though it is less clear how specifically they will lead to adoption of measures that reduce pressure on the marine and coastal ecosystem and support livelihoods, as indicated in the objective.</p>	<p>The activities planned will form a content of future regional documents (i.e. National Strategies, updated TDA SAP etc.) which will describe the (binding) obligations of parties to adopt the measures that reduce pressure on the marine and coastal ecosystem and support livelihoods. Moreover, these documents would set the methods of monitoring and assessment of effectiveness of implementation of these measures on national and regional levels. This is presented in section 1a.3 (alternative)</p>
	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>Adaptation benefits are not specified though implied as part of EBM approach.</p>	<p>Within Project activities the relevant experience of Mediterranean Sea will be reviewed and best practices will be shared during stakeholders events, such as accessible adaptation tools and knowledge products, including climate finance guidelines and policy assessments, in addition to local-level awareness campaigns on adaptation opportunities with communities, civil society and schools. (ProDoc ? Section 2 and CEO Endorsement document Sections 1a1, 2 and 3)</p>
	<p>In theory, the TDA-SAP process resulting in increased knowledge, cooperation and information sharing will result in GEBs ? in this case, improved environmental quality of the Black Sea marine and coastal conditions through incorporation of the EBM approach.</p>	<p>The proponents support this view. They consider that countries adopting EBM with improved management and international coordination of MPAs will result in enhanced GEBs as indicated by the STAP.</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>There are many outputs associated with this project. One source of confusion is mention of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) though mapping seems to be confined to priority ecosystem sites. How does EBM relate to the MSP? This is not entirely clear.</p> <p>Fundamentally absent is information on how specifically people and sectors will benefit from activities under the umbrella of EBM (ecosystem based management) which is the centerpiece of this project. What are the financial and other incentives that will lead people and institutions to engage in non-polluting or otherwise less harmful activities?</p>	<p>MSP is a useful tool to implement the ecosystem-based approach. Effective MSP is always ecosystem-based (balancing ecological, economic and social goals). The Project will provide solutions (on national and regional levels) on how to ensure that EBM principles and various incentives are taken into consideration during elaboration of national and regional strategies. This, in its turn, would benefit relevant people and sectors. (More detail is in ProDoc Output 1.1. ? Section 3)</p> <p>This is summarised in CEO Sections 1a. 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>The Project will, inter alia, define the linkages between implementation of EMB and MSP in the region, at the moment there are no concrete mechanisms and/or definitions of what is included into MSP.</p>
	<p><b>Barriers and threats</b></p> <p>In the TOC and barriers section, the barriers focus on lack of national capacity, insufficient regional guidance and information and inadequate regional coordination.</p> <p>These may all be valid; however less clear are the specific barriers standing in the way of reducing overfishing, pollution, wastewater discharge, etc. and how specifically they will be overcome through regional cooperation.</p> <p>Presumably, the MSP and EBM and TDA SAP will be more detailed and provide information at the country level. However, more information on general barriers across countries would be helpful. For example, lack of enforcement of fishing quotas? Outdated wastewater technology? Inadequate financial incentives for the tourism sector to discourage industrial waste? Role of local people living in coastal areas?</p>	<p>National Reports prepared during the PPG phase by national experts have elaborated the environmental issues and the barriers (Project Document Annex 14a, b and c). These will be further elaborated during the update of the TDA and SAP (Project Document - Output 2.1)</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p><b>Baseline sufficient</b></p> <p>Yes, with regards to institutional context. Less so with regard to data on ecosystem status and trends</p>	<p>Details on the information collected by the countries and included in the BSIS is included in ProDoc Annex 15e and the assessment of climate change scenarios (Annex 15c)</p> <p>Data, information is presented in section 1a.1 of the CEO that summarises the ecosystem status and trends (including potential climate change)</p>
	<p><b>ToC</b></p> <p>The TOC is summarized in Figure 2. Assumptions and drivers are poorly articulated. 'Maximising ecosystem status and services' may be considered a motivation of the project (or of certain actors), but how is it a driver of either current trends or shifts in behavior of key actors? Barriers (e.g. insufficient guidance) appear selected to justify the intervention rather than ground the analysis of responses needed.</p>	<p>The Theory of change figure and description (Project Document Section 3.2) has been elaborated and has been presented to the countries. This is presented in Section 1a.3 of the CEO document)</p>
	<p>Sequence of events</p> <p>It is not clear how mapping priority sites and updating SAPs and improving coordination and information will necessarily result in reduced threats to coastal and marine ecosystems and improved livelihoods. Many assumptions are either excluded or taken for granted. The underlying assumption is that the SAP will result in improved ecosystem status; however, there is no discussion of how the previous SAP has fared in this regard or what were the lessons learned.</p>	<p>Mapping of priority sites and updating SAP 2009 has been on the agenda of the Black Sea Commission for more than a decade. There is no doubt that implementation of these initial steps will contribute to improving of coordination and information, which may in its turn result in reduced threats to coastal and marine ecosystems and improved livelihoods. Updated targets in the SAP will stimulate necessary national actions aimed at improving of the ecosystem status.</p> <p>This is summarised in Section 1a.1 and 2 of the CEO document.</p>
	<p><b>Mechanisms for change plausible</b></p> <p>Underlying assumptions need to be better defined as well as causal pathways within the TOC.</p>	<p>The Theory of change figure and description (Project Document Section 3.2) has been significantly elaborated. This is presented in the CEO document (Section 1a.3) along with narrative text on the route to the overall goal of the project</p>
	<p><b>GEBs</b></p> <p>EBM incorporates resilience thinking, though this could be better articulated in the PIF.</p>	<p>It is assumed that activities to strengthen governance/management of MPAs (including EBM approaches) will result in improved resilience. (ProDoc Section 2 ? Strategy and CEO Sections 1a.2 and GEB section)</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p><b>Innovation</b></p> <p>No. Statement on innovation is exceptionally weak, including 'updating of [the 20 09] SAP.'</p>	<p>The Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up (ProDoc Section 3.8) has been elaborated and CEO document section 1a.7</p>
	<p><b>Stakeholders</b></p> <p>The majority of stakeholders are from national governments and institutions. If the objective is to develop an MSP, this will necessitate working with the private sector (including tourism, which is not addressed). The grouping of 'Private sector, projects, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations' as one category suggests poor attention to differentiation of stakeholder roles.</p>	<p>COVID restrictions and military conflict in Ukraine have significantly reduced the in-person stakeholder meetings outside approved events. The focus in the PPG stage has been on analysing stakeholders that will be potentially interested and documenting their possible inputs and interests. The main engagement path is recognised as during the inception period based on the comprehensive analysis of stakeholders conducted in the PPG stage. This is summarised in the CEO Document (Sections 2, 3 and 4) based on detailed information presented in the Project Document Annex 8a (Stakeholders roles and potential interests in the project) and Annex 8b (Draft engagement plan) provide additional details including on private sector sectors that will be addressed during project execution.</p> <p>The BSC PS is managing the expert network in the Black Sea uniting representatives from scientific institutes, NGOs, academia, private sector etc. It was agreed to use these contacts in order to reach all these categories during Project implementation.</p>
	<p><b>Risks</b></p> <p>Risk analysis is unconvincing with regards to mitigation measures. For example, 'lack of support from private sector or civil society' would seem to be a very substantial risk, given the need to shift behaviors to affect ecosystem threats and status. If viewed merely from the lens of risks to achieving interstate agreement to complete the TDA-SAP, it is perhaps low risk as stated.</p>	<p>The risks have been further elaborated including the inclusion of the current military conflict in Ukraine. These are presented in Section 5 of the CEO document. The support from civil society is considered 'low risk' with the focus on national strategies on BE and enhancing the MPA management at national and regional levels. Clearly civil society (and private sector and academia) will need to be closely involved and the main stakeholders have been identified (although there has been limited contact due to COVID restrictions during the PPG and conflict in Ukraine).</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p>A separate climate risk screening is provided. Though insightful ? particularly in terms of past warming trends and likely general impacts, it lacks detail, including on a range of possible scenarios. Approaches to addressing climate change are generalized from other areas. However, research gaps are identified in the CRS and the future TDASAP should address these shortcomings according to the PIF using the best practices available through IW:LEARN.</p>	<p>A climate change annex reviewing available regional information is included in Annex 15c and key points summarised in the VEO section 1a.1</p>
	<p><b>Co-ordination adequate</b></p> <p>No. Despite the listing of these prior and ongoing projects, no attempt is made to describe lessons learned and how these lessons will inform this project?s formulation</p>	<p>The lessons from previous projects are presented in Annex 15f of the ProDoc and summarised in Section 2 (Strategy). Key points are included in CEO section 1a.1, 2, 3 and section 6 - coordination</p>
	<p><b>KM</b></p> <p>The PIF states that the project ?will benefit from the many lessons and experiences derived from earlier regional projects? ? this is good and it would be helpful to include some of those in the PIF to indicate that project proponents have considered lesson learned to inform this effort.</p>	<p>Lessons influenced the project design summarised in section 1a. 3 (alternative) and presented in more detail in the ProDoc in the strategy section</p>
	<p><b>KM dissemination</b></p> <p>Unconvincing and generic. ?Information will be collected as relevant to the different needs of the various private sector partners? Civil society will be provided with information to inform communities??</p>	<p>The project has a focus of strengthening information sharing at regional and national levels, including with enhancing information collected by the BSC-PS. In addition the project will provide a coordinating role for with the current World Bank and FAO GEF projects. This is emphasised throughout the document. Section 8 (KM) of the CEO document presents details of the likely budget and timeline for activities and products.</p>

### Council Comments

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p>Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:</p>	
	<p>Germany welcomes this proposal, which addresses transboundary water management, marine conservation issues and their causes through an ecosystem-based management approach in the crucially important Black Sea LME. The proposal is thorough in describing the context, historic background, geographic conditions of the region and derivation of regional environmental problems. A wide range of stakeholders has been involved and significant co-financing resource have been identified. The potential for up-scaling project activities and involving further Black Sea countries via designation of MCPA is also enormous. Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:</p>	<p>The proponents acknowledge the support of Germany to strengthen the transboundary management of marine protected areas building on experiences in neighbouring seas that will benefit the countries, BSC and the people dependent on the ecosystem services provided by the Black Sea.</p>
	<p>The geopolitically highly sensitive context at the Black Sea (e.g. at the coastline of the Ukraine) needs to be addressed as a project risk for the regional cooperation component or at least its implications considered in a more detailed approach on how the funds will be utilized. Terminology used for the guiding concepts and approaches of this proposal, such as 'blue economy'/recovery and 'ecosystem-based management', ought to be explicitly defined to ensure a close interlinkage between the proposed procedure, intended outcome and the factual results.</p>	<p>This is acknowledged throughout the document.</p> <p>The project proponents fully acknowledge the sensitive ongoing crisis in the region and the severe impacts this is having on the people and the ecosystem of the Black Sea. This is identified as the first risk to the project in the risk matrix (Section 5 of the CEO Endorsement Document).</p> <p>Currently the post-war analysis and monitoring of marine environment on the Ukrainian coast are being assessed by various organizations, including UN, EU and different dedicated Projects. The Project will make sure all these deliverables will be taken on board. Still, many initial activities envisaged by the Project are not risky and not being significantly affected by military conflict and are feasible for implementation in Ukraine.</p> <p>The terms used in the project are defined in Section 1a.1 of the CEO endorsement document in the text and as footnotes where relevant.</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p>With respect to the co-financing structures and defined actions and/or measures, a discrepancy becomes visible between monetary contribution and its application. Germany would suggest to more precisely define the measures at hand, or alternatively determine possible actions/measures that should be excluded from the proposal.</p>	<p>The measures at hand were defined with highest level of precision possible at this stage in order to fit the Project goals. Although the expected co-financing at PIF has been slightly exceeded, the ongoing political crisis in the region has impacted the ability of the PPG stage to attract additional financing as other donor initiatives have stalled in the region. In addition the political situation has rendered the BSC unable to provide any direct support to the project at this stage.</p> <p>The project's focus is on the management of MPAs and actions are primarily related to this and support of policies on BE in the three project countries, in addition to updating the TDA/SAP on the basis of newly available information (including from the GEF WB and FAO projects where relevant). The project will seek opportunities for exchanging information with the Mediterranean Programme on MPA management, linking networks of MPA managers?.</p> <p>Section 1a.1 and 3 of the GEF CEO document summarise this information.</p>
	<p>While the basic problem statement of different classification criteria for protected areas in BS countries is highlighted in the proposal, Germany suggests to also include ideas for a strategy towards a common classification system.</p>	<p>The common classification system was on the BSC agenda for almost a decade and countries already examined various approaches to elaboration of such a strategy. The Project will assist in defining criteria for common classification system compatible with BSC and EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requirements, as well as fully harmonized with other Regional Seas (i.e. UNEP/MAP). It can be then reflected in the dedicated chapter of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program, with concrete parameters and indicators of success. This is summarised in sections 1a.1, 2 and 3 of the GEF CEO document</p>
	<p>While the highlighting of overlaps and common goals voiced by the EU Green Deal and Recovery Plans and the partaking BS countries - Georgia and Ukraine - is important, Germany requests that other BS countries should not be excluded and a rather cooperative and inclusive approach should be emphasized.</p>	<p>The active participation of the other 3 Black Sea countries will be encouraged with representatives being invited to participate (at their own costs) at meetings, workshops and other regional events, together with the BSC and BSC PS, which also agreed to present the results of these considerations at its regional and global events. Summarised in Section 1a. 3 of the CEO document</p>



	Comment	Response
	<p>While information on the relevance of the proposal in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals is briefly highlighted in the PIF's project paper, the proposal would benefit from including an SDG impact assessment.</p>	<p>This is considered as an important aspect of the overall M&amp;E activities of the project and will be supported by the work to enhance the BSIS</p> <p>Whilst a impact assessment of the benefits to SDGs has not been undertaken the project has been designed with SDG 14 (at least) closely in mind and as emphasised in Section 1a.3 of the CEO the project will <i>?The project will also contribute to national targets associated with SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs in the Black Sea region. In addition, it is noted that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects[1]. The role of managed ecosystems in mitigating climate change by promoting carbon sequestration and storage and by buffering against uncertainty in management, environmental fluctuations, directional change, and extreme events will also be highlighted in the TDA/SAP process. The proposed project will have benefits to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, it will also substantiate possible climate change scenarios and implications they bring.?</i> Therefore, Project will also bring benefit to the implementation of SGD 3 <i>?Good health and Well-being?</i>, SDG 5 <i>?Gender Equality?</i>, SDG 13 <i>?Climate Action?</i>, SGD 11 <i>?Sustainable Cities and Communities?</i> etc.</p>
	<p>Further, Germany appreciates the acknowledgment of importance of the private sector for MCPA. Yet, Germany would like to suggest strengthening the engagement with the private sector, especially regarding component 1, also focusing on detailed anthropogenic influences on the marine environment.</p>	<p>This is detailed in the three National Reports (Annex 14a, b and c)</p> <p>Exhaustive engagement with the private sector has not been possible during the PPG stage due to travel/workshops COVID 19 restrictions. However, a comprehensive analysis of the <i>possible</i> stakeholders has been completed (including in UA) through desk review and limited remote calls. The project design anticipates that the direct stakeholder contracts will be made during the project's inception phase utilising the significant contacts that have been identified in the PPG stage and within interaction with BSC and BSC PS who possesses a wide expert network of scientific and private organizations, NGOs and academia. (see additional explanation in Section 2, 3 and 4 of the CEO Endorsement Document. <b>The Private sector will be engaged in the identification of threats to the marine environment in both Component 1 (Output 1.1 ? mapping of pressures) and Component 2 (Output 2.1 ? updated TDA)</b></p>



	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p>The indicator framework for EBM ? mentioned in component 2 ? would benefit from a pre-defined basic set of environmental indicators, that could be expanded and explored in the mentioned participatory processes. This set of indicators should find recognition of the mentioned M&amp;E approach of component 4, where an additional set of indicators for</p> <p>process and project monitoring is suggested. Both indicator frameworks would ideally be considered from the start of the project with a holistic, long-term approach.</p>	<p>The Project will assist the BSC and national governments to propose the unified list of indicators, relevant for BSC annual reporting templates, BSIMAP and MSFD, WFD etc. , requirements and global indicators scheme developed under UNEP, as well as within bilateral commitments of BSC with ICPDR, ACCOBAMS, GFCM etc..</p> <p>The project will assist with enhancing the BSC indicators building on current work. These will feed into the overall M&amp;E for this project and reflected in the project results framework (Annexed to the CEO document). During project execution it is anticipated that these indicators/targets will be refined as and when they are confirmed by the BSC, and then introduced into BSC work (BSIMAP, annual reporting templates, mutual reporting to ICPDR, ACCOBAMS, GFCM etc)..</p>
	<p>Germany recognizes that the project complexity and co-ordination is addressed multiple times in the proposal. Yet, we would like to suggest that due to the project span, there should be an indication and possibly definition of cooperation and information sharing among administrative entities in a more elaborate manner</p>	<p>Component 3 of this project is dedicated to regional coordination and information sharing of interventions from donors ? including close cooperation with the GEF World Bank and FAO projects. This is detailed in CEO Section 1a.3 (alternative and outputs associated with Component 3)</p>

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	Potential synergies become apparent in the context of the BMU IKI call 19 with a regional cooperation focus in the Black Sea region. Currently, the GIZ programme FELICITY II covers river basin	The proponents thank Germany for this suggestion to link with on-going river basin projects in the region that discharge to the Black Sea (in addition to the planned cooperation with the Danube)

[1] Roberts, C., *et al.* Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change., PNAS | June 13, 2017 | vol. 114 | no. 24 | 6167-6175. <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/24/6167.full.pdf>

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**  
**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

**Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Remaining Amount</i>

<b>Component A and Component B*:</b> <b>71200 - International consultants</b> ? PPG Team Leader/Project Document Preparation Specialist  ? Technical Support consultants x 2 - prepare analyses of legal & institutional frameworks, as well as marine protected areas  ? SES Review Specialist  ? National experts for background studies (Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine) (3 experts x 20 days x 200/day)  <b>72500 - Supplies</b>  <b>Component C**:</b> <b>75700 - Workshops</b>	150,000	118,284	31,716
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>118,284</b>	<b>31,716</b>

\* Component A: Preparatory Studies and Reviews / Component B: ProDoc formulation

\*\* Component C: Validation Workshop

<b>Experts/Consultants working on PPG Role</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Team Leader/Stakeholder specialist	Responsible for integrating material from the PPG team into the UNDP ProDoc/Annexes and the GEF CEO Document
Technical Support Consultant ? Legal & Institutional Framework, Marine Protected area and Climate Change Specialist	Responsible for regional reports to guide and inform project development. Full copies are included in the Annex to the Project Documents
National Consultant for Georgia National Consultant for T?rkiye National Consultant for Ukraine	Responsible for national reports that summarized baseline, stakeholders, legislation, policies and institutions, Threats to MPAs, Blue Economy actions to guide and inform the project development. Included in full in the Project Document Annexes.
Gender Specialist	Responsible for Gender Strategy and Action Plan to guide the future project implementation. Included in full in the Project Document Annexes.
SES Safeguards Review Specialist	Responsible for the development of Annexes and recommendations for project implementation with regards to Safeguards. Included in full in the Project Document Annexes.

## **ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Map included in Section 1b of this document (above)

**GEO LOCATION INFORMATION**

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs are available on the [GeoNames? geographical database](#) containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#).

Location Name      Latitude      Longitude      Geo Name ID      Location & Activity Description

**ANNEX E: Project Budget Table**

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Description	Component (US\$eq.)							Total	
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	Component M&E	PMC		
	International / regional experts = \$155,232 (MPAs/BD/ Blue Economy-Socio Economic/Information Management) working on Component 1 Outputs. To be recruited based on draft Terms of References included in ProDoc (and summarized in CEO document)	155,232.00					155,232.00			1
	PMU – Project Management (PM) = \$127,008 - providing technical input and direction on Component 1, specifically providing technical leadership and guidance on Outputs 1.1 and 1.2	127,008.00					127,008.00			1
	PMU - Knowledge Management (KM) = \$62,208 - providing guidance on knowledge management products on Component 1, specifically providing technical guidance on Outputs 1.1 and 1.3	62,208.00					62,208.00			
	PMU – Admin Officer = \$15,552 - providing guidance and advice on administrative issues to national Team Leader and Assistant on Component 1, to establish common admin approaches in outputs which have significant country specific activities	15,552.00					15,552.00			
	<b>subtotal</b>	<b>360,000.00</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>360,000.00</b>	-	-	<b>3</b>
	International / regional experts = \$148,998 (MPAs & invasive species/Blue Economy/Information Management/Climate Change/Gender/TDA-SAP) working on Component 2 Outputs. To be recruited based on draft Terms of References included in ProDoc (and		148,998.00				148,998.00			1
	PMU – PM = \$145,152 - providing technical input and direction on Component 2, specifically providing technical leadership and guidance on Output 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3		145,152.00				145,152.00			1
	PMU – KM = \$72,576 - providing guidance on knowledge management products on Component 2, specifically providing technical guidance on Outputs 2.1 and 2.2		72,576.00				72,576.00			
	PMU – Admin Officer = \$15,552- providing guidance and advice on administrative issues to national Team Leader and Assistant on Component 2, to establish common admin approaches in outputs which have significant country specific activities		15,552.00				15,552.00			
	<b>subtotal</b>	-	<b>382,278.00</b>	-	-	-	<b>382,278.00</b>	-	-	<b>3</b>
	expertise on EBM and Information Management. To be recruited based on draft Terms of References included in ProDoc (and summarized in CEO document)			91,847.00			91,847.00			



Training, Workshops, Meetings	National workshops and meetings with stakeholders; coordination meetings with regional PMU to confirm approaches and provide summary feedback. Support to Inception Meeting, PSC meetings and final Project workshop to present and discuss technical issues held back-to-back with formal PSC meetings. Rent of audio-visual equipment, meeting rooms and provision of translation where needed. The project will also support representatives from the region attending GEF IW Conferences where appropriate	50,000.00				50,000.00				
	National workshops and meetings with stakeholders; coordination meetings with regional PMU to confirm approaches and provide summary feedback. Guidance workshops on the update of TDA-SAP. Rent of audio-visual equipment, meeting rooms and provision of translation where needed. Support to Inception Meeting, PSC meetings and final meeting. The project will also support representatives from the region attending GEF IW Conferences where appropriate		40,000.00				40,000.00			
	National and regional workshops and meetings (FAO/WB GEF projects), EU actions in the region, other LMEs (e.g. Barcelona Convention,) and workshops/meetings to update the BSIS at national and regional level. Support to Inception Meeting, PSC meetings and final meeting. Rent of audio-visual equipment, meeting rooms and provision of translation where needed. The project will also support representatives from the region attending GEF IW Conferences where appropriate. To be recruited based on draft Terms of References included in ProDoc (and summarized in CEO document)			80,000.00			80,000.00			
	Workshops and meetings to facilitate Output 4, including specific gender awareness raising events. Rent of audio-visual equipment, meeting rooms and provision of translation where needed.				20,000.00		20,000.00			
	Support to Inception Meeting, PSC meetings and final meeting.						-	45,000.00		
<b>Total Training, Workshops, Meetings</b>		<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>	<b>80,000.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>190,000.00</b>	<b>45,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000,000.00</b>	<b>1,002,640.00</b>	<b>551,503.00</b>	<b>175,000.00</b>	<b>2,729,143.00</b>	<b>128,000.00</b>	<b>142,857.00</b>	<b>3</b>	

#### **ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

#### **ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

#### **ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as

established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy,  
GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).